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1. SUMMARY OF THE CONCLUSIONS OF THE EUROPEAN COUNCIL IN STRASBOURG ON 21 AND 22 JUNE

At the close of the European Council in Strasbourg on 21 and 22 June, the French Head of State, Mr Valéry Giscard d'Estaing, presented the conclusions reached at this meeting to the press in his capacity as President in Office of the European Council, indicating that the meeting had in his view been very valuable and would enable the Community to make a major contribution towards the solution of the world energy crisis.

The following points were raised:

1. European Monetary System

The European Council stressed the major political significance which the introduction of an area of monetary stability had for progress towards a more closely knit Community. It took the view that the initial results, now that the system had been in operation for three months, could be regarded as positive and expressed the hope that the preparations for setting up a European Monetary Fund could be expedited.

2. Energy

The Nine agreed on a joint position which they would defend in Tokyo on 28 and 29 June. Given the grave structural crisis in oil supplies which the world was facing, it was in their view vital to work out a strategy designed to:

- ensure more moderate and rational use of oil;
- permit economic growth no longer dependent on increased oil consumption;
- ensure that the developing countries were also able to obtain the energy necessary for their growth.

The Community should lead by example

- Community imports between 1980 and 1985 should therefore be maintained at a level not higher than that for 1978 and increased emphasis should be laid on energy saving and the use of alternative energy.

These efforts would not be effective unless the other major industrialized consumer countries adopted a similar attitude.

In addition, these efforts should be accompanied by action to regulate the spot markets, where prices had a dangerous tendency to soar out of control.

The European Council hoped that steps would be taken in cooperation with the other major consumer countries to improve market surveillance. The Member States declared their readiness to dissuade companies from lending themselves to transactions on the spot markets at excessive prices.

- As regards the redeployment of energy, the Community would:

- continue its efforts to save energy;
- promote the use of other energy sources, particularly by stepping up research and development efforts in the fields of solar and geothermal energy;
- give fresh impetus to nuclear programmes under conditions guaranteeing the safety of the population;
- promote the use of coal in all its forms.

Finally, the Community hoped that the other industrialized countries would make similar efforts and appealed to the producer countries to take due account of the importance of the world energy balance.

3. Economic and Social Situation

The economic policies initiated a year ago in line with the common approach agreed on at the July 1978 European Council had, it was felt, helped to improve the outlook for growth and price trends in the Community.

The recent substantial changes in the supply and price of oil had, however, narrowed the margin for manoeuvre in economic policies as regards both the rate of growth and the level of inflation.

Faced with this situation, the European Council adopted the following guidelines:

- The economic policies of the Member States should be even more closely coordinated with a view to minimizing the inflationary and depressive effects of the increase in oil prices and its consequences for the level of growth and the employment situation.
- The coordination of budgetary policies for 1980 was considered to be of particular importance in this context. Priority should be given to measures which would enable a satisfactory level of growth to be attained in the Community through investment whilst at the same time promoting the modernization of economic structures.
- The fight against inflation would continue. A healthy situation must be maintained as regards the major internal and external economic balances on which the competitiveness and growth of the Member States' economies was dependent. Steps must be taken to ensure that the drain on real resources resulting from the increase in oil prices was not matched by increases in nominal incomes.

The European Council took note of the work carried out by the Council and the Commission pursuant to the guidelines adopted at its meeting on 12 and 13 March with a view to contributing by Community action towards the improvement of the employment situation.

It also took note of the Commission's interim communication on the question of work-sharing.

Finally, the European Council confirmed that it was extremely anxious that the work undertaken at its request should be actively pursued with the collaboration of both sides of industry, in order that concrete proposals might be worked out rapidly.

2. PRESIDENT GISCARD D'ESTAING RECEIVES AN ETUC DELEGATION PRIOR TO THE EUROPEAN SUMMIT IN STRASBOURG ON 21 and 22 JUNE

On 15 June an ETUC delegation led by its General Secretary Mr M. Hinterscheid, accompanied by Vice-President Mr Bergeron, Mr J. Chérèque and Mr F. Staedelin, was received by President Giscard d'Estaing, who is also President in office of the European Council.

In his introduction Mr Hinterscheid once again voiced the fears of the ETUC concerning the economic situation and strongly criticized the lack of will, or inability, of the Community institutions to launch the Community strategy which had been the subject of discussion ever since it was first raised at the European Council in Copenhagen.

The delegation, referring to the conclusions of the Third ETUC Congress, reiterated its demand for shorter hours of work. There were, according to Mr Hinterscheid, at least three reasons for attaching so much importance to this issue:

- the ETUC is convinced that a reduction in working time - although not a cure-all - would be a means, and possibly the only means, of absorbing that proportion of the unemployed workforce which, in the opinion of the experts, cannot be absorbed in the short run in any other way;
- a reduction in working time would demonstrate the desire and ability of workers to show genuine solidarity with their unemployed fellow workers;
- the ETUC views this issue as a test of the capacity of the European Community to take concrete decisions where a matter is not only of unquestionable economic and social importance but will also involve certain political repercussions.

Mr Hinterscheid went on to state that the ETUC deplored the fact that one month after the Commission had received a clear and precise mandate to open discussions aimed at resolving the current grave social and economic problems, it had still failed to take any action. This criticism was not directed at the Commissioner concerned, but rather at the Commission as a whole.

The ETUC also deplored the attitude of certain Members of the Commission who continue to oppose all concrete measures aimed at restoring full employment.

The ETUC delegation impressed on President Giscard d'Estaing that the European Council should endorse the statements made at the Council meeting of Employment Ministers.

The delegation also observed that the European Council agenda had been notified neither to the two sides of industry nor to Members of the European Parliament. It accordingly suggested to President Giscard d'Estaing that prior notification of the agenda would constitute a more democratic procedure and enable the parties concerned to address their views to the Heads of State and Government rather than solely to the President.

3. THE NEW SCHEME OF GENERALIZED PREFERENCES FOR TEXTILE PRODUCTS

The Council has approved the main features of a new scheme of generalized preferences for textiles. The new arrangements will take effect from 1980, and will raise the total volume of preferential imports to 115 000 tonnes, an increase in real terms of 30 % over the current year, and 70 % over 1974, the first year when the GSP was applied by the enlarged Community. In the current economic climate, and given the particularly sensitive state of the textile industry, this, the largest single improvement in the GSP for textile products ever effected, shows the importance the Community attaches to encouraging exports from the developing countries.

The Commission's aim in putting forward changes for the textiles scheme in October 1978 was twofold; it wanted both to bring the scheme into line with the system of quantitative import controls set up when the MFA was renewed at the beginning of 1978, and to honour the commitments undertaken in the course of negotiating the bilateral agreements with supplier countries. Since there were now adequate quantitative controls on imports to prevent disruption of its markets, the Community decided to offer more generous tariff concessions. More specifically, the new scheme is designed not only to allow a greater volume of duty-free imports from developing countries, but also to ensure that each beneficiary country, particularly those which are least competitive, gets a fair share of preferential trade, and can therefore enjoy a real rise in export earnings.

The new scheme which the Council has approved achieves the bulk of these aims, and includes the following features:

1. A new product classification by category, corresponding to the system introduced on a quantitative basis for the MFA agreements.
2. A fairly considerable increase in the permissible volume of preferential imports from 88 000 tonnes in 1979 to 115 000 tonnes in 1980, comprising 106 000 tonnes for MFA products and 9 000 tonnes for non-MFA products. The increase in the total volume amounts to 30.7 % in real terms, and the corresponding increase in value over the 1979 maximum for preferential imports (428 million EUA) is put at 120 million EUA.
3. Individual shares are given to each beneficiary country which agreed to quantitative control of its exports under the MFA, so that these countries really get the benefit of tariff exemption. (For non-MFA products the old system of global ceilings plus maximum country amounts of 30 % to 50 %, depending on the product, has been retained, and there are no individual shares.)

4. The shares are allocated to beneficiary countries in such a way as to ensure more favourable treatment for the least developed: individual shares are allocated as a percentage of the total volume of imports for 1977, in inverse proportion to a country's competitiveness and stage of development.
5. The least developed countries, which appear on the list drawn up by the UN and include Haiti and Bangladesh, enjoy the same total exemption from duty as they do for their other industrial products.

Until the new scheme takes effect in 1980, the Council has decided to continue the present arrangements, due to expire on 30 June, up to the end of 1979, with a 5 % rise in ceilings across the board.

4. CONSUMERS CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE - STATEMENT ISSUED IN BRUSSELS ON 29 MAY

At its meeting on 23 May the CCC adopted an Opinion on the proposal for a Council Directive concerning legal expenses insurance. It considered that the choice of lawyer should be left open to the consumer and that legal expenses for all consumers should be covered by insurance companies in all Member States. It believed it was essential to regulate lawyers' fees and expenses and ensure supervision of agreement not to bring legal proceedings.

The CCC also adopted a position on the advertising of proprietary medicinal products and regretted that the Commission had not yet forwarded to the Council a proposal for a Directive on this subject. The CCC stressed that in its opinion Regulations concerning the advertising of proprietary medicinal products should be mainly directed towards the protection of public health and the provision of objective information for the medical profession and for consumers. In the long term, such information should be provided by bodies independent of the pharmaceuticals industry. In the transitional period, gradual steps should be taken to reduce advertising through a Directive laying down minimum requirements - radio, cinema and television advertising being the first to be proscribed.

In addition, the CCC approved the broad lines of its Opinion on the draft Commission Regulation on the EEC trade mark. The Opinion had been issued by a consumers' working party convened by the Environment and Consumer Protection Service.

VICE-PRESIDENT VREDELING MEETS THE SAAR-LORRAINE-LUXEMBOURG INTERREGIONAL TRADE UNION COUNCIL IN BRUSSELS ON 8 JUNE

The Saar-Lorraine-Luxembourg Interregional Trade Union Council fully approved the Commission's proposals on the social measures required in the context of restructuring the Community steel industry, and asked firms to abandon their opposition to these plans so that the inevitable reorganization should not have adverse consequences for the industry's workforce. This was one of the principal results of a meeting on 8 June in Brussels at the Commission's headquarters between Mr Vredeling and Mr Manfred Wagner, President of the Interregional Trade Union Council.

The Saar-Lorraine-Luxembourg region, as compared with each Member State as a whole, suffers from a disproportionate number of unemployed workers, a constant exodus of young and qualified workers, and particularly serious employment problems caused by the situation of the iron and steel industry which is the dominant industrial activity in the three areas concerned. Mr Vredeling and Mr Wagner agreed to take as a basis for Community action the proposal by the French and German Governments to extend cooperation in the field of vocational training and, in this connection, to set up a Franco-German centre for vocational training at Saarbrücken. The Commission would provide aid for this project from the Social Fund.

Mr Vredeling who would shortly be meeting the Management Committee of the Interregional Trade Union Council, would also support the objective of coordinating national policies on employment in the Saar-Lorraine-Luxembourg region.

5. FOURTH EUROPEAN REGIONAL CONFERENCE OF THE PUBLIC SERVICES INTERNATIONAL, HELD IN BRUSSELS ON 18 AND 19 APRIL

The fourth European Regional Conference of the Public Services International in Brussels on 18 and 19 April was attended by 107 representatives from 22 countries.

Mr Steven Duursma, Deputy Chef de Cabinet to the Commissioner with special responsibility for Social Affairs and Employment, welcomed the delegates on behalf of the European Commission and drew attention to the expansion that had taken place in the public service sector over recent years, a trend which he thought would continue, subject to the availability of funds and the cost effectiveness of the services. With this in mind, it was desirable that the funds available should be put to the most effective use for the benefit of society in general - e.g. to provide jobs for young people. Following a thorough investigation of the question, the Commission had reached the conclusion that job creation schemes were a cost effective form of action, particularly in the public sector.

Speaking on behalf of the European Trade Union Confederation, Mr Peter Coldrick welcomed the creation of an industry committee for the public service, which had been recognized by the ETUC and integrated into the latter's activities. Whilst the public sector had, he said, come under fire from several sources, the ETUC considered that it played a vital role in providing the basic services essential to society and in making available jobs which were sorely needed at a time of growing competition from outside Europe and technological innovation. If these objectives were to be attained, taxation would have to be increased in order to augment the public service budget.

A Commission spokesman presented a paper on the role of the tertiary sector in the achievement of growth, stability and full employment, in which a 3 - 4 % labour force increase in the European Community was forecast for the period up to 1985. Mention was also made of the growing proportion of female workers in the labour force and the continued drift away from the agricultural sector, and the paper stressed particularly that the main area of growth in employment over the past few years had clearly been the tertiary sector.

Several papers on public finance in the United States, the Federal Republic of Germany and the United Kingdom were presented and discussed.

Mr Carl Franken, General Secretary of the Public Services International, introduced a discussion on current developments in the public sector by outlining the steady growth that had occurred in this area to meet the increasing level and range of demand for social services and to create a more sophisticated administrative apparatus capable of fulfilling the needs of an increasingly sophisticated society. Although long-term planning was recognized as being vital, there were still those who preferred to ignore long-term interests in favour of short-term expediency. Mr Franken also outlined the developments which had led up to the creation of the European Public Service Committee (EPSC) in 1978, pointing out that the Committee's position in Europe meant that there was scope for initiative to be taken in consulting affiliated bodies in countries outside the Community on matters coming within the Committee's brief. Community activities might have an indirect effect on such bodies. Nevertheless, the PSI was still in favour of the establishment of joint committees in accordance with the Social Action Programme of the Communities as a way of increasing trade union influence in the EEC.

The Conference welcomed the creation of the European Public Service Committee and agreed that a subcommittee should be set up as soon as possible to deal with matters relating to the energy and water sectors in cooperation with the ETUC Coordinating Committee on Energy. The Conference also agreed that a subcommittee should be set up without delay for the health and other social services and considered that subcommittees might be established in the future for the safety and security services, central and local government, public services of an industrial nature and international civil servants.

6. SECOND JOINT CONFERENCE OF THE SAAR-LORRAINE-LUXEMBOURG INTERREGIONAL TRADE UNION COUNCIL, HELD IN LUXEMBOURG ON 25 AND 26 MAY

The Saar-Lorraine-Luxembourg Interregional Trade Union Council, which was set up in July 1976, held its second statutory joint conference in Luxembourg on 25 and 26 May.

Around a hundred trade union delegates, including the General Secretary of the European Trade Union Confederation, Mr Mathias Hinterscheid, took part in the conference as well as the Vice-President of the Luxembourg Government, Mr B. Berg, and many leading political figures from the three countries involved.

Mr Davignon, the Commissioner responsible for industrial affairs, was represented by his Director-General, Mr Fernand Braun.

Following presentation by the Council Executive of the General Report on the Council's activities during the Executive's first three years in office, talks centered on the situation of the iron and steel industry in the Saar-Lorraine-Luxembourg region.

The CFDT-Lorraine, which for the previous year had attended

the Interregional Council's meetings as an observer, was formally accorded membership by the Conference. This meant that both the French organizations affiliated to the ETUC would henceforth be full members of the Trade Union Council, which used the occasion to elect its new Executive for the next three years.

The newly-elected members of the Executive were:

Mr Manfred Wagner, DGB (Saar), Chairman;
Mr Pol Arnould, CGT-FO (Lorraine), Vice-Chairman;
Mr Antoine Troglic, CFDT (Lorraine);
Mr Mario Castegnaro, LAV (Luxembourg).

As the conference got down to work it was clear that, just as the ETUC had toughened its stance since its recent Congress in Munich, so the Interregional Trade Union Council of the "Heavy Industry Triangle" now in its fourth year, was determined to remain no longer just an interregional consultative body.

With this intention the General Secretary of the CGT-Luxembourg, Mr Roby Meis, proposed that the Luxembourg Tripartite Conference be institutionalized at regional level with a view to securing concerted trade union positions on vital questions such as employment, energy and transport. The Tripartite Conference in question, which was attended by representatives from employers' organizations, Government departments and the Interregional Trade Union Council, should draw up a plan of action to combat unemployment and should not confine itself merely to questions of energy and common transport policy within the framework of a regional development plan. The Conference could thus become the precursor of a permanent interregional institution, representing the main forces of the "Heavy Industry Triangle".

At the close of the meeting, the conference unanimously approved the following statement to be sent to the Federal Chancellor of Germany, the Prime Minister of Luxembourg and the Prime Minister of France:

1. The economic situation and job market in the Saar-Lorraine-Luxembourg region continue to bear the weight of:
 - full-scale restructuring measures and a persistently high rate of unemployment which is primarily the result of structural factors;
 - a constant and very substantial exodus of workers, particularly young and qualified personnel, to economically more prosperous regions;
 - the loss of a large number of jobs in the iron and steel and textile industries and in the economic sectors depending on those industries;
 - an above-average rate of unemployment among women and young people.
2. The structural problems and job situation in the Saar-Lorraine-Luxembourg region are the crucial issues to be tackled by the three countries concerned. In this context the Interregional Trade Union Council reiterates the demands and proposals made in its memorandum

of 10 June 1978 and the resolutions reached at the Third ETUC Congress in Munich, which made clear that a return to full employment must be the priority objective of economic and employment policy and that all other policies should be coordinated with a view to achieving this goal.

3. The European Trade Union Confederation considers that the future growth of the European national economies and the policies adopted to encourage such growth in the years ahead must be such as to enable real progress to be made in the fight against unemployment and the task of providing jobs for all.

Economic and industrial planning is needed, however, to ensure that growth is rational and achieved in a responsible manner, so that the specific objectives of individual undertakings accord with the interests of society at large. The primary concern should be to expand the tertiary sector to enable it not only to satisfy these demands but also to play a dominant role in the creation of jobs.

4. The Interregional Trade Union Council underlines, in particular, the need to improve the distribution of available work, concerning which the European Trade Union Confederation has also spoken out. The aim, over the next few years, shall be to reduce working time in Europe by at least 10 % with no loss of earnings by introducing a shorter working week, longer annual holidays, earlier retirement and improved instruction and vocational training.

Our efforts will henceforth be concentrated on the medium- and long-term objective of achieving a 35-hour working week without loss of earnings. The Interregional Trade Union Council condemns the negative attitude of European employers towards these demands.

5. The Interregional Trade Union Council calls for action without delay to give effect to the proposals and demands set out in its memorandum of 10 June 1978, concentrating primarily
 - on alleviating the crisis affecting the iron and steel and textile industries and the sectors depending on those industries;
 - on an energy policy, with absolute priority given to domestic coal and
 - on vocational training; in this connection, the Franco-German centre for vocational training, in which Luxemburg will participate must be set up without delay.
6. The Interregional Trade Union Council demands the immediate establishment of a Tripartite Conference modelled on the Luxembourg National Tripartite Conference.
7. Moreover, the national Governments and economic circles must make a special effort to expand research and development activity and accelerate the introduction of new technology, giving priority to the iron and steel industry and to domestic coal production.

The current energy situation calls for urgent measures to develop a concerted energy policy at Community level and particularly with

regard to the Saar-Lorraine-Luxembourg region. A substantial majority of Interregional Trade Union Council delegates agreed that a decision should be taken to postpone construction of the giant nuclear power station (5 200 MW capacity) at Cattenom for several years, not only for environmental reasons and out of concern for the safety of people living in the border areas (especially in the light of the Harrisburg disaster) but above all because it would be against the region's interests and out of line with the policy on employment. Immediate measures must be taken by the appropriate government authorities to save energy and give a massive boost to research into non-nuclear energy sources, preferably concentrating upon the use of domestic coal, build large-scale coal liquifaction and gasification plant, and step up the use of domestic coal for electricity production in environmentally clean generating stations located in the Saar-Lorraine-Luxembourg region, providing assured energy supplies.

8. The Governments concerned and the Commission gave a warm welcome to the proposals set out by the Interregional Trade Union Council in its memorandum of 10 June 1978. It is now up to the political leaders and industry to resolve the problems by prompt joint action.
9. Looking ahead to the first European Parliament elections to be held on 10 June, the Interregional Trade Union Council emphasizes the significance of this event, particularly for the Saar-Lorraine-Luxembourg region but also for the development of European political integration. It is essential that this first directly-elected Parliament, supported by the confidence expressed by its electors, should seek to democratize the decision-making process and help to create a European society advantageous to workers. All workers of the Saar-Lorraine-Luxembourg region are therefore urged to vote on election day, choosing candidates who endorse these objectives, and show the will to work towards them.

7. MEETING OF THE ETUC EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE IN GENEVA, ON 26 AND 27 JUNE

On 26 and 27 June the ETUC Committee met in Geneva. Discussion centered primarily on the events and meetings which had taken place since the ETUC Congress in Munich in May.

Following the scant progress made at the meeting of the Standing Committee on Employment on 22 May (1), the Executive Committee expressed its regret that the Commission, despite being formally authorized to open negotiations with the two sides of industry, had waited a whole month before proceeding.

The Executive Committee reported on its meeting with President Giscard d'Estaing. The Committee considered that preparations for meetings of the European Council should begin earlier and be conducted more democratically so as to give the parties concerned greater opportunity to prepare their positions.

(1) Trade Union Bulletin No 5 - p.6 et seq.

The Executive Committee discussed the results of the meeting between the EFTA Consultative Committee and Ministerial Council (Bodø, Norway, 21 May). The ETUC, whose affiliated organizations account for almost half the membership of the Consultative Committee, had argued that in future EFTA must become more than a mere free trade association and should take measures aimed at the major economic issues facing the workers, notably the problem of employment. In addition, EFTA must develop multilateral contacts with the European Community.

The EFTA Council promised to reply to the ETUC proposals at its next meeting in November. The Ministers were not willing to discuss matters going far beyond questions of free trade.

The Executive Committee consequently decided to await the meeting of the Ministerial Council in November before deciding, in the light of that meeting, whether ETUC participation in the work of the Consultative Committee was still justified.

The Secretary-General of EFTA, Mr C. Müller, was duly informed of these decisions during discussions held on 27 June.

The Executive Committee summarized its reaction to the various reports submitted as follows:

"We have encountered, so it seems, more willingness both on the part of political leaders and employers to consider our proposals and demands. However, this is in no way a cause for celebration nor should we harbour false hopes." The Executive Committee agreed that each affiliated federation should, in the weeks ahead, present to its own government and employers' organization(s) at national level the trade unions' most urgent demands. These demands or positions may be summarized as follows:

the trade unions will under no circumstances - not even in the event of a further increase in petroleum prices - accept a reduction of purchasing power or any attempt to deprive workers of their established rights;

the trade unions will continue to campaign for a European strategy to achieve full employment;

the trade union confederations will continue to call for a European energy policy and, in this context, the ETUC Executive Committee has decided as a matter of urgency to formulate a policy responding to the needs of the trade union movement, which will be essentially aggressive and positive and not merely defensive vis-a-vis the oil crisis.

If by the autumn this initiative has not produced satisfactory results, further direct action will be considered, similar to the action taken on 5 April 1978, but more solid and sustained.

The Secretariat was instructed to submit suitable proposals at the next meeting of the Executive Committee at the end of September.

8. THE ETUC AND THE MEETING OF EEC-ACP EMPLOYERS' AND WORKERS' REPRESENTATIVES IN GENEVA ON 2 JUNE

On 2 June a meeting was held in Geneva between the trade union organizations, employers' organizations and the Co-Chairman of the Joint Committee of the ACP-EEC Consultative Assembly.

The trade union delegation, comprising representatives of the ETUC, OATUU, ICFTU and WCL, had chosen a single spokesman, Mr D. Akumu, General Secretary of the OATUU, who stressed the importance of full participation by the trade unions and other representatives of the economic and social groups in activities relating to the renegotiation of the ACP-EEC Convention. The delegation also emphasized that the new Convention should take account of the need to respect social rights and ensure that multinational companies assume their responsibilities.

The ETUC Executive Committee declared that the meeting had been extremely positive and warmly welcomed the conclusions of the Co-Chairman namely that:

- regular and suitably prepared meetings should be held between the ACP-EEC Consultative Assembly and the two sides of industry;
- consultative meetings should be held with the two sides of industry to discuss sectoral problems.

9. ETUC GENERAL SECRETARY MATHIAS HINTERSCHIED ATTENDS TRADE UNION SUMMIT MEETING IN TOKYO ON 22 JUNE

Mr Mathias Hinterscheid, General Secretary of the ETUC, attended the Tokyo summit meeting on 22 June of trade union representatives from the seven countries taking part in the Western Economic Summit.

At their meeting with Mr Ohira, Prime Minister of Japan and Chairman of the Summit meeting, trade union representatives stated that full employment must remain the immediate and prime target of any economic policy agreed by the seven countries concerned. They stressed the problems caused by prolonged unemployment, which were hardest felt by the weakest members of society, namely young people, women and elderly workers.

The trade union leaders suggested that the problem of prolonged unemployment could only be avoided if steps were taken reasonably soon to reduce working hours.

They observed that oil consumer countries should improve the coordination of their energy policies so as to present a common front to the oil producers. They also criticized the failure of certain countries to coordinate their positions as regards petroleum policy. The investment and price policies of the multinational oil companies should be brought under strict supervision.

With regard to relations between the industrialized and developing countries, the trade union leaders demanded from their respective countries a substantial increase in the level of development aid, which for a long time had been fixed at 0.7 % of GNP. At the same

time it had to be realized that a new world economic order was inconceivable unless accompanied by a progressive social order; this applied equally to the developing countries.

The trade unions welcomed the fact that the industrialized countries had declared themselves ready to set up a joint raw materials fund. It was expected that this would follow the lines of the STABEX system introduced under the Lomé Convention concluded by the European Community and the ACP States.

The trade union representatives criticized the International Monetary Fund, whose criteria for granting aid, particularly in the social field, worked exclusively to the disadvantage of workers. They asked the Heads of Government meeting in Tokyo to set up a monitoring committee to review the policy and methods applied by the IMF.

10. PLENARY MEETING OF THE EMF EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE IN LONDON ON 2 AND 3 JULY

A NEW PRESIDENT AND ASSISTANT GENERAL SECRETARY

The Executive Committee of the European Metalworkers' Federation (EMF) met in London on 2 and 3 July. It paid homage to its retiring President, Hugh Scanlon, and elected Terry Duffy, President of the Amalgamated Union of Engineering Workers (AUEW - United Kingdom), as the new President of the EMF. Hans Flugger, who is Danish, was appointed as Assistant General Secretary.

SHORTER WORKING HOURS

In the context of the negotiations with regard to employment in Europe, and especially with regard to the reorganization and reduction of working time, the Executive Committee affirmed the Federation's full support for its member organizations and the European Trade Union Confederation (ETUC).

The Executive Committee urged the Commission to show more zeal in carrying out the task with which it had been entrusted by the Council of Ministers of Labour following the meeting of the Standing Committee on Employment on 22 May. On that date, the Commission had in fact been instructed to start immediate, direct negotiations with - and between - the two sides of industry with a view to submitting concrete proposals to the Council of Ministers, which would be meeting in the autumn.

Regret was also expressed at the lack of commitment shown in the approach of the Strasbourg European Council to the reorganization of working time.

If the meetings between the ETUC, the Commission and the European employers' organization, UNICE, did not have a positive outcome, it was stated, the EMF - which covers 7 million metalworkers - was formally committed to follow the lead of the ETUC and take an active part, starting next autumn, in action coordinated at European level.

The Executive Committee also stressed that the increase in the price of oil should under no circumstances be allowed to erode either the purchasing power of workers or their established social benefits.

SHIPBUILDING

In the face of the grave crisis in the shipbuilding industry, the Executive Committee called on the Commission to adopt without delay a specific plan for submission to the two sides of industry and the Council of Ministers. This plan should include steps to increase ship safety and protection against marine pollution, a scrap-and-build programme, measures to facilitate the internal conversion of shipyards, plus supporting social measures.

The Executive Committee was pleased with the success of the information campaign aimed at making the workers in PHILIPS plants in Europe aware of current problems which was organized on 30 May by all the metal unions affiliated to the EMF. Faced with the threat of cuts in employment over the next few years, the Committee gave the EMF "PHILIPS" working group the task of drawing up specific joint demands to be upheld at all levels during negotiations with the company. These demands would be aimed at the preservation of jobs, shorter working hours and improved working conditions.

FUTURE ACTIVITIES

During the second half of 1979, it was decided, the EMF would especially study the situation in the railway rolling stock industry, employment prospects in growth sectors, the social measures to be implemented in the shipbuilding industry and their institutional and financial framework, the economic and social problems of aerospace production groups at European level, employment and working conditions in the data-processing industry, the situation in the heavy electrical engineering and nuclear equipment industry, and the impact of technological change on the characteristics of the workforce as regards level of remuneration and qualifications.

11. COMMISSION AND ETUC MEET IN BRUSSELS ON 5 JULY

The Commission and an ETUC delegation met on 5 July to discuss the economic and social situation in the Community.

The talks centered on the energy crisis and the recent increase in oil prices and their probable effects on earnings and jobs.

The Commission stressed that it was essential to tackle this situation through an intensive investment policy. The ETUC spokesmen reiterated that full employment was their prime objective and, in this context, affirmed their determination to achieve a substantial reduction in working time as quickly as possible. In this connection the Commission urged that consultations be held with - and between - the two sides of industry.

The trade unions were adamant that they would not agree to measures that would undermine the purchasing power or social rights of workers.

The ETUC said that although the full impact of the energy crisis on the employment situation was recognized, this should not be used as an excuse for failure to look for concrete solutions, notably in the form of sectoral measures.

The Commission and the ETUC concluded the meeting with an agreement to meet again in September, when they would resume their discussions in greater detail and on a more concrete level.

Items on the agenda for 5 July which were not discussed due to lack of time, notably the results of the Lomé negotiations, the social aspects of the enlargement of the Community and the consumer policy, would also be examined at the meeting in September.

12. ELECTION OF MR R. VANNI AS CHAIRMAN OF THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMITTEE OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES

On 28 June the Economic and Social Committee elected Mr Raffaele Vanni as its Chairman by a substantial majority.

Mr Vanni is currently a member of the Italian National Economic and Labour Council and vice president of the Economic Policy Committee. From 1969 to 1976 he was Secretary-General of the Italian Labour Union (UIL). He succeeds Mrs F. Baduel Glorioso, who was elected to the European Parliament.

In his inaugural speech Mr Vanni made the point that the role of the Economic and Social Committee had expanded considerably; the Committee now formed an integral part of the political decision-making process.

In the view of the new Chairman, the authority and influence of a consultative body depend on the quality and expedience of its particular contributions and, in turn, the usefulness of the opinions it gives depends on better planning and greater openness on the part of the various institutions concerned.

Mr Vanni envisaged the need to amend the rules of procedure in view of the prospective accession of Greece, Spain and Portugal.

13. FRENCH CONFEDERATION GENERALE DU TRAVAIL AND THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES - VICE-PRESIDENT VREDELING MEETS A CGT DELEGATION IN BRUSSELS ON 25 JUNE

On 25 June a delegation of the French CGT, led by Mr Krasuchi, was received by Mr Vredeling, Vice-President of the Commission of the European Communities.

Their discussions centered on current social problems affecting workers and, in particular, of work.

Mr Krasuchi expressed his organization's disappointment that, unlike trade unions affiliated to the ETUC, it had no direct and regular contacts with the Commission.

Statement by the Fédération des Travailleurs de la Métallurgie (FTM - CGT)

For the FTM - CGT, Europe is a reality of which it is bound to take account when considering questions affecting metalworkers.

The EEC, its development, its enlargement, and the election of the European Parliament posed numerous and delicate problems of concern to workers.

From the outset the FTM - CGT had criticized and opposed the Schuman plan, the ECSC and the EEC as structures serving the interests of the transnational groups and had led the metalworkers in their fight against policies of this kind.

Now, twenty-two years after the Treaty of Rome, the facts demonstrated that the promises of economic and social progress remained a dead letter.

The EEC had played the game of the transnational companies. It had been largely responsible for the worsening crisis in all fields of activity.

Hence, on the economic and industrial plane, multinational companies - protected and aided by the Community institutions - had considerably strengthened their positions and extended their control. The present consequences were:

- . increased penetration by North American capital, particularly in the advanced technology and engineering industries (data-processing, electronic components, machine tools, etc);
- . greater technological dependence and ever-growing subjection to decisions taken across the atlantic (nuclear, aerospace, telecommunications).

Within this pattern, Europe's most powerful monopolies, particularly in Germany, have grown stronger whilst entire industries have been allowed to decay or deliberately dismantled.

They are currently pursuing these objectives by means of increasingly integrated policies which have a coercive effect on the national economies.

The disastrous consequences of the restructuring of the steel and shipbuilding industries are flagrant examples.

With the European Parliament elections just a few weeks ahead, it is clear that European capitalism is about to proceed one stage further towards economic and political integration and supranationality.

The FTM - CGT Executive, intent on preserving the independence of France, declares itself resolutely opposed to any infringement of national sovereignty and, in the interests of the metalworkers, will challenge all attempts to impose a supranational authority.

Each country must retain the power to make its own economic and political decisions and be guaranteed the right to manage its own affairs. There can be no question of submitting to any policies or measures likely to undermine the ability of the people of France or any other country to exercise power in a democratic and socially-minded fashion or to obstruct their ability to apply changes democratically decided.

The FTM - CGT Executives reaffirms its conviction that cooperation is necessary, but insists that all economic and political decisions must, if they are to be accepted as joint decisions, result from agreements freely negotiated and concluded between all the countries concerned.

The experience of the EEC proves that European integration does not solve any of the problems of individual countries.

The FTM - CGT Executive considers that enlargement of the EEC cannot change the present nature of European integration; it will therefore be unable to solve those problems which now exist and can only make their eventual solution more difficult.

Furthermore, the low wage structures and lack of progress in the social sphere in the applicant countries will be exploited to set workers against each other in every country and attempt to impose, in the name of necessary social harmonization, a general levelling-down of standards.

The FTM-CGT Executive finds itself unable, for these reasons, to endorse the enlargement of the EEC.

The FTM-CGT Executive declares itself in favour of developing broad-based international cooperation. Full-scale cooperation of this kind is at present strictly limited and the actions of transnational companies, the policies of the governments which support them and the Community institutions themselves increasingly belie the desire to achieve this objective.

However, international cooperation has already become an objective demand in certain spheres of activity. It can be a powerful means of achieving the economic development needed to meet human needs.

This assumes that international cooperation works to the mutual advantage of the parties concerned and that each country is able thereby to exploit its own resources, develop its industrial and economic potential and organize its own democratic and social development.

The FTM-CGT Executive considers that Europe can be constructed along other lines, provided that its course is not dictated by austerity, profit and domination.

To this end the trade unions will have to play a vigorous and

united role.

It is with this objective in mind that the FTM-CGT Executive campaigns on behalf of metalworkers, whose first objective has been to seek to obtain at national level social and industrial solutions for the good of the workers and of the country.

Only by imposing their will at national level can the workers persuade the Government and their employers to carry out policies designed to achieve social and economic progress.

Positive results to such efforts on the part of the trade unions and the convergence of their objectives call for a vigorous campaign of international union action, particularly in Europe.

This in turn requires greater unity of action on the part of the trade union organizations and their workers in order to present, particularly at Community level, a united front capable of imposing another view of development and cooperation.

In this context the FTM-CGT Executive is prepared and willing to hold constructive discussions with all the trade union organizations representing metalworkers in the various countries of Europe.

The FTM-CGT reaffirms its desire to contribute fully to the work of the EMF, and regrets that it has been persistently barred from membership; this action the FTM-CGT interprets as discrimination on the part of the EMF, a failure on its part to eliminate the hostility of certain forces opposed to trade union solidarity and, last of all, a decision working against the interests of all those employed in the European metalworking industry.

The FTM-CGT hereby declares itself, unambiguously and without prior conditions, prepared to enter into discussion with all federations representing the metalworking industry; it seeks from its partners a similar approach so as to strengthen the solidarity of metalworkers in Europe.

At a time when circumstances call for vigorous and united action against the transnational companies, it is this type of approach which, if adopted in each country and *via-à-vis* the Community authorities, will highlight the common objectives capable of matching the strategies of the most powerful monopolies and also provide diverse opportunities for joint trade union action.

14. MEETING OF THE WORLD CONFEDERATION OF TEACHERS IN BRUSSELS ON 14 JUNE

The World Confederation of Teachers, comprising member organizations from over fifty countries throughout the world, and which is itself affiliated to the World Confederation of Labour, held an important meeting in Brussels on Thursday 14 June attended by the most prominent trade union leaders from the European member organizations. The delegates unanimously ratified an agreement between the International Federation of Free Teachers' Unions, the World Confederation of Organizations of the Teaching Profession and the WCT to set up a joint European Teacher Trade Union Committee which the European Trade Union Confederation would

be asked to recognise as an official education committee. The purpose of this Committee would be to protect the interests of teachers and to provide continuous encouragement for school-teaching and further education in Europe.

The delegates also discussed the WCT's activities in Europe and worldwide and, in particular, the organization of seminars in Africa, Asia and Latin America to consider how education could contribute to economic and social development and to the expansion of freedom in Third World Countries.

Finally, the meeting approved a proposal that the WCT demonstrate further support for the International Year of the Child by requesting the United Nations and UNESCO to use their best endeavours to have the Declaration of the Rights of the Child incorporated into instruments having the force of law. Since the adoption of the Declaration twenty years ago in 1959, many governments all over the world have failed to show regard for childrens' rights and do not apply the provisions of the Declaration. Those rights must be enshrined in instruments which carry the force of law (conventions, agreements, special measures) ratified by individual countries, groups of countries such as the European Community or the Council of Europe, and by the United Nations in its capacity as a world body.

15. ELECTION OF THE SECRETARY OF THE EUROPEAN FEDERATION OF AGRICULTURAL WORKERS' UNIONS WITHIN THE COMMUNITY (EFA)

At a meeting held in Brussels on 22 June, the Executive Committee of the European Federation of Agricultural Workers' Union (EFA) elected Mr Umberto Lamagni as the Secretary of the Federation.

Mr Lamagni, an ex-member of the International Secretariat of the CISL (Italy), made a speech in which he stressed the importance of the next European Congress of the EFA to be held in Copenhagen during September 1979.

It would be up to the Congress, he said, to determine the objectives and strategy of the Federation and to define the new "Green Europe for Workers". Certain elements of this strategy were, however, already clear. First, the EFA must continue the process of evolving into a truly "supranational" organization. Secondly, Green Europe must become a place where workers would no longer tolerate inequality and with this in mind, democracy, freedom and self-determination must be strengthened within the Federation.

Mr Lamagni went on to emphasize the vital importance of links between the activities of the EFA and those of the ETUC and concluded with a reminder that the independence of the EFA in matters relating to Europe must in no sense be allowed to jeopardize solidarity with the International Trade Secretariats.

16. ACTIVITIES AND OBJECTIVES OF THE EUROPEAN TRADE UNION INSTITUTE

The European Trade Union Institute, which was set up in 1978, was launched by the European Trade Union Confederation with the aim, as stipulated in the guidelines for its activities, of assisting the European trade union movement and those organizations, including European trade union committees, affiliated to the ETUC. The Institute's headquarters was set up in Brussels, Boulevard de l'Impératrice, 66 - Boîte 4 - Tel: 512.30.70.

Hence, the work of the European Trade Union Institute reflects the preoccupations of the trade union movement at the time and involves giving expression to the trade union approach at European level to the economic and social problems which directly concern workers.

The Institute has, from the outset, had three main tasks:

- research;
- information and documentation;
- training.

The Institute has two management bodies: a General Assembly and a Management Board, in compliance with Belgian legislation, since the Institute was set up under Belgian law as a non profit-making organization. It has, moreover, been recognized by the Belgian Government as an international association. The General Assembly includes representatives from all the trade union organizations affiliated to the ETUC. It meets, in principle, once a year. The Management Board is also made up of representatives from the affiliated organizations; the members of the Board are the Presidents, Vice-Presidents and General Secretary of the ETUC and a Swedish member of the ETUC Executive Committee.

The day-to-day management of the Institute is the responsibility of the Director, Mr Günter Köpke (FRG).

The Director is assisted by a committee of experts, made up of representatives from ETUC affiliated organizations, which meets at least twice a year and whose purpose is to advise the Director on the future orientation of the Institute's activities.

In addition to the Director and his assistant, the Institute employs five other staff, three in the research department, one in the information and documentation section and one in the training section.

The Institute has a library, a secretarial/translation service and a technical section.

At present, research and information are the Institute's two most important tasks.

1. Research

Since the essential purpose of the Institute is to assist the European trade union movement, emphasis is placed primarily on practical research in those fields of immediate concern to workers. Typical subjects on which research is undertaken include economic

policy, industrial policy, employment policy, social policy in general, collective bargaining, working conditions, the distribution of income, control of multinational companies, etc. The Institute is currently engaged in studies on:

- the economic and social consequences of reducing working time in Western Europe;
- the impact of the enlargement of the European Community to include Greece, Spain and Portugal;
- the effects of the introduction of microprocessors and other advanced technology on jobs, work organization and the employment situation.

Future projects will examine assembly-line work, the control of multinational companies, the organization of national trade unions and the economic situation in Western Europe.

2. Information and Documentation

A further task of the Institute is to collect the fullest possible documentation on matters of interest to the trade union movement and to make such information available to all ETUC affiliated organizations. Such documentation will include, in particular, the principal documents and publications produced by regional, national and international trade union organizations and a certain number of documents produced by international organizations (European Community, Council of Europe, EFTA, OECD, ILO, etc), universities and research centres on subjects of interest to the trade union movement.

As regards information, the Institute naturally publishes its own studies and those carried out under its wing. It also publishes information brochures on the ETUC and on the European Trade Union Institute itself.

The Institute's information service operates in conjunction with the corresponding departments of the Commission of the European Communities, EFTA and the Council of Europe in particular.

3. Training

Training is an aspect of the Institute's work which, for the present, has not been developed. It is likely to involve initially the preparation of audio-visual teaching material covering trade union activity and the world of work in Europe in a form suitable for subsequent use in national trade union training programmes.

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