



N° 9/1979

trade union information

TRADE UNION BULLETIN

PUBLISHED BY THE SPOKESMAN'S GROUP AND DIRECTORATE-GENERAL FOR
INFORMATION : TRADE UNIONS AND OTHER PRIORITY MILIEUX

C O N T E N T S

1. Meeting of the Executive Committee of the European Trade Union Confederation (ETUC) - Brussels, 27-28 September. (Action week for affiliated unions at the end of November).
2. Resolution on regional policy in the European Community.
3. The ETUC calls for the adoption of the proposal for a Regulation on the control of mergers.
4. Meeting between the Commission and representatives of the ETUC - Brussels, 20 September.
5. UNICE statement on the meeting between the Commission and the European employers - Brussels, 17 September.
6. ETUC statement on the meeting with Commission representatives - Brussels, 20 September.
7. Special measures to be financed by the European Regional Development Fund.
8. The ETUC and migrant workers.
9. Reactions of the metalworkers' unions to the Commission plan to promote the scrapping and building of ocean-going ships.
10. Launching of the Weser-Ems-North Netherlands Interregional Trade Union Council (WENN).
11. Eighth Statutory Congress of the European Federation of Agricultural Workers' Unions within the Community - Brussels, 24-25 September.

X/349/79 - EN

1. MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE EUROPEAN TRADE UNION CONFEDERATION (ETUC) - BRUSSELS, 27 - 28 SEPTEMBER.

ACTION WEEK FOR AFFILIATED UNIONS AT THE END OF NOVEMBER

The Executive Committee of the ETUC met in Brussels on 27-28 September.

One of the main points on the agenda was a discussion of the economic and social situation.

The Committee was informed of the results of the meetings held with the Commission (5 July and 20 September) and UNICE (13 July and 19 September) pursuant to the General Resolution adopted at the Statutory Congress of the ETUC in Munich (May 1979).

After very thorough discussion, the Committee approved a statement on the socio-economic situation in Europe and two resolutions - one on regional policy in the Community and the other calling for the adoption of the Commission proposal for a Regulation on the control of mergers.

Statement on the socio-economic situation in Europe

1. The ETUC is deeply concerned by the passive pessimism many governments, European institutions, and employers' organizations are displaying in the face of increasing unemployment and the onset of a new and even deeper world economic slump. The Confederation recognises that oil price increases and supply constraints pose real problems but these reinforce rather than lessen the need for governments and European institutions to take internationally coordinated measures to fight unemployment and to promote economic recovery.
2. However the measures to be taken must not be decided unilaterally; it must be recognized that without the cooperation and confidence of working people the economic and social problems of our societies cannot be tackled effectively.
3. To gain this cooperation, the ETUC proposes, on the basis of the policies adopted at our Munich Congress in May 1979, that :
 - deflationary and divisive policies must be rejected;
 - public spending should be used on a planned and selective basis to develop housing, education, health and other services, to restructure industry, and to achieve regional balance;

- social entitlements should be safeguarded and public services developed: budget deficits should be reduced by reducing unemployment and by strong action against tax fraud, and not by attacking these entitlements and services;
- real living standards, particularly of the low paid, can and must be protected;
- price and anti-monopoly policies should be strengthened and used with tax policies to counter the inflationary effects of oil price increases;
- the activities of the oil multinationals must be carefully monitored so as to ensure that responsible price policies are followed, and that energy policies are determined by public and not private authorities;
- potential energy shortages reinforce the case for promoting a planned and qualitative kind of economic development which is both energy saving and employment creating;
- assistance to developing countries should be increased to meet by 1982 at the latest the UN's aid target of 0.7 % of GNP, and OPEC surplus funds should be recycled to them in particular.

4. Bearing in mind not only the current unacceptably high levels of unemployment but also the technological changes now taking place and in prospect, the ETUC reaffirms in particular the importance of making further progress in the direction of reductions in the length of the working week and of working life, calls on affiliated organizations to give high priority to this in collective bargaining, and expresses its support for the efforts and action by unions in different countries and at European level to achieve this objective.
5. The ETUC believes that there must be a dialogue at national and European levels with employers and with governments on these proposals. In some instances, such a dialogue has proved to be possible, but in others it has not. The ETUC has therefore decided that it must mobilize its membership of over 40 million workers in support of a constructive alternative to the negative policies of employers and governments. A major publicity campaign will be organized to inform the public of our intentions and proposals, and to prepare a week of demonstrations and meetings to take place during the last week of November. This date has been chosen so that the Executive Committee at its meeting on 29-30 November can review the situation and decide on possible follow-up action.

2. RESOLUTION ON REGIONAL POLICY IN THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY

On evaluation of the outcome of Community measures in the field of regional policy now that the European Regional Development Fund has been operating for four and a half years, no assessable results can as yet be established. Coordination of the regional policies of the individual Member States does not seem to be imminent, nor have the disparities between the regions of the Community been reduced. The political leaders are not yet sufficiently committed to the fundamental goal of regional policy - that of gradually establishing equilibrium between the economically strong and the economically weak regions, thereby creating equivalent living standards and working conditions for all workpeople. The passage in the Treaty of Rome which reads: "Anxious to strengthen the unity of their economies and to promote their harmonious development by reducing the differences existing between the various regions and the backwardness of the less favoured regions" must be constantly brought to mind .

In the 'sixties, when fairly high economic growth rates in almost every country would have made it easier to implement effective regional policies with structural objectives, a great deal was neglected. It was not until the Community was enlarged in 1973 that a serious attempt was made to elaborate a concept of Community regional policy. However, the widespread growth and employment crisis was already beginning and this in itself constituted an obstacle to an effective regional policy whilst at the same time increasing the need for a more intensive regional policy.

The fact that nowhere near enough funds were available to the Community for complementing regional policy in the individual Member States with effective aid was not the only cause of these lapses and deficiencies. It has become evident in the past few years that the fundamental approach is unsatisfactory - the intervention machinery for implementing measures to achieve regional policy objectives is evidently geared too little or not at all to the economic and social circumstances which actually prevail.

In a February 1977 memorandum on Community regional policy and in a general resolution passed at its Congress in Munich, the European Trade Union Confederation put forward a number of requirements for a Community regional policy, stressing in particular that it is absolutely imperative that the activities of the financial instruments of the Community be coordinated as an instrument of a Community employment and structural policy. It must unfortunately be stated that the Community is still far from pursuing a common regional policy with a view to eliminating the disparities between the regions of Europe more rapidly. When regions in the European Community are being discussed it is absolutely essential to include the internal frontier regions between Member States, since workers there encounter special difficulties in some cases.

The European Trade Union Confederation considers that in the present circumstances attention must be drawn to the following points:

1. The following principles are a precondition for a policy which aims at reducing the imbalances between the regions:
 - a) Such a policy must have medium and long-term prospects based on sound regional planning. This is the only way that equivalent living standards and working conditions can be created in all regions for all the people of Europe.
 - b) It must be based on the principle of solidarity, i.e. resources must be transferred from strong countries and regions to the economically weaker regions so that economic and social conditions can be improved, particularly in the weaker regions and all workpeople can be guaranteed a job.
2. Every Community policy must be investigated to establish whether it is not likely to contribute to new regional imbalances: accompanying preventive measures must be designed and included in plans wherever necessary.
3. Every effort must now be made in the Community to bring about functional cooperation of the financial instruments of the Community as soon as possible. This will involve the combined and concentrated utilization of resources from two or more financial instruments wherever high unemployment rates prevail or are likely to occur in regions which are economically weak or in which recession is imminent.
4. As the significance and efficacy of a Community regional policy and of implementing the coordination of the activities of the financial instruments of the Community increase, it will become all the more necessary to allow workers and their trade unions to participate more in the planning and implementation of a coherent regional policy which has structural objectives. This can be done in the Regional Policy Committee and through representation on the Administrative Board of the European Investment Bank.
5. In the context of budgetary deliberations in the Community, cuts in the funds earmarked for regional policy must be avoided; on the contrary, the European Regional Development Fund must be granted considerably more financial resources for the next few years in order at least to enable the Community to make a real contribution towards reducing inter-regional disparities. In a reorientation of the Fund and its functions, which must be seen in the context of financing the Community budget and of the enlargement of the Community, a regional policy with structural objectives must be given priority.

3. THE ETUC CALLS FOR THE ADOPTION OF THE PROPOSAL FOR A REGULATION ON THE CONTROL OF MERGERS

Whereas:

- the European Commission adopted its proposal for a Regulation on the control of mergers in July 1973,
- the European Parliament and the Economic and Social Committee of the Community delivered their Opinions on the Proposal for a Regulation some years ago,
- a number of mergers have taken place in the past few years which would have come under the provisions of the proposal for a Regulation;
- business concentration in both the EEC and EFTA has continued to advance and the concentration trend is persisting,
- competition legislation does not suffice to monitor conglomerate concentration operations in particular,
- it is therefore necessary to control all major business mergers in the EEC and EFTA,
- new instruments are required to meet the dangers to the public interest which emerge from the continuing concentration process.

The Executive Committee of the European Trade Union Confederation appeals to the Council of Ministers of the European Community to speed up the procedure for deliberating on the proposal for a Regulation on the control of mergers and to take a positive decision as soon as possible.

The ETUC requests the Council of Ministers to take steps to ensure that in the adoption of the proposal for a Regulation workers and their trade unions are granted an information and consultation right and the right to negotiate with the managements of the undertakings involved when mergers are being planned.

The Executive Committee of the European Trade Union Confederation suggests that an instrument for controlling mergers of major undertakings also be created in EFTA States.

4. MEETING BETWEEN THE COMMISSION AND REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ETUC
- BRUSSELS, 20 SEPTEMBER

On 20 September, the European Commission represented by the President, Mr. Jenkins, Vice-President Vredeling and several Members of the Commission received a delegation from the European Trade Union Confederation, led by Mr. Wim Kok, President of the ETUC.

The meeting was a follow-up to the one held on 5 June. The morning session was devoted to further general discussion of the economic and social situation in the Community following an introduction by Vice-President Ortoli.

The meeting then studied special points of current interests:

- the new EEC/ACP agreement.

Mr. Cheysson gave an introductory exposé.

- Enlargement.

Vice-President Natali gave a progress report on accession negotiations.

- Consumer protection.

Mr. Burke gave a résumé of current Commission measures and proposals.

- Multinational undertakings.

Exposé by Mr. Davignon on workers' rights stressing worker protection.

Further discussions will take place at a later meeting of the Commission, the employers and the trade unions.

5. UNICE STATEMENT ON THE MEETING BETWEEN THE COMMISSION AND THE EUROPEAN EMPLOYERS - BRUSSELS, 17 SEPTEMBER

On 17 September an important delegation of European Employers, headed by Mr Pol Provost, the President of UNICE, was received by the European Commission in the persons of President Jenkins and Commission Members Vredeling and Davignon.

The UNICE President, referring to the economic and social situation in the Community now and in the future, made the point that public opinion should be better informed about the real facts of the economic and social situation and recommended as guidelines for policies at Community level:

- (i) Increased coordination of economic and monetary policies with a view to sustained growth and the control of inflation in all member countries, matters of key importance in the proper functioning of the EMS.
- (ii) The coordination of budgetary policies is particularly important in this context. One should agree on a better approach to public spending, envisaging: an eventual levelling off of expenditure; more flexibility for enterprises; special attention to measures which, as stressed by the President of the European Council at Strasbourg, would enable the Community, as the result of investment with assured profitability, to achieve a satisfactory level of economic growth while allowing for modernization of structures.

- (iii) Social policies consistent with these economic objectives, compatible with the need to keep enterprises competitive, to boost productivity, and, in particular, to ensure a better working of the labour market by means of
- training to meet the requirements of demand
 - professional and geographical mobility
 - income guarantee systems which encourage work
 - flexible arrangements for working hours with a view to making optimum use of the means of production.
- (iv) Elimination of regulations which hamper enterprises in the urgent task of altering structures, now more than ever necessary because of:
- the rise in prices of energy and raw materials
 - the competition from recently industrialized countries.
- (v) In respect of energy, there is a vital need for a Community strategy and policy based on :
- encouragement for energy-saving efforts in industry by means of financial inducements and the provision of appropriate technical information;
 - sustained development of all energy sources available to the Community, especially nuclear energy. It is essential that the public should be better informed on the link between economic prosperity and the availability of adequate energy resources.
- (vi) To defend the achievements of the Community and to cope with competition from outside it is necessary:
- to get rid of barriers to the internal market, so that enterprises can operate in a sufficiently large area;
 - to make effective use of the weapons we have, in dealing with unfair competition, paying special attention to the sectors most affected and envisaging, where necessary, special provisions to tide them over their problems;
 - to accept that in the last resort it will be the increase in the competitive capacity of European enterprises - due, in particular, to the development of new technologies - that will enable them to secure their future markets in the face of formidable competitors. The Community should, working together in this with the organizations, sectors and firms concerned, back up all efforts in this direction with the appropriate policies.

6. ETUC STATEMENT ON THE MEETING WITH COMMISSION REPRESENTATIVES
- BRUSSELS, 20 SEPTEMBER

On 20 September an ETUC delegation led by ETUC President Wim Kok exchanged views with the Commission on the social and economic situation in the European Community.

The Commission once again stressed the effects of the increase in oil prices on the socio-economic situation and the necessity to implement a Community investment policy which would guarantee Europe a competitive position in the world economy.

In his introduction, the ETUC President made it clear that the ETUC would on no account accept any measures impairing workers' spending power or the social rights and advantages they have acquired, and that the reduction of working time by some 10 % in the near future remained one of the major concerns of the trade unions. Wim Kok said that the ETUC expected the Commission to supplement its analysis of the economic situation with a policy through which the socio-economic problems could be overcome. If workpeople are to accept the fact that they must make sacrifices they ought to be able to expect compensation in the form of a better and more stable employment situation.

The ETUC President went on to say that the ETUC demanded selective measures to boost consumption, in particular an increase in low wages, more public funds for financing the needs of the community, and steps to strengthen the role played by the public authorities in planning and guiding the economy. The ETUC delegation stressed once again that the ETUC considered that the European Commission had its own responsibility in developing and proposing a coherent and effective European policy.

Neither the reluctance of certain governments to agree on a Community policy nor the negative attitude of employers to some of the ETUC demands must be used as an excuse by the Commission not to develop its own ideas.

If the Commission is to fulfil its task it must face up to its responsibilities. In the present circumstances it would be unacceptable if the Commission did not organize concertation and consultation with the two sides of industry so that concrete proposals on the reduction of working time can be put to the Council of Ministers on 22 November.

The two delegations also exchanged views on consumer problems, the 2nd Lomé Convention, the enlargement of the Community, and multinational groups of companies.

The ETUC Executive Committee will be meeting on 27 and 28 September and will examine the results of the talks with the Commission (20 September) and with the employers (19 September).

The President and General Secretary of the ETUC will inform the press of the position of the Executive Committee at a press conference at 2.00 p.m. on 28 September 1979 in the Economic and Social Committee building in Brussels.

7. SPECIAL MEASURES TO BE FINANCED BY THE EUROPEAN REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT FUND

The Commission has decided to propose a first series of special Community measures to be financed by the "quota-free" section of the European Regional Development Fund. They will involve the expenditure of 220 million EUA over the five years 1980 to 1984. These first measures, which will be followed later by others, concern regions situated in Belgium, France, Ireland, Italy and the United Kingdom.

Measures proposed by the Commission

1. Measures to help certain regions affected by the Community's enlargement : It is proposed to spend 120 million EUA to help the development and the activities of small firms and rural tourism in the Mezzogiorno and in Aquitaine, Midi-Pyrénées and Languedoc-Roussillon, the regions which will be most directly affected by Greece, Spain and Portugal joining the Community.
2. Measures to help certain areas particularly affected by difficulties in the steel industry : It is proposed to spend 43 million EUA on environmental improvements to derelict industrial sites and on the encouragement of small firms and industrial innovation in the counties of Strathclyde, Cleveland, Clwyd, South and West Glamorgan and Gwent and the district of Corby (UK), the province of Naples (Italy) and certain parts of the Liège, Hainaut and Luxembourg provinces (Belgium).
3. Measures to help certain areas particularly affected by difficulties in the ship-building industry : It is proposed to spend 17 million EUA on environmental improvements to derelict industrial sites and the encouragement of small firms and industrial innovation in the following counties of the United Kingdom : Strathclyde, Cleveland, Tyne and Wear, Merseyside and Belfast.
4. Measures to diversify energy sources in the Mezzogiorno : It is proposed to spend 16 million EUA on the installation and promotion of new techniques in hydro-electric and other energy generation based in particular on "mini-turbines" located on small streams in the mountainous parts of the Mezzogiorno.
5. Measures to develop tourism and craft industry in Ireland and Northern Ireland: It is proposed to spend 24 million EUA to stimulate tourism and craft industry development in the border areas of Ireland and Northern Ireland.

Measures financed by the quota-free section of the European Regional Development Fund

The "quota-free" section of the Regional Fund was established by the Council when it modified the Fund regulation in February 1979. The new section will permit the Community to make specific contributions, over a limited period of time, to the solution of problems in particular areas for which it clearly has a special and direct responsibility. The areas concerned are those affected by the consequences of Community decisions or measures in other policy fields, and those of the areas situated on the Community's internal frontiers which face special problems. The specific Community measures will differ from those financed under the "quota" section of the Regional Fund in three main ways:

- the "quota-free" section will finance special programmes, and not individual investment projects. The programmes will be submitted by the Member States for approval by the Commission;
- under these special programmes the "quota-free" section will be able to finance a variety of activities which the Regional Fund has not been able to assist before (marketing research, research into new techniques and products, management advice, etc.), as well as a wider range of public investments;
- the rates of grant will be higher, going up to 70 % of the cost of certain types of operation (other than capital investments).

8. THE ETUC AND MIGRANT WORKERS

The ETUC Standing Committee on Migrant Workers and the working party of that Committee held meetings in Brussels on 20 September and 10 - 11 October to discuss ways and means of executing the decisions which were taken at the Munich Congress of the European Trade Union Confederation and of taking more effective action with greater commitment to defend the rights of migrant workers and their families.

The situation of these workers was examined with regard to the worsening of the crisis, the increase in unemployment, and the deterioration of living standards and working conditions, and it was agreed that preparations should be made to carry out the following action as soon as possible:

1. Organization of a meeting between a delegation from the Committee and the Committee on Social Affairs and Employment of the European Parliament for an exchange of views and consultation on concrete aspects of the most urgent requirements of migrant workers in the Community where promises and good intentions must be translated into action without delay through:
 - the adoption of the Community Directive on illegal labour trafficking and the implementation of effective measures to coordinate placement and employment policies, including policies involving migrant workers;

- the application of the Directive on the education of the children of migrant workers;
 - the improvement of the social protection of migrants, particularly as regards social security;
 - the improvement of the civil and political rights of migrants, particularly as regards elections.
2. In the context of the action week on employment which the ETUC Executive Committee has just decided to organize, an appeal will be made to migrant workers to participate in trade union life and activities and to take part in the demonstrations which will be held throughout Europe and it will also be strongly advocated that the problems which are specific to that category of workers also be included in these demonstrations and actions.
 3. A meeting is to be organized between the ETUC Standing Committee on Migrant Workers and representatives from the teachers' unions of the confederations affiliated to the ETUC to discuss how the competent national authorities can be prompted to implement the Community Directive on the schooling, vocational training and cultural education of the children of all migrant workers without delay through concrete agreements with the countries concerned.
 4. Information initiatives and other specific measures will be carried out on the above questions and on other issues which are particularly urgent; these measures will be implemented both at national level by the central trade union organizations in the individual countries and at European level by the ETUC Standing Committee and the European employer association UNICE.
 5. The ETUC and its French affiliates will make representations to the French Minister of Labour to stress how serious the measures on migrant workers' rights are which the French Government is preparing to have debated by Parliament.

The ETUC Standing Committee on Migrant Workers protests vehemently against the fact that the financial resources made available to the European Social Fund for all workers have been cut. The Committee insists that the funds which are earmarked for migrant workers must not be reduced in any way but must in fact be augmented, especially since these funds were already reduced last year and applications for aid in this field have steadily increased in the various countries concerned.

In conclusion, the Committee and its working party exchanged views and information on the situation as regards legislation on migrants in the individual countries and on concrete ways and means of improving their civil, social, cultural and political rights, including freedom of speech, the right of association and the right to vote in local elections. This discussion was based on the guidelines and indications of the ETUC Congress in Munich, a comparative table on the conditions and limits of migrant workers' participation in the political life of their host countries and their right of association in those countries, and the Community action programme concerning these workers.

9. REACTIONS OF THE METALWORKERS' UNIONS TO THE COMMISSION PLAN TO PROMOTE THE SCRAPPING AND BUILDING OF OCEAN-GOING SHIPS

The main points of the plan outlined in the Commission Communication on the scrapping and building of ocean-going ships were given in Trade Union Bulletin N° 8/1979.

The European Metalworkers' Federation has now indicated, in a statement issued on 17 October, that the plan in general corresponds to the requirements of the European metalworkers' unions.

In particular, the EMF feels that the scrap-and-build plan could help to increase the volume of orders and thus preserve a number of jobs in an industry and regions particularly affected by unemployment. At the same time, it could help to reduce the overcapacity of fleets and to modernize them, thereby contributing to the fight against maritime pollution.

The EMF urges the Council of Ministers and the European Parliament to commence discussion of the plan without delay, so that the Commission may put forward proposals for its implementation which will enable the scheme to become operational as from 1980.

The EMF stresses, however, that the scrap-and-build plan is only a short-term measure and must form part of an overall programme for the shipbuilding industry including, inter alia, the improvement of ship safety, the diversification of shipyard production, the development of supporting social measures at Community level and action to discourage the use of flags of convenience, even if this entails closing European ports to ships which do not comply with safety standards and social norms for their crews.

The funds for the scrap-and-build plan should, in the EMF's view, be provided and administered partly by the Community and partly by the Member States. Finally, the operation of the plan should be subject to democratic supervision with union participation.

10. LAUNCHING OF THE WESER-EMS-NORTH NETHERLANDS INTERREGIONAL TRADE UNION COUNCIL (WENN)

The launching of WENN, the Weser-Ems-North Netherlands Interregional Trade Union Council, in Oldenburg (Federal Republic of Germany) on 21 and 22 September 1979, marked a new milestone in interregional trade union cooperation in the European Community.

This Interregional Trade Union Council (ITUC) is not the first of its kind. Its Saar-Lorraine-Luxembourg counterpart has been operating since 1976 and the Rhine-Meuse ITUC was founded in 1978.

Regional union officials from the North Netherlands and the Weser-Ems area of Lower Saxony (Federal Republic) followed in the footsteps of these two interregional bodies in expressing their awareness of the interdependence of regional economies despite the existence of national frontiers by seeking ways in which their unions could cooperate in tackling common economic problems. The northern district FNV and the Lower Saxony branch of the DGB were therefore given a green light by their national federations to set up an ITUC which will operate in the Dutch provinces of Groningen, Friesland and Drenthe and in the Asschen-dorf-Hümmling, Aurich, Emden, Emsland, Leer, Oldenburg and Wilhelmshaven areas in the Federal Republic.

Development Policy

The new ITUC's main objective is to cooperate in drawing up cross-frontier development programmes for the region. These would only succeed, however, if national and Community instruments of structural policy such as the ECSC Fund, the EEC Regional Development Fund and the European Social Fund complemented each other.

A resolution adopted at the end of the ITUC's inaugural meeting stated that the main aim of development policy in the Community should be to correct structural and regional imbalances. It should also seek to cancel out serious disparities between per capita incomes and to give a boost to areas beset by structural and cyclical difficulties. Development policy should make it possible for individuals to obtain employment appropriate to their training. Every citizen in the Member States of the Community could be afforded equal health, environmental and working conditions if there was genuine cooperation between the Member States and Community institutions.

A Community regional policy required cross-frontier development programmes, but such a policy could only get off the ground if workers and unions were allowed to take an active part in planning and if they were given the opportunity to make known and defend their demands at the proper time.

Regional demands

The "WENN" Interregional Council made it clear from the outset what it considered the prerequisites of a regional employment policy to be the following:

- (i) the creation of jobs in reasonable proximity to workers' homes;
- (ii) reorganization and possibly joint extension of the regional and supra-regional communications network, including public transport;
- (iii) the channelling of official aid first and foremost into infrastructure with a view to creating focal points for investment in industrial and tertiary activities;

- (iv) harmonization of national aid measures to avoid competition in the field of investments;
- (v) rigorous measures to protect the environment;
- (vi) stringent control over the use of public subsidies to foster employment;
- (vii) creation of short-term jobs that will ultimately guarantee long-term employment by setting up structures that can be used for subsequent development;
- (viii) granting of financial assistance for investments of a guaranteed permanent nature;
- (ix) the channelling into development areas of investments by firms receiving State assistance.

Finally, the FNV and the DGB called for the establishment of a supra-national planning body for the WENN region. It would be responsible not only for economic planning in the region but also for planning connected with housing, social and cultural facilities, services, and recreational and tourist policy. The unions would play an integral role in the work of this body.

Speeches

A number of keynote speeches were made at the inaugural meeting of the Weser-Ems-North Netherlands Interregional Trade Union Council by union leaders and a representative of the European Community, Mr Henk Vredeling, Vice-President of the Commission. In his address, Mr. Vredeling said it was important for the Community to create interregional cooperation bodies which would draw attention to ~~and~~ subsequently iron out differences in national legislation. He stressed that the active participation and views of the trade union movement were indispensable factors in achieving this end. This was particularly true given the fact that the Community had had to contend with an economic recession and unemployment for some time and that the regions represented on the Interregional Trade Union Council for the Weser-Ems and North Netherlands were areas whose economic position was comparatively weak.

Mr. Vredeling added that he hoped to see governments take preventive action to ensure that a healthy and lasting state of full employment was created. In the long run, the unemployment problem would not be resolved by preserving unstable jobs. We had to create new jobs. Moribund firms and industries could not be propped up indefinitely with subsidies. Sound economic development could only be achieved if we phased out antiquated production methods and at the same time created new opportunities. Governments had to fulfill their responsibilities in this respect. Mr. Vredeling stressed that the unions would never be able to have much influence on the multinationals if they continued to operate at national level only. The Commission of the European Communities for its part wished to help the trade union movement by creating a legal framework under which the managements of multinational companies would be obliged to inform and consult

workers across national frontiers on decisions they intended to take. Such legislation was vital if the activities of these international companies were to be kept under control.

Mr. Wim Kok, President of the European Trade Union Confederation (ETUC), stressed the importance of trade union cooperation. The creation of this third interregional trade union council was indicative of the need for cooperation within the European Community not only at the top, but also at regional level. Trade union cooperation stood to gain substantially as a result.

Interregional cooperation was part of the process of European integration. It had to be intensified so that a number of goals could be achieved. Mr. Kok also dwelt on the fight against unemployment and inflation, the aim of curbing the power of the multinationals and the establishment of regional and sectoral policies.

Trade union cooperation across national frontiers could also find expression in the maintenance of purchasing power and a joint stance in the face of increases in the price of energy. It was becoming increasingly necessary to present a united trade union front at Community level.

Finally, as regards the redistribution of available jobs, Mr. Kok reminded the meeting of the demand the ETUC had made at its recent congress in Munich for a 10 % reduction in working time within four years. This reduction of 2.5 % per annum could be achieved in various ways, for example by reducing the working week by one hour, by allowing workers to retire one or two years earlier, by granting six additional days' leave, by reducing the length of shifts or by reorganizing shift work.

Mr. Heinz-Oskar Vetter, President of the DGB (the German Trade Union Confederation), also addressed the union delegates from the Weser-Ems and North Netherlands regions. He said that they had achieved things at grass roots level that were merely mooted in meetings and conferences without ever being put into practice. The trade unions had to take the initiative on a European scale. Mass organizations often got nowhere because they were too busy setting up committees. They thought "conference democracy" was all that was needed. This was something that the international trade union organizations in particular were guilty of. Here at grass roots level effective cooperation between neighbouring regions was taking place without any assistance from the top. The unions were practising what they preached.

Mr. Georg Drescher (DGB, Lower Saxony) and Mr. Toon Beijes (FNV, Northern District) had outlined the economic and social characteristics and needs of the WENN region at the beginning of the Oldenburg meeting. Explanatory comments on the resolutions were given by Mr. Teun van Zanen (FNV) and Mr. Werner Kubitzka (DGB).

11. EIGHTH STATUTORY CONGRESS OF THE EUROPEAN FEDERATION OF
AGRICULTURAL WORKERS' UNIONS WITHIN THE COMMUNITY (EFA)
- BRUSSELS, 24 - 25 SEPTEMBER

Discussions at the EFA Congress held in Brussels on 24 and 25 September centred on criticism of the Common Agricultural Policy, wage earners' working conditions, agriculture in the European Community and the need for more effective cooperation between the EFA, the Commission and the Community's Economic and Social Committee. The Congress elected a new President, Mr. Willi Lojewski (GGLF-DGB).

The EFA delegates felt that in view of enlargement of the Community to include Greece, Portugal and Spain the reform of the Common Agricultural Policy that they wished to see could best be achieved by convening a tripartite conference at which the Commission, governments, employers and unions would be represented.

The EFA Congress regretted that the Common Agricultural Policy had been a veritable boon to owners of large farms whereas agricultural wage earners had gained little. It was the wage earners who had borne and who would continue to bear the brunt of structural changes and the effects of the rapid decline in employment.

The EFA Congress also criticized the fact that there had been no harmonization of social conditions in the Community and that there was still a huge gap in wages between agricultural and industrial workers. Industrial workers also had much better social security than agricultural workers.

Demands

In the light of this analysis of the situation of agricultural workers and the Common Agricultural Policy, the Congress framed a number of proposals on price, market and employment policy.

As regards price policy, the EFA considered that measures should be taken to prevent price fixing from causing shortages of certain products and that the production of surpluses should be avoided.

Price policy and subsidies to employers had to ensure that agricultural workers were guaranteed an income which compared with incomes earned by industrial workers.

As regards market policy, the EFA made the following demands:

- (i) shortening the circuit from the producer to the consumer by eliminating parasitic middle men;
- (ii) establishing classification standards for products in order to overcome the difficulties caused by the distortion of the varying systems of taxation;
- (iii) managing community stocks.

Finally, as regards employment policy for agricultural workers, the EFA demanded that priority be given to harmonizing social conditions. An active employment policy also required structural changes, a strengthening of the social and regional funds and the EAGGF Guarantee Section.

Objectives

In a motion adopted by the EFA Congress (see full text below) the economic and social importance of wage earners in agriculture in the Community was stressed and it was noted that this category of workers remains particularly handicapped. The EFA therefore set itself the following objectives:

- (i) to ensure that the problems of agricultural workers are taken into account in the Common Agricultural Policy and by the Commission;
- (ii) to press for recognition of the principle of social control of Community aid action and of the need to link financial support for undertakings with a commitment for social progress.

The internal structure of the EFA is to be altered so that it can achieve its objectives more efficiently. The Congress decided that it would establish contacts with the free and democratic trade union organizations in Spain, Greece and Portugal, who were applying to join the European Community, in order to associate them in the EFA's activities and to enable them in due course to become members of the European Federation of Agricultural Workers in the Community.

Finally, the Congress adopted a resolution on Community dairy policy in which it called for a package of measures aimed at sales promotion, as a result of which less butter and low-fat milk powder would need to be sold off and intervention costs would be reduced (see the full text of this resolution).

Speeches

Several speeches were given at this Eighth EFA Congress. Mr. Helmut von Verschuer, Deputy Director-General in Directorate-General VI (Agriculture) of the EEC Commission gave an account of agricultural policy in the Community and stressed some of the difficulties facing the Common Agricultural Policy. He underscored the need for a new policy in view of the enlargement of the Community. He touched on the lessons to be drawn for agricultural workers from the June 1979 elections.

Mr. Rafaele Vanni, Chairman of the Economic and Social Committee, stressed the consultative role that the Economic and Social Committee could play within the European Community as it brought together a wide variety of groups from the Community's economic and social spheres.

The General Secretary of the European Trade Union Confederation, Mr. Mathias Hinterscheid, pledged the ETUC's support for the EFA in its desire to be involved, alongside the COPA, in the annual agricultural review.

Mr. O. Staadt, Secretary of the European Trade Union Committee of Food and Allied Workers in the Community (ETUCF), called for closer cooperation between the EFA, the ETUCF and the ETUC at both technical and content levels given that the various sectors needed to work together to draw up an effective policy for their workers.

Mr. Fernandez (Agricultural Sector, UGT - Spain) and Mr. Coelho (International Secretary of the Portuguese UGT) reassured the EFA congress that they did not intend allowing their respective governments to do exactly as they pleased in the field of agricultural policy in the context of their countries' accession to the European Community. They said that they would be in a position to help the EFA to draw up a policy for integrating the agricultural structure of their countries into the Community with a view to improving the social situation of their agricultural workers.

Finally, the retiring President of the EFA, Mr. Page, attacked the Common Agricultural Policy by setting poverty in the world at large against the enormous stocks of wine, milk and butter in the European Community. He hoped the EFA would play an integral part in establishing a Common Agricultural Policy that took better account of workers' interests and social justice.

ELECTIONS

The Congress elected the following to serve as the Management Committee of the Federation:

President	W. Lojewski, GGLF-DGB (Germany)
Vice-Presidents	W. Contessi, UISBA-UIL (Italy) H. Lichtenberg, Voedingsbond FNV (Netherlands) W.R. Page, NUAAW (UK) J.M. Pop, FGTA-FO (France)
Policy Secretary	U. Lamagni (Italy)

Annex I

RESOLUTION ON FUTURE POLICY

Despite the fact that over the last three years the activities of the EFA have not fully satisfied all of its member unions, it was nonetheless possible to establish certain contacts and to adopt certain positions vis-à-vis the COPA and the Commission on the Common Agricultural Policy and on the social situation of agricultural wage earners.

The future policy now to be decided must therefore take account of the present situation and conclusions must be drawn accordingly.

The Congress

- stresses the economic and social importance of wage earners in agriculture in the Community: the 2.4 million agricultural workers represent 29 % of the active agricultural population; this percentage will be higher after enlargement of the Community;
- notes that this category of workers remains particularly handicapped in that their wages and incomes are 15 to 35 % lower, according to country, than those in industry, that the number of workers with skilled status is small, that the percentage of young people in agriculture is low, and that working hours remain very long.

The EFA therefore, sets itself the following objectives:

- to ensure that the problems of agricultural workers are taken into account in the Common Agricultural Policy and by the Commission;
- to improve and harmonize social conditions for agricultural workers, in particular, through insisting that the Joint Committee on Social Problems affecting Farm Workers play a more active role;
- to press for recognition of the principle of social control of Community aid action and of the need to link financial support for undertakings with a commitment for social progress.

I. Definition of a policy which takes the present situation into account:

In order to draw up a policy for the future it is necessary to be well-acquainted with the social and trade union situation of agricultural wage earners within the EFA.

This implies that the EFA

- MUST obtain precise statistics and collate these;
- MUST ensure the coordination of national demands;
- MUST, as a trade union organization, put forward its own proposals on the evolution of the CAP which may be different from those made by the COPA;
- MUST, therefore, have all member unions draw up a report on the economic situation in every agricultural sector and on the situation of agricultural workers with respect to collective agreements and current demands; such reports to be kept up-to-date for the information of member unions.

II. Future and organization of the EFA

The EFA will extend its trade union solidarity by ensuring dissemination of information on national achievements, supporting the action undertaken by member unions and assisting in regular confrontation with employers' associations.

To this end, the EFA will examine the possibility of publishing an information bulletin to review the overall progress made.

The EFA will reinforce its European authority by stating common policy positions at the level of the Member States, by holding press conferences and issuing press releases, by informing the competent national authorities, and by organizing the meetings of its Management Committee in the various countries of the Community.

The EFA Management Committee will endeavour to have regular contact with the competent Commissioners and with the various departments at the European Commission and will also inform the ETUC of its activities on a regular basis.

The EFA will have to adopt a position on enlargement of the Community and will, as a preliminary step, contact the free and democratic trade union organizations in the three applicant countries with a view to associating them in the activities of the EFA and enabling them to become members of the European Federation of Agricultural Workers in due course.

The EFA will do everything within its power to contribute to the well-being of agricultural workers in the world.

The EFA will continue to oppose any political interference in trade union organizations and will promote contacts with oppressed trade unions in the defence of human rights.

If it is to achieve the above, the EFA will require financial resources commensurate with its ambitions.

A financial programme covering several years will be necessary so as to enable the EFA Member Unions to provide for the forecast increases in their national budgets.

The EFA will demand that the European Commission recognize the EFA as a representative organization of agricultural workers, and that it be considered on an equal footing with other professional and trade union organizations in the EEC.

Seats available to the EFA on bodies in whose work the Federation feels it should participate will be allocated on an equitable basis by the Management Committee and it will be the duty of the representatives so designated to attend meetings regularly.

Finally, the EFA will participate in the activities of the CEPFAR on condition that the EFA is represented on an equal footing.

The Congress of the European Federation of Agricultural Workers' Unions within the Community (EFA), meeting on 24 and 25 September 1979 in Brussels,

Recognizes that:

- the outlook on the European dairy market necessitates an adjustment of the European dairy policy;
- the present dairy problem is complex, and correlated with the general economic situation which is especially gloomy as regards employment.
- the employment situation in cattle farming and the dairy industry is dependent on the development of incomes and on the level of milk production.

Considers that:

- the European dairy policy must have the least possible adverse effect on the development of the production and the price of milk - for fixing the price the mean development of costs in the Community should be taken as the standard;
- in so far as the EEC milk price policy gives an inadequate income to small dairy farmers with no alternatives, they will need temporary income supplements.

Believes that:

Production and sales, taking into account the need for a buffer stock, should be more closely harmonized. To this end a package of measures is required, aimed at:

- sales promotion, as a result of which less butter and low-fat milk powder would need to be sold off and intervention costs would be reduced;

- abolition of subsidies which are principally directed at increasing production;
- compensation schemes to stimulate the reduction of milk production;
- schemes to enable the co-responsibility levies to be used for the purpose of financing the above measures, thereby at the same time discouraging milk production on cattle farms.

Concludes that:

- any adjustment in dairy policy must be such as to have the least possible adverse effect on the living and working conditions of those concerned;
- it is entirely justified that the EFA should also be closely involved in the consultations due to be held at Community level regarding the solution of the EEC dairy issue, concerning as it does such a large number of jobs.

The EFA, in conclusion, believes that if the consultations between the Community institutions on the one hand and the employers' and workers' organizations on the other fail to succeed, Community-wide sanctions to prevent any further expansion of production will be justified.

PRESS- AND INFORMATION OFFICES

BELGIUM

1040 BRUXELLES
Rue Archimède 73
Tel. 735 00 40/735 80 40

DENMARK

1045 KØBENHAVN K
4 Gammeltorv
Postbox 144
Tel. 14 41 40

FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY

53 BONN
Zitelmannstrasse 22
Tel. 23 80 41

1 BERLIN 31
Kurfurstendamm 102
Tel. 8 92 40 28

FRANCE

75782 PARIS CEDEX 16
61 rue des Belles-Feuilles
Tel. 501 58 85

IRELAND

DUBLIN 2
29 Merrion Square
Tel. 76 03 53

ITALY

00187 ROMA
Via Poli 29
Tel. 68 97 22 to 26

LUXEMBOURG

LUXEMBOURG
Bâtiment Jean Monnet B/O
Rue Alcide de Gasperi
Luxembourg-Kirchberg
Tel. 43011

CANADA

OTTAWA Ont KIR 7S8
350 Sparks St
Suite 110
Tel. 238 64 64

GREECE

ATHINA 134
Vassilisis Sofias
T.K. 1602
Tel. 743 982/83/84

JAPAN

102 TOKYO
Kowa 25 Building
8 - 7 Sanbancho
Chiyoda-Ku
Tel. 239 0441

LATIN AMERICA

CARACAS (VENEZUELA)
Quinta Bienvenida
Valle Arriba
Calle Colibri
Distrito Sucre
Caracas
Tel. 91 47 07

SANTIAGO (CHILE)
Avenida Ricardo Lyon 1177
Santiago 9
Postal address: Casilla 10093
Tel. 25 05 55

PORTUGAL

1200 - LISBOA
35 Rua Sacramento A. Lapa
Tel. 66 75 96

SWITZERLAND

1202 GENEVE
37 - 39 rue de Vermont
Tel. 34 97 50

NETHERLANDS

DEN HAAG
29 Lange Voorhout
Tel. 070 46 93 26

UNITED KINGDOM

LONDON W8 4QQ
20 Kensington Palace Gardens
Tel. 727 8090

CARDIFF CF1 9SG
4 Cathedral Road
Tel. 371631

EDINBURGH EH2 4PH
7 Alva Street
Tel. (031) 225 1058

AUSTRIA

A-1040 WIEN
Hoyosgasse 5
Tel. 65 33 71 - 65 34 91 -
65 73 35

TURKEY

ANKARA
Kavaklidere
13 Bogaz Sokak
Tel. 27 61 45/46

THAILAND

BANGKOK
EC Delegation
Thai Military Bank BLDG
9th and 10th FLRS
34 Phya Thai Road

UNITED STATES

WASHINGTON DC
20037
2100 M Street NW
Suite 707
Tel. (202) 872 8350

NEW YORK NY 10017
245 East 47th Street
1 Dag Hammarskjold Plaza
Tel. (212) 37 13804
