



COMMISSION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES

Brussels, 22.03.1995
SEC(95) 437 final

**Report on implementation of the Council
resolutions and conclusions
on industrial policy**

Commission working paper

- In its resolution of 8 November 1994 on the strengthening of the competitiveness of Community industry,¹ the Council called on the Commission to report to it on the measures taken by the Commission to implement the resolutions and conclusions adopted by the Council on industrial policy matters since 1990.

In response to this request, the Commission is submitting this report covering the period in which the basic principles of an industrial policy for the Community, as approved by the Council in 1990 and enshrined in the industry section of the Treaty on European Union, were put into action, namely:

- the need to keep the various policies with an impact on industry complementary: foreign trade, competition, internal market, environmental protection, research and development, networks, economic and social cohesion, and small business policy;
 - better operation of the markets as a fundamental condition for greater industrial competitiveness; and
 - active promotion of structural adjustment rather than its postponement by industry. In this connection, publication of the annual PANORAMA of EU industry has provided a means of keeping track of trends in industry and individual firms and of the effects of globalization of the markets.
- As a result, this report from the Commission shows that the action taken by the Community on industrial policy contributes to a general improvement in competitiveness by means of measures under all the relevant Community policies. This explains the diversity and very large number of measures taken to improve the global competitiveness of industry in the European Union and the complexity of monitoring this various action.

In addition to definition of the broad principles of a general industrial policy reflected, in particular, in measures on environmental protection, promotion of efficient use of biotechnologies, the information society and industrial cooperation, the Commission has taken various industrial policy measures to improve the economic environment on specific markets, for example in the aviation, automobile, electronics, maritime, mechanical and textile industries.

- Details of the measures taken by the Commission to implement the Council resolutions and conclusions on industrial policy are annexed to this report. This annex is subdivided into four parts:

Part I: horizontal industrial policy;

Part II: basic industries;

Part III: capital goods industries;

¹Resolution 94/C 343/01 of 21 November 1994.

Part IV: consumer goods industries.

The tables set the chapters of the Council resolutions or conclusions addressed specifically to the Commission alongside the follow-up measures taken by the Commission.

This report does not cover the resolution of 8 November 1994 on the strengthening of the competitiveness of Community industry, which is dealt with in a parallel communication, submitted separately, on the "work programme and timetable for implementation of the action announced in the communication on an industrial competitiveness policy for the European Union".

Nor does it cover the resolutions and conclusions on telecommunications and small business policy.

Finally, a first report on the activities of the centralized point of information on the problems facing the electronics industry, describing and analysing the obstacles and unfair practices encountered on markets in third countries, particularly in Japan and the USA, is being published separately.

- All the action taken by the Commission over the period covered has made it possible:
 - to create a stable framework designed to boost growth and employment
 - to define a policy for embarking on a new phase of industrial development that is formed by the emergence of the information society and
 - to initiate a new policy to strengthen the competitiveness of European industry and to respond to the globalization of markets.

1. Creation of a stable framework designed to boost growth and employment

The creation of a stable framework to encourage industrial growth relies on two essential elements: the completion of the internal market and the conclusion of the Uruguay Round.

Completion of the internal market

The realization of the area without internal frontiers in 1993, following the approach mapped out in the White Paper, represents one of the major achievements of the Community. At the start of 1995 Sweden, Finland and Austria joined the European Union, extending the internal market to 15 Member States to which can be added Norway and Iceland as a result of the EEA Agreement.

The Commission, in partnership with the Member States, is now focussing its efforts on ensuring that the single market operates effectively in practice. For this to happen it is necessary to implement the approach outlined in the Strategic Programme "Making the

most of the Internal Market², in particular through actions designed to improve the environment for business, inter alia in the areas of intellectual and industrial property, company taxation, company law and standardisation.

The new approach to harmonisation and standardisation marked a milestone on the road to completion of the internal market. Under this approach, henceforth legislation will simply define the essential requirements laying down a series of technical specifications for manufacturers, while the concomitant European standards will remain voluntary. Mutual recognition of national standards removes technical barriers to trade.

Also a European policy to promote product and service quality is being developed as a strategic instrument for the general approach of the new industrial policy with a view, in particular, to making small businesses more competitive on the internal market by providing better information on the essential requirements and on business management methods.

The existing infrastructure is still inadequate for reaping maximum benefit from the single market, particularly in the telecommunications, energy and transport sectors. The Commission is therefore endeavouring to speed up completion of the trans-European networks needed if the area without frontiers is to work properly. It has defined a Community action programme and submitted proposals, particularly on energy and transport networks and on financing the trans-European networks.

However, the creation of networks or the improvement of the interconnection of existing networks have to comply with competition rules and should not strengthen dominant positions.

An assessment of the impact and effectiveness of the measures taken to complete the internal market is being prepared and will be submitted to the Council in 1996.

Conclusion of the Uruguay Round

The conclusion of the Uruguay Round of negotiations at the end of 1993 and the establishment of the World Trade Organisation (WTO) at the start of 1995 gave strong impetus for opening up world markets.

The liberalisation achieved, in the form of tariff-cutting and reduction of non-tariff barriers in some cases and the widening of the areas covered by the multilateral rules to include services, intellectual property, agriculture, etc. in others, marks fundamental progress.

Added to this, there is the security offered by the new legal framework, with its mechanisms for settling disputes, and the greater institutional stability for the multilateral trading system.

²COM(93) 632 of 22.12.1993

Although positive results have been obtained in some sectors, particularly in the textile industry where an agreement on textiles and clothing will improve access to markets in third countries, the efforts in the WTO framework need to be continued in other sectors where major barriers to the proper functioning of markets persist.

2. Definition of a policy for entering the information society

In response to the challenges facing the European Union, such as persistently high unemployment, the changing international context, the emergence of new technologies and mounting competition, awareness of the changes in progress is particularly important to enable operators to adapt to changes on the markets.

The entry into the information society is a major challenge for the European Union. The Commission therefore has defined and started to implement a coherent approach towards its realisation.

The Commission's action plan³ focuses primarily on establishing a regulatory framework, on networks, basic services, applications and content and on the socio-political and cultural aspects.

Liberalisation of the markets - where significant progress has been made in the field of telecommunications policy - and definition of rules to safeguard competition, privacy and personal data, data and systems security and copyright are amongst the priorities for promotion of the information society. The Directives on transmission standards for advanced television services and on the protection of personal data together with the communication on pluralism and media concentration⁴ are examples of the measures taken to support these changes.

The advent of the information society requires the provision of a highly efficient telecommunication network at competitive rates. Considerable investments are still necessary to allow for all the new applications and, in particular, the multimedia. The largest share of the necessary funds should come from the private sector. The report of the high-level group of June, 1994 invited the Member States to accelerate the present process of liberalisation of the telecommunications sector by opening up to competition the infrastructures and the services which are still the subject of monopoly.

With the co-operation of the industries concerned, including users, the Commission has taken a series of measures on networks, basic services and applications. These include, in particular, the establishment of Forums which will provide a fuller picture of the needs of the relevant sectors, promote proper use of information technologies and encourage public discussion of how to derive maximum benefit from the information society. The setting up of the Information Society Project Office will also raise public awareness.

³COM(94)347, 19 July 1994.

⁴COM(94)355, 3 October 1994.

The entry into the information society calls for skills of workers to make emerge this society and, at the same time, to be able to adapt to it. The information society needs therefore to be accompanied by the development of an education and training society during the whole life.

The Information Society Forum will examine the challenges associated with the setting up of the information society whilst the High level Expert Group will assess the social and societal impact of the information society.

As the information society affects most industrialised countries, in February 1995 the Commission hosted a G7 conference attended by representatives of Governments, various branches of industry and the general public, to discuss a series of questions such as legal issues, competition, market access and the socio-political and cultural aspects.

3. New policy to strengthen industrial competitiveness on global markets

The Commission launched a new policy focusing on the achievement of global competitiveness. The proposals to implement this policy in the coming years are the subject of a specific document.

Two major aspects of this policy have already been developed: strengthening the links between research and development and industrial competitiveness on global markets, on the one hand, and the launch of an industrial co-operation policy, on the other.

Strengthening the links between research and development and industrial competitiveness on global markets

As stressed in the communication on an industrial competitiveness policy for the European Union,⁵ the European Union must more effectively place its science and technology base at the service of industrial competitiveness and the needs of the market. The Community's research policy is already committed to better taking full account of the needs of the market and industry, particularly of small firms, through the drafting of the fourth framework programme of RTD activities (1994 to 1998) which has begun to be implemented.

The Commission, aware of the diversity of the need expressed, attached particular attention to the different communications concerning certain specific industries and to the conclusions and resolutions adopted by the Council with regard to these industries.

Further industrial co-operation

Industrial co-operation has become one of the principal instruments of the industrial competitiveness policy. Although the Commission's primary objective, in conformity with the competition rules, is to encourage co-operation between operators in the

⁵COM(94)319.

Community by facilitating private-sector initiatives in Europe's interest, particularly for small businesses, at the same time it is endeavouring to harness industrial co-operation to strengthen Europe's presence on high growth markets and to facilitate direct investment and the exploitation of growing mutual interests between the European Union and its partners.

Initiatives were also taken in areas such as consumer electronics, information technology and automobiles.

The organisation of industrial round tables and the setting up of fora, for example the Forum on Maritime Industries, allowed for better concertation between the different parties.

On the external front, the Commission is, in particular, involved in smoothing the switch to a market economy in the countries of Central and Eastern Europe and the independent States of the former Soviet Union. The measures taken include vocational training schemes in Central and Eastern Europe, Russia and also China in various branches of industry (automobiles, mining, metalworking and non-ferrous metals) or industrial sectorial round tables such as the Round Table in the Baltic States related to the following sectors: maritime industries, telecommunications, food and agriculture, timber and paper.

*

* *

Beyond these main themes, which reflect the principal priorities and which emphasise the coherence of all of the actions undertaken, the Commission established the attached inventory. This inventory gives the details of the initiatives taken in the field of industrial policy since 1990 and could usefully be completed by a description of the actions undertaken at the national level.

Part I: Horizontal industrial policy	10
Conclusions of 26 November 1990 on industrial policy in an open and competitive environment	10
Resolution of 3 December 1992 concerning the relationship between industrial competitiveness and environmental protection, OJ C 331, 16.12.1992	17
Conclusions of 22 April 1994 on the White Paper on improving the competitiveness of European industry	22
Resolution of 17 June 1992 on industrial co-operation with third countries, OJ C 178, 15.7.1992	23
Conclusions of 28 September 1994 on Europe's way to the information society - An action plan	26
Part II: Basic industries	29
Conclusions of 18 November 1993 on definition of a Community approach to the development of the non-energy mining industry	29
Conclusions of 25 February 1993 on restructuring of the steel industry in the Community	31
Part III: Capital goods industries	34
Conclusions of 18 November 1991 on new challenges for maritime industries	34
Conclusions of 17 June 1992 on the European civil aircraft industry, OJ C 178, 15.7.1992	37
Part IV: Consumer goods industries	40
Resolution of 17 June 1992 on the textile and clothing industries, OJ C 178, 15.7.1992	40
Conclusions of 22 April 1994 on the textile and clothing industry	41
Conclusions of 13 March 1990 on the footwear industry	46
Resolution of 17 June 1992 on the European motor vehicle industry, OJ C 178, 15.7.1992	48
Resolution of 16 May 1994 on the automobile industry, OJ C 149, 31.5.1994	49
Conclusions of 18 November 1991 on promoting a competitive environment for industrial activities based on biotechnology within the Community	54
Presidency conclusions of 28 September 1994 on biotechnology and the White Paper on growth, competitiveness and employment	55
Resolution of 18 November 1991 concerning electronics, information and communication technologies, OJ C 325, 14.12.1991	56

Part I: General industrial policy

Conclusions of 26 November 1990 on industrial policy in an open and competitive environment

In its communication on "Industrial policy in an open and competitive environment - Guidelines for a Community approach" (COM(90)556) the Commission clearly outlined its idea of industrial policy. Responsibility for industrial competitiveness must lie principally with the businesses themselves. It is not for the public authorities to take action in favour of a particular undertaking or industry in difficulty. However, they must offer businesses clear, predictable prospects for their activities.

This role of the public authorities is reflected in the three key elements of industrial policy defined in the communication:

- lay down stable and long-term conditions for an efficiently functioning market economy; this implies maintenance of a competitive economic environment, as well as a high level of educational attainment, of social cohesion and of environmental protection;
- provide the main catalysts for structural investment. In this respect, the completion of the internal market has a strategic role to play by providing optimum opportunities for industrial development;
- develop the instruments to accelerate structural adjustment, to strengthen the technology base and to enhance competitiveness, in particular by harnessing the assets offered by regional diversity and promoting small businesses.

The Council's conclusions of 26 November 1990 fully endorsed the practical conclusions reached in the communication. The most important objectives have been attained, with the completion of the internal market and the conclusion of the Uruguay Round of negotiations. However, work is continuing on implementation of the 1990 conclusions. For example, exchanges of information and policy co-ordination between the Member States are being improved continuously: the annual *Panorama of EU industry* covering every branch of the European economy will increasingly become a tool for analysing competitiveness and employment, StudyNet brings together information on all studies of relevance to industrial policy and the meetings between the senior officials for industry and their delegates have been given a strong boost.

Preservation of fair conditions of competition, both inside the Union and on the world market, also remains a priority for the Commission, as confirmed in the September 1994 communication (COM(94)319). The State aid codes are being revised constantly to reduce distortion and increase transparency. At the same time, the obstacles encountered

by European firms on markets in third countries are systematically recorded. This will put the Union in a stronger position in negotiations with its trading partners.

Naturally, the follow-up to the 1990 conclusions also includes all the policy on development of human resources, which are both a prerequisite for the competitiveness of European industry and a tool to facilitate structural adjustment. Research and technological development is another prerequisite. The fourth framework programme on RTD activities increased the means available to the Community's research policy and redirected the resources to take fuller account of industry's needs.

The future of any economy depends, above all, on the vitality and density of the web of small businesses. The Commission is supporting national schemes in favour of small businesses, facilitating international co-operation between them and, in particular, attempting to avoid all legislation placing unnecessary constraints on the development of small businesses.

Finally, the work on trans-European networks has been stepped up considerably since the adoption of the Commission White Paper on growth, competitiveness and employment. The measures taken on the information society will help to improve the pan-European infrastructure.

Conclusions	Follow-up
Ensure completion of the internal market on the basis of the White Paper's approach	<p>Completion of the area without internal frontiers in 1993</p> <p>Annual report on the functioning in different sectors and on the implementation of the strategic programme (COM(93)632, 22.12.93)</p> <p>Report to assess the impact and effectiveness of the measures taken to complete the internal market planned in 1996</p>
Ensure better control of public financial assistance to industry	<p>Revision of the State aid code</p> <p>SME framework</p> <p>Community guidelines on state aids for rescuing and restructuring firms in difficulty</p>
Ensure more coherence between different Community and national activities as far as they concern industrial policy (dialogue and exchange of information)	<p>Development of the meetings of the senior officials for industry and their delegates</p> <p>Establishment of StudyNet</p>

<p>Take into consideration developments resulting from the globalization of markets, production and operators, as well as the industrial policies of the Community's main competitors</p>	<p>Annual PANORAMA Dialogue with Japan and the USA</p>
<p>Further open up and strictly implement the multilateral trading system</p>	<p>Positive outcome of the Uruguay Round (end of 1993)</p>
<p>Facilitate the flow of international investment</p>	<p>Study on the conditions for investment in Central and Eastern Europe as part of the work of the G 24's working party on investment Economic analysis of guarantees for investments in the Central and Eastern European countries with association agreements (1995)</p>
<p>Exert vigilance against unfair commercial practices</p>	<p>Establishment of a database on the obstacles to trade in 1995 (to follow up the second communication on industrial policy) Communication on electronics, information and communication industries: marketing, market access and distribution practices in Japan and in the United States, planned in April 1995</p>
<p>Facilitate co-operation with international partners of the Community, amongst others in Central and Eastern Europe</p>	<p>Communication in preparation Organisation of round tables, particularly with the Baltic countries, in 1994</p>
<p>Ensure that the markets of the Community's competitors are as open as that of the Community itself</p>	<p>Results of the Uruguay Round Examination in progress of various possible solutions for establishing international rules on competition See also the measures taken to follow-up the relevant sectoral resolutions (Part IV: information technologies, textiles, footwear, automobiles, ...) Establishment of a database on the obstacles to trade in 1995 (to follow up the second communication on industrial policy)</p>

	conclusion and implementation of provisions of different bilateral agreements relating to competition rules
Maintain a macro-economic framework directed towards stability and the facilitation of medium- and long-term funding for industrial enterprises	Recommendations on the broad lines of economic policy for the Member States and the Community
Ensure that the efforts of firms for technological research and development are strengthened, through greater co-operation between the parties concerned and in particular between producers and users of new technologies	Adoption of the fourth framework programme for RTD activities and, in particular, of the programme on IT (November 1994), which included co-operation between suppliers and users and advanced applications Involvement of users in preparation of the fourth framework programme, with the aid of forums such as the industrial advisory panels for the new RTD programme on information technologies
Direct national and Community structural instruments more towards backing structural adjustment and strengthening firms' competitiveness in less developed regions	Allocation of substantial sums to make businesses more competitive in the operational programmes with industrial objectives (Community support frameworks for 1989 to 1994, single programming documents for 1994 to 1999 and Community initiatives on industrial change)
Strengthen policies which take into account the special requirements of SMEs and the promotion of new business formation	N.B.: this report does not include all the measures on small businesses Numerous measures to this end, such as the IT programme for 1994 to 1998, which introduces procedures specifically for small businesses including, in particular, feasibility awards, the possibility of joint research projects, promotion of best practice in the IT field and IT applications and simplification of the submission procedure, with the objective of reducing the total cost of preparing proposals (two-stage procedures)

	<p>Programme to strengthen the competitiveness of small firms supplying the information technology and office automation industry (JESTP programme)</p> <p>EU-Japan pilot programme to strengthen the competitiveness of subcontractors in the consumer electronics industry</p>
<p>Recognise that a high level of environmental protection offers both challenges and opportunities for industry</p>	<p>See follow-up to the communication on industrial competitiveness and environmental protection</p>
<p>Implement effective policies to develop human resources (lifelong approach to the acquisition of skills)</p>	<p>Laying of the foundations for a human resources policy</p> <p>Memorandum on professional training in the 90ies, December 1991</p> <p>Communication on orientations in the field of education and training, May 1993</p> <p>Communication on education and training in response to industrial, technological and social challenges, November 1994</p> <p>Action programme Leonardo da Vinci, COM(93)686, 21.12.1993, decision December 1994</p> <p>Policies developed on Objective 4 (adaptation of workers to industrial change and changes in production systems) (communication of 11.11.94), the ADAPT Community initiative (decision 94/C 180/09) and SME initiative</p> <p>Horizontal action in the frame of 4th RDFP in the field of training and mobility of searchers, completed by training actions in each specific programme</p> <p>The IT programme will allocate 2% of its resources to training schemes connected with the objectives and results of the programme</p>

<p>Support the implementation of trans-European networks required for the proper functioning of the large market</p>	<p>Greater support for establishment of the trans-European networks defined in various communications, particularly the communications on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - a Community action programme (COM(90)585, 10.12.1990) - the creation of a trans-European road network (COM(92)231, 11.6.1992) - reinforcing the effectiveness of the internal market (COM(93)256, 2.6.1993) - the development of guidelines for the trans-European transport network (COM(93)701, 21.12.1993) - energy and economic and social cohesion (COM(93)645, 14.2.1994) - Community orientations for trans-European energy networks (COM(93)685, 19.1.94) - financing the trans-European networks (SEC(94)860, 15.6.1994) <p>Proposal for a Directive on the interoperability of the European high-speed train network (COM(94)107, 15.4.1994)</p> <p>Reports from the Christophersen Group to the Corfu summit (21.6.1994) and the Essen summit (28.11.1994)</p> <p>15th report on expenditure on and utilisation of rail, road and inland waterway infrastructure 1987-88-89 (COM(94)47, 28.2.1994)</p> <p>The IT programme will contribute towards the trans-European networks, particularly with the aid of the advanced applications and the high-performance computing and networking</p>
--	--

<p>Ensure that a sufficiently attentive examination of industrial development is made in order to ensure that the necessary requirements for adjustment are met</p>	<p>Annual PANORAMA</p> <p>Annual report on competitiveness</p> <p>Annual report by the EITO (European Information Technology Observatory) on the information technologies and telecommunications industry</p> <p>European report on specific and technological indicators</p>
---	---

Resolution of 3 December 1992 concerning the relationship between industrial competitiveness and environmental protection, OJ C 331, 16.12.1992

The 1990 communication on industrial policy stressed the importance of environmental protection, which offers both challenges and opportunities for industry. In March 1992 the Commission adopted its fifth action programme on the environment. As regards industry, this provided for improving the dialogue with businesses and gave businesses the option to adopt, where the situation permits, voluntary agreements or other forms of voluntary restraint.

In November 1992 the Commission sent the Council and Parliament a communication examining the link between industrial competitiveness and environmental protection. The Commission concluded that industrial development and environmental protection are not necessarily incompatible. Environmental concerns encourage the development of less wasteful technologies, more in tune with consumers' expectations, and have given birth to a promising environmental protection market.

The Council resolution of 3 December 1992 confirmed the strategy proposed by the Commission in its November 1992 communication. The Commission has therefore been able to put its strategy into action, by setting up a consultative forum on the environment and organising round tables for discussions with industry. It has also studied the economic impact of environmental policies in order to avoid unnecessary costs, particularly for small firms.

Another priority confirmed by the Council was to promote the development and dissemination of environmental technologies. To this end, the Commission has launched a study on the dissemination of clean technologies, particularly amongst small firms. Environmental protection also occupies a key position in the fourth framework programme of RTD activities.

Environmental protection must not hamper operation of the markets. To maintain the unity of the internal market, improvements have had to be made to the Community legislation, particularly on the standardisation and labelling of certain products (ecolabelling). As regards trade with non-Union countries, the Commission is actively involved in the work of the Committee on Environmental Issues set up by the new World Trade Organisation (WTO).

Conclusions	Follow-up
<p>Promote an effective dialogue with industry and ensure that general procedures concerning consultation with interested parties, particularly small and medium-sized enterprises, are followed in relation to its new proposals for legislation</p>	<p>Setting-up of a general consultative forum on the environment (Decision 93/701/EC of 7.12.1993)</p> <p>Establishment of round tables to discuss specific topics in greater detail</p> <p>Studies and surveys of industry (both horizontal and sectoral) on the strategy of businesses, particularly small businesses, regarding the environment (report at the end of 1995) and on the environmental dimension in the extractive industries (interim report in December 1994)</p>
<p>Have regard to the most cost-effective instruments to achieve the Community's environmental policy objectives, taking into account, in particular, the scope for voluntary action by industry and the advantages of economic instruments</p>	<p>Study on the methods available for assessment of the impact of environmental policy measures (final report in 1995)</p> <p>The study on strategy (see above) is also intended to identify the most effective measures and instruments to provide a positive response to environmental requirements, to encourage a pro-active attitude on the part of businesses and to promote voluntary measures by industry.</p> <p>Study on the potential benefits of integration of environmental and economic policies (1994), analysing the economic impact of the environmental measures announced in the fifth action programme on the environment "Towards sustainable development"</p>

	Analysis to devise a common method for life cycle analyses of products and processes
Have regard to the balance between the costs to industry, including small and medium-sized enterprises, of measures to protect and improve the environment and their benefits to industry and the environment	Proposal to start a new <i>EURO-MANAGEMENT</i> pilot scheme on environmental policy (to identify the problems and opportunities arising for small firms from application of the eco-management and audit scheme (EMAS) and evaluate the experience reported by businesses)
Develop improved and systematic methods for determining the best instrument to give effect to environmental policies and for assessing the costs to industry and benefits to the environment of those policies	
Ensure that measures to protect and improve the environment provide maximum flexibility for industry to develop and adopt the most appropriate and economically feasible technologies and techniques for achieving environmental targets	Analysis of the prospects for conclusion of voluntary agreements under way THERMIE programme for the diffusion of new technologies SAVE programme aiming to limit carbon dioxide emissions through the improvement of energetic efficiency
Consider how the statistical framework required towards the environment and the environmental technology industry might be improved	Four-year development programme (1994-97) relating to the environmental component of Community statistics, adopted by the Council on 15 December 1994 Programme to develop an observation and statistics system for the environmental industries, based on the SERIEE and NACE; follow-up within the OECD Communication from the Commission on directions for the European Union on environmental indicators and green national accounting: the integration of environmental and economic information systems (COM(94)670, 21.12.1994)

	Study on indicators for the sustainable use of raw materials (started at the beginning of 1995)
Cooperate with the Member States to encourage the development of environmental technologies and their diffusion	Study on clean technologies, their impact on competitiveness and employment and their diffusion to enterprises, in particular SMEs (final report in early 1995) Seminar for preliminary assessment of the results planned in 1995
Give greater emphasis to the development of environmental technologies within existing programmes for the support of research and development	Environmental protection section of the fourth framework programme (ECU 970 million). Objectives: - to make industry more competitive with the aid of environmental protection and, in particular, to increase its capacity to keep ahead of environmental problems; - to catch up on the backlogs in disseminating existing environmental technologies to businesses. The programmes for information technologies, telematic applications, industrial and material technologies and non-nuclear energies include projects on applications and user involvement and can contribute to this end, just as Esprit did in the past Specific research programme on standardisation, measuring and testing
Cooperate with the Member States to maintain the integrity of the internal market whilst promoting protection of the environment at a high level	Tightening-up of Directive 83/189
Encourage standards-making bodies to give adequate weight to environmental considerations in the development of industry standards	Communication on broader use of standardisation in Community policy for adoption in the first quarter of 1995

	<p>Conference on standardisation and environmental protection, which brought together all parties concerned to discuss a common strategy in June 1993</p> <p>Establishment of a CEN Programming Committee on the environment (PC7) in 1993 to define guidelines on the environmental aspects</p> <p>CEN Working Parties on integration of environmental parameters (such as noise, mechanical vibration, definition of waste, analysis of water, air quality, etc.)</p>
<p>Give greater priority to ensuring, for example by ecolabelling, that consumers receive information on the environmental performance of products which is reliable</p>	<p>Implementation of Regulation 880/92; adoption of criteria for the first products</p> <p>Directive 94/2 on energy labelling of refrigerators and freezers</p> <p>Energy label for refrigerators and freezers</p> <p>Taking account of environmental protection in European quality policy (in every phase of products' life cycle, in environmental management systems, and in quality management in businesses)</p>
<p>Cooperate with the Member States to ensure compatibility between an open trade policy and protection of the environment and to avoid unilateral trade measures</p>	<p>Active participation in the work of the Committee set up by the WTO in various field</p>

Conclusions of 22 April 1994 on the White Paper on improving the competitiveness of European industry

The Commission's White Paper on growth, competitiveness and employment outlined a consistent strategy for the European Union to lay the foundation for sustainable development, to rise to the challenge of international competitiveness and to create the millions of jobs needed to combat unemployment.

In its conclusions of 22 April 1994 the Council gave its opinion on some of the industrial aspects of the White Paper. In particular, it called for a detailed analysis of industrial co-operation with third countries, relocation, knowledge-based investment and the industrial

consequences of the GATT Agreements. This work started with the September 1994 communication on "An industrial competitiveness policy for the European Union" and will continue on the basis of the work programme and timetable submitted by the Commission at the same time as this working paper.

In particular, the Commission will continue its efforts on industrial co-operation with the countries of Eastern Europe, on which it will submit a further report in 1995.

Conclusions	Follow-up
Take account of all the points made in the conclusions, including economic and social cohesion, in the communication on industrial policy which the Commission is preparing	See the communication on the work programme and timetable for implementation of the action announced in the communication on an industrial competitiveness policy for the European Union
Draw up communications on industrial co-operation with the third countries most concerned, in particular those countries with which the Community has traditionally had closer ties for historical and cultural reasons	Communication on industrial co-operation with Eastern Europe (adoption planned in 1995)
Analyse in detail, with directors-general for industry and their delegates, the problems related to delocation, to knowledge-based investment, to the industrial consequences of the GATT Agreements, to methods of strengthening industrial co-operation and to SMEs	See the communication on the work programme and timetable for implementation of the action announced in the communication on an industrial competitiveness policy for the European Union Draft communication on European quality promotion policy being prepared

Resolution of 17 June 1992 on industrial co-operation with third countries, OJ C 178, 15.7.1992

The Council resolution of 17 June 1992 approved the guidelines on industrial co-operation with Central and Eastern Europe and the independent States of the former Soviet Union, as set out in the Commission's communication of 13 March 1992.

The Council called on the Commission to pursue its activities to promote industrial co-operation in a number of specific areas, such as development of an appropriate legal and regulatory framework, approximation of standards, conditions for counselling investors,

the restructuring of industry, training or contacts between businesses. These measures are continuing, particularly under the PHARE programme.

Conclusions	Follow-up
<p>■ Pursue industrial co-operation with the countries of Central and Eastern Europe and the independent States of the former Soviet Union, in keeping with the guidelines set out in the Commission communications of 12 July 1990 and 13 March 1992:</p>	
<p>Strengthened support for the development of an appropriate legal and regulatory framework for the activities of enterprises in fields such as company law, accounting, competition law and fiscal law</p>	<p>Work within the framework of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - the G-24 Working Party on Investment (study on investment conditions) - the PHARE programme (particularly the General Technical Assistance Facilities (GTAF)) <p>This work will be continued as part of the programme to implement the pre-accession strategy for the countries of Central and Eastern Europe with association agreements (e.g. White Paper)</p>
<p>Approximation of standards and procedures for evaluating conformity with those prevailing in the Community</p>	<p>PHARE technical assistance programmes, particularly to implement the Europe agreements</p>
<p>Initiatives to improve transparency, particularly as regards conditions for advising and counselling investors, economic information and market development prospects</p>	<p>Round table of industrialists from the EU and the Baltic States in May 1994 to discuss selected sectors: maritime industries, telecommunications, food and agriculture, timber and paper</p> <p>Round table on consumer electronics: measures in progress</p> <p>Briefing session on the activities of the agencies to promote investment in the Visegrad countries for bodies providing support for industry in the Community (in progress)</p>

Strengthening of measures to support the restructuring and modernisation of industry and the creation of enterprises	Measures taken on the steel industry in particular
Development of training measures, including assistance in the management of enterprises	Participation by industrialists from the Community in the PHARE programmes on "Industrial Training Attachments" and "Turn-Around Management"
Support for the development of professional bodies, contact structures and the organisation of professional gatherings	PHARE programme on "Partnership and Institutions Building" See above
Increased support for industrial co-operation between economic operators (SMEs) by means of the financial mechanism set up to encourage joint ventures (JOPP programme), information and contact networks (BC-Net, Business Co-operation Centre and European information centres) and other initiatives in favour of business co-operation	Preparation and establishment of a Business Advisory Council (planned in 1995)
Allowance for the environmental dimension in co-operation measures, and technical assistance in this field and in that of energy, including safety in the civil nuclear sector	
An approach to technical assistance for the independent States of the former Soviet Union allowing increased initiatives in the field of industrial restructuring and co-operation	
<p>■ Develop co-operation between the "Community as an industrial partner" and other third countries whose industrial development the Community should help, in particular:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - promoting the development of an enterprise culture and stimulating private initiative 	See the previous paragraphs applicable to the measures taken and the measures planned in 1995 for Central and Eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union
Improving the framework conditions for receiving investments and their transparency for investors	

Promoting the dissemination of specialised information to SMEs	
Facilitating the creation of joint ventures	
Fostering the opening of markets in the context of the balanced development of international markets and respect for the rules of international trade	
Integrating the environmental dimension and contributing to resolving specific problems in that field	
Strengthening integrated technical assistance and training operations, particularly in the fields of management and technology, as well as action in support of initiatives on the part of the networks of intermediaries created by economic operators in order to promote co-operation on a basis of mutual interest	
■ Make full use of the various instruments introduced by the Community and place particular emphasis on implementation of the industrial co-operation aspects	

Conclusions of 28 September 1994 on Europe's way to the information society - an action plan

The information society, in which activities will depend increasingly on information and communication technologies, is one of the principal industrial planks of the White Paper. At the request of the December 1993 meeting of the European Council, the Commission set up a high level working party which submitted a report on "Europe and the global information society - recommendations to the European Council" to the European Council in Corfu in June 1994.

This report proposed sharing responsibilities so that the private sector could fund the new infrastructure. The Community's and Member States' role is to create a clear, stable regulatory framework and to set an example in those fields for which the public authorities are directly responsible.

With the political support of the European Council, in July 1994 the Commission followed up this report with a communication entitled "Europe's way to the information society - an action plan". This work programme covers the regulatory and legal framework, networks, basic services, applications and content, the social, societal and cultural aspects, and, finally, promotion of the information society.

In its conclusions of 28 September 1994 the Council called on the Commission, above all, to assess the industrial and economic implications of the information society, to encourage the development of new services, new applications and specific projects, to continue its work on media pluralism and to stimulate public debate on the ways to maximise the benefits of the information society. The Commission is involved in the OECD's work on the impact of the information society and organises forums, particularly with the industrialists concerned. It will submit a progress report on the work in a series of fields in the near future. All the documents concerning the information society will be disseminated widely to fuel the public debate called for by the Council and considered indispensable by the Commission.

Conclusions	Follow-up
Assess the industrial and economic implications of the proposed orientations (resolution of 18 November 1991 and conclusions of 10 May 1993)	Participation in the OECD's work on the impact of the information society on productivity and employment Preparation of contacts with industrial users to promote proper use of information technologies
Present a document describing the methodology the Commission intends to adopt for the co-ordination of actions aimed at the development of new services and applications, in particular in the context of the research and development framework programme and the trans-European network programme	Preparation of a communication (planned for adoption in 1995) Contacts with industrial circles to gain a clearer picture of their requirements
Give the necessary impetus to contribute in the context of existing activities to specific projects such as those mentioned in the report of the Bangemann Group	Various initiatives on networks, basic services, applications and content, including: - forum on basic services; - forums for industrialists with support from the Commission (Télécités networks, European Multimedia Forum, PDA Forum);

Encourage the implementation of an environment stimulating new forms of private sector led partnerships, involving where appropriate Member States, regions and towns, for general interest applications	Communication on telematics applications for transport in Europe (November 1994)
Present to the Parliament and the Council a communication further to the Green Paper on media pluralism	Communication on pluralism and media concentration (October 1994)
Stimulate public debate on the ways to maximise the benefits of the information society	<p>Organisation of a G7 Ministerial Conference on the information society in Brussels on 25 and 26 February 1995</p> <p>Organisation of an informal forum between the EU and the countries of Central and Eastern Europe on the information society planned in 1995</p> <p>Establishment of a forum on the information society planned in 1995</p> <p>Establishment of an operational Information Society Project Office (ISPO) in December 1994</p> <p>Publication of the IT magazine</p> <p>Dissemination of the Bangemann Report (including access via Inter-NET)</p> <p>Establishment of a High Level Expert Group concerning social and societal aspects (1995)</p>

The industrial policy proposed by the Commission is based on a general approach allowing no pro-active intervention in the structure of the economy. Often, however, the obstacles to proper operation of the markets are specific to one sector of the economy or another. Beyond defining the broad principles of general industrial policy, specific measures are therefore necessary to improve the economic environment on each individual market. Consequently, the horizontal and sector-based approaches are by no means contradictory but, on the contrary, complementary. The Commission has examined the specific situation in a series of industries in a number of communications, which reflect the horizontal policy through a number of measures adapted to the sectorial realities and which make it easier for these industries to adjust, particularly in the new competitive environment created by the internal market and the increasingly integrated world economy.

Part II: Basic industries

Conclusions of 18 November 1993 on definition of a Community approach to the development of the non-energy mining industry

The Commission's November 1992 communication entitled "The non-energy mining industry: current situation and guidelines for a Community approach" outlined a package of measures to encourage harnessing of the potential of this industry by safeguarding the conditions of competition both on the internal market and on international markets.

In its conclusions of 18 November 1993 the Council accepted the fundamental approach proposed by the Commission and called, in particular, for improved access to information, both on geological and mining data and on markets, consideration of the environmental dimension, adaptation of training structures and closer co-operation with third countries aimed in particular at ensuring that Community undertakings have access to resources. In June 1995 the Commission will submit the first edition of the European minerals yearbook. Studies and surveys have been started on the environmental issues. The Leonardo programme will take account of the training requirements in this industry. Finally, specific co-operation schemes are already under way with China and Russia and others are planned with the Latin American, African and Mediterranean countries.

Conclusions	Follow-up
Improve access to, and updating of, information, both on geological and mining data and on markets, products and other economic factors by improving the Commission structure for providing raw material statistics and by increased co-operation between Member States' geological departments, and the use of their knowledge by the Commission	Compilation of a European minerals yearbook containing detailed information on almost 40 ores and minerals of importance to the EU. Publication of the first edition in June 1995
Consider the environmental dimension, taking account of the restoration of closed or closing sites, while promoting a balance between the economic interests of the sector and environmental protection requirements	Survey of the industry and the national administrations to identify the legal framework, practices and procedures applicable in the Member States, with particular reference to restoration of sites and to the costs to the industry (interim report on 15 December 1994). The survey will be followed up by a study for better quantification of the costs stemming from the environmental rules

	<p>Study entitled "An analysis of the current situation and prospects for the development of recycling"; final report in November 1994</p>
<p>Tailor training structures to industry's requirements at the level of both universities and technicians, taking into account the need to maintain a technico-scientific capacity in the mining sector to encourage access in third countries and the possibilities for intra-Community exchanges and exchanges with third countries</p>	<p>Channelling of the industry's efforts into appropriate programmes (for example, the natural stone sector)</p> <p>In 1995 the Commission will invite the Member States and representatives of the industry to submit proposals for action for inclusion in the Community programmes, particularly the Leonardo programme</p>
<p>Strengthen policy for industrial co-operation with the third countries most concerned within the framework of their agreements with the Community, based on mutual interest, in line with commercial practices which comply with the GATT rules, and aimed in particular at ensuring that Community undertakings have access to resources</p>	<p>Close involvement of industry in all action likely to be of interest to it</p> <p>Co-operation with China: in the case of the mining and metalworking sectors, definition of specific measures for the next four years in the field of technology: utilisation of mine resources, rationalisation of prospecting, environment and vocational training; organisation of a seminar on co-operation in 1995; in the case of the non-ferrous metals sector, exchanges of know-how, transfers of technology and the possibility of direct investment; seminar on mines and non-ferrous metals in China in November 1994</p> <p>Co-operation with Russia: Reactivation of the Sub-Committee on Mines and Raw Materials under the partnership and co-operation agreement with Russia; seminars in 1995 with the non-ferrous metals sector (identification of the needs for modernisation, exchange of views on environmental issues, transparency of statistics, energy, etc.)</p>

	Examination of the prospects for co-operation with Latin America and third countries in the Mediterranean region and Africa, particularly in the context of the new relations with South Africa and of the interim review of the Lomé Convention
--	--

Conclusions of 25 February 1993 on restructuring of the steel industry in the Community

Since the end of 1990 the steel industry has been suffering from falling prices and a corresponding deterioration in its financial situation, which have called for far-reaching restructuring and rationalisation. The industry asked the Commission to support its efforts by adopting a package of measures on incentives for restructuring, competition and external controls. In response to this request, the Commission proposed a series of measures in a communication in November 1992.

In its conclusions of 25 February 1993 the Council proposed that the industry establish a restructuring plan, but this failed to produce a sufficient reduction in capacity. It also called on the Commission to ensure rigorous and objective application of the aids code for the steel industry, while allowing mechanisms for financing the capacity shedding and, in particular, to cover the social costs. To improve conditions on the market, the Council's conclusions also called for external measures and regular reports on production and deliveries in the Community in order to stabilise the market. The Commission submitted its final assessment of restructuring of the Community steel industry in a communication dated 25 October 1994.

Conclusions	Follow-up
Formulation by the industry of a precise and sufficiently extensive restructuring plan	Closures completed by the industry considered insufficient
Implementation of support measures: - State aid: rigorous and objective application of the aid code for the steel industry (Decision of 27 November 1991, OJ L 362, 31.12.1991, p. 57)	Decision granting authorisation for six cases under Article 95 of the ECSC Treaty; Council assent on 17 December 1993

<p>- competition: favourable consideration by the Commission to mechanisms for joint funding of capacity reduction programmes by groups of companies (Article 53a of the ECSC Treaty)</p>	<p>Authorisation by the Commission of three mechanisms concerning framework agreements, OJ L 6, 8.1.1994</p>
<p>- external measures: to improve international trade in steel</p>	<p>Prior surveillance (latest recommendation: OJ L 330, 21.12.1994) Retrospective surveillance (latest decision: OJ L 24, 29.1.1994) Tariff quotas for the Czech and Slovak Republics (first decision: OJ L 157, 29.6.1993)</p>
<p>- social measures: provision of ECU 240 million for 1993 to 1995 as supplementary aid, as provided for by Article 56(2b) of the ECSC Treaty, for undertakings which have closed down installations and reduced capacity by providing support for some of the social costs arising from those closures</p>	<p>Information note to the Member States (COM(93)178, 28 April 1993)</p>
<p>Stabilisation of the market: formulation of six-monthly forward programmes and of overall quarterly indications regarding production and deliveries in the Community, broken down by category of product</p>	<p>Guidelines for the second quarter of 1993 to the fourth quarter of 1994 (OJ C 83, 24.3.1993, p. 6)</p>
<p>Permanent monitoring of the restructuring process and regular reporting to the Council</p>	<p>Intermediate report on the restructuring of the steel industry (COM(94)125 final, 13.4.1994): because of the delay in submission of the closure programmes by the undertakings, the various supporting measures were temporarily extended. "Restructuring the Community steel industry: Final assessment and conclusions" (COM(94)466, 25 October 1994), noted by the Council on 8 November 1994</p>

Part III: Capital goods industries

Conclusions of 18 November 1991 on new challenges for maritime industries

In September 1991 the Commission submitted a communication on the maritime industries which, including fishing, shipping and offshore industries, generate approximately 2.5 million jobs in the Community. In response to the numerous challenges facing these sectors, the Commission proposed organising permanent, comprehensive talks between all parties concerned covering safety, research and development, transport, international competition and environmental issues.

In its conclusions of 18 November 1991 the Council welcomed this initiative from the Commission and requested it to give a precise brief to this new Maritime Industries Forum. At the same time, it asked the Commission to ensure that the measures which it took did not duplicate work already being carried out in other sectors and by other international organisations. It was also concerned to avoid creating any expectations not in line with the principles of industrial policy in a competitive and open environment. The Commission regularly reports to the Council on progress with the work to implement these conclusions*.

Conclusions	Follow-up
Give the Forum a precise brief involving a reference framework for establishing work priorities	The mandate adopted on 20.9.91 is: - to define the scope for the global and horizontal approach by identifying the priority areas and actions of common interest in order to strengthen the competitiveness within the Community and world-wide - to assess the appropriate methods for the implementation of these actions

* communication of 18.11.92 The european maritime industries: further steps for strengthening their competitiveness (COM(92) 490

° communication of 4.11.93 Towards the implementation of a comprehensive approach for maritime industries: the first tangibles results (COM(93) 526

	<p>The programme of the Forum (MIF) is carried out in two phases according to the following items:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - in a first phase (1992), economic analysis, R&D, safety and environment aspects, maritime transport - in a second phase (1993/94), creation of 4 panes: short-sea shipping, marine resources, ship financing, electronic data interchange (EDI) <p>Creation of an industry inter-panel on R&D on maritime related activities following the Commission decision to set up co-ordination mechanisms for R&D</p> <p>Request to maritime industries to come forward with concrete proposals to implement horizontal measures</p>
<p>Avoid any duplication of work already being carried out on this in other sectors and by other international organisations</p>	<p>Cf communication of 4.11.93 entitled "Towards the implementation of a comprehensive approach for the maritime industries: the first tangible results" (COM(93) 526) drawing attention to the need to ensure that other new organisations, such as the Association of Maritime Regions in Europe (AMRIE) do not duplicate the work of the MIF</p> <p>co-ordinated contribution MIF and AMRIE to the project on the application of information systems</p>
<p>Avoid creating any expectations not in line with the principles of industrial policy in a competitive and open market</p>	<p>Compliance with these principles, e.g.: substantial reduction in aid for production in the shipbuilding industry</p> <p>conclusion (July 1994) at OECD level of a multilateral agreement meeting the conditions for fair competition in the shipbuilding and ship repair sectors</p>

<p>Information for the Governments and administrations of the Member States</p>	<p>Communication of 18 November 1992 on "The European maritime industries: further steps for strengthening their competitiveness" (first report by the Forum)</p> <p>Communication of 4 November 1993 (political evaluation of the Athens report)</p> <p>Progress report on the measures and initiatives taken by the Commission and the Member States on the recommendations by the Forum</p> <p>Invitation to national administrations of Member States to attend the annual plenary sessions of MIF</p>
---	--

Conclusions of 17 June 1992 on the European civil aircraft industry, OJ C 178, 15.7.1992

In April 1992 the Commission submitted a communication analysing the situation and prospects in the European aircraft industry. This drew attention to the duplication of R&D and to the impact of international détente and of the falling dollar on the European industry. The Commission proposed facilitating co-operation between undertakings, providing for extensive Community RTD on aeronautics and air transport in the fourth framework programme of RTD activities, considering a system for insurance against exchange risks, promoting training and, finally, exploring the prospects of co-operation with Eastern European countries.

These guidelines proposed by the Commission were endorsed by the Council in its conclusions of 17 June 1992 which called on the Commission to strengthen its contacts with all involved, to define the aeronautics section of the framework programme for RTD activities and to continue the dialogue with Central and Eastern Europe countries and the independent States of the former Soviet Union. The Commission has taken a series of measures in each of these fields.

Conclusions	Follow-up
<p>Intensify and reinforce the dialogue with a view to defining with all parties concerned the procedure for implementing Community action</p>	<p>Regular meetings between Commissioners and the chairmen and chief executives of industrial associations and major companies, including engine and equipment manufacturers, with the aim of identifying major issues with relevance for competitiveness such as international trade rules, R&D and re conversion</p> <p>Close co-operation with Member States to monitor the application of aircraft-specific rules contained in the WTO Agreement on Subsidies and Countervailing Measures, together with the operation of the 1992 EU/US bilateral agreement governing trade in large civil aircraft</p>
<p>Extend contacts to all those involved in the air transport sector, including aircraft industry subcontractors</p>	<p>Deepening and widening of contacts with all branches of industry</p> <p>Study on the situation of suppliers, subcontractors and equipment manufacturers</p> <p>Collaboration with representatives of all the air transport industries to examine the problems associated with aeronautical certification and aircraft purchase financing.</p> <p>Launch of a feasibility study on the establishment of a single European authority responsible for certification of aeronautical products</p> <p>Examination of problems created by the predominance of the US dollar in commercial relations by the Commission/industry working group</p> <p>Close co-operation with all branches of industry in the run-up to the December 1995 meeting of the ICAO's Committee on Aviation Environmental Protection (CAEP/3) to define new environmental standards for air transport</p>

<p>Define Community R&T activity in the aircraft and air transport sector which could be taken up in R&T framework programmes</p>	<p>Definition, in the frame of different working panels (e.g. ARTCO (Aerospace Research and Technology Committee) with a wide range of industry, government and research establishment representatives, of the content and priorities of Community-funded research relating to aeronautics under the 4th Framework Programme</p> <p>Setting up of a specific co-ordination mechanism for aeronautic research to ensure that priorities are respected, and that best value is obtained through integrating different disciplines in the Member States and Community research efforts</p>
<p>Continue the dialogue with third countries and initiate discussions, in conjunction with industry, on the situation of, and prospects for, the aircraft industry in the Central and East European countries and the independent States of the former Soviet Union</p>	<p>Assessment, through a study, of the situation of the aeronautical industries of Central and Eastern European countries and the independent States of the ex-Soviet Union, analysis of its competitiveness and identification of potential areas for industrial co-operation</p> <p>Setting up of a working group with representatives of all branches of the industry, to watch closely the developments of East Europe's civil aerospace industry and its opening to world market competition</p> <p>Round Table envisaged with Russia</p> <p>Funding by the TACIS programme of projects aimed primarily at supporting and providing the necessary technical assistance for the restructuring of Russian companies. These projects are focused on engine manufacturers, airframers and helicopter manufacturers.</p>

Part IV: Consumer goods industries

Resolution of 17 June 1992 on the textile and clothing industries, OJ C 178, 15.7.1992

The completion of the internal market led to the harmonisation of the commercial policy for trade exchanges with textile and clothing products. The Commission outlined the changes to the rules on imports in a communication in May 1992. The Council gave its views on this issue in its resolution of 17 June 1992 which called on the Commission to pursue, during the GATT negotiations, the objective to establish at long term a stable and predictable framework for this sector and, with the co-operation of the Member States and trade organisations, to ensure the strengthening and compliance with the GATT rules and constraints.

In the Uruguay Round of negotiations agreement was reached on textiles and clothing in December 1993. Also in its November 1993 report on the competitiveness of the European textile and clothing industry the Commission once again analysed the difficulties facing the European textile and clothing industry and a series of measures to guarantee fair international competition based on equal access to the market.

Conclusions	Follow-up
Continue to submit regular reports on developments in the competitiveness of the textile and clothing industry	Communication on the competitiveness of the European textile and clothing industry (COM(93)525, 27 October 1993)
Pursue efforts to conclude the Uruguay Round negotiations within the framework laid down	December 1993 agreement on textiles and clothing in the Uruguay Round of negotiations 1994 negotiations with a favourable outcome for opening the markets in India and Pakistan
In conjunction with the Member States and trade organisations, gather and process the requisite information on international trade to prevent infringements of GATT rules and constraints in Community markets	Contacts with the industry to gather the relevant information Adjustment of the statistical machinery in progress

Follow up the developments envisaged to implement the guidelines, in conjunction with the senior officials for industry in the Member States and, for trade-related matters, with the Committee set up under Article 113 of the Treaty	Regular meetings of the Article 113 Committee on Textiles and Clothing Meetings of the senior officials for industry
Adopt and, whenever the Commission and the Member States deem it necessary, propose the measures which are essential for the implementation of the guidelines	

Conclusions of 22 April 1994 on the textile and clothing industry

The report submitted by the Commission in November 1993 led to further discussion of the situation in the textile and clothing industry by the Council. The Council's conclusions of 22 April 1994 gave political support to an extensive package of measures. The Council called for action to make it easier for regions and workers affected by the structural changes to adapt and to make the European industry more competitive with the aid, in particular, of research and development programmes, better communication and information and, finally, co-operation between all concerned.

The external measures approved by the Council called for the Commission to ensure compliance with the GATT rules and constraints, to assess the impact of these new agreements on the industry and to seek to improve access to third country markets for European producers, particularly by removing non-tariff barriers, promoting exports and providing fuller protection for intellectual property rights. The Commission has taken action on all these fronts.

Conclusions	Follow-up
Actively encourage the adaptation of the industry in order to secure its future by improving its competitiveness, in the context of a comprehensive programme incorporating the following objectives:	Strengthening of the mechanisms for co-operation with the economic and social operators concerned
Internally:	

<p>Strengthen the economic recovery of those regions, in particular by promoting their diversification, <i>inter alia</i>, through use of the RETEX initiative</p>	<p>RETEX initiative in progress (see also below)</p>
<p>Make it easier for workers and managers to adapt to industrial change and improve the know-how of SMEs and their economic and technical environment by means of broader action co-financed by the Structural Funds</p>	<p>Study on the skills needed in this industry in the future, launched on the request of social partners within the frame of social dialogue. The results will provide the basis to the reflections of the social partners towards new strategies to be implemented in professional training and guidance for application of the Community's ADAPT and EMPLOI initiatives by the Member States. Particular attention will be paid to projects aiming at trans-European co-operation</p> <p>Practical guide to the opportunities for Community aid for small firms in the textile and clothing industry (publication in 1995)</p>
<p>Keep a close watch on the textile and clothing industry's adjustment problems in the regions most seriously affected by the crisis in the textile industry and/or the opening-up of the Community market to third countries</p>	<p>Study on the impact of the outcome of the Uruguay Round, particularly on the regions most heavily dependent on the industry</p> <p>Restructuring programme for the Portuguese textile industry (to be implemented from 1995 on)</p> <p>RETEX monitoring committees to examine the efforts being made to adapt in the regions most heavily dependent on the industry</p>
<p>Create the conditions enabling firms in the industry and in particular SMEs to have easier access to research programmes and to derive greater benefit from their results as well as strengthening synergy between research and training. Special attention should be devoted to measures for disseminating the results of research throughout the textile industry</p>	<p>Specific support actions in the frame of the 4th RDTFP</p> <p>Organisation, in co-operation with industry, of R&D actions now in line with the integrated approach in the form of Targeted Research Action</p> <p>4th framework programme for R&D activities, which includes specific measures to give small firms easier access to research activities and results</p>

<p>Ensure that the transparency of public aid is improved by means of closer co-operation between the Commission and the Member States</p>	
<p>Take suitable measures to promote better communication and information with regard to the economic sectors concerned, notably by means of support for the activities of the European Textile and Clothing Laboratory. This support is to be progressively reduced over a five-year period.</p>	<p>Further funding for the European Textile and Clothing Observatory. In 1994 the Observatory bore part of its operating costs for the first time.</p> <p>Publication by the Observatory of two bulletins containing information on economic trends in the industry, in collaboration with the economic operators concerned</p> <p>Co-ordination by the Observatory of four working parties on statistics (short-term indicators, production, distribution and information and structural data). Preparation of scenarios on developments in the industry.</p> <p>Conference on statistical information on the industry on 7 October 1994</p>
<p>Strengthen the forms and mechanisms of co-operation between the economic agents concerned (industry, management and workers, distributors and consumers), with a view to seeking ways of improving the industry's competitiveness</p>	<p>Conference on subcontracting in March 1994, in collaboration with economic operators</p> <p>To follow up this conference, establishment of a Steering Committee (including representatives of the economic and social circles concerned) to implement a series of pilot projects tailored to the needs of the industry, eight of which have been started (on training, communication, information and promotion in particular).</p> <p>A dialogue on industrial co-operation schemes has been started with the economic circles concerned</p> <p>Regular meetings with the economic and social partners concerned, including dialogue between management and labour</p>

<p>Ensure, in co-operation with trade organisations, the collection and rapid publication of international trade statistics with a view to effectively combating unfair imports without delay</p>	<p>Close monitoring, with the assistance of the Article 113 Committee on Textiles, of implementation of the new rules and disciplines by third countries, in compliance with Article 7 of the Uruguay Round agreement on textiles and clothing</p>
<p>Externally:</p>	
<p>As regards the Uruguay Round:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ensure compliance with the provisions of the agreement on textiles in order to preserve the balance of rights and obligations between all parties concerned; the dismantling of the MFA must in particular go hand in hand with observance of GATT rules and constraints, using all the international or autonomous instruments available to the European Union 	<p>The Council's decision in February 1994 to increase the efficiency of the instruments of trade policy, particularly against dumping and subsidisation, made it easier to ensure compliance with the provisions of the agreement on textiles. During the first phase of dismantling of the MFA, a careful approach was followed, pending implementation of the commitments given by the third countries concerned</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Make a concerted assessment of its impact on the industry; 	<p>Initiation of a study on the impact of the Uruguay Round, with the co-operation of all parties concerned in the industry (to be available in May 1995)</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ensure strict application of the letter of the agreement in co-operation with representatives of the economic sectors concerned. 	<p>Establishment of a framework for close co-operation with the parties concerned in the industry to ensure correct application of clauses such as the safeguard clause</p>
<p>■ Significantly improve access to third-country markets in accordance with the outcome of the Uruguay Round by:</p>	<p>Efforts made, particularly with India and Pakistan</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Systematically identifying non-tariff barriers and swiftly taking all appropriate measures to have them removed 	<p>Stepping up of the initiatives, in co-operation with Community exporters and the EU's external delegations, as part of a horizontal approach</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Stepping up action to promote exports, in particular to new markets opened up as a result of the Uruguay Round 	<p>The budget of the export promotion programme (Exprom) has been increased to take account of the markets newly opened up as a result of the Uruguay Round, for example in India and the ASEAN countries</p>

<p>- Engage in strict, swift and effective application, in compliance with existing rules, of safeguard measures and commercial-policy instruments, particularly in fields such as anti-dumping and anti-subsidy action and protecting intellectual property rights</p>	<p>Trade protection measures concerning the safeguard clause in particular and a new commercial policy instrument to combat unfair practices by third countries (Council Decision of 19 December 1994)</p>
<p>- Strengthen the Textile Anti-Fraud Initiative and step up the fight against counterfeiting</p>	<p>Activities under the Textile Anti-Fraud Initiative (TAFI) have been stepped up by setting up an anti-fraud unit for the textile industry, with the collaboration of and jointly funded by the industry (TAFI budget increased from ECU 500 000 in 1993 to ECU 800 000 in 1994 and 1995)</p>
<p>In the ten-year review of the GSP, take into account both the competitive position of third countries in the textile industry and the implications for the textile industry of the outcome of the Uruguay Round agreements concluded</p>	<p>Review of the GSP, taking account of the competitive position of the various countries benefiting from it, giving priority to the less advanced countries and, in accordance with the outcome of the Uruguay Round, excluding leading suppliers such as India, Pakistan, South Korea, Hong Kong and China from benefiting from the GSP in the textile and clothing sector, where appropriate (Council Decision of 19 December 1994)</p>
<p>Harmonise as soon as possible at Community level the application of the outward processing traffic system to the textile trade in the interest of the European industry</p>	<p>Adoption in December 1994 of the new rules on outward processing traffic (Regulation 3036/94), which give a closer definition of the beneficiaries and of the arrangements for the relevant operations</p>
<p>Work in the framework of the European Union to define positions on interaction between trade and the other policies within the WTO which have a significant impact on the textile industry</p>	

Conclusions of 13 March 1990 on the footwear industry

To follow up the Commission's communication on the footwear industry, the Council's conclusions of 13 March 1990 asked the Commission and the Member States to take a series of measures to ensure fair conditions of competition and to strengthen the competitiveness of the European industry. The examination of imports led to voluntary constraint measures by Korea and Taiwan, the imposition of quotas on certain imports from China and tightening of conditions in the frame of the GSP. The Uruguay Round provided greater protection for intellectual property. However, the efforts to improve access to markets and raw materials in third countries will have to continue.

To strengthen the competitiveness of the European industry, a number of projects on technology transfers, R&D and training and skills have received support from Community programmes.

Conclusions	Follow-up
Examine the question of imports of certain categories of shoes from third countries	<p>Safeguard enquiry on certain imports from Korea and Taiwan resulted in voluntary restraint measures by these two countries</p> <p>Imposition of quotas on certain imports from China</p> <p>Revision of the GSP, taking account of the position of the various beneficiaries, giving priority to the less advanced countries (Council Decision of 19 December 1994)</p>
Promote technology transfer and research and development	Specific actions of support in the frame of the 4th RDTFP
Provide training and retraining facilities	<p>Support for a number of projects under the FORCE programme</p> <p>Study on the development of employment and qualification needs in the sector (about to be started)</p> <p>periodical meetings with social partners in the frame of social dialogue</p>
Protect intellectual property	Implementation of the outcome of the Uruguay Round in the near future

Facilitate access to third markets	The results obtained in the Uruguay Round are mixed. Considerable barriers remain. Continuation of the efforts within the WTO
Facilitate access to raw materials in third countries	The efforts made, both bilaterally and in the Uruguay Round, have failed to produce significant results and will be continued
Facilitate access by SMEs to the programmes decided and implemented at Community level	Application, in the sectors identified in the horizontal approach, of the means earmarked for SMEs

Resolution of 17 June 1992 on the European motor vehicle industry, OJ C 178, 15.7.1992

In April 1992, the Commission submitted a communication examining the competitiveness of the European motor vehicle industry and proposing a series of measures on RTD, vocational training, co-operation with component suppliers and, finally, distribution.

The Council resolution of 17 June 1992 called on the Commission to collaborate more closely with the Member States and trade organisations with a view, in particular, to improving access to markets in third countries and compliance with the GATT rules. As regards competition on the European market, the Council called for thorough examination of selective distribution and asked the Commission to continue to apply controls on aid in this sector and to look at the possibility of extending it to the component producer's sector.

Conclusions	Follow-up
Reinforce, together with the Member States and trade organisations, the use of information on exports, third country market access and international trade as required in order to prevent unfair trading practices, in accordance with the GATT rules	See the information on the follow-up to the 1994 Resolution

Examine thoroughly the aspects of selective distribution, the balance between the interests of manufacturers, distributors and consumers, as well as the various Community policies	
Follow, in conjunction with the appropriate working parties, in particular the senior officials for industry in the Member States and the committee set up under Article 113 of the Treaty, progress achieved in implementing the aims established, including developments in the area of competitiveness	
Continue to apply a strict control on aid in this sector and to look at the possibility of extending it to the component producers' sector	See communication COM(94) 49, Section D1
Adopt and propose the measures required in the context of the guidelines laid down	See communication COM(94) 49

Resolution of 16 May 1994 on the automobile industry, OJ C 149, 31.5.1994

The Commission submitted a further report on the situation in the automobile industry in February 1994, when it adopted a strategy paper describing the challenges together with proposals for action and a more detailed communication to the Council and Parliament. The Commission identified three challenges: the globalization of markets, environmental protection and production costs. As a contribution to the industry's restructuring efforts, it proposed developing the legislation with a bearing on the internal market (extension of the authorisation for selective distribution, fiscal harmonisation, road safety and emissions), support from the Structural Funds and, finally, with the aid of the fourth framework programme for RTD activities.

The Council resolution of 16 May 1994 put the emphasis on strengthening competitiveness by improving the RTD programmes, particularly for the benefit of SMEs, better dissemination of R&D results and stepping up industrial co-operation, involving small firms from the components industry. On the legislative front, the Council called for a rapid decision on selective distribution and gradual improvement of the environmental and safety standards. As regards external measures, the Council called on the Commission to continue to apply the arrangement with Japan, which provides for the

progressive opening of the European market, and to examine the means to eliminate the barriers to better access to markets in third countries for European makers. The Commission has made significant efforts in all the fields mentioned by the Council.

Conclusions	Follow-up
<p>Co-ordinate and organise the Commission's programmes in the field of R&TD in such a way as to cover themes relevant to improved competitiveness, to facilitate access to the programmes for component suppliers notably small and medium-sized undertakings as well as their participation in consortia with vehicle manufacturers, to improve the dissemination of research results, and to facilitate industry planning in this sphere by presenting a clear view on the possibilities of funding projects covering several programme activities</p>	<p>Dialogue with the industry to ensure that fuller account is taken of the priorities in the Community research</p> <p>Numerous meetings with EUROCAR, the association set up in April 1994 by European automobile makers to identify areas for co-operation between them and with suppliers in order to improve the dialogue with the Commission</p> <p>Contacts with the CLEPA (Liaison Committee for the Manufacture of Automobile Equipment and Spare Parts)</p> <p>Meeting of the Joint Co-ordinating Group, an informal working party consisting of representatives of the industry and of Commission staff, which assists the Commission in co-ordinating the specific research programmes and, where appropriate, identifies general research topics of relevance to the competitiveness of the motor vehicle industry</p>
<p>Encourage industrial co-operation by small and medium-sized undertakings in the components sector both among themselves and with the vehicle manufacturers in order to bolster improved and faster exploitation of R&D results to obtain new products and in order to strengthen improvements in production procedures and the organisation of work, areas in which the European industry lags behind its competitors</p>	<p>Encouragement of the automotive components sector to seek closer collaboration at European level with the vehicle manufacturers, mainly with a view to promote their increased participation in the 4th Framework Programme for R&D</p> <p>Financial contribution to the JAMA-CLEPA "design-in" conference to develop business relations between Japanese vehicle manufacturers and European automotive component suppliers in Paris on 6/7.3.1995</p> <p>Support of projects such as being developed by Eurochambers aiming at reinforcing the competitiveness of automotive subcontractors (SMEs)</p>

<p>Promote industrial co-operation and business contacts in the automobile sector with third countries</p>	<p>Training for the automobile industry in China to reinforce the supply base of EU-industry</p> <p>Co-operation in the field of standardisation (project planned in China)</p>
<p>Reach a decision quickly, following full and proper consultations with all interested parties, on how Commission Regulation (EEC) No 123/85 on selective and exclusive distribution should be applied in the future</p>	<p>Adoption planned, by the end of June 1995, of a Regulation exempting, for ten years, exclusive and selective distribution agreements in the motor industry to replace Regulation 123/85 when it expires on 30 June 1995. The principal changes aim, in particular, at improving operation of the internal market, striking a better balance between the interests of the parties concerned and encouraging partnerships to promote the introduction of a "lean" distribution system</p>
<p>Continue to promote better environmental and safety performance of automobiles by developing advanced environmental and technical standards which, within the context of global and multifaceted approaches to these problems, are cost-effective and achievable in a realistic time schedule in the overall context of a stable and predictable regulatory policy environment</p>	<p>Implementation of the new multifaceted approach (Article 4 of Directive 94/12/EC) for drafting pollution emission standards for vehicles from the year 2000 on (developed in the Auto/Oil Programme, in conjunction with the automobile and oil industries with a view to determining the standards for the future by means of cost-effectiveness analyses of all measures for reducing emissions by traffic, as a function of air quality criteria)</p> <p>Proposal for a Directive to align emission limit values for light commercial vehicles on the limits set for private cars in Directive 94/12/EC by 1996</p> <p>Proposal for a Directive to adjust the particulate emission limit for certain diesel engines by 1996</p> <p>Two proposals for Directives on the protection of vehicle occupants in the event of head-on and side impacts</p> <p>Adaptation of several existing Directives to technical progress</p>

<p>Develop and propose coherent policies, e.g. in the environmental and infrastructural sphere, impacting the future context of car use and which are thus of crucial importance to the car industry</p>	<p>Communication COM(92) 494 on the future development of the common transport policy describing a global approach to the construction of a Community framework for sustainable mobility. Preparation of a follow-up communication discussing the creation of a citizens network for mobility in Europe</p> <p>Support to build cleaner and more intelligent cars through a number of R&D programmes, e.g. in the framework of the Auto-Oil Programme and by encouraging research in the field of telematics (see COM(94) 469 on telematics applications for transport in Europe)</p>
<p>Continue to apply integrally the arrangement on automobiles with Japan which provides for the progressive opening of the Union market over a transitional period, ending on 31 December 1999</p>	<p>Regular consultations between the Commission and the MITI to evaluate developments on the market and the export forecasts for the year in question and to update the export monitoring level (for example, downward revision of 18.3% in 1993, in response to the 16% downturn in demand in the Community)</p> <p>The arrangement will be extended to the new EU Member States, probably during the consultations scheduled in February/March 1995</p>
<p>Draw up a list of the most important barriers impeding better market access for Union automobiles on third markets (market opening plan together with a timetable)</p>	<p>Preparatory work by a working party with the automobile industry to identify the most significant barriers, in the context of the establishment of the database on NTBs for European exports to third country markets</p> <p>Negotiations with the countries considered the markets of the future (Russia, China/Taiwan) and with the countries where exports from the EU are still low with a view to obtaining access to the market for the automobile industry by means of bilateral and multilateral trade negotiations</p>

	<p>Russia and Central and Eastern Europe: discussions at the meetings provided for by the trade agreements with these countries. The White Paper on approximation of legislation with the countries of Central and Eastern Europe provides an opportunity to discuss certification and conformity</p> <p>China/Taiwan: negotiations under GATT/WTO, where the tariff and non-tariff barriers in the automobile sector remain the principal obstacle to conclusion of an agreement</p> <p>Progress in opening up the Korean market. South Korea has reduced its special tax on luxury cars and now applies import duty rates lower than those imposed by the EU. Exemption for EU manufacturers from several safety and emissions standards testing requirements</p> <p>Efforts to open up the Japanese motor vehicle market within the wider context of the EU/Japan deregulation talks. A request list which was established in consultation with industry has been presented to the Japanese Government. Discussions will be intensified in the coming months</p>
--	---

Conclusions of 18 November 1991 on promoting a competitive environment for industrial activities based on biotechnology within the Community

The Commission conducted a thorough analysis of the strategic biotechnology industry in a communication in April 1991. This particularly highlighted the need for greater protection for patents, to overcome the fragmentation of the European market and to combat the poor image of biotechnology in certain quarters. The communication proposed a series of practical measures to overcome these handicaps. The Commission also undertook to examine the expediency of increasing its contribution to the research on biotechnology.

The Council's conclusions of 18 November 1991 supported the Commission's guidelines and called on it to establish an integrated evaluation and marketing authorisation procedure, to boost the Community's contribution to R&D, to give the CEN a

standardisation mandate, to set up a body for consultations on the ethical issues and to provide fuller protection for intellectual property. The Council also called on the Commission to strengthen international, bilateral and multilateral contacts, to establish specific statistics on biotechnology and regularly to assess the situation of the biotechnology industry in Europe. The Commission has taken action on all the Council's requests and submitted an assessment in 1992.

Conclusions	Follow-up
Establish an integrated evaluation and authorisation ("one door, one key") procedure	Establishment of the Agency for the evaluation of medicinal products; proposal for a Regulation on novel foods Proposal for an amendment to the Directives on seeds, in line with the "one door, one key" principle
Boost the Community's contribution to R&D	4th framework programme, with significant increased efforts for life sciences and technologies
Establish specific statistics on biotechnology	Establishment of statistics by Eurostat and a number of Member States under PRODCOM
Give the CEN a mandate for standardisation on biotechnology	Allocation of a mandate to the CEN and development of standards
Adopt the proposed legislation on intellectual property	Conciliation procedure in progress
Strengthen international, bilateral and multilateral contacts	Bilateral meetings, particularly with the USA, and multilateral meetings (particularly at OECD level)
Set up an advisory body to examine the ethical issues at Community level	Establishment of an advisory group on the ethical implications of biotechnology, which has given several opinions
Regularly assess the progress made and the competitiveness of the biotechnology industry in Europe	1992 communication on biotechnology after the 1991 communication June 1994 communication on the White Paper and biotechnology

Presidency conclusions of 28 September 1994 on biotechnology and the White Paper on growth, competitiveness and employment

The White Paper on growth, competitiveness and employment identified biotechnology as one of the key technologies on which the future competitiveness of the European economy and its capacity to generate new jobs will depend. In June 1994 the Commission submitted a communication on the measures to be taken to follow up the recommendations made in the White Paper. This latest communication on biotechnology put the emphasis on the regulatory framework and the need to adapt it to technological progress, on the specific research programmes; on the action for the benefit of small firms and, finally, on the need to continue the dialogue on ethical issues.

The Presidency's conclusions of 28 September 1994 urged the Commission rapidly to examine the legal framework, including patent protection, and to give small and medium-sized undertakings working in the field of biotechnology greater help to develop and to make it easier to draw up the appropriate statistics. Work is in progress in all these fields.

However, the Parliament having rejected on 1.3.1995 the conclusion of the conciliation procedure with the Council regarding the adoption of the directive on the legal protection of biotechnological inventions, the Commission will initiate new in-depth reflections with a view to finding the best solution in this very sensitive area. The Commission regrets the absence of common legislation which risks affecting European research and the use of the results, which tends to discourage it and places it at a disadvantage as regards competition from third countries.

Conclusions	Follow-up
Examine the legal framework and submit to the Council before the end of 1994 concrete proposals to amend Directive 90/219/EEC	Several Commission working papers on revision of Directive 90/219 have been discussed with the parties concerned
Also consider amending Directive 90/220/EEC in the near future	Document on an amendment to Directive 90/220 (second semester of 1995)
Make rapid progress on other provisions concerning, for example, patent protection	Compromise reached in the conciliation procedure (patents) (rejected by Parliament on 1.3.95) Other specific proposals submitted to the Council

Give small and medium-sized undertakings working in the field of biotechnology greater help to develop and make it easier to draw up the appropriate statistics	Examination of the existing programmes and compilation of statistics by Eurostat with a number of Member States
---	---

Resolution of 18 November 1991 concerning electronics, information and communication technologies, OJ C 325, 14.12.1991

In March 1991 the Commission carried out an in-depth analysis of the European electronics and information technologies industry, which is not an industry in the traditional sense but a large family of activities based on a set of technologies. Without wishing to assume the undertakings' responsibility for the competitiveness of this industry, the Commission nevertheless felt that certain measures could make it easier for the undertakings to adapt to the challenges of international competitiveness.

The Commission proposed five main lines of action for the Community: on the demand side, computer links between administrations and the introduction of pan-European high definition television services would boost development of the industry. On the technology side, support should be concentrated on projects with fewer, but better targeted objectives and closer co-operation should be sought with users and partners in third countries. Training could be stepped up, in particular by setting up networks of excellence consisting of academic and industrial teams. On the external front, fair conditions of competition and access to markets in third countries must be ensured. Finally, improvements to the funding systems and measures to speed up standardisation would be of benefit to the business environment.

The Council resolution of 18 November 1991 concentrates, above all, on external relations and calls on the Commission to establish a centralised point of information responsible for monitoring marketing, market access and distribution practices throughout the main industrial areas in the world. In response to this request the Commission has established the centralised point of information and prepared a series of reports on unfair trading practices in this industry, particularly in Japan and the USA.

Conclusions	Follow-up
Establish a centralised point of information charged with monitoring marketing, market access and distribution practices throughout the main industrial areas in the world	Establishment of the centralised point of information

<p>Report on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - studies undertaken; - the agreement between the United States and Japan concerning semiconductors, as well as its consequences for European producers and users; - the present-day situation of market access in third countries; - government practices in the field of electronics, information and telecommunication technologies in the Community and its major trading partners 	<p>Preparation of the first report describing and analysing the barriers and unfair practices detected in Japan and the USA, based on industrial sources in particular (under way)</p> <p>Systematic analysis by the centralised point of information of practices incompatible with competition, of the rules and practices on public procurement policies and State aid and of the legal provisions and practical arrangements impeding access to markets and trade</p> <p>Establishment of a network outside the Directorates-General concerned to ensure the efficiency of the centralised point of information</p> <p>Annual report to the Council of industry ministers on all the activities</p> <p>Regular reports to the senior officials for industry or their delegates on studies undertaken (international differences in capital costs, location of ICT activities, comparisons of the prices of ICT products, etc.), measures to open the EU-Japan agreement on semi-conductors, negotiations on access to markets in third countries, rules on competition and monitoring mechanisms</p> <p>Presentation of all Community measures in the ICT field: international industrial and scientific co-operation, information infrastructure, research and technological development policy, SMEs, regional development, standardisation and certification</p>
<p>Monitor, in consultation with the high-level group composed of representatives of Member States and with the Committee referred to in Article 113 of the EEC Treaty, the progress in achieving the goals set out</p>	<p>Regular reports to the Committee set up by Article 113</p>
<p>Strengthen the competitive position of subcontractors so as to permit them to meet the exacting and developing needs of contractors</p>	<p>EU-Japan pilot programme to improve the competitiveness of subcontractors in the consumer electronics industry</p>