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INTRODUCTION

Welcome to the new British members

The United Kingdom trade union representatives took up their places on the Committee at this Plenary Session. This meant that the Committee had its full complement of members for the first time since the accession of the new Member States. There were also three new United Kingdom members who had come to replace members of the Employers and Various Interests Groups who had asked that their appointments not be renewed at the end of the Committee's last term of office (*).

In his speech welcoming the new members, Mr CANONGE said :

"I would like to welcome our eleven new members most sincerely. Our Committee has said often enough in the past that it hoped the United Kingdom referendum would give a resounding 'yes' to EEC membership, and so there is no need for me to repeat this. I followed closely the proceedings of the last TUC annual meeting at Blackpool, where it was emphasized that the delegation taking its seats today, which, I am glad to say, is a widely representative one, would not tolerate inaction, smugness or red tape. We consider this to be a highly constructive attitude, in that it shows a wish to join us in our efforts to advance the European cause. To make the most of this injection of new blood, we have made the necessary arrangements to ensure that our new colleagues can start getting on with the job as from next week.

Europe will not be built in a day, for the process involves bringing together countries with very different traditions, customs, laws and administrative procedures. The very originality of our enterprise means that we have no precedents to go on, but our new

(*) For the list of new members : see chapter on News of Members.

colleagues can rest assured that the Committee is constantly seeking to improve its efficiency and effectiveness, and to enhance its role.

Once again, I heartily welcome our new colleagues, with the conviction that they will soon be playing an active part in the Committee's work. This conviction is based on their expertise, and the fact that they will doubtless see things with a new eye. I would, however, hasten to add that while habit is generally a bad master, Britain, on the other hand, is an example of a country which knows how to honour sound traditions".

133rd PLENARY SESSION

Adoption of Opinions

The European Communities' Economic and Social Committee held its 133rd Plenary Session in Brussels on 24 and 25 September 1975. The meeting was presided over by Mr Henri CANONGE, the Committee's Chairman.

1. Sex Discrimination

The proposed Directive and the guidelines within the Memorandum suggested to the Member States that the Social Partners aim at establishing the principle of equality of treatment for men and women in the following areas : access to employment, education, vocational guidance and training, opportunities of promotion, working conditions including social security.

It should be pointed out that statutory means by themselves can achieve the objective of equality of treatment only in part. They must be supported by other actions aimed at the changing of traditional societal attitudes.

In its Resolution of 21 January 1974, the Council of the European Communities decided to take action to ensure equality between men and women in the various areas of employment and training and in respect of work conditions and pay. Furthermore, the Council decided to strive to reconcile family responsibilities with the professional aspirations of the people concerned. The Memorandum

contains a short analysis of the problems affecting women at work as well as some guidelines for action in each of the areas specified in the Council Resolution. The guidelines constitute the general framework within which the initial series of Community activities can be undertaken. The most important of the actions to be undertaken at Community level is the proposed Directive. The Directive deals only with certain essential aspects of discrimination which are the direct responsibility of the public authorities. The Directive provides persons who consider themselves discriminated against with the possibility of legal recourse to enforce their right to equal treatment. Other actions include the use of the European Social Fund, the continuous collection and dissemination of information relating to, not only the overall situation of women working in the Community, but also to the success enjoyed by women in jobs traditionally done by men, and the application of the work done by the European Centre for Vocational Training and the European Foundation for the Improvement of Living and Working Conditions.

In accordance with the mandate given by the Council, the Commission in this Memorandum confines itself to those aspects which are of particular importance to women working outside the home and notably those arising from the need to care for young children or elderly and infirm persons. The Memorandum includes, therefore, a short analysis of the situation of women on the labour market, the problems in the area of vocational guidance, training and retraining and those related to working conditions, child-care facilities and social security.

The Economic and Social Committee, adopted by a large majority with 2 votes against and 8 abstentions its Opinion on

Equality of Treatment of Men and Women as regards Access to Employment, Vocational Training, Promotion and Working Conditions.

The Committee wishes to stress that problems of unequal treatment are not a new issue in the Community, but represent one of its perennial tasks. Equality of Treatment and opportunity for men and women has not yet become a reality. Discrimination exists not only at the legal level, but also in general practices as a result of in-built prejudices.

The Committee emphasizes in its Opinion the following : the right to work as a basic human right; the need to open all occupations, as well as the training required for them, to women; the belief that changes are required in existing legislation and practices so that family responsibilities can be reconciled with professional aspirations; education and vocational training as a means of eliminating stereotyped ideas about male and female jobs; expansion of social back-up services (for the care of small children and nursing of dependants); the need for objective studies of the material and social working conditions and the physical demands in predominantly female jobs, and the hope that further concrete steps in line with the Commission's accompanying Memorandum will be taken as soon as possible.

The Committee believes that in the future European family policy measures will have to have a prominent place within new Directives based on the various Commission proposals for guidelines for action put forward within the Memorandum. The Committee notes that it was not possible to deal with specific difficulties as regards access to employment, vocational training and promotion in a concrete fashion in the Directive, yet the Committee also reiterates that this present Directive is only one step on the road towards solution of the problems outlined in the Memorandum.

The Committee attaches particular importance to pointing to some of the following suggestions which could be viewed as specific future positive steps to be taken to improve women's opportunities. Among them are : non-discriminatory market; special grants towards cost of training women for occupations which offer optimum job security and promotion opportunities; recruitment of women who have temporarily withdrawn from the labour market; equal rights in all areas of social insurance; change in the definition of "head of family"; statutory maternity/paternity leave, use of the Social Fund to finance or part-finance child-care facilities; adoption of flexible and variable working hours wherever the work organization allows; part-time work for men and women and studies under the auspices of the European Foundation for the Improvement of Living and Working Conditions on the problems of working women.

The Committee also calls attention to the problems of self-employed women, e.g. women in the commercial and crafts sectors, business women, etc., and stresses that self-employed women urgently need to be provided with social security in keeping with their particular occupations. A progressive lowering of the retirement age is also necessary, leading to alignment of the retirement ages for men and women. In the Committee's view, the time spent bringing up children must give rise to the same increases in pension entitlement as would result if the mother were to go out to work and pay insurance contributions during this period.

Furthermore, the Committee does not accept the generalization that provisions affording women special protection are no longer justified. But protection provisions must be examined to make sure that they are still necessary in the light of modern technology and medical knowledge. The Committee also calls for an investigation into the effect of night and heavy work on workers' health.

The Economic and Social Committee based its Opinion on material prepared by the Section for Social Questions under the chairmanship of Mr HOUTHUYS - Belgium - Workers. The Rapporteur was Mrs WEBER - Federal Republic of Germany - Workers.

2. Common Transport Policy

The Economic and Social Committee adopted unanimously (less 12 abstentions) its Opinion on the

Communication from the Commission to the Council on the development of the Common Transport Policy.

On 28 March 1974, the Committee delivered an Opinion on the Commission's Memorandum on the Common Transport Policy. In this Opinion it commented on the broad lines of the Common Transport Policy, its objectives and instruments. The Committee shared the Commission's view that stronger links should be forged between the transport policy and the other common policies. With this in mind, it reserved the right to return to the matter at a later date.

The Committee has accordingly gone deeper into certain aspects of current importance in the fields of energy, regional, fiscal and budgetary policy.

As regards transport and energy policy, the Committee finds that events since 1973 have brought about a profound change. This change will have considerable repercussions on the shape of our economy, our growth and our life style. Energy will go on being a valuable and expensive commodity, to be used as sparingly as possible.

Energy consumption in transport is relatively inelastic. Gross energy efficiency is not the only factor to be taken into consideration when assessing the consumption - and hence the cost - of energy in transport. Transport impinges in varying degrees on external trade, the domestic economy, individual working and living conditions, and the environment.

The Community should make a determined effort to rationalize certain sectors - particularly air transport - which are big consumers of energy. Rationalization of transport in large urban areas is a key aspect of energy conservation. In addition, priority action must be taken to promote and provide infrastructures for public transport.

Everything should be done to avoid duplication and wastage, to encourage schemes for better coordination of different types of transport, and to ensure better use of equipment.

On the subject of transport and regional policy, the Committee considers that transport is one of the chief instruments at the disposal of regional policy for achieving a balance between over-developed and under-developed regions. There should be a

comprehensive European transport network plan (covering sea, inland waterway, air and overland transport, including submarine tunnels, oil pipelines and new techniques) in which each mode of transport is assigned the job it can do best.

The methods proposed by the Commission for the organization of the Community transport system may conflict with the aims of regional policy. This conflict is most apparent in the financing of infrastructure : market forces are clearly not sufficient to relieve congestion in highly-developed areas and at the same time provide the infrastructures needed to stimulate development in backward areas. Any moves to balance out regional differences must be compatible with a Community system for the financing of infrastructures.

Given the importance and genuine Community character of the goal, some of the revenue from taxes levied on the transport sector might be used to set up a Community fund, insofar as revenue from taxes levied on transport in the Community is allocated to the development and maintenance of infrastructures under the Commission's system of charging for the use of infrastructures. The EIB too, if adequately topped up, could contribute to the financing of infrastructure which is of European interest.

As regards transport and the financial implications, the Committee notes that it is difficult to define with any degree of accuracy, the financial repercussions of the other common policies on transport.

These difficulties, which have emerged from the application of the common transport policy, are aggravated by the absence of Community fiscal and budgetary policies. In spite of this, the principle of neutrality should be followed in the taxation of competing transport undertakings and modes of transport. It cannot be overlooked that earmarking specific transport charges for the development of infrastructures represents a certain automatic financing mechanism for infrastructure development. This has a beneficial effect on coordination and long-term planning of infrastructure measures in transport. Tax incentives should be used to promote measures which are in the public interest, especially to solve traffic and transport problems in conurbations.

Progress to date has been inadequate. There must be an end to statements which are not backed up by action. Recent events in the energy sector show clearly what can and does happen if people take a united stand. Discord leads to setbacks. An example is the UN code of conduct, which has been initialled by three Member States despite the Commission's call for a joint course of action.

The Economic and Social Committee based its Opinion on material prepared by its Section for Transport and Communications under the chairmanship of Mr HOFFMANN - Germany - Workers. The Rapporteur was Mr RENAUD. Mr BONETY, Mr FREDERSDORF and Mr MASPRONE were Co-Rapporteurs.

3. Telecommunications

The Economic and Social Committee adopted unanimously less 11 abstentions its Opinion on

The Application of Telecommunications Facilities and the Interrelationships between Transport and Telecommunications.

The Committee observes that telecommunications have become, and will increasingly constitute, a vital part of our society and will play a crucial role as a catalyst and instigator of economic and social change. Telephones, which now offer 300 million individuals in Europe (OECD countries) a means of telecommunication, are a significant example.

The Committee considers that one major advantage of telecommunications from the business and administration point of view lies in the possibility of decentralization. Related to this advantage of telecommunications is the fact that good telecommunications facilities make it possible for businesses to be started and run successfully in areas distant from those other businesses and agencies with which they have to interact : that is to say, telecommunications facilities are an important part of the infrastructure which is a prerequisite for regional development.

There is also a certain correlation between the extent of telecommunications facilities (especially telephones) and the per capita GDP of countries in many parts of the world. Moreover, as can be seen from the Annex, it is an illuminating fact that the gap in this field between countries whose GDP exceeds the threshold of \$4,000 per capita (USA, Sweden, Switzerland, etc.) and the EEC Member States is in the ratio of approximately 2 to 1 as regards the telephone and 4 to 1 as regards data terminals.

This may well be taken to indicate at least that good telecommunications facilities are important for economic development.

Present-day and future transport is no longer feasible without telecommunications facilities. The use of such facilities is forever

on the increase and ensures that means of transport are safer, more rational, more competitive and more easily and more readily accessible to users.

The Committee considers that the Commission should start a detailed investigation into the possible applications for telecommunications in the transport field, including their possible employment consequences. The Commission should also make an examination of the question of the substitutability between transport and telecommunications in the Community.

In the Committee's view, it is undeniable that the message transmission systems now used in Europe are too expensive when compared with those in wealthier areas.

The disparities that exist between the various Member States as regards pricing also prompt the Committee to urge that tariffs for frontier-crossing services be harmonized at once in order to remove the all-too-frequent barriers to freedom of movement in the disguised form of frontier charges.

The telecommunications sector is one for which a common policy for the Community still has to be framed.

The Economic and Social Committee calls upon the Commission to submit proposals as soon as possible for the implementation of a Community policy in the field of telecommunications. The Committee expects to be consulted on all future Commission initiatives and is prepared, in turn, to provide the Commission with all possible assistance in this field.

The Economic and Social Committee based its Opinion on material prepared by its Section for Transport and Communications under the chairmanship of Mr HOFFMANN - Germany - Workers. The Rapporteur was Mr ROSEINGRAVE.

4. Generalized Tariff Preferences

The Economic and Social Committee adopted unanimously its Opinion on the European Community's Generalized Preferences Scheme for 1976; and on the Future Development of the European Community's General Tariff Preferences.

Each year, the Commission submits to the Council proposals relating to the generalized tariff preferences which have been granted by the Community since 1970 to the developing countries, following the unilateral offer which it made to the UNCTAD in 1969.

Basically, the scheme proposed for 1976 is the same as the one adopted for 1975, though certain countries are added to the list of beneficiaries in order to take into account the accession of the three new Member States. The Commission proposes that import quotas be increased slightly to allow for inflation.

In view of the present economic situation, the Economic and Social Committee's Opinion approves the caution shown by the Commission in its proposal.

The Committee points out that the developing countries will gain more from better information than from the scheme itself being changed. The Commission's move to set up a documentation centre is applauded.

Looking to the future, after the present scheme expires in 1980 the Committee would like to see greater selectivity in the choice of beneficiaries. The scheme should be restricted to the neediest countries, i.e. those which are manifestly under-developed

particularly in terms of per capita income. In addition, the Committee wants the future scheme to be coordinated with the similar systems operated by other industrialized countries (US, Japan).

The Committee concludes by saying that, in the long term, the generalized preferences scheme should be looked upon, above all, as one of the complementary instruments which the Community uses to help the development of certain non-member countries that recognize that economic interdependence is a vital factor in joint economic and social progress.

The Economic and Social Committee prepared its Opinion on the basis of the work done by its Section for External Relations, chaired by Mr CARSTENS (Denmark - Employers). The Rapporteur was Mr EVAIN (France - Employers).

5. Erucic Acid

Since erucic acid is present not only in rape seed oil but also in other edible fats and oils, the Commission's proposal is a general one applicable to all fats, oils and margarine. Research on rape seed oil is to continue and, therefore, the Commission does not regard the present proposal as final. As a precautionary measure, pending the conclusion of current research, it is proposing a phased cut-back in the permissible level of erucic acid. The proposed values are subject to review.

The maximum permissible erucic acid content of oils, fats, mixtures thereof and margarine is set at :

- 15% for the period from 1 July 1976 to 30 June 1977;

- 10% as from 1 July 1977.

To expedite matters, the sampling procedures and analysis methods are to be fixed by the Commission in accordance with a procedure laid down.

The Committee adopted by a large majority with 5 votes against, its Opinion on the

Proposal for a Council Directive fixing the Maximum Level of Erucic Acid in Fats and Oil and Margarine for Food

In the light of the present state of scientific knowledge the Committee approves the provisions of the Directive as precautionary measures designed to prevent any risk to consumers' health.

The Committee urges that current research on colza oil be continued and extended to other edible oils, particularly those with high levels of saturated fatty acids and long-chain fatty acids.

The Committee believes that the Directive's provisions, which are very important from the point of view of protecting human health, should be backed up by appropriate labelling to enable the individual consumer to decide what to eat and what not to eat.

The Committee based its Opinion on material prepared by its Section for Protection of the Environment, Public Health and Consumer Affairs under the chairmanship of Mr ROSEINGRAVE - Ireland - Various Interests. The Rapporteur was Mr DE GRAVE - Belgium - Workers.

6. Bathing Water

Fresh water and sea water have such different micro-biological and physico-chemical characteristics that the Commission thought that two separate sets of standards should be laid down. The Commission proposal covers only areas where bathing is authorized or tolerated. Bathers would use unauthorized areas at their own risk. Samples would be taken at regular intervals and the sampling frequency would be determined by the size of the bathing area and the concentration of bathers. Special attention is recommended for areas with a bather concentration exceeding 10,000 persons per linear kilometer of beach. In principle samples would be taken at points of peak bather density, preferably at a depth of 30 centimetres.

Analysis of bathing water should determine the concentration of coliform, streptococci, salmonella and viruses; surface water should be completely free of oil film and persistent foam and there should be absolutely no phenol odour; the foreshore should be free of tar. Finally, the area should be cleared of all abnormal floating material such as wood, plastic articles, bottles, containers made of glass, plastic, rubber or any other man-made substance whatsoever.

Bathing water need not however conform to the standards laid down in the Directive until eight years after its provisions come into force.

The Economic and Social Committee adopted its Opinion by a unanimous vote on the

Proposal for a Council Directive relating to Pollution of Sea Water and Fresh Water for Bathing (Quality Objectives).

The Committee approves the Proposal but recognizes that many problems still exist. These problems stem from the fact that the draft Directive classifies bathing water in three categories : waters where bathing is "authorized"; waters where bathing is "tolerated"; and waters where bathing is "prohibited".

The Committee particularly wonders what the difference is between authorized and tolerated areas, from the point of view of legal consequences, and how the public is to be informed unambiguously as to whether bathing is authorized, tolerated or prohibited.

The Committee asks why bathing is not formally prohibited in waters which do not comply with the requirements laid down, since these standards have been designed to prevent accidents.

The Committee urges the Commission to consider prescribing checks for the presence in bathing water of micro-organisms, such as mysophyceae and blue algae, which have a long- and short-term toxic effect (action on proteins).

Special attention should be given to the question of the hot water discharged by industry into rivers and seas. This causes the temperature of the water to rise, and may alter its microbiological characteristics.

The limit values laid down in the draft Directive are to come into force within eight years of the introduction of the Directive. Given the needs of public health, the Committee considers that this period is too long and that it should be shortened as much as possible.

The Committee based its Opinion on the work of the Section for Protection of the Environment, Public Health and Consumer Affairs (Chairman : Mr ROSEINGRAVE - Ireland - Various Interests; Rapporteur : Mr DE GRAVE - Belgium - Workers).

7. Colza and Rape Seed

When it was consulted by the Commission, the Scientific Committee for Food declared that the harmful effects reported might not be unique to colza oils. Hence the need to regulate the use of all fats and oils which might contain long-chain fatty acids.

As a result of introducing new varieties of colza oil with a low erucic acid content, the average quality of colza seeds will be below that of the previous harvests, especially in respect of oil content. This difference in quality may have an adverse effect on producers' incomes. The Commission proposes certain amendments to Regulation No. 657/75 on the common organization of the market in colza and rape seed. These amendments concern the purity, humidity and oil content of standard colza and rape seeds to which the target and intervention prices for the 1975/1976 marketing years are applied.

The Economic and Social Committee adopted unanimously its Opinion on the

Proposal for a Regulation of the Council amending Regulation (EEC) No. 657/75 on the Standard Quality for Colza and Rape Seed.

The Committee emphasizes the value of the proposed incentives for colza varieties with a low erucic acid content. The Committee considers that these measures will have a major impact, provided the Member States adopt them simultaneously and with all possible speed.

The Committee invites the Commission to draw up measures to compensate farmers for the lower yield per acre of the new colza varieties. Forthcoming proposals for farm prices should take special account of the problems caused by the wider cultivation of new colza varieties in the Community.

The Committee notes that certain branches of the chemical industry require colza seeds with a high erucic acid content, and believes that the Commission must take the necessary steps to ensure that the income of producers of colza with a high erucic acid content is safeguarded by contracts with the processing industries concerned.

The Economic and Social Committee based its Opinion on material prepared by its Section for Agriculture under the chairmanship of Mr EMO CAPODILISTA - Italy - Various Interests. The Rapporteur was Mr SCHNIEDERS - Germany - Employers.

8. Hops

Regulation (EEC) No. 1696/71 of 26 July 1971 on the Common Organization of the Market in Hops stipulates that the Commission has to submit to the Council annual surveys of the production and marketing of hops. This the Commission does. The Report is accompanied by proposals for aid for the 1974 harvest.

The Economic and Social Committee adopted unanimously its Opinion on the

Commission Report to the Council on the Situation regarding the Production and Marketing of Hops : 1974 Harvest;

and on the

Proposal for a Regulation (EEC) of the Council laying down in respect of Hops, the Amount of Aid to Producers for the 1974 Harvest.

The Committee is pleased that, unlike its practice in past years, the Commission has notified its aid proposals before the next harvest.

The Committee agrees that medium-term surpluses should be eradicated. It deplors the Commission's failure to propose an amendment to the basic Regulation. Had the Commission kept its promise to propose an amendment, a start might have been made on eradicating medium-term surpluses.

The Committee emphasizes the important role that producers' organizations and the Community hops industry can play in preventing over supply.

The Committee notes that areas planted in 1974 are ineligible for the "1974 harvest" aid. Might this not create discrimination against some Member States? The Committee regrets that it was not told how the Commission had calculated the increase in aid over that granted for the 1973 harvest.

The Economic and Social Committee based its Opinion on material prepared by its Section for Agriculture under the chairmanship of Mr EMO CAPODILISTA - Italy - Various Interests. The Rapporteur was Mr BERNAERT - Belgium - Employers.

9. International Transportation of Animals

The first proposal seeks to authorize the Commission to open negotiations with the Council of Europe with a view to the Community's acceding to the European Convention for the Protection of Animals during International Transport.

The aim of the second proposal is to give effect to the initiative undertaken in the first. By it, the Commission aims to conclude the Convention on the Community's behalf, and stipulate the terms for applying the Convention to intra-Community trade.

The Economic and Social Committee adopted unanimously its Opinion on the

Proposal for a Council Decision (EEC) authorizing the Commission to open Negotiations with the Council of Europe on the Accession of the Community to the European Convention for the Protection of Animals during International Transport, and the

Proposal for a Council Decision (EEC) concluding the European Convention for the Protection of Animals during International Transport and introducing the Provisions necessary for its Application to Intra-Community Trade.

The Committee first points out that the Convention is designed to prevent animals suffering during international transport. The Committee goes on to stress that accession to the Convention should be without prejudice to the more effective legislation on animal welfare during transportation which already exists in many Member States.

Lastly, the Committee urges the Community to initiate action to improve the provisions of the Convention.

The Economic and Social Committee based its Opinion on material prepared by its Section for Agriculture under the chairmanship of Mr EMO CAPODILISTA - Italy - Various Interests. The Rapporteur was Mrs EVANS - United Kingdom - Various Interests.

10. Family Benefits

Article 98 of Regulation (EEC) No. 1408/71 states that the Council is to re-examine the whole problem of the payment of family benefits to members of a worker's family who do not reside in the Member State in which the worker is employed, with a view to reaching a uniform solution throughout all the Member States.

According to the Commission, the solution applied in respect of family benefits by eight Member States assures that these benefits are consistent with the tax concessions granted to families by the country of employment. This solution also affords workers a more homogeneous social protection.

The proposed Regulation therefore seeks to extend this solution to the workers who are subject to the legislation of the ninth Member State, i.e. France.

The Economic and Social Committee adopted unanimously its Opinion on the

Proposal for a Regulation (EEC) of the Council amending Regulations (EEC) Nos. 1408/71 and 574/72 and relating to the Standardization of the System of paying Family Benefits to Workers, the Members of whose Families reside in a Member State other than the Country of Employment.

The Committee approves the Commission's proposal for a Regulation and endorses the improvement of social security Regulations which will facilitate the free movement of labour between Member States. The Committee considers the Commission's proposals to be a decisive step towards overcoming some of the obstacles to worker mobility within the Community and achieving treatment for immigrant workers from Community Member States which is equal to that received by nationals. The Committee feels that procedures will be simplified considerably due to this proposal. From the legal point of view, the granting of family benefits to any entitled person must, in all cases, be regulated by the same national laws as those governing the working conditions of a head of family. The Committee wishes to stress that the elimination of the present disparity in treatment between immigrant workers working in France away from their families, and those working in other Member States will ensure greater homogeneity in family benefits for Community workers.

The Committee hopes that every effort will be made to eliminate any discrimination with respect to family benefits which may occur in the future.

The Economic and Social Committee based its Opinion on material prepared by its Section for Social Questions under the chairmanship of Mr HOUTHUYS - Belgium - Workers. The Rapporteur was Mr PURPURA - Italy - Miscellaneous Interests.

II

OUTSIDE ACTIVITIES

a) Visit of the Chairman to Denmark

Mr CANONGE paid an official visit to Denmark on 9 and 10 September.

On the second day of his visit, Mr CANONGE, accompanied by the Vice-Chairmen, Mr AMEYE and Mr van GREUNSVEN, and the Secretary-General, had a meeting with the Danish Prime Minister. Also present at the meeting were the Minister of Labour, Mr Erling DINESEN, and the Minister of Foreign Economic Affairs, Mr Ivar NØRGAARD.

Afterwards, Mr CANONGE and his delegation had talks with the Danish Parliament's Committee for Common Market Relations and reported on the Committee's recent activities.

Meetings also took place with representatives of the Danish Employers' Confederation, the Federation of Danish Industries, the Chamber of Commerce, the LO and FTF trade union confederations, the Professional Council of the Workers' Movement, the Consumers' Council and the Agricultural Council.

b) Meeting of the Section for External Relations in Copenhagen

The Section for External Relations met in Christiansborg Castle, Copenhagen, on 9 September.

During the meeting the Section debated and approved its Opinion on Generalized Tariff Preferences.

Part of the afternoon was spent in informal talks with representatives of business associations and trade unions in the EFTA countries.

At the invitation of the Chairman of the Chamber of Commerce, Mr Knud OLESON, the participants went on to a dinner given by certain trade organizations. The dinner was also attended by Mr CANONGE.

In the evening the Committee delegation was received by the Danish Minister for Foreign Economic Affairs.

c) Meeting of the Section for Energy and Nuclear Questions in Lyon

The new EEC Energy strategy was the subject of the Section for Energy's meeting at the Palais des Congrès on 18 September 1975.

The meeting discussed a working paper on the supply outlook for oil and natural gas, coal, nuclear fuels, and electricity.

Before the meeting, the Section members visited nuclear installations at Bugey and Marcoule, by courtesy of the Managing Director of Electricité de France, Mr Paul DELOUVRIER.

On 17 September they had been welcomed in Lyon by the Deputy Mayor, Mr BAYET. The following day they were met by the Prefect of the Rhône-Alpes Region, Mr Pierre DOUEIL. The Committee Chairman and the Secretary-General were also present at this meeting. Earlier on, the Chairman and the Secretary-General had had talks with the Chairman of the Economic and Social Committee of the Rhône-Alpes Region, Mr Charles MONTREUIL.

d) Ecosoc member reads a paper to European Parliament committee

The Rapporteur for the Committee's Opinion on Generalized Tariff Preferences, Mr Claude EVAIN, read a paper on 29 September to the European Parliament's Committee on Development and Cooperation, which was discussing the 1976 preferences scheme. The initiative in inviting Mr EVAIN had come from the Parliamentary Committee.

III

NEW REQUESTS FOR OPINIONS

In July, August and September, the Council asked the Committee for Opinions on :

1. Proposal for a Regulation (EEC) of the Council establishing a System of Aid to Organizations of Silkworm Rearers.
2. Proposal for a Council Directive on the Approximation of the Laws of the Member States relating to Taximeters.
3. Draft Regulation (EEC) of the Council regarding a Community Procedure for Information and Consultation on the Prices of Crude Oil and Petroleum Products in the Community.
4. Draft Council Regulation amending Council Regulation No. 1056/73 on Notifying the Commission of Investment Projects of Interest to the Community in the Petroleum, Natural Gas and Electricity Sectors.
5. Proposal for a Multiannual Research and Development Programme for Reference Materials and Methods (Community Bureau of Reference - CBR) (1976-1978) (Indirect Action).
6. Proposed Pluriannual Programme of the Community for the Years 1976-1980 in the Field of Controlled Thermonuclear Fusion and Plasma Physics.
7. Proposal for a Multiannual Environmental Research and Development Programme of the European Economic Community (Indirect Action).

8. Proposal for a Council Directive on Waste from the Titanium Dioxide Industry.
9. Proposal for a Council Directive Relating to the Quality of Water for Human Consumption.
10. The Approximation of the Laws of the Member States Relating to Common Provisions for Lifting and Mechanical Handling Appliances, and
The Approximation of the Laws of the Member States Relating to Electrically-Operated Lifts.
11. Amended Proposal for a Council Directive to facilitate the Effective Exercise by Lawyers of Freedom to Provide Services.
12. Proposal for a Council Regulation (EEC) Amending Regulation (EEC) No. 542/69 on Community Transit.
13. Proposal for a Council Directive on the Harmonization of Provisions laid down by Law, Regulation or Administrative Action concerning Deferred Payment of Duties at Importation or at Exportation.
14. Proposal for a Council Directive on the Education of the Children of Migrant Workers.
15. Proposal for a Council Directive Amending for the Fourth Time Directive No. 73/241/EEC on the Approximation of the Laws of the Member States relating to Cocoa and Chocolate Products Intended for Human Consumption.
16. Amended Proposal for a Council Directive on the Approximation of the Laws of the Member States Relating to Fruit Jams, Jellies and Marmalades and Chestnut Purée.
17. Proposal for a Regulation concerning Common Measures to Improve the Conditions under which Agricultural Products are Marketed and Processed.

18. Proposal for a Decision of the Council on a Change in the Timetable for the Preparation of the Annual Report on the Economic Situation in the Community.
19. Proposal for a Council Directive on the Harmonization of Systems of Company Taxation and of Withholding Taxes on Dividends.
20. Proposal for a Council Regulation on the Harmonization of certain Social Provisions relating to Goods Transport by Inland Waterway.
21. Communication from the Commission to the Council concerning a Proposal for a Council Regulation amending Council Regulation (EEC) No. 1612/68 as regards the Extension of Trade Unions' Rights in favour of the Workers who move within the Community.
22. Proposal for a Directive amending the Council Directive of 24 July 1973 on Coordination of Laws, Regulations and Administrative Provisions concerning the Taking-up and Pursuit of Activities in Direct Insurance other than Life Assurance.
23. Proposal for a Council Regulation amending Regulations (EEC) Nos. 1408/71 and 574/72 on the Application of Social Security Schemes to Employed Persons and their Families moving within the Community.
24. Proposal for a Council Regulation establishing a Transitional Common Organization of the Markets in the Sheepmeat Sector.

IV

NEWS OF MEMBERS

1. Appointment

In September, the Council appointed eleven new British members :

Lord ALLEN	General Secretary Union of Shop Distributive and Allied Workers
David BASNETT	General Secretary National Union of General and Municipal Workers
Reginald N. BOTTINI	General Secretary National Union of Agricultural and Allied Workers
Lord BRIGINSHAW	Formerly General Secretary National Society of Operative Printers, Graphical and Media Personnel
Guy HUNTER	Overseas Development Institute
Jack L. JONES	General Secretary Transport and General Workers' Union
W.G.N. MILLER	Save and Prosper Group Ltd.

Lionel MURRAY

General Secretary
Trades Union Congress

Terence PARRY

General Secretary
Fire Brigades Union

Marie PATTERSON

National Woman Officer
Transport and General Workers' Union

M.J.G. WYLIE

Director, Anglo-American Asphalt
Co. Ltd.
Chairman of Post Office Users'
Council for Scotland.

2. Resignation

Mr Livio MASCARELLO, Secretary of the French Confédération Générale du Travail (CGT), is resigning his seat on the Economic and Social Committee with effect from 1 November 1975. He was appointed a member on 23 August 1970.

3. Mr C.A. BOS made Mayor of Katwijk

Mr C.A. BOS, who has been a member of the Committee since 14 April 1975, became Mayor of Katwijk on 1 October 1975.

**PUBLICATIONS OBTAINABLE FROM THE ECONOMIC
AND SOCIAL COMMITTEE**

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| 1. Bulletin (monthly publication) | Free |
| 2. The Economic and Social Committee-A leaflet (January 1975) | Free |
| 3. The Economic and Social Committee (April 1975)
(A descriptive brochure) 16 p. | Free |
| 4. Progress Report on the Common Agricultural Policy
(February 1975) (Study) 52 p. | Free |
| 5. The Situation of Small and Medium-sized Undertakings in
the European Community (March 1975) (Study) 69 p. | Free |
| 6. Annual Report 1974
60 p. | Free |
| 7. Annual Report 1973
64 p. | Free |
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