

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMITTEE  
OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES

# BULLETIN

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SUMMARY

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I

158th PLENARY SESSION

The Economic and Social Committee of the European Communities held its 158th Plenary Session in Brussels on 26 and 27 April 1978, with the Committee's Chairman, Mr Basil de FERRANTI, presiding.

Adoption of Opinions

1. RADIOACTIVE WASTE

Communication from the Commission to the Council on a Community Plan of Action in the Field of Radioactive Waste.

Gist of the Communication

The Commission points out that radioactive waste is one of the major problems underlying the difficulties currently encountered in the development of nuclear energy. It summarizes the reasons for a Community approach to the problem (common to Member States, public service character, trans-frontier implications, cost and distortion of competition, reassurance of public).

To date, Community action on radioactive waste has basically consisted of R & D work.

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The Commission now proposes an overall action plan to facilitate long-term solutions and the setting up of a Community network of storage sites. The plan would run from 1978 to 1990 and would be revised every three years. It centres on six main points :

1. Continuous analysis of the basic situation in the Community leading to timely solutions; specifically inventories would be drawn up on :
  - available techniques;
  - activities to be carried out;
  - management practices;
  - final storage procedures.
2. Measures aimed at creating a Community network of sites for storing radioactive wastes (e.g. information exchange, technical study of advantages of network, study of legal and financial aspects).
3. Gradual harmonization and standardization of radioactive waste practices.
4. Continuation of Community R & D work for the duration of the plan.
5. Study of ways in which the Community could share certain costs and contingency appropriations in respect of waste disposed.
6. Periodically informing the public at Community level.

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It is also planned to set up an Advisory Committee of high-level experts to assist the Commission. The Committee would be composed of Representatives of the Commission, together with up to three members nominated by each Member State.

Gist of the Committee's Opinion

The Economic and Social Committee adopted its Opinion by 74 votes in favour, 7 against and 2 abstentions.

The Committee backs the Commission's outline for an overall action plan on radioactive waste.

The Committee agrees that the satisfactory solution of the problem of radioactive waste has become crucial to the further development of nuclear energy in most of the Member States. It therefore fully approves the emphasis which is being placed on the management of high-activity waste. In view of the various processes already being developed or tested, the Committee believes that reliable methods for solidifying high-activity waste already exist and will be available on an industrial scale by 1990 at the latest.

Given the organizational, technical and political issues involved, the Committee welcomes the suggestion that the plan of action should be spread over a long period and run from 1978 to 1990.

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It would have liked to see the Commission compile a general list of potential techniques of waste management and solutions being considered for the permanent storage of waste. It believes that the Member States must supply the Commission with comprehensive information about all relevant work that they are carrying out in this field.

Retrievable storage of solidified high-activity waste may, in the Committee's view, only be a temporary solution. The goal must be to bury the waste in geological formations, isolated from the biosphere, where it can remain for ever. It believes that responsibility for such long-term storage sites can only lie with the public authorities.

It welcomes the fact that the Commission has looked at the question of a Community network of sites for storing radioactive waste.

It also endorses the setting-up of an advisory committee of top-level experts to assist in the execution of the Community's plan. This committee would be composed of representatives of the Commission, together with up to 3 members nominated by each Member State.

The Committee based its Opinion on material prepared by its Section for Energy and Nuclear Questions under the chairmanship of Mr MILLER - United Kingdom - Employers. The Rapporteur was Mr SCHLITT - Germany - Various Interests.

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## 2. NUCLEAR FUEL REPROCESSING

Communication entitled : "Points for a Community Strategy on the Reprocessing of Irradiated Nuclear Fuels".

### Gist of the Communication

The Commission believes that recourse to nuclear energy is indispensable if the Community is to reduce its dependence on imported energy. But the Community's own resources of nuclear fuels fall short of its requirements. It is estimated that reprocessing would mean an average annual saving of some 20% in uranium requirements and about 15% in Community enrichment workload by 1985-1990. In the long term, through fast breeder reactors, it would offer virtual independence from imported uranium.

Having examined the present difficulties in the area (perfection of technology, commercial viability, public acceptance, new US attitudes, insufficient capacity) the Commission nevertheless concludes that reprocessing is a necessary and decisive stage in Community strategy, that it is compatible with concerns for safety and protection of the population (there being no decisive safety advantages in not reprocessing) and that it must remain so in the future.

Accordingly, the Commission proposes a strategy to :

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- bring together in joint ventures the promoters of re-processing facilities with power station operators;
- offer Member States, including those with small nuclear programmes, economic reprocessing services, while keeping the number of Community plants to a minimum (5 by the year 2000);
- provide certain financial aid;
- allow for possible participation by third country interests in these joint ventures.

It is planned to set up an ad hoc committee on the reprocessing of irradiated fuels to implement this strategy. It would be composed of up to three members (public utilities, interested industrialists) nominated by each Member State under the chairmanship of the Commission.

#### Opinion of the Committee

The Economic and Social Committee adopted its Opinion by 66 votes in favour and 7 against.

The Committee endorses the Commission's plans, subject to a number of comments.

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As the Community has to import some 80% of its uranium supplies, it is essential to maximise the efficiency with which this uranium is used. Reprocessing enables the recovery and the re-use of uranium and plutonium contained in irradiated fuel. In this way more power can be generated from a given amount of uranium ore. Since the Community has limited indigenous resources of both fossil fuels and uranium, the Committee believes that the Community should reprocess nuclear fuels and should not follow the negative policy adopted by the United States.

In the Committee's view, it is essential to gain adequate experience in the reprocessing of high burn-up oxide fuels in the immediate future. It therefore believes that the Community should start constructing full-scale plants in order to allow sufficient time for the Community to establish an oxide reprocessing capability which would meet its future needs.

The Committee believes that reprocessing also offers an important contribution to waste management. Reprocessing separates the irradiated fuel into three streams : uranium, plutonium and fission products. Both the uranium and plutonium can be burned as nuclear fuel, while the bulk of the fission products are isolated in a single low-volume stream which facilitates their subsequent management.

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The Committee believes that the safety of workers and the general public is of a paramount importance. Specifically, the Committee emphasizes that :

- the replacement and refurbishing of outdated plant should not be unduly delayed;
- plants should be designed to reduce maintenance requirements so that the exposure to radiation of maintenance personnel is reduced to the absolute minimum;
- there should be a strong managerial infrastructure to ensure the maintenance of high safety standards and training of personnel.

Finally, the Committee welcomes the setting up of an ad hoc Committee to assist in elaborating a Community strategy on reprocessing. In view of the large number of economic, structural and political issues involved, the Committee believes it is vital that all interested economic and social parties, drawn from within the Member States, should be adequately represented.

The Committee based its Opinion on material prepared by its Section for Energy and Nuclear Questions under the chairmanship of Mr MILLER - United Kingdom - Employers. The Rapporteur was Sir John PEEL - United Kingdom - Various Interests.

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### 3. FAST BREEDER REACTORS

Communication from the Commission entitled "the Fast Breeder Option in the Community Context - Justification, Achievements, Problems and Action Perspectives".

#### Gist of the Communication

Given the worsening hydrocarbons supply position, especially after the year 2000, and the limited other possibilities, the Commission believes that nuclear fission must be developed. But, with thermal reactors only, this would mean heavy dependence on imported uranium. The Commission therefore believes that the Community must preserve the option of commercially using fast breeder reactors (FBR's) which can extract at least 60 times more energy from uranium than thermal reactors.

However, adequate answers will be needed to the following present-day problems :

- the compatibility of fast reactors with the need to utilize nuclear energy for exclusively peaceful purposes;
- the acceptability of the technology from the safety and environment point of view;
- the reprocessing and recycle of fast reactor fuels;

.../...

- the technical obstacles arising from different codes and standards for design, manufacture and inspection;
- the financial efforts required.

To solve them, the demonstration projects now in hand must be successfully continued, the necessary industrial infrastructure consolidated, and the technology involved accepted by society.

The Commission intends to play a supporting role derived from its present activities, specifically by :

- strengthening Community R & D action on FBR safety;
- making proposals in 1978 in the field of FBR safety codes and standards;
- helping to finance FBR demonstration projects, including their fuel cycle, using new or existing financial instruments (e.g. joint undertaking).

#### Opinion of the Committee

The Economic and Social Committee adopted its Opinion by 69 votes in favour, 10 against and 1 abstention.

The Committee approves the Commission's proposals.

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It believes that :

- the fast breeder option should be kept open;
- demonstration projects should be pursued with greater attention continuing to be paid to safety, radiological protection and environmental considerations;
- the Community should play a supporting role in the achievement of these objectives.

The Committee notes that the use of fast breeder reactors provide a way of consuming plutonium and thereby closing the fuel cycle. It also notes that the Community ranks amongst the leaders in the technical development of FBRs. It believes that the further development of FBRs should not be delayed, because such a delay could bring about a situation whereby a shortage of uranium, at a particular time, could endanger the Community's energy supplies.

At the same time, the Committee holds that it would be wrong to under-estimate the many and difficult problems which remain to be solved before the use of FBRs can be established. For these problems to be solved satisfactorily, it is essential that the transition to industrial use of FBRs must be phased in as prudently as possible.

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Specifically, the Committee draws attention to :

- the need to start Community discussions on measures to ensure that the plutonium arising from the wide-scale use of FBRs is used exclusively for peaceful purposes;
- the need to intensify Community work in the field of safety R & D and codes and standards for FBRs;
- the advisability of looking closely at the specific technical problems involved in the reprocessing of FBR fuel;
- the Commission's view on a Community contribution towards the financing of FBR demonstration projects.

The Committee based its Opinion on material prepared by its Section for Energy and Nuclear Questions under the chairmanship of Mr MILLER - United Kingdom - Employers. The Rapporteur was Mr FRIEDRICHS - Germany - Workers.

#### 4. FARM PRICES

Supplementary Commission Proposals on the Fixing of Prices for Certain Agricultural Products and Certain Related Measures.

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Gist of the Commission document

The Commission has come up with a series of proposals aimed at improving the functioning of the markets in (a) milk and milk products, and (b) beef and veal. It also proposes to assist potato starch manufacturers currently facing considerable economic difficulties. The proposals follow those presented to the Council in December 1977 which provide for an average increase in guaranteed farm prices of about 2% with effect from the 1978/79 marketing year.

A. Milk and milk products

Non-marketing and conversion premiums

In a report, annexed to the proposals, on the application in 1977 of the premiums for the non-marketing of milk and for the conversion of dairy herds to meat production, the Commission states that these measures have not yet done enough to reduce milk production. To make them more effective, the Commission proposes that the premiums be increased, particularly for small producers, and that they be granted in respect of all quantities of milk not marketed, i.e. that the present upper limit of 120,000 kg per year be removed. A simplification of the procedures will also promote better use of the premiums.

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### Skimmed-milk powder

The Commission notes a continuing decline in sales of powder to intervention (from 875,000 tonnes in 1975 to 470,000 tonnes in 1977), attributable primarily to the expansion of market support measures. It stresses the part played in this development by the introduction in 1977 of aid for the use of fresh skimmed milk powder in animal feed and the increase in the aid for the use of liquid skimmed milk for that purpose. These measures, which are now getting off the ground, show that the market can be adequately supported without resorting to intervention buying. The Commission therefore proposes that buying-in be suspended from 1 October 1978 to the end of the 1978/79 marketing year (31 March 1979, unless the marketing year is extended). At the same time, it proposes that the Council raise (from 33-43 to 38-48 u.a./100 kg) the range within which the Commission has to fix the amount of aid in respect of skimmed milk powder used for animal feed.

### School milk

The Commission proposes that flavoured skimmed milk and fruit yoghurt be added to the list of milk products distributed at cut prices to pupils at educational establishments and that the Community contribution to the subsidies be increased.

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## B. Beef and Veal

### Variable Slaughter Premiums

Since the Commission's communications of October 1977 on improvements to the common organization of the market in the beef and veal sector is still under study, the Commission confines itself at present to proposing that Member States be granted further authorization during the 1978/79 marketing year to grant a premium for the slaughter of certain types of beef animals (at present only the United Kingdom applies the system).

### Intervention

The Commission proposes to change present arrangements under which intervention buying-in can be suspended when the market price in a Member State is 95% or more of the guide price. To make it possible for more considered decisions to be taken, the Commission proposes that the buying-in of certain qualities of meat be totally or partially suspended when the market price in a Member State or in a region of a Member State for that particular quality remains, for a period to be determined, at or above the maximum buying-in price applicable to this quality. This buying-in price is based on a figure of 90% of the guide price.

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C. Starch

The Community's potato starch industry is at present going through a difficult period and a number of factories have had to be closed. To help the industry the Commission now proposes to grant a premium of 10 u.a. per tonne of starch produced. The Commission also proposes that there should be a 2% increase in the minimum price to be paid by starch manufacturers to potato growers. This will raise the price paid from 175 to 178.50 u.a./tonne.

Opinion of the Committee

The Economic and Social Committee adopted its Opinion by 37 votes to 25, with 12 abstentions.

The Committee first of all criticizes the Commission for not submitting its farm price proposals in good time and in a coherent manner. The Commission's failure to do this will, in the Committee's view, cause particular inconvenience to producers, who will be unable to adjust their plans in the light of the Commission's proposals.

The Committee then makes the following comments :

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a) Premiums for Non-marketing of Milk and Conversion of Dairy Herds

The Committee is pleased that the Commission has acted on its recommendations to continue and improve the milk non-marketing and dairy herd conversion premiums scheme. However, it considers that to be sure of a better response, the scheme would need to be extended for a longer period.

But the Committee feels that with its new proposals for milk and beef and veal, the Commission is aiming to change the way the markets are organized. Such measures need discussing and examining in detail and therefore cannot be applied for the 1978/79 marketing year.

b) Milk

The Committee fears that suspension of intervention buying-in of skimmed milk powder will adversely affect farmers' incomes, and trigger waves of intervention activity before and after the suspension period which would otherwise not occur.

c) Beef and Veal

The Committee asks the Commission to make sure that the changes in the intervention arrangements do not have an adverse effect on producer prices.

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The Committee also fears that the Management Committee will not be able to carry out all the tasks that the Commission seems to want to give it.

d) Starch

The Committee supports the Commission's moves to improve the position of starch potatoes.

But it would ask the Commission to review its proposals in the light of the comments made in the ESC Opinion of 1 March 1978 on the Report on Starch Products in the Community and the Starch Production Refund, since it attaches particular importance to the need to maintain a balance between potato starch and cereal starch.

The Committee based its Opinion on material supplied by its Section for Agriculture under the Chairmanship of Mr EMO -Italy - Various Interests). The Rapporteur was Mr SCHNIEDERS - Germany - Employers).

5. BUTTER

Proposal for a Council Regulation (EEC) Laying down a Transitional Measure for the Community Financing of a Consumer Subsidy for Butter referred to in Regulation (EEC) No. 880/77.

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Gist of the Commission Proposal

The proposal is a stopgap to bridge the period from 1 April 1978 to the beginning of the new milk marketing year, should the Council not agree on the new farm price package by 1 April.

It sets the percentage of the Community's contribution to the UK's butter subsidies.

Opinion of the Committee

The Economic and Social Committee adopted its Opinion with no votes against and 2 abstentions. The Committee endorsed the draft Regulation.

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

6. OIL STOCKS

Proposal for a Council Directive amending Council Directive 68/414/EEC of 20 December 1968, imposing an obligation on the Member States of the EEC to maintain minimum stocks of crude oil and/or petroleum products.

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Gist of the Communication

Under Council Directive 68/414/EEC, modified by Council Directive 72/425/EEC, Member States are obliged to maintain minimum stocks of oil and/or petroleum products equivalent to 90 days' consumption. The part of this consumption which is met from indigenous production may be deducted up to a maximum of 15% of the total obligation.

The Council now proposes to increase the latter exemption up to a maximum of 40%.

It is also proposed to extend the exemption, which currently only applies to oil-producing Member States, to all Member States, in respect of their consumption of Community oil.

At the same time, the oil-producing Member States would undertake to maintain supplies to their partners in the event of oil supply difficulties.

Opinion of the Committee

The Economic and Social Committee adopted its Opinion by 43 votes in favour, 3 votes against and 16 abstentions.

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At present Member States are obliged to hold minimum security stocks of oil corresponding to 90 days' consumption. But they are allowed an exemption of up to 15% for oil produced and consumed domestically. The Committee approves the Commission's proposal to increase the exemption from 15% subject to a formal undertaking by the Member States concerned that they will maintain trade if difficulties occur. But in the absence of clear criteria, it cannot take a stand on the 40% figure suggested by the Commission.

The Committee recognizes that indigenous oil contributes, in itself, to the Community's security of supply. Some relaxation of stockholding obligations can be justified, especially since such action would probably lead to financial savings. But any such relaxation must be matched by a formal commitment by the Member States, underwritten where appropriate by international commitments, to ensure that normal supply flows between Member States are maintained in the event of supply difficulties.

The Committee also recognizes that the present exemption is only granted to oil-producing Member States. It believes it would be in the Community's interest to encourage all Member States to consume Community oil. The Committee therefore approves the proposal that the

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exemption should in future be extended to all Member States in respect of their consumption of petroleum products obtained from crude oil produced within the Community.

The Committee based its Opinion on material prepared by its Section for Energy and Nuclear Questions, under the chairmanship of Mr MILLER - United Kingdom - Employers. The Rapporteur was Mr BORNARD - France - Workers.

#### 7. COMMUNITY LOANS

Proposal for a Council Decision empowering the Commission to issue loans for the purpose of promoting investment within the Community.

#### Background to, and gist, of the Commission's Proposal

In response to a call made by the European Council at its meeting on 25 and 26 March 1977, the Commission - concerned at the sluggishness of investment in the Community in recent years and at the serious repercussions that this tendency would have on growth and employment if not checked - proposed in a Communication to the European Council meeting on 29 and 30 June (Doc. COM(77) 300 final dated 15 June 1977) that a new borrowing instrument be set up to raise funds for financing structural investment projects in line with the

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Community's priority objectives, notably for energy, industrial conversion and infrastructure, with due account being taken of the regional impact. The Heads of Government at their Summit meeting on 6 December 1977, approved the principle of the setting up of this instrument (popularly referred to as the Ortolini facilities). At their meeting on 20 February 1978, the Council gave overall approval to the present Commission Proposal (dated 30 January 1978), subject to the clearing up of a few technical points. The Council should pronounce on it once it has the Opinion of the European Parliament and of the Economic and Social Committee.

The Commission's aim is to equip the Community with a further instrument to support certain categories of investment recognized as having priority and to act as a catalyst. Having already taken measures to strengthen and improve the coordination of existing intervention mechanisms, the Commission feels that greater recourse must now be had to borrowing, but this cannot be achieved to the necessary extent by developing together the existing financial instruments (ECSC, EURATOM, EIB) in view of the restrictions imposed on them by their capital or limited field of action.

#### Opinion of the Committee

The Economic and Social Committee adopted its Opinion by 40 votes in favour and 9 abstentions.

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The Committee is enthusiastic about such a proposal. It sees the proposed new financing instrument as a practical demonstration of the Community's intent to make a move towards EMU.

In supporting the Commission's proposal for such an instrument, the Committee expects that investment projects will be facilitated which reflect the Community's priority structural objectives, and which would not, without such a facility, get off the ground.

It regrets that the proposal fails to set down concisely the criteria to be used in determining which projects will be considered eligible for loans. It further suggests that it be consulted regularly on such important matters as the aims and criteria for eligibility. The Committee takes issue with the Commission's proposal, however, regarding the relative roles of the Commission and the European Investment Bank. It considers that the mandate given to the EIB by the Commission to make loans, as summarized in Article 5 of the proposal and expanded upon in the draft Cooperation Agreement, threatens to divert the proposed new financing instrument from its purpose.

It believes that the Cooperation Agreement between the Commission and the EIB should be structured in such a manner that, when the EIB rejects an eligible

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project, the Commission should be in a position to make the final decision as to whether a project receives a loan or not.

The Committee, by a large majority, therefore proposes that Article 5 of the draft Decision be duly amended so as to embrace the important alteration to the institutional aspect of the Commission's proposal.

The Committee based its Opinion on material prepared by its Section for Economic and Financial Questions, under the chairmanship of Mr MARGOT - Belgium - Various Interests. The Rapporteur was Mr ROUZIER - France - Workers.

#### 8. MILK MARKETING BOARD

Proposal for a Council Regulation (EEC) Amending Regulation (EEC) No. 804/68 on the Common Organization of the Market in Milk and Milk Products, and the

Proposal for a Council Regulation (EEC) relating to the Northern Ireland Milk Marketing Board.

#### Gist of the Commission proposals

Proposal for a Council Regulation (EEC) Amending Regulation (EEC) No. 804/68 on the Common Organization of the Market in Milk and Milk Products

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The proposal would insert a provision in the basic milk Regulation allowing recognized milk producers' organizations the following powers :

- the exclusive right, subject to certain conditions, to buy milk produced in their area;
- the right to equalize prices for milk for different uses.

Milk Producers' organizations would have to satisfy certain conditions of eligibility :

- The major part of the milk produced in the area must be used for direct human consumption;
- At least 80% of the producers in the area must have voluntarily joined the organization.

#### Regulation on the Northern Irish Milk Marketing Board

This provides for the Northern Irish Milk Marketing Board to qualify as a producers' organization with the said powers without satisfying the first condition, i.e. that the major part of the milk produced in the area be used for direct human consumption. The Northern Irish Milk Marketing Board is exempt from this requirement in view of the exceptional political and economic situation in the Province.

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Opinion of the Committee

The Economic and Social Committee adopted its Opinion by 63 votes in favour, 4 against with 18 abstentions.

The Committee deplores the Commission's failure to submit its proposals until just before the expiry of the transition period. It was apparent as long ago as the accession negotiations that an examination of the powers of the Milk Marketing Boards was necessary to see how far they were in line with Community law.

After pointing out that the consumption of milk and milk products is as high in other Member States as it is in the United Kingdom, the Committee goes on to recognize, nevertheless, the role of the Milk Marketing Boards in keeping consumption of liquid milk in the United Kingdom at a high level. It therefore feels it would be wrong to upset a successful milk distribution system like the Boards.

It wonders whether the Commission should not abandon the idea of an instrument applicable Community-wide and instead propose one which would merely bring the Milk Marketing Boards into line with the requirements of Community law and remove any impediments they may represent to intra-Community trade.

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The Committee's Opinion concludes by regretting the incompleteness of the proposals and with a reminder that the Commission, in the overall interest of the Community, ought to see it as one of its main functions to present proposals which strike a balance between the various interests at stake - a balance which the Committee finds lacking in the present proposals.

The Committee's Opinion was drafted by its Section for Agriculture under the chairmanship of Mr EMO - Italy - Various Interests. The Rapporteur was Mr WICK - Germany - Employers.

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II

NEW REQUESTS FOR OPINIONS

In April the Council requested the Committee to deliver Opinions on :

Proposal for a Council Regulation on the Common Organization of the Market in Sheepmeat.

Proposals for Community Aids to Promote the Employment of Young People.

Proposal for a Council Directive concerning the Approximation of the Legislation of the Member States in order to Combat Illegal Migration and Illegal Employment.

Proposal for a Council Directive on the Approximation of the Laws of the Member States concerning the Protection of Employees in the Event of the Insolvency of their Employer.

Proposal for a Council Directive on the Reduction of the Noise Level of Compressor Units.

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III

PROVISIONAL PROGRAMME OF FUTURE WORK

May 1978 Plenary Session

Opinions requested by an Institution

- Veterinary Programme
- Code of conduct for liner conferences
- Railway accounts (amendment)
- Machine tools
- Hot-water meters
- Electrical equipment
- Atmospheric pollutants
- Micropollutants
- Shipbuilding
- Marine pollution (Amoco Cadiz)
- State-trading Countries in Liner Shipping
- Social security for self-employed workers
- Illegal employment
- Packaging of Dangerous Preparations (Solvents)
- VAT on works of art (7th Directive)
- VAT refund (8th Directive)

Own Initiative Work

- Part-time work

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June 1978 Plenary Session

Opinions requested by an Institution

- Dry Zones in the Mediterranean Region
- Economic Situation in the Community
- Development of the Social Situation
- Employment of Young People
- Health and Safety at Work
- Protection of groundwater against pollution
- Cost of Anti-Pollution Measures
- Noise Level of Compressors
- Customs Procedure for Stores
- Prepackaged Liquids.

Own-Initiative Work

- International Monetary Disorder

Studies

- Relations between the Community and Greece

July 1978 Plenary Session

Opinions requested by an Institution

- Mediterranean Agriculture
- Wine Market
- Measures in the Field of Culture
- Product Liability
- Intra-Community Trade in Coal
- Mutual Assistance in the field of direct taxation

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Own-Initiative Work

- Frontier Workers
- Lomé Convention
- Forestry

Studies

- Spain
- Tax Harmonization

Information Report

- Londonderry/Donegal : Regional Development

Subsequent Plenary Sessions

Opinions requested by an Institution

- Surveillance of Maritime Waters
- Lamb and Mutton
- Protection of Workers in the Event of Bankruptcy Proceedings
- Misleading Advertizing
- Company Accounts
- Annual Report on the Economic Situation
- Code of Conduct for Liner Conferences  
(supplementary Opinion)

Own-Initiative Work

- Flags of Convenience
- Consumption of Medicines

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Studies

- R & D Management
- Influence of Regional Authorities
- Judicial Protection of Consumers
- Dangers due to the use of asbestos.

IV

NEWS OF MEMBERS

Death

Mr Rosario PURPURA died on Monday, 24 April 1978. He had been a member of the Economic and Social Committee since 1958.

Appointment

Mr Matteo CASADIO was appointed a member of the Economic and Social Committee by the Council of Ministers on 5 April 1978.

Mr CASADIO, who succeeds Mr Ugo LUCIANI, is on the Executive Committee of the Italian trade union federation, the UIL and joins the Committee's Group II.

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# Evening Herald 8.4.78

REVUE DE PRESSE

## Herring ban -compensate fishermen

CELTIC SEA fishermen who have suffered reduced catches because of a ban on herring fishing there should be compensated by the E.E.C. authorities, the influential E.E.C. Economic and Social Committee agreed yesterday.

And the committee agreed also that there should be "a considerable increase" in the contribution made by the E.E.C. authorities towards the cost of protecting Irish waters against pirate fishermen.

Even though the Common Market Commission already has increased its proposed aid for patrolling Ireland's 200 mile zone, the Economic and Social Committee believes that even more money should be made available.

Apart from that, the Committee supported the E.E.C. Commission's proposals for a fisheries conservation policy and called for "stricter restrictions on industrial fishing."

## Politiken

9.4.78

### Udvalg opvurderer

EF-topmødet opfordrede i går de enkelte medlemslande til at opvurdere betydningen af EFs Økonomiske og Sociale Udvalg. Det skal ske i forbindelse med udvælgelsen af nye medlemmer i september.

Det Økonomiske og Sociale udvalg har en rådgivende funktion i EF ligesom i eks Europaparlamentet. Dets medlemmer kommer fra forskellige interesseorganisationer, f.eks. fagbevægelse, arbejdsgiverforeninger, industriråd, landbrugsorganisationer, f.eks. fiskere og landmænd.

## Giornale di Agricoltura 2.4.78

Le Peuple 10.4.78

### Il Comitato economico e sociale per un aumento dei prezzi agricoli

La proposta della Commissione esecutiva relativa alla fissazione dei prezzi per taluni prodotti agricoli e ad alcune misure connesse è stata esaminata dal Comitato economico e sociale che, nel corso della sua ultima sessione plenaria, si è pronunciato per un aumento medio del 4,2 per cento dei prezzi agricoli criticando l'aumento medio del 2 per cento proposto dall'Esecutivo di Bruxelles. In realtà, secondo il Comitato economico e sociale, tale aumento sarebbe dovuto essere del 4,7 per cento in base al metodo di calcolo adottato negli anni passati.

## Lucien Radoux, président du « Mouvement Socialiste Européen » : « LES HABITANTS DES NEUF ETATS SERONT DES CITOYENS D'EUROPE »

Lucien Radoux, président du « Mouvement Socialiste Européen » l'Europe qui vont pouvoir juger l'action de leurs élus Par cette election, des membres du Parlement Européen auront plus de pouvoirs pour épauler les actions syndicales afin notamment de donner des pouvoirs réels au Comité Permanent de l'Emploi et au Conseil Economique et Social de la Communauté.

« C'est l'événement le plus important de la construction européenne depuis la signature des Traités de Rome en 1957.

C'est le premier pas vers la démocratisation des structures internes de la Communauté laquelle est caractérisée aujourd'hui par le déséquilibre des pouvoirs entre ses institutions.

Le vote au suffrage universel, c'est faire de tous les habitants des neuf Etats des citoyens de

l'Europe qui vont pouvoir juger l'action de leurs élus Par cette election, des membres du Parlement Européen auront plus de pouvoirs pour épauler les actions syndicales afin notamment de donner des pouvoirs réels au Comité Permanent de l'Emploi et au Conseil Economique et Social de la Communauté.

Démocratiser la Communauté Européenne, c'est accroître sa puissance et son indépendance comme entité européenne dans les grandes négociations avec les USA et le Japon. »

**EUROPE**



Session plénière du Comité économique et social

**LARGE APPUI AUX TROIS PROPOSITIONS DE LA COMMISSION DANS LE DOMAINE  
DE LA STRATEGIE NUCLEAIRE COMMUNAUTAIRE**

BRUXELLES (EU), vendredi 28 avril 1978 - C'est avec une très large majorité que le Comité économique et social s'est prononcé, sous réserve de certaines observations, en faveur des idées sur la stratégie nucléaire de la Communauté telle qu'elle ressort des trois communications de la Commission au Conseil sur les réacteurs rapides, le retraitement des combustibles nucléaires irradiés, et la gestion des déchets radioactifs.

Dans son avis sur "l'option surrégénérateur rapide dans le contexte communautaire, justifications, réalisations, problèmes, perspectives d'action", adopté avec 69 voix contre 10, et une abstention, le CES fait observer notamment que, indépendamment de leur contribution importante à l'approvisionnement en énergie, les réacteurs rapides pourraient jouer un rôle fondamental en réduisant les risques de prolifération nucléaire. Certes, on aurait tort de sous-estimer les multiples et difficiles problèmes qui restent encore à résoudre avant d'arriver au stade de l'utilisation de ces réacteurs, et les programmes de démonstration devront être poursuivis en mettant l'accent sur la sécurité, la radio-protection et la protection de l'environnement. La Communauté devra jouer un rôle de soutien dans la réalisation de ces objectifs, et il sera notamment nécessaire de discuter sur le plan communautaire, des mesures propres à assurer que le plutonium provenant de l'utilisation, sur une large échelle, des surrégénérateurs, sera utilisé exclusivement à des fins pacifiques. L'action de la Communauté dans le domaine de la recherche et du développement en matière de sécurité et dans le domaine des codes et normes devra être renforcée. Dans leur ensemble, les propositions de la Commission relatives à une contribution de la Communauté au financement des projets de démonstration des surrégénérateurs rapides trouvent le soutien du Comité.

L'avis sur les "éléments d'une stratégie communautaire en matière de retraitement des combustibles nucléaires irradiés" (66 voix pour, 7 contre, aucune abstention) épouse également très étroitement les idées de la Commission: étant donné que les ressources propres de la Communauté en combustibles fossiles et en uranium sont limitées, la Communauté devra procéder au retraitement des combustibles nucléaires et ne pas suivre la politique négative adoptée par les Etats-Unis dans ce domaine. Il est donc essentiel d'acquiescer immédiatement une expérience adéquate du retraitement des combustibles oxydés ayant un taux de combustion élevé, et la Commission devrait commencer maintenant à construire des usines de grande capacité. Dans ce domaine, la sécurité des travailleurs et des populations revêt une importance primordiale, et c'est pourquoi:

- le remplacement ou la remise à neuf des installations périmées ne doit pas être retardée;
- les usines devraient être conçues de façon à réduire les besoins d'entretien afin que l'exposition du personnel d'entretien aux radiations soit ramené au minimum absolu;
- une forte infrastructure d'encadrement devrait être prévue afin d'assurer le maintien de normes de sécurité élevées et la formation du personnel.

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

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**Periodical**

- Bulletin (monthly publication)

**General Documentation**

- The Economic and Social Committee (leaflet) (January 1975)
- The Economic and Social Committee (April 1975)  
(A descriptive brochure) 16 p.
- Annual Report (1977) 70 p. (1976) 80 p.
- Directory (January 1978)  
(List of members) 42 p.
- The Right of initiative of the Economic and Social Committee  
(October 1977) 124 p.
- 20th Anniversary of the Economic and Social Committee  
(May 1978) 19 p.

**Opinions and Studies**

- Small and Medium-sized Enterprises in the Community Context  
(Opinion) 29 p.
- Industrial Change and Employment (November 1977)  
(Opinion) 98 p.
- EEC's Transport Problems with East European Countries  
(December 1977) (Opinion) 164 p.
- Community Nuclear Safety Code (July 1977)  
(Study) 50 p.
- Regional Development - Unemployment and Inflation (June 1977)  
(Opinion) 130 p.
- Research and Development (November 1976)  
(Study) 35 p.
- Systems of education and vocational training  
(August 1976) (Study) 114 p.

- Regional Policy (March 1976)  
(Opinion) 11 p.
- European Union (July 1975)  
(Opinion) 33 p.
- Progress Report on the Common Agricultural Policy  
(February 1975) (Study) 52 p.
- The Situation of Small and Medium-sized Undertakings in the  
European Community (March 1975) (Study) 69 p.