

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMITTEE  
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## INTRODUCTION

In a speech delivered at the 136th Plenary Session, the Chairman of the Economic and Social Committee, Mr Henri CANONGE, said that the economic situation had improved slightly owing largely to a slowing down of inflation and an upturn in certain industrial sectors. Nevertheless, the employment situation still gave cause for anxiety and the economic crisis industrialized countries were going through called for a more radical approach. It was very worrying to find that Member States were continuing to seek individual and sometimes contradictory remedies to this crisis. Similar sentiments on the question of unemployment had been expressed by Mr L. MURRAY, General Secretary of the TUC, in a statement to the Committee.

Referring to the TINDEMANS Report, Mr CANONGE said that the Committee had already taken a stand on a number of points in its Opinion of 17 July 1975. He intimated that the Bureau had decided to draft a letter at its next meeting in order to express its concern about the implications for the Committee of passages in the Report referring to the involvement of economic and social interests in European Union. The Bureau felt that it would be better to wait until after the meeting of the European Council before adding to the Committee's Opinion of 17 July 1975. Finally, the Bureau intended to make a study of the position and role of the ESC. "This does not mean that our previous Opinion is being called into question", Mr CANONGE said, "but it is clearly vital that we should periodically take stock and reflect on the changes that are essential to making our work more efficient. It is particularly important that this be done at the beginning of this new stage".

136th PLENARY SESSION

The 136th Plenary Session of the Economic and Social Committee of the European Communities was held in Brussels on 28 and 29 January 1976. Mr Henri CANONGE, Committee Chairman, presided.

During this Session, the Committee held an initial exchange of views on the Commission Green Paper entitled "Employee Participation and Company Structure in the European Community", and decided to set up a sub-committee to draw up an Opinion on the matter.

Opinions adopted

1. Farm Prices

Commission proposal to the Council relating to the Fixing of Prices for Certain Agricultural Products and Certain Related Measures.

Gist of the Commission's proposal

A price rise of approximately 8.5% is proposed for the 1976/1977 marketing year. This percentage increase has been worked out using the so-called "objective method" of calculating the required rise in farmers' incomes, based mainly on data from modern farms. Some improvements have been made to the method, particularly in cost monitoring and the selection of the farms surveyed. A rolling reference period of 36 months has been adopted. Monetary parity shifts and divergent economic trends in the Member States have also been taken into consideration.

Further an increase is proposed in the EAGGF Guidance Section's contribution to the annual compensatory allowances to hill farming and farming in other handicapped areas.

Gist of the Committee's Opinion

The Economic and Social Committee adopted, by 30 votes to 23 and with 20 abstentions, its Opinion on this proposal.

The debate revealed deep divisions amongst members of the Committee. After arduous discussions the Committee finally decided, by quite a close vote that a farm price increase of 7.5 - 8% would be acceptable. This figure is much the same as the one proposed by the Commission. Nevertheless, this eventual support for the Commission proposals was accompanied by numerous calls to achieve a better-balanced price policy by introducing structural measures, and in particular by taking "where necessary" temporary measures to remedy difficult situations.

The Committee similarly came out in favour of (a) a more equitable protection of Mediterranean products and (b) income support for small-scale farmers, in order to help with structural changes.

The Committee also repeated its request that Community production targets be set in order to give farmers a point of reference when they take decisions.

With regard to the question of the general level of farm prices, the Committee did not follow the Opinion of the Section for Agriculture, which urged an average increase of 9.1%, i.e. the higher of the two figures used by the Commission.

The Committee deplored the fact that the Commission proposal has not taken account of the comments made in the Opinions on (a) the Memorandum on the Improvement of the Common Agricultural Policy and (b) the Stocktaking of the Common Agricultural Policy. In particular, the Commission has disregarded the Committee's calls for production targets, a better balance between the protective measures for different agricultural products, and a better allocation of EAGGF funds among the various regions and sectors.

The Committee would have liked the Commission's proposed measures to have given more stimulus to products in under-supply and to certain quality products.

As regards the Commission's proposal amending the Council Directive on Mountain and Hill Farming and Farming in Certain Less-Favoured Areas, the Committee is pleased to see that the Commission is making an effort to increase the Community's contribution to the compensatory allowance. This is what the Committee suggested when the original proposal was submitted.

Statement by Mr LARDINOIS

On being given the floor at the Economic and Social Committee, the Commissioner, Mr LARDINOIS, congratulated the Committee on the quality of its Opinion. He then outlined the economic background against the Commission proposals.

Production costs in farming were not going up as fast as before. The trend in farm incomes was also more satisfactory than in 1974, and early 1975. It was a fact that overall, farming had suffered less in the recession than other sectors. There was no doubt that the Common Agricultural Policy had been a factor here. The less disturbed economic climate should allow agreement on the approach adopted by the Commission.

Mr LARDINOIS then went into the "objective method" used to calculate the proposed increase. The reference period for the data used in the calculations was three years, and account had also been taken of parity movements and divergent economic trends in the individual Member States. To offset exceptional situations this year, as for example in Italy, the Commission had worked out a band of percentage increases.

In general, the Commission proposals reflected the need for higher quality products rather than an increase in production. This particularly applies to cereals, colza and wine. The Commission was going to pay greater attention to the quality aspect in future.

Mr LARDINOIS went into more detail about the dairy sector, which tended to be at the centre of current discussion because the incomes of a large number of farmers were crucially affected. The Commission was aware of that aspect, but it could not just ignore the persistent surpluses. Besides looking at the incomes of dairy farmers, it therefore had to consider the role which market forces should play in restoring equilibrium in the dairy sector. The

below average increases proposed for milk and dairy products should thus be considered as a warning. There was a danger of a substantial increase in milk production making the surpluses worse in 1976. Moreover, certain markets had contracted, especially for caseins, cheese and to some extent also for butter.

For beef and veal, the Commission was also proposing a series of improvements designed to take the weight off the intervention system. There were signs that supply and demand were beginning to balance out again, due to a recent big drop in world beef production.

The Community beef and veal sector had held up better in this situation than that of some non-member countries. This might become significant, particularly if imports from the Eastern Bloc were reduced.

Finally, Mr LARDINOIS mentioned some Mediterranean products, such as olive oil and durum wheat, for which below-average price increases were proposed. Here too, the existence of surpluses had had to be borne in mind, and account had been taken of the higher price increases in Italian currency due to the changes in the agricultural conversion rates used.

The 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 de CAFFARELLI - France - Various Interests.



## 2) Recording Equipment

Proposal for a Council Regulation amending Council Regulation (EEC) No. 1463/70 of 20 July 1970 on the Introduction of Recording Equipment in Road Transport.

### Gist of the Commission's proposal

When Regulation (EEC) No. 1463/70 of 20 July 1970 came to be applied, certain amendments proved necessary, partly to facilitate a uniform and correct interpretation of the text, and partly to take into account the practical requirements revealed by the experience gained in the construction and use of recording equipment.

On the whole, the proposed amendments do not affect the design and technical specifications laid down in Regulation (EEC) No. 1463/70 of 20 July 1970.

The few technical amendments proposed are designed to render the provisions in force more flexible; type approvals granted on the basis of the current Regulation are unaffected.

### Gist of the Opinion

The Economic and Social Committee adopted with 1 vote against and 3 abstentions its Opinion on this proposal.

The Economic and Social Committee generally endorses the Commission's proposal. The main aim of the proposal is to adapt Regulation (EEC) No. 1463/70 to technical progress.

The Commission proposes the establishment of a special Committee. The Economic and Social Committee is however, only prepared to approve the establishment of this committee if its sole function is to resolve purely technical problems.

The Committee would stress that the interested parties and the Committee itself should be consulted on questions of principle.

The 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 de VRIES REILINGH - Netherlands - Workers.

### 3. Regular Services by Bus and Coach

Proposal for a Council Regulation Amending Council Regulation (EEC) No. 517/72 of 28 February 1972 on the Introduction of Regular and Special Regular Services by Coach and Bus between Member States.

#### Gist of the Commission's document

The purpose of the proposal is to amend Council Regulation (EEC) No. 517/72 of 28 February 1972 on the Introduction of Common Rules for Regular and Special Regular Services by Coach and Bus between Member States.

Article 20 of this Regulation stipulates that, in the case of a regular or a special regular service operated in the territory of only two Member States over a route of less than 100 km lying within a zone extending to a depth on each side of the frontier not exceeding 50 km as the crow flies, the Member States may agree to waive certain requirements of the Regulation, as listed in Article 20.

The Commission proposes that a third paragraph be added to Article 20. This paragraph provides that, for the calculation of the distances referred to in Article 20(1) no account is to be taken of sea crossings, that is to say, the distances travelled on board means of sea transport.

#### Gist of the Committee's Opinion

The Economic and Social Committee adopted unanimously its Opinion on this proposal.

The Committee approves the proposal, which seeks to ensure that sea crossings are taken into account in Regulation (EEC) No.517/72.

The 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 GAILEY - United Kingdom - Employers.

#### 4. Oil Prices

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.

#### Gist of the draft Regulation

With the object of achieving a greater degree of transparency in the markets for crude oil and petroleum products, it is proposed to set up a Community system for price information on which comparisons can be made.

The information will be furnished by a large proportion of operating companies to the Member States, who will in turn pass this on, quarterly, to the Commission. The results of the Commission's comparisons will be presented to the Member States.

Information to be supplied on oil prices will cover, firstly, crude oil (whether imported or Community-produced) and oil products imported from non-member countries and secondly, the prices of each of the major oil products in consumer markets (i.e. maximum prices, where these are set by public authorities and the true net delivered prices (excluding taxes) offered by the companies to consumers).

In order to get a clear picture of the correlation between the costs of crude oil supplies and final consumer price, additional information will be required giving ex-refinery realizations (both overall average and breakdown by individual product).

#### Gist of the Opinion

The Economic and Social Committee adopted unanimously its Opinion on this Draft Regulation.

The Committee, in its Opinion, approves the objectives of greater cost and price transparency in the oil market. But it takes a more cautious approach to the methods proposed for achieving it.

It points out that the prices of crude oil and petroleum products in the Community are influenced by a wide variety of factors. Comparison is an extremely complex task. Initial efforts to tackle the problem should therefore be sufficiently comprehensive to allow valid comparisons to be made. At the same time, the administrative burden of compiling data should be minimized.

The Committee believes that it is important to specify those companies from which information is required. These must be a representative cross-section of the market.

National authorities are likely to be better acquainted with the peculiarities of their domestic market. They should thus be responsible for compiling the statistical information.

Finally, the Committee deals with the question of whether the Member States should aggregate the information obtained from individual oil companies before sending it on to the Commission. It believes that aggregated information is sufficient to achieve the objective of market transparency, provided that the Member States can back up this information, if need be, with detailed data on each company and provided that the Commission has access to this information.

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

## 5. Colouring Matters used in Foodstuffs

Proposal for a Council Directive for a 5th Amendment to the Directive on the Approximation of the Laws of the Member States concerning the Colouring Matters Authorized for use in Foodstuffs intended for Human Consumption.

### Gist of the proposed Directive

There have been significant developments in methods for the toxicological investigation of food additives in the evaluation and interpretation of biological and clinical information. The Commission has asked the advice of the Scientific Committee for Food on the questions relating to the colouring matters listed in the present Directive on the approximation of the laws of Member States concerning the colouring matters authorized for use in foodstuffs intended for human consumption, as well as those requested for inclusion in the Directive for a 5th amendment to the Directive on the approximation of the laws of the Member States concerning the colouring matters authorized for use in foodstuffs intended for human consumption.

The Scientific Committee recommended that as the data were insufficient to evaluate toxicologically certain colours these could not be considered acceptable for use in food. The Commission is thus proposing to take appropriate action to implement this advice in this Council Directive. Foodstuffs containing one or more of the colouring matters listed in paragraph 1 (Article 1) are not to be marketed after 1 January 1978.

### Gist of the Opinion

The Economic and Social Committee adopted unanimously its Opinion on this proposal.

Whilst approving the proposed Directive, the Committee asks the Commission to make sure that the findings of the Scientific Committee for Food are acted upon. In particular, action should be taken to ensure (a) that adults and children keep below the acceptable daily intakes and (b) that certain colouring matters are restricted to particular uses and the quantities used limited.

The Committee also raised two other questions : the indication on the packaging of the colouring matters used and the harmonization of the lists of colouring matters authorized for use in medicinal preparations.

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. Lead

Proposal for a Council Directive (EEC) on Biological Standards for Lead and on Screening of the Population for Lead

Proposal for a Council Directive (EEC) on Air Quality Standards for Lead.

Gist of the proposals

In the Community Programme of Action on the Environment, lead and its compounds are regarded as first category pollutants which must receive top priority consideration because of their toxic effects on man and his environment.

The Commission has now submitted two proposals on lead pollution following work on the objective evaluation of human health hazards caused by environmental lead. The first proposal is designed to lay down biological standards, namely the blood lead level below which there is no risk of lead poisoning.

This directive also lays down the sampling procedure for screening the public for lead.

The analysis results are to be forwarded to the Commission each year to enable it to publish an annual report on levels of human lead contamination in the Community.

In the second directive the Commission proposes maximum safe levels for atmospheric concentrations of lead. Atmospheric pollution levels are to be monitored by sampling in urban residential areas and account will be taken of motor vehicle traffic and other sources of pollution.

Here also, the Commission is to draw up an annual report on the level of atmospheric lead pollution, based on Member States' data.



Gist of the Opinion

The Economic and Social Committee adopted unanimously by a large majority (with 14 votes against and 6 abstentions) its Opinion on these proposals.

The Committee approves the first of the Commission's proposals, because it constitutes a practical attempt to protect public health.

But the Committee would also make a number of suggestions regarding the setting of safety standards, such as :

- a standing panel of experts from central health agencies should be appointed to look into ways of increasing the safety of environmentally hazardous methods of lead use, and possibly to promote research into the use of substitute materials;
- lead's direct effects on the public, and its genetic and tetragenic effects should be researched and monitored;
- a programme should be set up for coordinating Member States' studies and activities dealing with lead pollution at the work place compared with the limits laid down for the general public;
- research should continue into the relationship between the amount of lead in the body and physical reactions;
- steps should be taken to improve the comparability of blood-lead values obtained by different laboratories, and consideration should be given to licensing laboratories to carry out this work;
- other bio-analytical tests should be developed, at least for screening.

The Committee also approves the Commission's second proposal, but recommends that a special third zone be created, with its own standard, so that pollution from certain lead-working industries can be monitored.

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 EBOLI - Italy - Various Interests.

## 7. Lawyers

Amended Proposal for a Council Directive to Facilitate the Effective Exercise by Lawyers of Freedom to Provide Services (submitted by the Commission to the Council, under the second paragraph of Article 149).

### Gist of the Proposal for a Directive

The amended proposal takes account of the new legal situation created by the EEC Court of Justice's recent decisions relating to the right of establishment and freedom to supply services.

The proposal is made pending legislation to bring the status of lawyers throughout the EEC much more into line by means of mutual recognition of degrees and diplomas, etc. Pending this, the Commission is proposing to liberalize the exercise of that part of a lawyer's services which consists in representing or defending his client before the court. For these activities, lawyers have to respect two codes of conduct - that of their own country and that of the host country. But when giving legal advice, lawyers will only be bound by the code of conduct of their own country.

Gist of the Opinion

The Economic and Social Committee adopted unanimously its Opinion on this amended proposal.

The Committee is pleased to note that the amended proposal for affording lawyers greater freedom to provide services goes further than the Commission's original proposal. However, the Committee considers that the new proposal is merely a start and that efforts will have to be continued in this area.

The Committee approves the rule that two codes of conduct - that of the lawyer's country of origin and that of the host country - have to be respected when lawyers represent or defend clients before the courts. But it also thinks that this principle should apply to other services provided by lawyers, in order that the interests of clients and opposing parties might be properly safeguarded.

The Committee based its Opinion on material supplied by its Section for Industry, Commerce, Crafts and Services (Chairman : Mr HEMMER - Luxembourg - Employers. The Rapporteur was Mr DE BRUYN - Belgium - Various Interests).

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8. Seed potatoes and vegetable seed

Proposal for a Council Directive amending the Directives 66/403/EEC and 70/458/EEC on the Marketing of Seed Potatoes and Vegetable Seed.

Gist of the Commission's proposal

The Commission is proposing a minor amendment to Council Directive No. 66/403/EEC, which deals essentially with plant health measures.

It is proposed that the scope of the national protection measures be extended to cover Member State territory which is free, or relatively free, of certain viruses and bacteria to which potatoes are particularly susceptible.

Member States are to be authorized to extend until 1 July 1976 the validity of decisions taken up to 1 July 1975 on the equivalence of inspections carried out in non-member countries. The aim of this is to avoid disturbing established patterns of trade.

Gist of the Committee Opinion

The Economic and Social Committee adopted unanimously its Opinion on this proposal.

The Committee approves the Commission proposal though it recommends that Member States should not be obliged to ease the plant-health protection measures which they are already enforcing.

The 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 MURPHY - Ireland - Workers.

9. Agricultural products

Proposal for a Regulation concerning Common Measures to Improve the Conditions under which Agricultural Products are Marketed and Processed.

Gist of the Commission's Proposal

With a view to coordinating the structural development and rationalization of Community Markets in agricultural products, the Commission intends to encourage Member States and trade and inter-trade organizations (with the approval of the Governments concerned) and even its own departments to produce multiannual programmes relating to the marketing and processing of one or more agricultural products. The programmes are to deal in particular with :

- a) improvement of storage, preparation for the market and preserving;
- b) increasing the return obtained;
- c) improvement of marketing channels;
- d) better knowledge of the data relating to price formation on agricultural markets;
- e) developing new methods of processing such products and obtaining the best return.

Projects approved by the Commission will be eligible for capital grants covering up to 25% of the cost involved. The financial contribution of the beneficiary is not to be less than 50%.

Gist of the Committee Opinion

The Economic and Social Committee adopted by 30 votes in favour, 8 against and 3 abstentions its Opinion on this proposal.

The Committee notes with satisfaction that the Commission's proposal is in line with a specific recommendation made by the Committee itself. It therefore agrees, on the whole, with the proposal and its aims.

The Committee is in favour of the Commission's plan to give market-structure improvement a new legal foundation by bringing it under the "common measures" system set up by EEC Regulation No. 729/70. The Committee thinks that in some Member States the effectiveness of the common measures proposed by the Commission might be considerably enhanced by the formation of producers' associations.

Given the small size of the proposed appropriation, it will, in the Committee's view, have to be distributed with the utmost care, with effort concentrated on main areas, if the proposal is to have the desired guiding effect.

The 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 WICK - Germany - Employers.

## 10. Children of Migrant Workers

### Proposal for a Council Directive on the Education of the Children of Migrant Workers

#### Gist of the Proposed Directive

Some 6,250,000 migrant workers are living within the European Community and well over 2 million of their children are under the age of 18 years. The majority of these children are not at present achieving the level of education usually expected by the end of compulsory schooling.

In the directive, the Commission proposes the following measures :

- a) the first measure is in regard to the introduction of an educational reception system. "Crash courses" in the language of the host country are to be given, so that the children can more easily integrate into the new social environment. Crash courses should take place in special classes of limited numbers (reception classes are already quite common in Denmark and Germany);
- b) the second measure relates to the language and culture of the child's country of origin. A knowledge of the mother tongue is indispensable and the intellectual and psychological development of children who experience different cultural environments (within family and school) has to take place against two reference systems at the same time. Both the child's original language and culture should be part of the normal school curriculum, for the entire duration of compulsory full-time schooling. The practical ways and means of doing this are left up to the Member States;

c) the third proposal, concerning the training of teachers calls for an awareness of the specific problems of the migrant pupils. Those teachers who are to teach reception classes must learn how to apply in practice the crash-course method and must be trained in the psychology and culture of the children entrusted to their care. The directive requires Member States to use foreign teachers where necessary.

Member States are to be given three years in which to introduce the laws, regulations and administrative provisions required for compliance with this directive.

#### Gist of the Committee Opinion

The Economic and Social Committee, adopted unanimously with 2 abstentions its Opinion on this proposal

The Economic and Social Committee, in its general comments, stresses that it regards the abolition of discrimination based on nationality as absolutely essential. The children of migrants must be given an education which conforms with the rules, standards and general practice of the host countries. They should have the same access to all forms of education and training as the children of nationals, including nursery and pre-school facilities. The Committee stresses furthermore that children of migrant workers should receive equal treatment in the award of study grants and similar assistance.

Among the specific proposals for action, the Committee recommends that migrant families should receive appropriate preparation for their prospective new environment before emigrating. Urgent



steps must also be taken to prevent the development of the "ghetto" situation. The Committee is particularly concerned about the existence of "special" schools which are geared exclusively towards the education of migrant children. These make the integration of migrant children with the host community so much more difficult.

The Committee is also anxious that the pre-school facilities which exist in host countries be open equally to migrant and indigenous children. Equality of opportunity, in the opinion of the Committee, depends upon substantial investment in nursery school education.

More effort should be put into the problem of mutual recognition of diplomas and certificates and an effort should be made to encourage the parents of migrant children to participate in the counselling and educational processes of the host country.

The Committee also emphasizes the need for arrangements to be made for the exchange of experience and information on the use of educational aids and methods.

The Committee fully endorses the need to provide reception and acclimatization courses for the migrant children and wishes to underline the need to follow up such "crash" courses with systematic and well-founded instruction in the language of the host country. The hosts must themselves make every effort to become familiar with the background and family circumstances of the migrant children.

As to the bicultural programme, the Committee expresses some reservations in circumstances where it is the clear intention of the migrant family to settle permanently in the host country. The Committee points out that problems will be created for Member States in applying the special measures in localities where the total number of migrant children is very small and a wide range of nationalities is involved.

The Committee suggests that the courses which are provided for migrant children in their own language and culture should also be made available to the indigenous children.

The need for adequate training of teachers who will be responsible for courses for migrant children is emphasized by the Committee. Teachers from the migrants' own country should, where possible, be employed under the same conditions of service as indigenous teachers.

The Committee based its Opinion on material prepared by its Section for Social Questions under the chairmanship of Mr HOUBUYS - Belgium - Workers. The Rapporteur was Mr SLOMAN - United Kingdom - Various Interests.

II

OUTSIDE ACTIVITIES

Visit to the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg

The Chairman of the Economic and Social Committee of the European Communities, Mr Henri CANONGE, accompanied by the two Vice-Chairmen, Mr Louis AMEYE and Mr J.M.W. van GREUNSVEN, as well as the Secretary-General, Mr Delfo DELFINI, paid an official visit to the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg between 21 and 23 January 1976.

On 22 January Mr Henri CANONGE had talks with members of the Luxembourg Government, and in particular with Mr Gaston THORN, Prime Minister, Mr Benny BERG, Minister for Labour, and Mr Marcel MART, Minister for Economic Affairs.

Mr CANONGE was also received by H.R.H. The Grand Duke.

The talks with the Government centred round the future of the Community, and Mr CANONGE said he was satisfied with the plans to strengthen the Institutions which were in line with the Committee's views on the matter. Electing the European Parliament by universal suffrage would reinforce political democracy in the European Community. The Economic and Social Committee, which represented the dynamic economic and social forces in Europe, had always stressed that political democracy must be based on economic and social democracy. This was how it saw the role which the Treaties had assigned it. The Committee intended to develop this role in the future in order to increase - at institutional level - the participation of economic and social groups as a whole in the definition and implementation of common policies.

The discussions with the members of the Government of the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg were particularly important. They included a review of future EEC activities in which the Economic and Social Committee would be involved, for instance economic and financial questions, legal and fiscal matters such as the harmonization of company law and tax harmonization, energy, and in particular the harmonization of safety standards for nuclear power stations, the social problems of migrant workers, the protection of the rights of workers in the event of mergers and the question of worker participation.

Mr THORN reaffirmed that the Economic and Social Committee had an important role to play in maintaining a balance between the EEC Institutions, and said he would personally see to it that the Committee's recognized prerogatives in the Community's decision-making process were in no way undermined.

Mr CANONGE continued his visit with a meeting with representatives of workers' and employers' organizations, trade associations and professional organizations in the Luxembourg Economic and Social Council.

III

NEW REQUESTS FOR OPINIONS

In December 1975 and January 1976 the Council sought the Committee's Opinion on the following proposals :

1. Proposal for a Council Regulation (EEC) on a System of Reference Tariffs for the Carriage of Goods by Inland Waterway between Member States.
2. Proposal for a Council Directive on the Approximation of the Laws of the Member States Relating to the Permissible Sound Level and to the Exhaust System of Motor Cycles.
3. Proposal for a Council Directive on the Approximation of the Laws of the Member States relating to the Permissible Sound Emission Level for Tower Cranes.
4. Proposal for a Council Directive on the Approximation of the Laws of the Member States relating to the Permissible Sound Emission Level for Current Generators for Welding.
5. Proposal for a Council Directive on the Approximation of the Laws of the Member States relating to the Permissible Sound Emission Level for Current Generators for Power Supply.
6. Proposal for a Council Directive on the Approximation of the Laws of the Member States relating to the Measures to be taken against the Emission of Pollutants from Diesel Engines for use in Wheeled Agricultural or Forestry Tractors.

7. Proposal for a Council Directive on the Approximation of Laws, Regulations and Administrative Provisions Relating to the Marketing of High Nitrogen Content Ammonium Nitrate based Fertilizer.
8. Proposal for a Council Directive on the Approximation of the Laws of the Member States relating to the Field of Vision of Motor-Vehicle Drivers.
9. Proposal for a Council Directive on the Approximation of the Laws of the Member States relating to Check-Weighing and Grading Machines.
10. Communication from the Commission to the Council on the European Social Budget.
11. Proposal for a Directive concerning the Community list of Less-Favoured Farming Areas in Directive No. 75/268/EEC (French Overseas Departments).
12. Proposal for a Second Council Directive on the Coordination of Laws, Regulations and Administrative Provisions relating to Direct Insurance other than Life Assurance and laying down Provisions to Facilitate the effective exercise of Freedom to provide Services.
13. Proposal for a Council Regulation 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 Directive coordinating the Conditions for the Admission of Securities to Official Stock Exchange Quotation.
15. Proposal for a Council Directive concerning the dumping of Waste at Sea.
16. Proposal for a Council Directive relating to the Use of Fuel-Oils with the Aim of Decreasing Sulphurous Emissions.

PROVISIONAL PROGRAMME OF FUTURE WORK

137th Plenary Session - February 1976

- Less-Favoured Farming Areas
- Regional Policy (Study)
- Economic Research Institute
- Lifts
- Data-Processing Policy
- Aeronautical Policy
- Tax Exemptions
- Jam
- Situation of Women
- Titanium Dioxide
- Drinking Water

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- European Social Budget
- Fresco-Developing Countries
- Corporate Taxation
- Coordination of Employment Policies (Information Report)
- Medium-Term Economic Policy Programme
- Consumer Action Programme
- Safety, Hygiene and Health Protection
- Free Zones and Customs Warehouses
- Mayonnaise
- Measuring of Liquids other than Water
- Units of Measurement
- Inshore Fishing
- Field of Vision of Motor Vehicles
- Motorcycles
- Dumping of Waste at Sea
- Sound Emission Levels of Cranes
- Sound Emission of Current Generators for Welding
- Sound Emission of Current Generators for Power Supply

139th Plenary Session - May 1976

- CAP in the International Context
- Public Purchasing
- Articles of Precious Metals
- High Nitrogen-Content Fertilizers
- Check-Weighing and Grading Machines
- Pollution from Tractor Diesel Engines
- Direct Insurance other than Life Assurance
- Import and Export Duties
- Use of Fuel Oils - Reduction of Sulphurous Emissions

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- Surface Goods Transport
- Working Conditions in Inland Waterway Transport
- Driving Licences
- Community Research and Development Policy
- European Export Bank
- Carriage of Goods by Inland Waterway



NEWS OF MEMBERS

1. On 1 January 1976, Mr SCHNIEDERS was appointed Secretary-General of the German Farmers' Union.

2. Mrs Marie PATTERSON, Miss Anne MACKIE and Lord ALLEN have just been appointed members of the Equal Opportunities Commission set up under the Sex Discrimination Act.

3. Appointment of new member

On 18 December 1975, the Council of the European Communities appointed Mr Joannès GALLAND, Secretary of the French General Confederation of Labour (CGT), as a member of the Economic and Social Committee to replace Mr MASCARELLO, who had resigned.

4. Resignation

Lord BRIGINSHAW, former General Secretary of NATSOPA, resigned from the Economic and Social Committee on 13 January 1976. He had been a member since 15 September 1975.

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

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|---|------|
| 1. Bulletin (monthly publication)   | Free |
| 2. The Economic and Social Committee (leaflet-January 1975)   | Free |
| 3. The Economic and Social Committee (April 1975)<br>(A descriptive brochure) 16 p.                             | Free |
| 4. European Union (July 1975)<br>(Opinion) 33 p.  | Free |
| 5. Progress Report on the Common Agricultural Policy<br>(February 1975) (Study) 52 p.                           | Free |
| 6. The Situation of Small and Medium-sized Undertakings in<br>the European Community (March 1975) (Study) 69 p. | Free |
| 7. Annual Report 1975<br>62 p.  | Free |
| 8. Annual Report 1974<br>60 p.  | Free |
| 9. Annual Report 1973<br>64 p.  | Free |
| 10. Directory (November 1975)<br>32 p. (list of members)  | Free |