

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMITTEE  
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139th PLENARY SESSION

The 139th Plenary Session of the Economic and Social Committee of the European Communities was held in Brussels on 25 and 26 May 1976. The Committee Chairman, Mr Henri CANONGE, presided.

The session was attended by Mr Marcel MART, President-in-Office of the Council and Minister for Economic Affairs, Transport and Tourism of the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg, who addressed the members present.

A. Speech by the President-in-office of the Council, Mr Marcel MART to the Economic and Social Committee on 26 May

After emphasizing the usefulness of a continuing dialogue between the Committee and the Council, Mr MART went on to the two main themes in his speech, namely the TINDEMANS Report and the possible accession of Greece.

The TINDEMANS Report was one of the major events of the year so far in European affairs. But by failing to make plans for a prompt, initial examination of the Report, the Heads of Government had perhaps attributed to it a character different from that which it should have had at this initial stage, i.e. that of a working paper or discussion document.

"The European Council should, going by its membership, be the driving force and guiding spirit. But unfortunately it has come to be one of the many bodies debating the Report, instead of being

the main body steering and directing progress towards European Union" Mr MART said.

At the moment, the Foreign Ministers were trying to pick up the threads, instead of being able to follow up an impetus given by the Heads of Government.

The Heads of Government could and should have translated Mr TINDEMANS' suggestions into concrete policies or thought of other practical steps. Their failure to act had enlarged the vacuum before which the European venture was hesitating and beginning to retreat.

As regards the current economic and (above all) social problems, it should be realized that political progress was impossible if the Community failed to overcome its economic and social imbalances. And the latter, in turn, was impossible unless there was a genuine realization of the situation, unless the member governments, the Community institutions and the two sides of industry joined forces to work out joint solutions.

Two points must be made :

- 1) The current difficulties were not national in character. They were challenges to the kind of society we cherished because of our freedom, challenges to greater social justice, to economic stability, and to a better balance between the various aspects of our life as a democratic society.
2. These problems could not be resolved unless everybody made his contribution.

Such was the background to the tripartite conference which would be held shortly.

At the first tripartite meeting there had been a frank and open discussion. The participants had sought to work out a common language and a common approach to certain problems.

The Luxembourg conference would concentrate on improvement of the employment situation, with all that this involved - analysis of the problem, search for common solutions, etc.

The Economic and Social Committee would participate.

Mr MART referred briefly to the possible accession of Greece, concentrating on the procedural difficulties.

To begin with, the scope of the negotiations would have to be demarcated. The problems were also of an economic, financial and institutional nature. The main danger to avoid was a weakening of the existing Community edifice.



From left to right : Mr CANONGE, Committee Chairman,  
Mr MART, Council President-in-office.



B. Adoption of Opinions

1. Public Purchasing

The Economic and Social Committee adopted unanimously with 2 abstentions its Opinion on the

Possibilities of Developing Advanced Technology Sectors in the Community through a Policy of Liberalizing Public Purchasing.

This Opinion was drawn up on the basis of the right of initiative.

The Committee expresses its conviction that the setting-up in Europe of a common market for public purchases in the advanced technology sector would have a strategic impact on the industrial life of the Community by giving European firms home-market opportunities comparable to those available to American companies and enable them to afford more research and development, market their goods more aggressively and reduce their production costs.

In its Opinion, the Committee points out that European producers of advanced technology goods are ready for a liberalizing of public purchasing and for competition in a European market. But there must be measures to ensure fairness, real reciprocity and compliance with certain rules. These measures must be framed on a sector-by-sector basis and take full account of the problems peculiar to each sector. Moreover, running-in periods will be necessary, and these can only be fixed through close collaboration between purchasers and suppliers in each sector.

After looking at the problems of such basic sectors as data processing, telecommunications, the railways, the aircraft industry, nuclear energy and the arms industry, the Committee arrives at the following conclusions in particular :

Transparency in public purchasing of advanced technology products should be encouraged. In this respect, the "reporting and complaint procedure", "threshold" and other points will be of importance, as will the "list system" of possible suppliers in all sectors where it is acceptable.

It is only with a favourable climate of opinion that the Directives can be successful in practice. Discussions should therefore involve all relevant social and economic interests in ways which are acceptable to them.

Given the importance of public contracts to small- and medium-sized businesses, and the great difficulties which the latter have in tendering for such contracts, the Commission should work for the introduction of arrangements ensuring that small- and medium-sized businesses get an appropriate share of advanced-technology public contracts. In this connection, account should be taken of existing relevant arrangements in the individual Member States. In addition to the direct award of public contracts to small- and medium-sized businesses, consideration should also be given to the possibility of stipulating in some cases that certain work is to be sub-contracted to such businesses.

The Committee drew up its Opinion on the basis of material supplied by its Section for Industry, Commerce, Crafts and Services under the chairmanship of Mr HEMMER - Luxembourg - Employers. The Rapporteur was Mr de FERRANTI - United Kingdom - Employers.

## 2. Economic Situation

The Economic and Social Committee adopted by 77 votes in favour, 4 against and 10 abstentions its Opinion on

The Current Economic Situation of the Community and the Short-Term Policies to be pursued.

The timing of this Committee Opinion is important; it is the first time that the Committee has expressed its views on what the short-term socio-economic policies should be before the Council determines the economic policy guidelines Member States should take into account when planning their next year's budgets, and before the Governments' budget proposals are approved by the respective Parliaments.

The Committee focuses attention on the very real threat to the balanced economic development of the Community presented by the growing disparity between the economic situations of the various Member States and regions, and it addresses itself to the very serious, and largely structural unemployment in the Community.

The three fundamental criteria the Committee lays down, on which Member States' short-term economic policies must be based, are :

- anti-cyclical measures must not increase the disparities between the national situations;
- all policies must be influenced by the need to protect existing employment and to create new jobs;
- inflation rates must be brought down to lower levels.

Policies which the Committee urges the Member States to pursue in the short term include : an all-out drive to revive the propensity to invest - the importance of enabling firms to be profitable must not be underrated; job-creating investments must cover both the private and public sectors; the growth of the money supply must in every case be controlled; coordination of action to stem currency speculation can avert the danger of a collapse of the Community exchange system.

"The Community can play a major part in creating conditions favourable to investment, price stability, and job creation. A commitment by Member States to achieve higher economic and employment growth rates in the next 12 months than those expected at present would have the effect of restoring confidence to those taking decisions about investments", the Opinion states.

Regarding the means to safeguard employment in the Community, the Committee urges specific policies for the specific aspects of the problem, viz. the unemployable, unemployment amongst young people, recruitment of workers from non-Member States, undeclared work, etc. It concludes by saying that overtime and the holding of more than one job should be discouraged, and thought be given to shortening the normal working week, or even encouraging part-time working.

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

### 3. Social Situation

Development of the Social Situation in the Community in 1975.

#### Gist of the Commission document

As in previous years, the Committee has been instructed to deliver an Opinion on the Development of the Social Situation in the Community in 1975. The Committee relies for much of its information on the Commission's Report on the Development of the Social Situation in the Community in 1975 which is annexed to the "Ninth General Report on the Activities of the European Communities" in accordance with Article 122 of the EEC Treaty. It gives a detailed analysis of the various aspects of the social situation in 1975 and outlines the Community's activities in the social sphere.

#### Gist of the Section's Opinion

The Economic and Social Committee adopted, by a large majority with one vote against and 8 abstentions, its Opinion on this proposal.

The Committee notes in particular that the employment situation has deteriorated further, particularly affecting women, young people, between the age of 15 and 25, the elderly workers, and the migrants. The difficulties many unemployed people are experiencing, do not stem solely from the unfavourable economic situation. The Opinion of the Committee also draws attention to the mismatch between (a) the general education and vocational training given to young people and (b) the job qualifications required.

In particular, the Committee emphasizes the difficulties caused by regional disparities, particularly in underprivileged

rural areas. Proposals made by the Commission in 1971 for creating alternative jobs in underprivileged agricultural areas as a matter of priority have had no effect.

The Committee suggests large-scale action, such as :

- measures to substantially increase the supply of jobs;
- training and retraining programmes, particularly when firms switch to new activities;
- action to develop vocational guidance, training and information services and promote vocational advancement;
- vigorous national policies to provide multi-skill training.

Furthermore, the Committee points out that it can only approve the policy pursued by all Member States of providing far greater relative increases at the lower end of the income scale in order to enable people with low incomes to catch up. At the same time, skilled and highly skilled workers must not be penalized.

In the area of consumer prices, the Committee feels that it is deplorable that the more vulnerable members of society were again harder hit than others. In addition, some Member States have not succeeded in checking the growing disparities caused by the differences in levels of social protection.

The Opinion of the Committee covers also the area of financing social protection, unemployment insurance, social services and social security. In particular, the Committee stresses the need to fulfil past expressed goals within the Social Action Programme and that these be carried out in accordance with the schedule laid down.

Steps should be undertaken to ensure better coordination of the various instruments available to the Community, such as European Social and Regional Fund and European Investment Bank. Greater efforts should be made to deduce demographic trends at regular intervals and to rapidly align statistics, with a view to establishing valid social indicators and to drawing up annual social accounts and budgets covering all sectors and regions.

The Committee notes the disquiet of the public authorities and the two sides of industry, who, in all the countries of the Community, are getting together at all levels to acquire a better understanding of the unemployment phenomenon. It considers, however, that the time for reflection is past, however constructive this may be, and that resolute action and decisions must be taken, especially since the Community should take the opportunity offered to it of recommending basic principles of common economic and social policy in the consultations taking place at world level on the question of employment.

The 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 NODDINGS - France - Various Interests.

#### 4. Energy Guidelines

New Strategy - Communication from the Commission to the Council on

The Implementation of the Energy Policy Guidelines drawn up by the European Council at its meeting in Rome on 1 and 2 December 1975.

Gist of the Communication

In line with the views expressed on energy policy at the European Council's Rome meeting, the Commission intends to concentrate on three areas :

- solidarity in the event of oil supply difficulties;
- the encouragement of energy saving;
- measures to protect and develop the Community's energy resources.

It calls for the immediate adoption of a number of proposals in all three sectors already on the Council table.

Gist of the Opinion

The Economic and Social Committee adopted by 40 votes in favour, 17 against, and 19 abstentions its Additional Opinion on this proposal.

The Committee welcomes the more positive approach towards the implementation of a Community energy policy which seemed to emerge from the meeting of the European Council in Rome. However, it feels that such statements of intent are worthless, unless they are backed up by concrete action.

The Commission must therefore press ahead with the preparation of detailed proposals. The Council, for its part, must adopt quickly the different proposals that have been before it for some time now, such as those on solidarity among the EEC partners in the event of oil supply difficulties and the financing of nuclear installations.



The Committee notes that the proposal for a 7-dollar minimum price for imported oil is the main new element in the Commission's policy. It considers that the Commission must provide details on how this proposal is to be put into effect and on the positive or negative effects it could have in the different regions of the Community.

The Commission should also give details on what effects a minimum price could have on energy producers, energy-using industries and private consumers.

The Committee attaches particular importance to the protection policy pursued by the Community being conducted in a balanced manner on all fronts. It is therefore, in principle, in favour of studying in greater depth the other possible measures proposed by the Commission, namely :

- financing support for the holding of coal stocks;
- extension of the period of validity for aid to coking coal;
- promotion of uranium prospecting;
- support for technological development projects and aid for exploration projects in the hydrocarbons sector;
- financing of nuclear installations.

Finally, the Committee points out that it will be possible to resolve the long-term issues caused by energy prices only by international cooperation between the major energy producers, exporters and consumers. Efforts to secure such

agreement at the Conference on International Economic Cooperation (North-South Dialogue) are therefore of great importance for the longer term and must be pursued as a top Community priority.

The Committee based its Additional 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 RENAUD - France - Employers.

#### 5. European Export Bank

Proposal for a Council Regulation (EEC) setting up a European Export Bank.

#### Gist of the Commission proposal

The EEB is to provide credit insurance and help to finance exports of large investment projects and capital goods, either directly or indirectly through existing financial institutions.

The Bank will have an initial capital of 100 million u.a. to be provided from the Community budget. It can obtain further resources, by borrowing on national and international financial markets, with Community guarantees up to a ceiling to be fixed annually in the budget. The Commission decided on this mixed capital structure to ensure that the Bank has the maximum degree of flexibility, as it is difficult to predict the volume of future EEB transactions, and also, in order to ensure that the EEB's commitments can be closely monitored.

The Bank would have :

- A Board of Directors consisting of 10 regular members and 10 alternates appointed by the Member States and the Commission. The Board, acting on proposals from the Management Committee, would take decisions concerning the Bank's operations; it would also be responsible for approving rules of procedure, the annual report of the Management Committee and the annual accounts. The Commission representative could veto decisions in the interest of the Community, but the Board would be entitled, if its members so decided, by an absolute majority, to refer the issue to the Council. The veto would stand if the Council had not decided otherwise within a fortnight;
- A Management Committee consisting of a Chairman and four other members appointed by the Board of Directors for a term of six years; the Committee's task would be to prepare the decisions of the Board and ensure that they were implemented.

The Bank's activities would be subject to scrutiny by an approved auditor and by the Audit Board, provided for in Article 206 of the Treaty. The report and comments of the Audit Board would be submitted to the Council and European Parliament not more than 10 months after the end of the financial year.

#### Gist of the Opinion

The Economic and Social Committee adopted by a large majority with 2 votes against and 3 abstentions its Opinion on this proposal.

The proposal was for a European Export Bank to complement the existing export credit insurance system and mainly catering for

large export projects undertaken jointly by suppliers from several EEC countries.

The Committee approved the scheme, but was against excluding projects originating in a single Member State, in view of the fact that these could have a beneficial effect on employment in the Community. The scheme's relevance in the present situation of high unemployment, given its potentially stimulating effect on exports, was a major reason why the Committee warmly welcomed the proposal.

A European commercial policy instrument such as the proposed Bank was clearly important in the current situation of competition on world markets. Japan and the US already had similar instruments.

The proposed Bank was also relevant to the redistribution of activities between the industrialized and developing nations. As the developing countries increasingly processed their raw materials the big industrial powers would have to concentrate on the large technological projects in the Community. Such projects would increasingly tend to be international ventures, since the Community itself was in the process of redistributing its economic activities through greater specialization. The Community therefore needed an adequate system of export credit insurance for this type of multilateral projects.

The Committee stressed that the Bank's operations should be complementary to those of existing organizations. It trusted that the facilities offered would include insurance of exchange risks run by suppliers when a multilateral project was expressed in a single currency.

The Committee based its Opinion on material prepared by its Section for External Relations under the chairmanship of Mr CARSTENS - Denmark - Employers. The Rapporteur was Mr HENNIKER-HELTON - United Kingdom - Employers.

6. Access to Road Haulage Trade - Mutual Recognition of Qualifications

"Proposal for a Council Directive on Access to the Occupation of Carrier of Goods or of Passengers by Waterway in National and International Transport

Proposal for a Council Directive Aiming at the Mutual Recognition of Diplomas, Certificates and Other Evidence of Formal Qualifications for Road or Waterway Passenger Transport and Goods Haulage Operators, including Measures Intended to Encourage these Operators Effectively to Exercise their Right to Freedom of Establishment".

Gist of the Commission's document

Access to the Occupation

The Commission considers that, as in the case of road haulage, uniform conditions should be introduced for admission to the occupation of waterway carrier. This would (a) pave the way for a Community system based on healthy competition and (b) facilitate implementation of the right of establishment. Qualitative selection of applicants for admission to the occupation of carrier would provide an incentive for better market behaviour and help to improve the quality of low-cost services.

The rules relate to probity, financial standing and professional competence. They are to be applicable to all carriers working for hire or reward. Undertakings engaged solely on own-account

transport would be exempted, since, as a general rule, they already fulfil these conditions given the nature of their transport activities.

### Diplomas

The proposal is chiefly designed to amend the proposals for Council Directives concerning the freedom of establishment for self-employed road haulage operators and self-employed road passenger transport operators. This new proposal, which has been drafted in virtue of the second paragraph of Article 149 of the Treaty, has been made necessary by a Court of Justice decision of June 1974 and by legislation adopted by the Council on 12 November 1974, coordinating the conditions of admission to the occupations of road haulier and passenger transport operator respectively.

The Commission thinks that the proposals for Council directives on the right of establishment should also be adapted in the light of these coordinating provisions. Furthermore, transitional measures will be necessary in view of the fact that these provisions do not apply to certain categories of operators. Transitional measures must also be introduced in the field of inland waterway transport pending coordination of the conditions of admission to the occupation of carrier in this field. The Commission is shortly to submit a proposal for coordinating these conditions.

### Gist of the Opinion

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

The Committee broadly endorses the Commission proposal. The Committee points out however that the rules governing admission to the occupation do not cover own-account operations. Operators working for hire or reward may therefore be placed at a competitive disadvantage. The Committee suggests that this issue be re-examined.

In its comments on the proposal on the mutual recognition of diplomas and certificates, the Committee states that proof of good repute is a prerequisite for admission to the profession and to setting up in business.

Only specially authorized or recognized professional bodies should be entitled to issue certificates.

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 FREDERSDORF Germany - Employers.

#### 7. Driving licences (review)

Amended Proposal for a Council Directive on the Harmonization of the Laws relating to Motor Vehicle Driving Licences.

#### Gist of the Commission's document

The aim of the amended proposal is to establish a uniform procedure for issuing Community driving licences. The introduction of these licences will enable individuals to travel freely within the Community and make it easier for carriers to set up anywhere in the Community.

The Commission's original proposal on driving licences was issued on 17 August 1972. The European Parliament and the Economic and Social Committee delivered Opinions on this proposal on 22 April 1974 and 23 May 1973 respectively. In its amended proposal, the Commission has adopted a fundamentally different approach.

The aim of the original proposal was to establish uniform rules for the issuing of driving licences. This proposal would have led to the introduction of common provisions on driving tests, medical examinations, minimum age limits, learner drivers, etc. The new Member States, in particular, were against such far-reaching alignment and after lengthy consultations the Commission has adopted a much more flexible stand, based on the following principles :

- A number of general criteria for the issuing of national driving licences are to be aligned;
- A Community driving licence is to be introduced. This driving licence will be issued automatically to all holders of Member State driving licences and will in practice, lead to Member States automatically recognizing each others' driving licences. As soon as a citizen of any Member State acquires a national driving licence, he will have the right to apply for and obtain a Community driving licence without special formalities.

The Commission does not, of course, regard this as the final answer. It proposes that within five years of adopting the present draft Directive, the Council should determine the date after which Community driving licences will not be automatically obtainable by holders of Member State driving licences, but will be issued on the basis of common standards and conditions. The Community driving



licence would, however, remain "optional". National driving licences would continue to exist and Member State citizens would be entitled to hold only a national driving licence, which would be valid solely in the issuing Member State.

The main provisions of the amended proposal are as follows :

- the Community driving licence is to be introduced two years after the Council has adopted the Directive;
- the Community driving licence is to have a standard layout, based on the specimen in the appendix to the proposal;
- vehicles are to be divided into eight categories;
- the minimum age for drivers is to be as follows : 16 for tractors, 18 for motor cycles and cars, and 21 for other vehicles;
- within five years of adopting the draft Directive, the Council, acting on a Commission proposal, is to fix the date after which Community driving licences will only be issued to persons who have passed practical and theoretical tests and have provided evidence of the requisite physical fitness.

The present proposal does not cover mopeds or lightweight motor cycles. The Commission recognizes that, from a road safety angle, there is a strong case for introducing driving tests for all categories of vehicles. It was, however, felt that motor cycles, cars, lorries and public transport vehicles posed the greatest road safety problems. These vehicles have, therefore, been given a higher priority. The Commission is at present concentrating on aligning laws on driving licences for these categories of vehicles.

Gist of the Opinion

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

The Committee broadly endorses the proposal. It proposes a minimum age of 16 (instead of 18) for drivers of motor cycles not exceeding 125 cc and not carrying a pillion passenger.

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 MARVIER - France - Employers.

8. Third Regulation on Working Conditions in Road Haulage

Proposal for a Council Regulation on the Harmonization of Certain Social Legislation Relating to Road Transport.

Gist of the Commission's proposal

The new measure, which replaced the old 1969 Regulation, is intended to overcome the difficulties in applying this Regulation that have been encountered in both the six original and the three new Member States. The Commission has also taken this opportunity to include its 1969 proposals on working hours in the measure. The resulting rules are more flexible than the old ones, though still progressive.

The most important provisions are :

- introduction of maximum spreadover periods (spreadover period = time between starting and finishing work each day): normally 12 hours, with the total spreadovers in a week not adding up to more than 60 hours;
- the ban on vehicles manned by one driver travelling more than 450 km/day is not to apply to vehicles fitted with mechanical recording equipment (tachographs);
- eight-hour limit on the time spent at the wheel during each spreadover (may be extended twice a week to nine hours), and a thirty-minute break to be taken at least every four hours;
- provision for exemptions to be granted by Member States for national transport, subject, except in the case of short-haul transport, to Commission approval;
- safeguard clause of limited duration allowing Member States to release national transport from certain provisions of the Regulation temporarily in the event of serious difficulties.

The main working hours and holiday provisions of the proposed Regulation are a working week with an average of five spreadovers separated by rest periods, a weekly uninterrupted rest period of forty hours and twenty-eight days holiday a year.

The Commission believes its new proposal provides a balanced solution which should make Community law easier to apply in this field.

Before the end of the year the Commission intends to propose a Regulation stipulating the normal length of a spreadover for two-driver crews of vehicles with a bunk, and to consider at the same time the question of overtime.

### Gist of the Opinion

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

The Committee stated that it could not consider in a matter of a few weeks such an important proposal in which the Commission had rewritten most of the provisions of the original 1969 Regulation, amended others and also added some new provisions. Furthermore, the new Member States had been authorized to apply divergent national rules to transport in their countries until 30 June 1976. Consequently the Committee was unable to meet the Council's deadline (end of May).

However, the Committee undertook to issue an Opinion on the contents of the proposal by the end of 1976.

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 ROUZIER - France - Workers.

### 9. Dumping of Waste at Sea

Proposal for a Council Directive concerning the Dumping of Waste at Sea.

Gist of the Commission's Proposal

The Commission proposes that there should be Community rules on the dumping of certain types of waste at sea. This proposal is in pursuance of the Communities Programme of Action on the Environment. It also follows on from the Oslo Convention for the Prevention of Marine Pollution by Dumping from Ships and Aircraft and the London Convention on the Dumping of Wastes at Sea, which came into force on 7 April 1974 and 31 August 1975 respectively.

The proposal specifies certain particularly harmful substances whose dumping is to be prohibited, and lists dangerous wastes and materials which are not to be dumped without a special permit from the competent national authorities. Finally, it lays down that the dumping of all other wastes should be subject to the granting of a prior, general permit by the competent authorities.

Gist of the Opinion

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

The Committee endorses the proposal, but looks on it as a first step in a continuing drive to improve the quality of the environment by reducing the waste dumped into seas, lakes and rivers, etc.

The Committee considers that the proposal should be tightened up in certain respects by amending the present provisions in certain respects or by adopting further provisions.

The important role to be played by Member States in carrying out checks and imposing penalties, and the vagueness of certain definitions in the Annexes, may lead to differences in the way Member States apply the Directive, and consequently to appreciable distortions of competition between countries.

In its study of the substance of the document the Committee has concentrated on certain problems to which it thinks inadequate consideration has been given namely (i) the rise in the concentrations of marine pollutants and the effects of this rise on certain foods of marine origin, (ii) the monitoring of synergistic effects, (iii) the repercussions on the seabed, (iv) the need for preventive action and (v) the application in practice of the "polluter-pays" principle.

The Committee is aware of the growing problems posed by the rise in the amount of waste to be disposed of, and would reiterate a view which it has voiced on several occasions and to which it attaches great importance, namely that an effort must be made to reduce pollution not only by recycling waste but also by employing reusable, recyclable and degradable products.

In this respect, the Committee would ask that the scope for recycling and, above all, for avoiding waste, be developed using the most suitable techniques, so as to reduce the amount of waste dumped at sea.

The Committee based its Opinion on material prepared by its Section for the 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.

## 10. Inshore Fishing

Proposal for a Regulation (EEC) of the Council on a Programme for Restructuring the Non-Industrial Fishing Industry.

### Gist of the Commission's Proposal

The Commission is proposing two lines of approach to restructuring the inshore fishing industry. The first is to modernize fleets and other means of production and develop fish farming; the second, to withdraw old and unprofitable boats from service and encourage the retirement of fishermen between the ages of 55 and 65 who are working under economically and socially unsatisfactory conditions. Both would be financed by the European Agricultural Guidance and Guarantee Fund and would make a financial contribution in both cases. Total EAGGF expenditure for the first five years is put at 118 million units of account.

### Gist of the Opinion

The Economic and Social Committee adopted unanimously, with 3 abstentions its Opinion on this proposal.

The Committee approves the Commission's proposal, although it deplores its late submission. It agrees that structural modernization is needed, especially in the case of family, small scale and cooperative fishing enterprises. Ultimately, what should be achieved is a common structural policy which takes in all aspects and all objectives. The Committee's view is that structural modernization in the inshore fishing sector should embrace the preservation and distribution of the catch as well as fishing proper. Accordingly,

the forecasted expenditure, put at 118 million units of account for 1977-1981, is insufficient.

The Commission proposal still contains no plans for the restructuring of deep-sea fishing. This sector will be particularly affected by the fact that the UN Conference on the Law of the Sea is moving towards a 200-mile zone.

The Committee also considers that, in the external relations sphere, fishing issues should be dealt with as part of the overall context of international trade and cooperation. There should be a transferral - phased if need be - of responsibilities from the Member States to the Community.

The Committee applauds the Commission's proposal that EAGGF aid is to be contingent on production targets. This is something that the Committee has repeatedly urged in respect of the Common Agricultural Policy in general.

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 PIGA - Italy - Various Interests.

#### 11. Hops

Proposal for a Regulation (EEC) of the Council Amending Regulation (EEC) No. 1696/71 on the Common Organization of the Market in Hops.



Gist of the Commission's proposal

The proposal contains improvements to the present EEC organization of the hops sector aimed at stabilizing the market and ensuring producers fair income. The main provisions are :

- extension to 31 December 1977 of the closing date for grants for switching to approved varieties;
- improvement of supply management, by extending the control of producer groups (only the latter to be eligible for producer aid);
- abolition of present system of having different rates of aid (per acre) for each individual variety; proposed system to have differing rates for three groups of varieties having similar characteristics and uses in order to improve the impact of the aid on production.

Gist of the Opinion

The Economic and Social Committee adopted unanimously with 5 abstentions its Opinion on the proposal.

The Committee broadly endorsed the proposal, but had comments on :

- The current economic difficulties of the hops sector;
- Income guarantees for growers;
- Restructuring of production;
- The role and powers of producer groups.

On the latter point, the Committee endorsed the Commission's proposals in this specific case, but intended to come back on another occasion to the general question of whether members of agricultural producer groups should be obliged to sell all their output through the group.

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 BERNAERT - Belgium - Employers.

## 12. Sound Levels of Cranes and Generators

Proposals for Council Directives on the Approximation of Member States' Laws relating to the Permissible Sound Emission Levels for :

- tower cranes;
- current generators for welding; and
- current generators for power supply.

### Gist of the Commission's proposals

The three proposed directives are part of the drive to eliminate technical barriers to trade in construction plant and equipment, which was begun in 1974 with the presentation of an outline directive and two special directives on sound levels for constructional plant and equipment and jackhammers.

The disparity between national laws relating to the sound emission levels of the equipment covered by the proposed directives is a barrier to trade, especially since some Member States have

already taken measures in this field or have just initiated the necessary procedure.

The three proposed directives follow the usual layout for directives to eliminate barriers to trade (type-approval procedure, free circulation clause, committee on adaptation to technical progress, etc.), and differ only in their field of application and in the sound emission levels they lay down. These levels are fixed in the light of the state of technology and are to be lowered by 5 dB from 1 July 1980.

"Optional harmonization" is proposed, but in its explanatory memorandum the Commission recognizes that it should be possible to envisage strict reference to ISO standards in the event of such standards being adopted before the directives are adopted by the Council.

#### Gist of the Opinion

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

The aims of the proposal on cranes are to remove technical barriers and to protect the environment and workers, particularly workers operating cranes from cabins. The Committee considers that these aims can be achieved without introducing type approval for all types of tower cranes. Cranes are assembled from standardized components. The components can be used in a wide variety of combinations, and there are a very large number of different types of cranes.

If type approval were to be introduced for hoisting winches, rather than cranes, this would simplify procedures, cut down the number of procedures involved, and lower costs.

The Committee, therefore, asks that type approval be introduced for the hoisting winches of tower cranes, rather than for the cranes. The proposal should be amended accordingly.

The Committee based its Opinion on material prepared by its Section for Industry, Commerce, Crafts and Services under the chairmanship of Mr HELMER - Luxembourg - Employers. The Rapporteur was Mr MARVIER - France - Various Interests.

### 13. Field of Vision of Motor Vehicles

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.

#### Gist of the Commission's proposal

The proposal forms part of the general programme to remove technical barriers to trade in motor vehicles. It supersedes a Commission proposal submitted to the Council in 1968, the provisions contained in this earlier proposal now being out of date on account of certain technical requirements adopted by the UN Economic Commission for Europe. These new requirements are to be found in the Appendices to the present proposed directive and deal with scope, definitions and test procedure.

"Optional harmonization" is proposed.

Gist of the Opinion

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

The Committee stresses that stipulations as to the driver's field of vision affect vehicle design even at the planning stage. It follows that such stipulations should apply internationally, for it would be unthinkable for manufacturers to have to modify vehicle bodies according to the market for which they are intended.

The Economic and Social Committee based its Opinion on material prepared by its Section for Industry, Commerce, Crafts and Services under the chairmanship of Mr HEIMER - Luxembourg - Employers. The Rapporteur was Mr MASPRONE - Italy - Employers.

14. Emission of Pollutants from Diesel Engines in Tractors

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.

Gist of the Proposal for a Directive

The proposal forms part of the overall drive to remove barriers to trade in industrial products. More particularly, it falls within the ambit of the Community type-approval procedure for agricultural tractors, the subject of Council Directive No. 74/150/EEC of 4 March 1974.

Tractor diesel engines will, in principle, be subjected to the same tests and the same limits as already apply to motor vehicles under Council Directive No. 72/306/EEC of 2 August 1972. In order to allow for the different mode of operation of tractor diesel engines, the road test will, however, be carried out at 80% of the maximum engine load instead of under full load as with other motor vehicles.

The technical annexes contain, among other things, definitions, test specifications, test descriptions and the limit values for the opacity of the smoke emitted during the test under "steady-state" operating conditions.

"Optional" approximation is proposed.

#### Gist of the Opinion

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

The Opinion notes that the purpose of the draft directive is to control atmospheric pollution without making it necessary for the tractor industry to devise and make complicated, costly modifications to its models.

The Committee therefore considers that the emission of pollutants from agricultural and forestry tractors which are partly used for non-agricultural and/or non-forestry purposes should be governed by Directive No. 72/306/EEC, and be deemed to satisfy the present draft directive if they satisfy Directive No. 72/306/EEC.

The Committee based its Opinion on material prepared by its Section for Industry, Commerce, Crafts and Services under the chairmanship of Mr HELLER - Luxembourg - Employers. The Rapporteur was Mr MASPRONE - Italy - Employers.

15. Check-weighing machines

Proposal for a Council Directive on the Approximation of the Laws of the Member States relating to Check-Weighing and Grading Machines.

Gist of the Proposal

The proposal for a directive is made in virtue of the Council Directive of 26 July 1971. It comes under the heading of approximation of Member State legislation with a view to establishing common provisions for measuring instruments and metrological control methods. It seeks the removal of barriers to intra-Community trade in check-weighers and grading machines, which barriers exist because national stipulations vary between one Member State and the next.

"Weighing and grading machines" are defined as instruments which, without the help of an operator, can divide up a group of articles into several subgroups according to the respective weights of these articles.

The proposal applies only to check-weighing and grading machines, which are just one type of weighing and grading machine.

These machines separate articles whose weights vary on either side of a predetermined value, called the nominal weight. They are chiefly used in filling preformed packages to check

whether each individual article conforms with the appropriate nominal quantity. Articles weighing less than the nominal weight are rejected.

The proposal lays down technical manufacturing and operational specifications which check-weighers and graders must meet before they can be imported, marketed and freely used, subject to EEC initial verification and having the appropriate EEC marks and signs affixed to them.

#### Gist of the Opinion

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

The Committee is disappointed that the Commission feels it necessary to propose optional rather than total harmonization. Whilst accepting that optional harmonization may constitute a useful step forward in the removal of trade barriers, the Committee suggests that, wherever possible, the decision to implement optional harmonization should be accompanied by a firm commitment to proceed to total harmonization with the minimum of delay. Adequate time should, of course, be allowed to enable manufacturers and users to adapt to the harmonized standards and, as a general rule, they should be applied only to new equipment. The Committee hopes that the Governments of Member States will support total harmonization on this basis.

The Committee generally favours the establishment of technical standards for harmonization within the Community on the basis of those agreed by international bodies, such as the International Organization of Legal Metrology. It understands



that IOIM has not yet produced standards for check-weighing and grading equipment but it urges the Commission to take part in any work which IOIM may put in hand and to be prepared if necessary to make suitable amendments to its proposal.

The Committee based its Opinion on material prepared by its Section for Industry, Commerce, Crafts and Services under the chairmanship of Mr HEMMER - Luxembourg - Employers. The Rapporteur was Mr CLARK - United Kingdom - Employers.

#### 16. Oilseeds

Proposal for a Council Regulation (EEC) Fixing the Main Intervention Centres for Oil Seeds for the 1976/1977 Marketing Year and the Derived Intervention Prices Applicable at these Centres.

#### Gist of the Commission's proposal

Following the Council Decision to increase the target price and basic intervention prices for oil seeds by 8% for the 1976/1977 marketing year, and in view of the market trend in the 1975/1976 marketing year, the Commission proposes keeping the present regional intervention centres and raising derived intervention prices in step with the basic intervention price.

#### Gist of the Opinion

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

The Committee approves the Commission's proposal, but as in the Opinion on the intervention prices for the 1975/1976 marketing year, it expresses reservations about the level of derived prices proposed for the Danish intervention centres (Aarhus and Copenhagen).

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

#### 17. Refund of Import or Export Duties

Proposal for a Council Regulation on the Repayment or Remission of Import Duties or Export Duties.

##### Gist of the Proposal

The proposal seeks to substitute Community rules for the various national regulations governing the payment and remission of import duties on goods put into free circulation in Member States.

Once adopted the Regulation will permit distortions in the treatment of EEC importers of goods from non-member countries to be eliminated. Further it lays down the circumstances in which the Member States may revise entitlements of the Communities "own resources".

In laying down conditions for repayment and remission of duties, the proposal draws on the common principles underlying all the relevant national legislation.

Gist of the Opinion

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

The Committee considers it important that a common policy and procedure be laid down for the repayment of import and export duties. It is essential that these duties should not be considered as definitively collected until the goods concerned have been permanently imported into the Community.

The Committee draws attention to an important consideration. Whatever procedure facilities may be granted for reasons unconnected with the present proposal, CCT duties and equivalent duties must be levied on an objective and equal basis, and must apply to all trade without exception.

The implementing regulations should be worded to ensure that the benefits of the new provisions are not jeopardized because they are open to abuse.

The Committee is pleased to note that the proposal takes into account the uncertainties of international trade, but would like the proposal in its entirety to be brought into line with the most liberal provisions in force in the Member States. This does not always appear to be the case in the present document, particularly as regards the time limits for submitting applications.

The Committee based its Opinion on material prepared by its Section for Industry, Commerce, Crafts and Services under the chairmanship of Mr HEMMER - Luxembourg - Employers. The Rapporteur was Mr MARVIER - France - Various Interests.

## 18. R & D Policy

The Economic and Social Committee adopted unanimously its Study on the

Objectives and Priorities for a Common Research and Development Policy.

The Study takes as its starting point the overall long-term economic and social objectives of the Community. These, according to the Committee, must include : the furtherance of the wellbeing of all the Community's citizens, balanced economic and social development and the promotion of international cooperation.

Pointing out that R & D is one of the most important tools we possess to influence the future of society, the Committee states that the specific objectives for R & D policy must be :

- the extension of scientific and technical knowledge;
- social advance;
- development of advanced technologies for economic ends;
- mastery of progress;
- raw materials' management.

The Committee believes that basic research, i.e. work aimed solely at scientific discovery, must remain a Community priority. Applied research should, in the short term, be designed specifically to provide national and Community authorities with

the back-up services necessary for implementation of their sectoral policies. In the medium term, it should concentrate on four priority areas already outlined by the Commission : resources, environment, economic and industrial development, and "life of society".

To help ensure that R & D results are as practical as possible and can be speedily applied, the Committee recommends the creation of Committees composed of representatives of research organizations, industrial users and consumers - user requirement boards - to help the Commission and the Council in identifying the needs for new technology in a given sector and in suggesting ways in which these needs could be met.

The Committee goes on to warn against over-dispersion effort and therefore to recommend that Community involvement in R & D work should be highly selective and limited to projects which fulfil as many as possible of eight specific criteria.

On "direct" Community action, the Committee broadly endorses the Commission's outline of the next multiannual programme for the Joint Research Centre (JRC). The latter must not only be maintained but its responsibilities should also be enlarged by gradual extension of Community involvement in suitable areas since, inter alia, smaller Member States are thereby able to participate in projects beyond their individual means. At the same time, the JRC programme must be within its available range of skills, equipment and financial resources. The JRC also needs to be strengthened by :

- greater job security of staff;
- enlarging the range of choice for research staff;
- longer continuity of projects and policies;
- better communications with the Community at large;
- better reporting and publicity for successful ventures;
- training programmes in R & D management;
- a long-term policy for career development for staff.

The uncertainty surrounding the largest of the "indirect" programmes, that of Thermonuclear Fusion, must be resolved immediately. The Council must come to an agreement on the siting of the JET.

Stressing the importance of coordinating national R & D work, the Committee points to the useful work done by the CREST Committee of the Commission. Coordination work must be backed up by an effective information system, for example the Community's system for Information and Documentation on Science and Technology (IDST). In conclusion the Committee underlines that Community coordination of R & D must become a fully integrated part of national programmes.

The Community should cooperate on R & D with other developed countries. It should undertake a fair share of the total number of projects. It should maintain the quality of its own work. It should coordinate information-exchange efforts and promote cooperation with all countries, whether individually or in groups.

In its relations with the developing countries, the Community should ensure the transfer of technology in line with the new form of thinking on the world order, as expressed in recent international negotiations (e.g. Jomf Convention, UNIDO Lima Declaration, UN 7th Special Session).

The Committee based its Study on material prepared by its Section for Energy and Nuclear Questions under the chairmanship of Mr MILLER - United Kingdom - Employers. The Rapporteur was Mr NOORDWAL - Netherlands - Employers.



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From right to left : Mr DONDELINGER, Permanent Representative of Luxembourg, Mr WART, Mr CANONGE, Mr DELFINI, Secretary-General of the Committee, Mr LOUET, Director-General of the Committee.

II

EXTERNAL RELATIONS

1. Official visit of the President of the EEC Economic and Social Committee to London

Mr Henri CANONGE, President of the Economic and Social Committee of the European Communities, paid a three-day official visit to London from 6 to 8 April 1976. He was accompanied by Vice-Presidents Mr Louis AHEYE and Mr J. van GREUNSVEN, as well as by Secretary-General Mr Delfo DELFINI.

The unemployment situation in Europe and especially in the United Kingdom was the main topic of talks held with representatives of Government and economic and social circles. Conversations with Mr Michael FOOT, Employment Secretary, centered in particular on the follow-up to be given at the Council of Ministers to the February Opinion of the Economic and Social Committee, which demanded urgent measures on unemployment. Talks with various organizations also focussed on the role and influence of the Economic and Social Committee in the framework of the EEC decision-making process.

The visit included meetings with top leaders of the Trades Union Congress, the Confederation of British Industry, the City EEC Committee, the National Consumer Council, the National Farmer's Union, and of professional associations.

2. Meeting of the Industry Section in London

Concurrently with the President's visit, the Economic and Social Committee's Section for Industry met in London on 7 and 8 April. It prepared an Opinion on the possibilities of developing advanced technology sectors in the European Community through a policy of liberalizing public purchasing. The Section was chaired by Mr Carlo HELFFER, while the Rapporteur for the Opinion was Mr Basil de FERRANTI.



3. Committee Chairman attends 2nd ETUC Congress

The Chairman of the Economic and Social Committee, Mr Henri CANONGE, attended the 2nd Congress of the European Trade Union Confederation, which was held in London from 22 to 24 April. He was accompanied by his Chef de Cabinet, Mr Paul RAMADIER, and the Director-General, Mr Roger LOUET.

4. ILO Director-General visits Economic and Social Committee

Mr Francis BLANCHARD, Director-General of the International Labour Office (ILO), was received by Mr Henri CANONGE, Chairman of the Economic and Social Committee (ESC), on 26 April 1976. Mr BLANCHARD is currently on a round of visits to the European Institutions.

The talks between Mr BLANCHARD and Mr CANONGE were mainly concerned with how to improve the two-way flow of information between the ILO and the ESC and forge closer co-operation links between the two bodies.

5. Meeting between the Executive Committee of the French Economic and Social Council and the ESC of the European Communities

The Executive Committee of the French Economic and Social Council, under the Council Chairman, Mr Gabriel VENTEJOL, paid a visit on 27 April 1976 to the Economic and Social Committee of the European Communities in Brussels.

The French delegation was received by Mr Henri CANONGE, Chairman of the Economic and Social Committee.

The aim of the meeting was to strengthen the contacts and intensify the co-operation between the two institutions in all fields in which they have a common interest.

6. Meeting of Section for Regional Development in Clermont-Ferrand,  
(France)

The Section for Regional Development of the European Communities' Economic and Social Committee met in Clermont-Ferrand, France, on 20 and 21 May 1976. The meeting was chaired by Mr A. LAVAL and was devoted to examining the links between inflation and unemployment on the one hand and regional development on the other.

Also on the programme was a joint meeting with the Auvergne Regional Council and the Auvergne Economic and Social Committee, which dealt with the land-use plan for the Massif Central.

7. ESC Chairman visits Mr TINDEMANS

As part of his official visit to the Belgian Government, Mr Henri CANONGE, Chairman of the European Communities' Economic and Social Committee, had talks with the Belgian Prime Minister, Mr Leo TINDEMANS on 31 May 1976.

Previously, he had met with the Minister for Foreign Affairs, Mr R. van ELSLANDE, and the Minister for Labour and Employment, Mr A. CALIFICE.

During these visits, Mr CANONGE was accompanied by his Vice-Chairman, Mr Louis AMEYE, and the Committee Secretary-General, Mr Delfo DELFINI.

The talks with the Belgian Government covered current European issues.

## 8. Relations with the European Parliament

In May, the Economic and Social Committee was twice invited to attend hearings before committees of the European Parliament.

On 19 May, the Committee on Social Affairs, Employment and Education heard Mr Antoine LAVAL, Member of the Economic and Social Committee and Rapporteur for the Opinion on the Co-ordination of National Employment Policy Instruments. Mr LAVAL also spoke about the Committee Opinion on Unemployment in the Community.

On 20 May, the Committee on Regional Policy, Regional Planning and Transport invited Mr HENNIG, Member of the Section for Transport and Communications, to represent the Economic and Social Committee at a public hearing on inter-city transport of the future.

III

NEW REQUESTS FOR OPINIONS

1. Proposal for a Council Directive concerning Indirect Taxes on Transactions in Securities.
2. Proposal for a Council Directive on the Harmonization of Laws, Regulations and Administrative Provisions relating to Customs Debts.
3. Proposal for a Council Directive concerning Mutual Assistance by the Competent Authorities of Member States in the Field of Direct Taxation.
4. Proposal for a Council Directive on the Harmonization of the Legal and Administrative Regulations of the Member States on the Provision of Safety Information at the Workplace.
5. Proposal for a Council Directive on the Approximation of the Laws of the Member States relating to the Labelling, Presentation and Advertizing of Foodstuffs for Sale to the Ultimate Consumer.
6. Proposal for a Council Directive on the Limitation of Aircraft Noise.
7. Proposal for a Council Decision concluding the European Convention on the Protection of Animals in Stockfarms.
8. Proposal for a Council Decision establishing a Procedure for Exchanging Information on the Quality of Fresh Surface Water in the Community.

9. Proposal for a Council Directive on the Coordination of Legislation regarding Collective Investment Undertakings for Transferable Securities (CIUTS).
10. Proposal for a Seventh Directive on Group Accounts, based on Article 54 3 g) of the EEC Treaty.
11. Commission Memorandum to the Council on the Results of the Negotiations leading to the Conclusion of a Convention on the Protection of the Mediterranean against Pollution and a Protocol on Prevention of Pollution of the Mediterranean by Dumping from Ships and Aircraft;  
  
Proposal for a Council Decision concluding a Convention on the Protection of the Mediterranean against Pollution and a Protocol on Prevention of Pollution of the Mediterranean by Dumping from Ships and Aircraft.
12. Proposal for a Council Directive for a 12th Amendment to Directive 64/54/EEC on the Approximation of the Laws of the Member States concerning the Preservatives Authorized for Use in Foodstuffs intended for Human Consumption.
13. Proposal for the 1977/1980 Multiannual Research Programme of the Joint Research Centre.
14. Proposal for a Council Directive on the Approximation of the Laws of Member States relating to Veterinary Medicinal Products.
15. Proposal for a Council Directive on the Approximation of the Laws of Member States relating to Analytical, Pharmacotoxicological and Clinical Standards and Protocols in Respect of the Testing of Veterinary Medicinal Products.

IV

PROVISIONAL FUTURE WORK PROGRAMME

140th Plenary Session - June 1976

- Organization of Potato Market
- Motorcycle Sound Level and Exhausts
- Fertilizers
- Mayonnaise
- Insurance
- Stock Exchange Quotation of Securities
- 5th Directive on Turnover Taxes on Tobacco
- Sulphurous Emissions from Fuel Oils
- Standards for Sulphur Dioxide Levels in Atmosphere
- Safety Information at the Workplace

141st Plenary Session - September 1976

- Common Rules for Types of International Road Haulage
- Nuclear Plant Safety (Study)
- Indirect Taxes on Share Transactions
- Cooperation of Authorities in Direct Taxation
- Matters
- Community Relations with Portugal (Study)
- Development Aid
- Second Environmental Action Programme
- Labelling of Food
- Articles of Precious Metals
- Customs Debt
- Company Taxation
- Rail Freight Rates
- Working Conditions in Inland Waterway Goods Transport
- Reference Tariffs for Inland Waterway Goods Transport
- Observing of Goods Transport Markets
- Reference Tariffs for Road Haulage

142nd Plenary Session - October 1976

- The CAP in the World Context
- Working Conditions in Road Transport (second Opinion)
- Fourth Medium-Term Economic Policy Programme
- Specific Measures to Relieve Unemployment (own initiative)
- Annual Report on Economic Situation of Community

143rd Plenary Session - November 1976

- GATT Negotiations (additional Opinion)
- Regional Policy, Unemployment and Inflation (own initiative)
- Consumer Action Programme (additional Opinion)
- Green Paper on Employee Participation

V

MEMBERS' NEWS

1. Resignation

Mr P.H. NOORDWAL, Director for International Affairs at the Confederation of Dutch Industry, resigned his membership of the Economic and Social Committee on 9 April 1976. He had been a member since 17 September 1974.

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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 |