

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMITTEE  
OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES

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The outgoing Committee Chairman, Henri CANONGE, with his successor, Basil de FERRANTI

THE 142nd PLENARY SESSION

The 142nd Plenary Session of the Economic and Social Committee of the European Communities was held in Brussels on 27 and 28 October 1976. The first part of the session was chaired by Mr Henri CANONGE, and the second by Mr Basil de FERRANTI, newly-elected Chairman of the Committee.

At this Plenary Session the Committee elected a new Bureau comprising the following members :

Chairman : Mr Basil de FERRANTI (UK - Employers)

Vice-Chairmen : Mr Mathias BERNIS (Luxembourg - Various Interests)  
Mr Johannes van GREUNSVEN (Netherlands - Workers)

and

<u>Group I</u> <u>Employers</u>	<u>Group II</u> <u>Workers</u>	<u>Group III</u> <u>Other Interests</u>
Mr van CAMPEN (Netherlands)	Mr DELOURME (Belgium)	Mr CANONGE (France)
Mr HIPPE (Germany)	Mr FRIEDRICHS (Germany)	Mr DE BRUYN (Belgium)
Mr LOUGHREY (Ireland)	Mr T. NIELSEN (Denmark)	Mrs EVANS (UK)
Mr MASPRONE (Italy)	Mr SCALIA (Italy)	Mr O'KEEFE (Ireland)
Mr RENAUD (France)	Mr SOULAT (France)	Mr PIGA (Italy)
Mr RØIER (Denmark)	Mr WALSH (UK)	Mrs STROBEL (Germany)

A. Summary of Mr de FERRANTI's speech

In his inaugural speech, the newly elected Chairman of the Economic and Social Committee, Mr Basil de FERRANTI, expressed first of all his thanks to his predecessor, Mr CANONGE. He then focussed on the two years of Committee activity to come. Towards the end of this period, the people of Europe will be asked to elect a Parliament. This historic event will give real impetus to realizing in Europe a political democracy. It will be the task of the Economic and Social Committee to establish a parallel economic and social democracy. This will not just be given to it but will need to be earned by the qualities of its Opinions and the value of its contacts, he said.

The Economic and Social Committee was to be seen as the principal forum which ensured that social aspects - the human aspects - were represented to the Commission and to the Council.

"Europe must lead the world as a Community where technology is used to provide the resources to meet people's need and at the same time to enhance the environment :

- a Community where jobs can be changed without fear of unemployment;
- where money can be saved without fear of inflation;
- where people can work as individuals yet with a real sense of involvement and satisfaction;

- where governments, companies and unions are there to serve the individual and not dominate him".

Mr de FERRANTI then singled out several sectors which the Committee would have to tackle : the state of the European economy is more worrying than at any time since the War, he said. The very high level of unemployment and inflation are at the centre of our discussions - for example, the debate on the Annual Report on the Economic Situation of the Community and the discussion on the forthcoming important Opinion on the Fourth Medium-Term Programme. This is undoubtedly the field in which the Committee must make its greatest efforts.

There is the large body of work being done on setting common standards and removing non-tariff barriers to trade which goes ahead slowly but surely, the results of which give so much to European industry, farmers and consumers. In discussing the big issues, one should never forget this progress with what could be called the nitty-gritty side of Europe, the hard-won agreement on small detail, which nevertheless means so much for everyday life in Europe.

The havoc caused to the Common Agricultural Policy by monetary disruption will add to our already heavy workload. We will be faced not only with the still incomplete task of drawing up the common transport policy but also with the newer one of facing up to our relations in the transport field with other parts of the world. With the Regional Fund now at last on stream,

renegotiation of its terms of reference is imminent. Europe continues to face the problem of the energy gap. In 1985 we will still be at risk for between 50% and 55% of our energy supplies.

With the growing bargaining strength of the Community, we must use that strength effectively in the developed world and contribute via the Lomé Convention to orderly trading in the ACP countries while looking to that increase in trade with the Third World which can be the only hope of narrowing the gap between the rich nations and the poor.

Commenting on the Community Institutions, Mr de FERRANTI said : "In the Committee's work the Commission is fundamentally a partner. Its representatives are welcomed at all discussions and an excellent relationship has been established over the years.

The effectiveness of the Committee's work is also the key to its relations with the Parliament. Once an issue has been properly analysed, it is clear what is economic and social and what is political. When that happens we must join forces with the Parliament to ensure progress. Before that state, it is useful to keep in touch with the Parliament and exchange views whenever possible".

However it is the Council and its decisions which are most important. The Committee will look forward to continuing to welcome the President of the Council to its meetings. "It will be my first task", said Mr de FERRANTI, "in consultation with my Vice-Chairmen and the Bureau, to decide what specific action can be



taken to increase contacts of this kind. The Council is an international conference in permanent session. Thus our relations with the Council are also our relations with our own governments. We meet here to formulate our own view and represent this in our opinion to the Council here in Brussels. I wonder whether we do enough to represent this opinion to our own governments at home. This is a matter for each Committee member to do, either as individuals or through their various organizations".

B. Adoption of Opinions

1. Annual Report on the Economic Situation in the Community in 1976

The Economic and Social Committee adopted by a large majority (9 votes against and 4 abstentions) its Opinion on this report from the Commission.

The Committee believes that the present situation is more uncertain than the Commission sees it and that the target of full employment by 1980, agreed upon at the June Tripartite Conference, cannot be achieved on unchanged policies. The 4% growth rate and the unemployment envisaged for 1977 do not fit in with the 1980 target, either on a Community level or on a national level basis.

The Committee focuses attention this year on the policies of national governments, since it is only if these are correctly orientated now - and coordinated at Community level - that the Tripartite Conference targets can be achieved.

Recognizing that governments must continue to consolidate the gains made on the anti-inflation side (paragraph 6.1.), the Committee's Opinion concentrates particularly on ways to create new employment. It says that since such measures must not endanger the balance of payments, the inflation rate or the exchange rates, recovery plans must be "coordinated, controlled and directed specifically towards investment and employment creation".

To this end, the Committee says that whilst in the medium-term the public sector deficits should be reduced, in the short-term public sector investment will have to produce a greater dynamic for growth than can be deduced from reading the Commission's Annual Report.

Short-term anti-unemployment measures continue to be necessary, but the emphasis should shift to job-creation and job-maintenance programmes.

Private sector investment must also be boosted - in particular by selective investment incentives, to create jobs, especially in the high unemployment regions.

On the thorny subject of income controls, the Committee says that if there is to be a transfer from consumption to investment, directly diminishing wage levels, such restraint must be echoed "by some guarantee of the social efficacy of these investments".

It says that price and income control measures, introduced as a means of combatting inflation, must be assessed for their relevance in the light of economic recovery.

The Committee's Opinion concludes by saying that Member States must not adopt policies which endanger expansion elsewhere in the Community. If national **target** growth rates are identified, and components of demand specified, the "basis of some embryonic

synchronization process (coordination) on recovery is provided".

Coordination among Member States with regard to trade policy is also urged.

As a tail-piece, the Committee reiterates its approval for the work of the Tripartite Conference in the setting of targets for 1980, and urges that the Economic and Social Committee be in future involved in the preparation of such Conferences and in the follow-up to decisions taken.

The Committee based its Opinion on material prepared by its Section for Economic and Financial Questions, under the chairmanship of Vice-Chairman, Mrs HESSE - Germany - Workers. The Rapporteur was Mr BASNETT - United Kingdom - Workers.

## 2. Third Regulation on Working Conditions in Road Transport

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

### Gist of the Commission's document

The present draft Regulation is intended to supersede the original 1969 Regulation. It seeks to overcome the difficulties encountered in applying the original Regulation in both the six original and the three new Member States. The Commission has also taken the opportunity of including the working hours proposals of its 1972 draft Regulation in the present draft Regulation, which is intended to be more flexible than the original Regulation and at the same time contribute towards social progress.

The most important provisions of the present draft Regulation are :

- New provision on spreadovers, (period between the beginning and end of work); basic maxima for any crew member of 12 hours per day and 60 hours per week;
- Lifting of the ban on single drivers driving more than 450 km in a day in cases where vehicles are fitted with control equipment (tachographs);
- Maximum daily driving time for all types of vehicle to be eight hours, extendable twice a week to nine hours; statutory breaks of at least 30 minutes;
- Exemptions : Member States may apply to the Commission for exemption of domestic traffic from working day and rest period provisions, and may themselves grant exemptions for certain short-haul traffic;
- Safeguard clause : For a certain time Member States will be able in the event of serious difficulty, to suspend temporarily application of certain provisions of the Regulation to domestic traffic.

The draft Regulation provides for a basic working week of five spreadovers separated by statutory rest periods, a weekly continuous rest period of 40 hours, and 28 days annual leave.

### Gist of the Opinion

The Economic and Social Committee adopted its Opinion by 82 votes in favour and 13 abstentions.

Since the Committee was unable to deliver a detailed Opinion on the Commission's proposal, it would ask the Commission to reconsider this question and to prepare a new proposal which takes into account all the comments and suggestions made at the 142nd Plenary Session. If a new proposal is produced, the Committee would also ask to be consulted once again.

The Committee based its Opinion on material prepared by the Rapporteur-General, Mr HOFFMANN - Germany - Workers. The Rapporteur was Mr ROUZIER - France - Workers.

### 3. Taxes on Securities

Proposal for a Council Directive concerning Indirect Taxes on Transactions in Securities.

#### Gist of the Proposal for a Directive

This Proposal represents a further step towards a genuine common capital market, since it leads towards the abolition of obstacles to the free movement of capital within the Community.

Taxes, as currently applied by Member States to transactions in securities, give rise to double taxation and discrimination.

Rather than aim at harmonizing the structures and rates of these taxes, the Commission's long-term objective is their abolition altogether. Since, however, some Member States would lose a sizeable amount of revenue by their abolition, the Commission is not proposing their simple abolition now.

The proposed Directive therefore lays down the scope of the tax and aims at limiting double taxation. It sets maximum rates with a view to bringing the levels of taxation in the Member States closer into line.

#### Gist of the Opinion

The Economic and Social Committee, at its 142nd Plenary Session held on 27 and 28 October 1976, adopted by a large majority with 7 votes against and 5 abstentions its Opinion on this proposal.

The Committee generally approves of the Commission's Proposal for a Directive. It sees it, however, as a stop-gap measure, pending total abolition of taxes on transactions in securities. The latter should be one priority objective of the policies aimed at integrating the Community's capital markets.

The Committee is critical of the draft Directive in respect of the ambiguity in the text concerning the manner in which the Council could amend the waivers granted to the UK and Ireland (by a qualified majority), were these Member States eventually to be opposed to change. The Committee also takes a grim view of another exemption allowed for under Article 3, asking that it be reviewed in the light of the general desire to get rid of this tax altogether.

The Committee, however, reiterates its support for the aims of the Proposal.

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 CAMMANN - Germany - Employers.

#### 4. Veterinary Medicinal Products

Proposal for a Council Directive on the Approximation of the Laws of Member States relating to Veterinary Medicinal Products, and the

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.

#### Gist of the Commission's Proposal

The Commission's proposals seek to introduce EEC standards for veterinary medicinal products.

The objective is (a) free movement and equal conditions of competition for veterinary medicinal products and (b) protection of human health and animal health.

The Commission has rejected the solution of complete, immediate free movement, and has opted for a phased approach similar to that already adopted for pharmaceutical products, this being based in the main on phased reciprocal recognition of authorizations to market. Initially, authorizations to market will be national.



Pending reciprocal recognition, which would permit full free movement, there will only be partial free movement based on cooperation between Member States within the Committee for Veterinary Medicinal Products, which the first proposal for a Directive seeks to set up.

In addition, the Commission considers that requirements in respect of veterinary medicinal products should not be less stringent than those applying to pharmaceutical products intended for human use. Accordingly the Commission adopts, as far as possible, the same provisions as are contained in existing Community Directives on pharmaceuticals.

#### Gist of the Opinion

The Economic and Social Committee adopted unanimously its Opinion on these proposals.

The Economic and Social Committee approves the two proposed Directives. It trusts that Community measures on **medicated** feedingstuffs will be adopted as soon as possible and without too much delay in relation to other Directives dealing with the veterinary medicinal products sector.

It regrets that the Commission document does not contain any measure to coordinate the conditions under which veterinary medicinal products are supplied to the public.

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 CHABROL - France - Various Interests.

## 5. Customs Debt

Proposal for a Council Directive on the Harmonization of Provisions laid down by Law, Regulation or Administrative Action relating to Customs Debt.

### Gist of the Proposal for a Directive

The purpose of the proposal is to specify the moment at which customs debts are incurred in various situations. This is a very important moment, insofar as it has a direct impact on the extent of the debtor's liability vis-à-vis the Treasury.

Therefore, this moment should be clearly defined so as to ensure identical treatment of all EEC importers and exporters.

Since the import and export duties in force in the EEC are chiefly economic in character, the Commission thinks that the moment at which the customs debts are incurred should :

- in the case of imports, be as close as possible to the moment at which the goods actually enter the economy of the EEC, and
- in the case of exports, be as close as possible to the moment at which the goods actually leave the territory of the EEC.

## Gist of the Opinion

The Committee adopted unanimously its Opinion on this proposition.

The Committee observes that the proposed Directive merely defines the extent of the liability vis-à-vis the authorities of a person liable to pay duties and the moment when this liability comes into effect, without laying down who is liable to pay duties. It is therefore only a small, but important, step forward along the road towards a full Community customs system covering, not only rates of duty and procedures, but also the principles behind such a system and the consequences of applying them.

The Committee considers that it would be of the greatest interest and would avoid all kinds of difficulties if identical rules were drawn up rapidly for defining the fiscal debt on goods and, in particular, VAT, because distortions between rules on customs duties and rules on VAT charged on the same consignments are a source of difficulties for both businessmen and the authorities.

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.

## 6. Aircraft Noise

Proposal for a Council Directive on the **Limitations** of Noise Emission from Subsonic Aircraft.

### Gist of the Proposal for a Directive

The proposal is based on the principles of the Action Programme on the Environment. It seeks to limit and reduce the

noise emitted by subsonic aircraft. Under the proposal, authorization procedures are to be complied with prior to the issue of individual noise limitation certificates, and checks are to be carried out when aircraft are in service to ensure conformity with noise emission standards. Maximum noise levels and noise-measurement methods are laid down.

The maximum noise levels are those specified in Annex 16 to the Convention on International Civil Aviation (ICAO). The Commission considers that these limits correspond to what is technologically feasible.

The EEC noise limitation certificate should facilitate, administratively and technically, the free movement of aircraft.

#### Gist of the Opinion

The Economic and Social Committee adopted by 44 votes in favour, 10 against and 8 abstentions its Opinion on this Proposal.

The Committee approves the Commission's proposal for a Directive on aircraft noise. It is judged to be in keeping with the principles laid down in the Second Action Programme on the Environment. Also it is based on work carried out at international level, in particular by the ICAO.

In its Second Action Programme on the Environment, the Commission envisages wider ranging measures embracing noise emission, transmission and perception.

Accordingly, the Committee recommends that the Commission commence work as soon as possible on perceived aircraft noise, as an adjunct to the present proposal for a Directive.

As far as evaluation of aircraft noise is concerned, the proposal for a Directive refers to measurement and flight test procedures specified in the version of Annex 16 to the Convention on International Civil Aviation that was adopted by the Council of the ICAO on 3 April 1974.

Uniform application of the principles set out in that document ought to obviate any inconsistency in determining and checking noise levels. But the Committee is not certain whether the provisions of Article 4 fully meet this requirement.

The Committee considers that, should a Member State find that a given aircraft fails to conform to noise requirements, it should be able to take the matter up with the competent authorities of the Member States where the aircraft is registered, with a view to ensuring that the necessary measures are taken. It therefore urges the Commission to see about aligning ground monitoring procedures. It should also put into effect Community procedures for the exchange of monitoring data.

The Commission should, as soon as possible, start work on noise levels within aircraft and, in particular, on flight decks. It is pleased to see that the ISO (International Standards Organization) is currently studying procedures for measuring noise inside aircraft.

The Committee trusts that the findings made in these studies will be incorporated into a Community instrument. It also hopes that bans on aircraft taking off and landing at night and at certain other times will be aligned at European level. When this is done, due allowance should be made for world traffic and special

local noise abatement requirements based on the population density in the neighbourhood of the airport. In passing, the Committee considers that grants should be made to people living around airports for the purpose of making their living conditions tolerable (e.g. for sound-proofing homes).

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 Mrs EVANS - **United Kingdom - Various Interests**.

#### 7. Scientific Training Programme

Proposal for Four-Year Period Programme 1977-1980 in the Field of Scientific and Technical Education.

##### Gist of the Proposal

The programme forms an integral part of the Community's new research and development policy. Its aim is to further the training of recruits and specialists in those particular fields of research where Community projects are already, or are likely to be, undertaken. The programme differs from its predecessors in that it has been extended to cover non-nuclear research projects.

Under the programme, students of science or scientists and engineers holding diplomas or doctorates will be awarded grants for carrying out scientific research projects in a Community country other than their own. Up to 8% of funds may be allocated to nationals of non-member countries.

The programme will also finance further training courses in areas relevant to Community R & D policy.

An advisory committee on programme management (ACPM) will be set up to assist the Commission in its implementation.

The programme will run for four years from 1 January 1977. It will require 7 staff and will cost a total of 5 million u.a. for the period.

#### Gist of the Opinion

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

The Committee approves the aims of the Commission's programme, subject to a number of comments.

The programme is to run for four years from 1 January 1977. It will require 7 staff and a total budget of 5 million u.a. for the period. Under it, students of science or scientists and engineers holding diplomas or doctorates will be awarded grants for carrying out scientific research projects in a Community country other than their own.

The Committee endorses the integration of the programme within the overall framework of Community research and development policy. It also supports the extension of the programme to cover non-nuclear research, the organization of further training courses, and a limited number of grants to nationals of third countries.

However, it considers that the proposed budget of 5 million u.a. is very small, so much so much so that it will have to be increased if the legitimate objectives of the programme are to be achieved. The programme must also be inflation proofed.

As a means of broadening the scope of Community activity in scientific and technical training, the Committee suggests investigation of the possibility of obtaining financial contributions from organizations, foundations and industry.

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

#### 8. Derogations in the Veterinary Field

Proposal for a Council Directive amending Directives 64/432 of 26 June 1964, 72/461 of 12 December 1972 and 72/462 of 12 December 1972 on Health and Veterinary Problems.

#### Gist of the Commission's Proposal

The Directive seeks to extend the deadlines laid down in the Acts of Accession until the expiry of which the United Kingdom, Denmark and Ireland may continue to invoke national laws to protect themselves against certain diseases of animals.



The proposal takes account of the factors which originally prompted the Community to grant the derogations. Its main aim is to abolish health obstacles to trade in fresh meat and live animals with Ireland, the United Kingdom and Denmark.

Gist of the Opinion

The Economic and Social Committee adopted by 63 votes in favour, 16 against and 10 abstentions its Opinion on this proposal.

By and large, the Committee approves the Commission's proposal. Bearing in mind the basic difference of opinion between the original six and the three new Member States as to the best method of combatting certain diseases of livestock, the Committee recommends what it considers should be the basic guidelines of an appropriate veterinary policy :

- Consumer protection;
- Consumers to be supplied at the lowest possible price, by ensuring free movement of goods within the Community;
- The Community herd to be kept disease-free;
- Preference for intra-Community trade.

The Section comes out in favour of joint financing of veterinary policing measures where there is no other way of ensuring that diseases of livestock are tackled effectively.

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 SCHNIEDERS - Germany - Employers.

#### 9. Sardines

Proposal for a Council Regulation (EEC) Supplementing Regulation (EEC) No. 100/76 with Regard to Arrangements for Importing Prepared and Preserved Sardines.

#### Gist of the Commission's proposal

The purpose of the proposed Regulation, which is a follow-up to the agreements concluded with the Maghreb countries, is to introduce Community arrangements for the products in question.

The liberalization of imports will be accompanied by protective measures at the frontiers. This protection will be provided by fixing minimum prices and by introducing a system of import licences.

#### Gist of the Opinion

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

The Committee finds it difficult to accept the argument that a protective system needs to be introduced throughout the Community when basically only two Member States are affected. The system is not only complex, but would require a substantial rise in prices in some Member States if it were to be effective. It

considers that sardine fishermen's and canners' interests would be better protected by simple provisions of limited scope, such as the granting of compensatory aid.

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 CLAVEL - France - Various Interests.

II

EXTERNAL RELATIONS

Official Visit to West Berlin

On 11 October, the Committee Chairman, Mr Henri CANONGE, paid an official visit to West Berlin. During this visit he had talks with West Berlin's Governing Mayor, Mr Klaus SCHUTZ, the Vice-President of the West Berlin House of Representatives, Mr SICKERT, and various representatives of the West Berlin Senate.

Mr CANONGE was accompanied on his visit by his two Vice-Chairmen, Mr Louis AMEYE and Mr Johannes van GREUNSVEN, and by the Secretary-General of the Committee, Mr D. DELEINI.

III

NEW REQUESTS FOR OPINIONS

During October, the Council asked the Committee to deliver Opinions on the following documents :

1. Proposal for a Council Directive on the Sixth Modification of the Council Directive of 27 June 1967 on the Approximation of the Laws of the Member States Relating to the Classification, Packaging and Labelling of Dangerous Substances.
2. Proposal for a Council Directive Relating to the Approximation of the Laws, Regulations and Administrative Provisions of the Member States concerning Liability for Defective Products.
3. Amendments to a Proposal for a Council Regulation (EEC) Amending Regulation (EEC) No. 1696/71 on the Common Organization of the Market in Hops.
4. Draft Fourth Medium-Term Economic Policy Programme.
5. Proposal for a Regulation (ECSC, EEC, EURATOM) of the Council on the Procedure for Applying the European Unit of Account (EUA) to the Legal Acts Adopted by the Institutions of the European Communities.
6. Proposal for a Council Regulation (EEC) Establishing a Community System for the Conservation and Management of Fishery Resources.
7. Proposal for a Council Regulation on a Co-Responsibility Levy and Measures for Expanding Markets in the Milk and Milk Products Sector;

Proposal for a Council Regulation (EEC) Temporarily Suspending Certain National and Community Aids in the Milk and Milk Products Sector;

Proposal for a Regulation (EEC) of the Council Concerning a Charge on Certain Oils and Fats;

Proposal for a Council Decision Setting up a Community Action for the Eradication of Brucellosis, Tuberculosis and Leukosis in Bovines.

8. Proposal for a Council Directive amending the Directive of 15 March 1976 on Mutual Assistance for the Recovery of Claims Resulting from Operations Forming Part of the System of Financing the European Agricultural Guidance and Guarantee Fund, and of Agricultural Levies and Customs Duties.
9. Proposal for a Council Regulation Establishing a European Agency for Trade Cooperation with Developing Countries.

IV

PROVISIONAL PROGRAMME OF FUTURE WORK

143rd Plenary Session - November 1976

- Hops
- The CAP in the International Context
- Review of R & D Programme
- Nuclear Safeguards
- Footwear
- Articles of Precious Metals
- Extension of Social Protection
- Specific Measures to Relieve Unemployment (own initiative)
- Fourth Medium-Term Economic Policy Programme
- Report on Regional Fund in 1975 (own initiative)
- Green Paper
- Trade Cooperation Agency - Developing Countries

144th Plenary Session - December 1976

- Fishing
- Dairy Sector (four proposals)
- EAGGF Claims
- EAGGF Checks
- Transport Infrastructure
- Nuclear Safety (Study)
- Group Accounts (Seventh Directive)
- Collective Investment Undertakings
- Tax Evasion and Avoidance
- European Unit of Account
- Fresh Poultrymeat
- Protection of Rhine

145th Plenary Session - January 1977

- Farm Prices
- Employment in Agriculture (own initiative)
- Fund for Laying-Up Inland Waterway Vessels
- Working Conditions in Inland Waterway Transport
- Prepackaged Products
- Pleasure Craft
- Vocational Preparation of Young People
- Community Relations with Portugal (Study)
- Consumer Action Programme (additional Opinion)
- Toxic Waste
- Freshwater suitable for Fish

146th Plenary Session - February 1977

- Defective Products
- Industrial Change (own initiative)
- Small- and Medium-Sized Undertakings (own initiative)
- Illegal Immigration
- Alignment of Taxes (Study)
- Regional Policy, Unemployment and Inflation (own initiative)
- GATT Negotiations (additional Opinion)
- Relations between Industrialized and Developing Nations (Study)
- Plant Protection Products (two Opinions)

147th Plenary Session - March 1977

- Transport between EEC and Eastern Bloc (own initiative)
- Agreements between the Community and Countries of the East and South Mediterranean (Study)



MEMBERS' NEWS

Resignation

Mr Joannès GALLAND, Secretary-General of the French Confédération générale du travail and member of the Economic and Social Committee since 18 December 1975, has announced that he will be resigning from the Committee as of 1 January 1977.

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

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**Periodical**

- Bulletin (monthly publication)

**General Documentation**

- The Economic and Social Committee (leaflet) (January 1975)
- The Economic and Social Committee (April 1975)  
(A descriptive brochure) 16 p.
- Annual Report (1975) 62 p. (1974) 60 p. (1973) 64 p.
- Directory (November 1975)  
(List of members) 32 p.

**Opinions and Studies**

- Systems of education and vocational training  
(August 1976) (Study) 114 p.
- Regional Policy (March 1976)  
(Opinion) 11 p.
- European Union (July 1975)  
(Opinion) 33 p.
- Progress Report on the Common Agricultural Policy  
(February 1975) (Study) 52 p.
- The Situation of Small and Medium-sized Undertakings in the  
European Community (March 1975) (Study) 69 p.