

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMITTEE
OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES

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155th PLENARY SESSION

The Economic and Social Committee of the European Communities held its 155th Plenary Session on 1-2 February 1978 under the chairmanship of Mr Basil de FERRANTI.

Opinions adopted1. Worker participation

The Economic and Social Committee adopted with no votes against and 1 abstention its Opinion on the

Commission's Green Paper on Employee Participation and Company Structure in the European Community.

The Committee advocates flexibility in any future Directive on worker participation, but has agreed on two practical measures that should be included, namely a) introduction of the two-tier board system as an option in Member States where it is not available at present, and b) the setting up in large companies which do not have or do not introduce board-level employee representation of a special body on which the employees are represented and have minimum rights of information and consultation more or less comparable to those the employees have in a two-tier board structure.

The Community rules should safeguard the rights which employees have already acquired and seek to remove any obstacles to employee participation.

There is general agreement in the Committee that employee participation in the broadest sense of the term is a desirable development in a democratic society.

But although there has been a general movement towards the development of participation in the Community, the Committee considers that this is an issue on which one must not seek instant uniformity. On the other hand, one must take care not to obstruct developments which tend towards harmonization. The priority should be to remove obstacles to a harmonization between the systems and structures for worker participation.

The Committee based its Opinion on material supplied by its Sub-Committee on the Green Paper under the chairmanship of Sir John PEEL (United Kingdom - Various Interests). The Rapporteur was Mr John CARROLL (Ireland - Workers).

Speech by Viscount DAVIGNON, Commissioner

Speaking before the Committee in the debate on the Opinion, Commissioner DAVIGNON began by saying with how much interest the Commission had followed the discussion of the Green Paper in the Committee, as was proved by the fact that it had waited for the Committee to complete its deliberations before attempting any new moves on participation.

He repeated that the method of a green paper setting out various options was followed in order to strike a balance between the need for progress on participation which entailed new rules being laid down, and the indispensable flexibility in the application of those rules.



On the right : Commissioner DAVIGNON at the debate on employee participation

A balance had to be kept between the various parts of the future proposal on company structure and worker participation because of the differences in the Member States' present rules.

Mr DAVIGNON congratulated the Committee on reaching an agreed opinion. This was particularly useful at a time of structural adjustment in industry involving rationalization and innovation, which required a consensus of all those concerned with a firm and made rights of consultation and participation indispensable.

Referring to the intended fifth Directive on company law harmonization, Mr DAVIGNON said he expected a fairly long timescale. Nevertheless, as the Green Paper had stated, the Commission would try to set precise objectives and state the system that finally had to be arrived at. The transitional period during which different systems would coexist would have to be long, but it must not become permanent. Fairly precise objectives would have to be set so that a process of convergence took place in the transitional period. The nature of the transitional period would depend on the objectives and the eventual system required.

2. Conversion rates in Agriculture

Proposal for a Council Regulation (EEC) relating to the Fixing of Representative Conversion Rates in Agriculture

Gist of the Commission's Proposal

This is a new Commission proposal for dismantling monetary compensatory amounts over a seven-year period. The MCAs now in existence will therefore have to be reduced by one-seventh each year.

The main principle of the new proposal is that MCAs in existence at the time of adoption of the proposal should be dismantled on a different basis to those MCAs created after that date in response to currency changes. Furthermore, this proposal drops the introduction of a ceiling on MCAs that would call for an automatic adjustment of the representative rate of the currency concerned.

The Commission considers that the proposed system would make it possible to restore a single market in agricultural products in the Community in the long term, account being taken of the progress made in parallel towards economic and monetary union. The proposed method would not have too great an impact on the production or consumption of agricultural products, nor on the economy in general.

Gist of the Opinion

The Economic and Social Committee adopted its Opinion by 45 votes to 3, with 2 abstentions.

The Committee approves the proposal, though it notes that it is an extremely modest one.

He deplores the absence of a single market for farm produce in the Community, which is largely due to monetary constraints unrelated to the Common Agricultural Policy.

It therefore wonders whether the return to a single market could not have been achieved within a shorter period of time, such as five years.

On the other hand the adjustment of compensatory amounts should allow for the impact on retail prices and farm incomes. This may mean that the new compensatory amounts in strong currencies cannot be dismantled in a year; in such cases, a longer period should be laid down.

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 BUKMAN - Netherlands - Various Interests.

3. Cocoa

Proposal for a Council Directive amending for the fifth time Directive 73/241/EEC on the Approximation of the Laws of the Member States relating to Cocoa and Chocolate Products intended for Human Consumption.

Gist of the Commission's Proposal

The Commission proposes that a number of technical changes be made to the basic Directive of 24 July 1973.

Gist of the Opinion

The Economic and Social Committee adopted its Opinion unanimously.

With respect to Annex I.1.19., of the Directive 73/241/EEC, the Committee considers that the proposal should not create any difficulties or confusion with gianduja nut milk chocolate, for which a separate standard is included (1.24).

With respect to Annex II he observes that the new proposals will allow the continued operation of existing provisions in Denmark, Ireland and the UK : at the same time, the inclusion of such provisions in the national legislation of other Member States is specifically ruled out.

The Committee also emphasizes that the comments in respect of the use of phosphoric acid, flavouring substances and emulsifiers and stabilizers should not be taken to apply to the use of these additives in food products generally.

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 BOUREL - France - Employers.

4. Fisheries

Proposal for a Council Directive on Certain Immediate Measures to Adjust Capacity in the Fisheries Sector.

Gist of the Commission's Proposal

The Commission is proposing that financial aid should be provided to help producers to adapt to the new catch quotas and to enable the processing sector not serving the human consumer to adjust to the new supply situation. For the benefit of the consumer it is also proposed that sales outlets should be developed for breeds of fish that are little known on the market.

The proposed action should enable a start to be made on the adjustment of production and processing capacity to the new situation created by the extension of fishing zones to 200 miles.

Gist of the Opinion

The Economic and Social Committee adopted its Opinion with no votes against and 4 abstentions.

The Committee approves the Commission's proposal and notes with regret that the Council of Ministers has been unable to adopt a number of important and necessary measures in the fisheries sector. In particular no action has been taken so far by the Community authorities on the Regulation on small-scale fishing operations and the Regulation on the terms under which national aid is to be granted as part of the common structural policy for the maritime fishing industry.

The Commission's proposal is considered by the Committee to be well balanced in that it will enable each Member State to take whatever action is most in keeping with its socio-economic situation and the structure of its fishing fleet.

The Committee notes in particular that measures taken to adjust capacity in the fisheries sector will have serious repercussions on employment in this sector, and it attaches the greatest importance to the way in which this problem is solved.

The Committee would draw the attention of the Commission and the Council to the fact that a sizeable proportion of the Member States' fishing fleets is dependent for its livelihood on the possibility of operating in the fishing grounds of a large number of non-EEC countries. It urges the Commission to conclude adequate fishing agreements with these countries as soon as possible.

The Committee also considers that plants which process fish for human consumption should be covered by the immediate measures set out in the proposal.

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

5. Support for Shipbuilding

Proposal for a Council Directive on Aid to Shipbuilding

Gist of the Proposal

The proposal springs from the extremely serious situation in the shipbuilding industry. Worldwide surplus capacity is running at about 40%, and the Community yards are facing stiff competition from Korea and Japan. Previous directives concentrated on standardizing national aids but the new proposal is more concerned with the recession which is jeopardizing the very existence of several Community yards.

Proposed rules :

- production and marketing aid : normally prohibited;

- investment grants : mandatory prior notification of capital grants designed to boost production capacity;
- rescue operations : aid provided to prevent closures of building, repair, or conversion yards to be admissible, provided there is a prospect of long-term viability and that there are pressing social reasons for such aids;
- counter-recession aids : aids, including production aids, may be considered compatible with the Common Market provided they further restructuring;
- non-discrimination clause : aids to shopowners must not entail discrimination against other Member States. Member States to make regular reports on grant-in-aid decisions.

Gist of the Opinion

The Economic and Social Committee adopted its Opinion unanimously.

The Committee endorses the draft directive which allows Governments to continue to grant temporary, exceptional aids to counter the current serious recession. This proposal adheres to the principles of harmonization and gradual tapering of aids to shipbuilding laid down in previous directives.

He considers that the directive is only a fragmentary and limited response to the extremely grave problems facing shipbuilders.

These problems - and more generally the whole crisis affecting the shipbuilding industry - have been the subject of a Communication from the Commission to the Council. The Committee will be called on to deliver an Opinion on this Communication in the near future.

When it does so, the Committee may comment on the nature and consequences of this crisis, especially in the field of employment, and comment on the Community measures that should be taken to put the shipbuilding industry back on a healthy footing.

The Committee urges the Commission to exercise maximum flexibility when vetting investment aids and in particular to approve aids designed to boost productivity, even if they entail a slight increase in production.

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 EVAIN - France - Employers.

6. Driver's Seat on Tractors

Proposal for a Council Directive on the Approximation of the Laws of the Member States relating to the Driver's Seat on Wheeled Agricultural or Forestry Tractors.

Gist of the Commission Proposal

On 23 July 1968, the Commission forwarded to the Council a proposal for a Directive on certain components and characteristics of wheeled agricultural tractors, in which the requirements relating to the driver's seat were laid down in Section XIII of the technical annex. With the aim of following up and, if possible, carrying further the progress that has been made towards protecting the tractor driver, the Commission decided to revise its original proposal.

The proposed directive lays down the construction and testing specifications necessary for EEC type approval of drivers' seats as components of wheeled agricultural or forestry tractors, together with the requirements for fitting a driver's seat to the tractor for EEC type approval of the latter. The seat construction specifications concern in particular the dimensions of the seat surface, the position and inclination of the backrest, the adjustment of the seat and the vibratory movement of the seat. The specifications in respect of the tests to be carried out concern in particular the important aspect of the vibrations to which the human body as a whole is exposed.

The object of the tests proposed is to determine (a) the characteristics of the suspension system and of the adjustment range as a function of the driver's weight, (b) the lateral stability and (c) the vertical vibratory movement.

EEC type approval will be granted to any type of driver's seat which satisfies the requirements laid down by the directive.

The so-called "optional harmonization solution" has been adopted.

Gist of the Opinion

The Economic and Social Committee adopted its Opinion unanimously.

The Committee is glad to see that the Commission's new proposal contains a number of improvements which it is hoped will ensure that the Directive is applied in a non-discriminatory manner.

The Committee would point out that the field of application of the Directive must be taken to include tractors with four-wheel drive.

The Committee would finally urge, in view of the latest experiments, that a fresh look be taken at the testing methods, particularly those used for non-standard tractors.

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 MASPRONE - Italy - Employers.

7. Animal Feedingstuffs

Proposal for a Council Directive concerning Certain Products Used in Animal Nutrition,

Proposal for a Third Directive amending Directive 70/524/EEC concerning Additives in Feedingstuffs,

Proposal for a Council Directive amending the Directive 74/63/EEC on the Fixing of Maximum Permitted Levels for Undesirable Substances and Products in Feedingstuffs and Amending the Directive 70/373/EEC on the Introduction of Community Methods of Sampling and Analysis for the Official Control of Feedingstuffs.

Gist of the Commission's Proposals

The first proposal covers three groups of products :

- single and multi-cell proteins;
- non-protein nitrogenous compounds, and
- amino acids.

If necessary, this list will be extended as soon as the Commission is in possession of tangible results from the vigorous research which is in progress (particularly in the field of micro-organisms). The purpose of the Commission's proposal is to regulate the marketing of products covered by the Directive. It indicates in an annex which products are authorized and, where appropriate, their characteristics and conditions of use.

Experience in recent years has shown that some provisions of Directive 70/524/EEC no longer fit the present situation and that some even have shortcomings which could run counter to the objectives of the Directive, namely, the protection of animal and human health and the improvement of the quality of feedingstuffs. The object of the second proposal is to remedy this state of affairs by means of a number of measures which, on account of their nature and scope, fall into two categories. It is proposed :

- firstly, to make various adjustments resulting from the development of technical knowledge and commercial practice, and
- secondly, to introduce a number of new measures with the object of strengthening the control of the marketing and use of additives intended for animals.

The purpose of the third proposal is to complement the Community provisions on animal feedingstuffs which have already been adopted in order to protect animal and, indirectly, human health; it deals essentially with the fixing of maximum levels for pesticide residues in feeding stuffs.

Gist of the Opinion

The Economic and Social Committee adopted its Opinion unanimously.

The Economic and Social Committee endorses the Commission's moves to extend, and fill obvious gaps in, the legislation on feedingstuffs.

The Committee adds, however, that if a satisfactory solution to all problems in this field is to be found an urgent start should be made on harmonizing provisions on veterinary surgeons, medicated feed and the checking for residues in livestock production.

Care should also be taken to ensure that plant health products and additives in animal feed do not harm the soil, and thus pollute the food chain.

The Committee finally thinks that Member States should be required to back up the implementation of the Directives by notifying the Commission of the control measures taken.

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

8. Preserved Milk

Proposal for a Council Directive Amending for the first time Council Directive No. 76/118/EEC on the Approximation of the Laws of the Member States relating to Certain Partly or Wholly Dehydrated Preserved Milk for Human Consumption.

Gist of the Proposal

It is proposed that "lait demi-écrémé non sucré" be added to the list of products in the basic Directive on partly or wholly dehydrated preserved milk for human consumption.

The Economic and Social Committee adopted its Opinion unanimously.

The Committee approves the Commission's proposal.

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 LAWTON - United Kingdom - Employers.

9. Guidelines for Community Regional Policy

Guidelines for Community Regional Policy.

.../...

The Committee would draw attention to its Opinion of 29 September 1977, in which it approved the Commission's proposals on regional policy and strengthening the resources of the Regional Fund, notably by setting up a "non-quota section". The Committee has taken note of the agreement reached by the European Council on the amount to be allocated to the Regional Fund for the next three years and of the Council's failure to decide on the setting up of such a "non-quota section". The Committee thinks it deplorable that the Regional Fund has not been further strengthened and urges that a decision be taken as soon as possible on the new regulation and especially in favour of setting up a "non-quota section", so as to enable the regional development policy to become more of a Community policy.

The Rapporteur-General was Mr LAVAL - France - Workers.

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II

EXTERNAL RELATIONS

Chairman of Economic and Social Committee on official visit to
Africa

The Chairman of the Economic and Social Committee, Mr Basil de FERRANTI, made an official visit to Kenya and Zambia from 6 to 15 February 1978.

In Kenya he had talks with the Ministers of Finance, Commerce and Industry and Labour. In Zambia he was received by President KAUNDA and met the Minister of Economic and Technical Cooperation, Mr MATOKA, who is also Chairman of the ACP Council of Ministers. Meetings also took place in both countries with representatives of business, professional and trade union organizations, and the Chairman visited a number of development projects being carried out with the help of loans from the Community.

The dominant theme of the talks was the implementation of the Lomé Convention and the preparation of the new Convention.

The Committee Chairman was accompanied by the two Vice-Chairmen, Mr BERNIS and Mr VAN GREUNSVEN, the Chairman of the Committee's External Relations Section, Mr CARSTENS, and the Committee Secretary-General, Mr DELFINI.

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III

NEW REQUESTS FOR OPINIONS

In January 1978 the Council asked the Committee to deliver Opinions on the following :

Guidelines concerning the development of the Mediterranean regions of the Community, together with certain measures relating to agriculture;

Proposal for a Council Regulation (EEC) amending Regulation (EEC) No. 2727/75 and (EEC) No. 1418/76 as regards the export refunds for cereals and rice exported in the form of goods not covered by Annex II to the Treaty;

Proposal for a Council Regulation (EEC) amending Regulation (EEC) No. 2727/75 on the common organization of the market in cereals;

Proposal for a Council Regulation (EEC) amending Regulation (EEC) No. 1418/76 on the common organization of the market in rice;

Proposal for a Council Regulation (EEC) amending Regulation (EEC) No. 2742/75 on production refunds in the cereals and rice sectors;

Proposal for a Council Regulation (EEC) amending Regulation (EEC) No. 804/68 on the common organization of the market in milk and milk products;

Proposal for a Council Regulation (EEC) laying down general rules for milk producers' organizations;

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

Proposal for a Council Regulation (EEC) amending Regulation (EEC) No. 1192/69 on common rules for the normalization of the accounts of railway undertakings;

Proposal for a Council Directive (EEC) on statistical returns in respect of carriage of goods by road, as part of regional statistics;

Proposal for a Council Directive amending Directive 76/135/EEC on reciprocal recognition of navigability licences for inland waterway vessels;

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

Draft Resolution of the Council of the European Communities on a Community action programme on safety and health at work;

Proposal for a Council Regulation (EEC) concerning the adaptation of the Annexes to Regulation (EEC) No. 1408/71 of the Council of 14 June 1971 on the application of social security schemes to employed persons and their families moving within the Community, with a view to applying it to self-employed persons and their families;

Proposal for a Council Regulation (EEC) concerning the adaptation of Regulation (EEC) No. 1408/71 of the Council of 14 June 1971 on the application of social security schemes to employed persons and their families moving within the Community, with a view to applying it to self-employed persons and their families;

Communication from the Commission to the Council on the Reorganization of the Community Shipbuilding Industry;

Proposal for a Council Directive on the approximation of the laws of the Member States concerning the general requirements of construction and certain types of protection for electrical equipment for use in potentially explosive atmospheres;

Proposal for a Council Directive (EEC) on the approximation of the laws of the Member States relating to common provisions for machine-tools and similar machines for the working of metals, wood, paper and other materials;

Proposal for a Council Directive (EEC) on the approximation of the laws of the Member States relating to hand-held, power-driven, portable grinding machines;

Draft Council Recommendation to the Member States regarding methods of evaluating the cost of pollution control to industry;

Proposal for a Seventh Council Directive on the harmonization of the laws of the Member States relating to turnover taxes - Common system of value added tax to be applied to works of art, collectors' items, antiques and used goods;

Proposal for an Eighth Council Directive on the harmonization of the laws of the Member States relating to turnover taxes - arrangements for the refund of value added tax to taxable persons not established in the territory of the country;

Proposal for a Council Directive amending Directive 73/173/EEC on the approximation of Member States' laws, regulations and administrative provisions relating to the classification, packaging and labelling of dangerous preparations (solvents);

Proposal for a Council Directive amending the Directive of 26 July 1971 concerning the coordination of procedures for the award of public works contracts.

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RIGHT OF INITIATIVE

The Committee decided at its 155th Plenary Session to draw up an own-initiative Opinion on :

- Current problems in the field of Sea Transport Policy with special study of the Role of New Shipping Nations, Flag Discrimination and the Proliferation of Flags of Convenience.

IV

PROVISIONAL PROGRAMME OF FUTURE WORK

Plenary Session of February 1978

Opinions requested by Institutions

- Product Liability
- Green Currency Conversion Rates
- Farm Price Review
- Alcohol
- Fisheries (other proposals)
- Wine Acreage Surveys
- International Coach and Bus Services (Shuttle)
- International Coach and Bus Services (Regular)
- Energy Objectives for 1985
- Hot Water Meters
- Prepackaged Liquids
- Fluorocarbons
- Home Study Courses

Opinions undertaken on Committee's own initiative

- Starch
- Export Credit Insurance
- Education and Training

Study

- Tax Harmonization

Plenary Session of March 1978

Opinions requested by Institutions

- Farm Modernization
- Monitoring of Fishing Grounds

Opinions undertaken on Committee's own initiative

- Mediterranean Agriculture
- Customs Union
- Transport Programme

Plenary Session of April 1978

Opinions requested by Institutions

- Nuclear Fuel Reprocessing
- Fast Breeders
- Nuclear Waste

Opinions undertaken on Committee's own-initiative

- Part-time Work

Study

- Asbestos

Plenary Session of May 1978

Opinions requested by Institutions

- Economic Situation in the Community
- Cultural Programme

Opinions undertaken on Committee's own initiative

- Forestry
- Overconsumption of Drugs
- International Currency Disorder

Later Plenary Sessions

Opinions undertaken on Committee's own initiative

- Frontier Workers
- Lomé Convention

Studies

- Relations with Greece
- Relations with State-Trading Nations
- Relations with Spain
- Consumer Protection

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MEMBERS' NEWS

Appointment

On 23 January 1978 the Council of the European Communities appointed Mr Aldo BONACCINI, member of the Economic and Social Committee, in the place of Mr MILITELLO who had earlier resigned.

Honours' List

Mr Jack L. JONES, member of the Committee, has been made a Companion of Honour.

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VI

INFORMATION

University Studies on European Integration - Findings of the
9th Bibliographic Survey

To help researchers in the field of European integration to gain access to as much documentation as possible as well as to establish contact with those doing similar work, the Commission of the European Communities has decided that the surveys previously carried out by the Institut de la Communauté européenne pour les Etudes universitaires should be started up again. With this in mind the ninth survey was put in the hands of the Centre d'Etudes européennes of the Catholic University of Louvain. The survey has just been completed and the findings published in a Bulletin entitled Etudes Universitaires sur l'intégration Européenne - University Studies on European Integration - 9/1977.

The publication lists doctoral and other university theses in progress or completed since 1973. The works are classified according to content (historical, political, legal, economic, social, cultural ...) and there is an author catalogue in each section.

Anyone wishing to provide information on research work covered by the next survey (10/1978) or who would like to receive the present bulletin (9/1977) is asked to get in touch with the :

Centre d'Etudes européennes
c/o Michel WIRTGEN, or
c/o Marlene DAUVEN

Place de l'Université, 1
B - 1348 LOUVAIN-LA-NEUVE
BELGIUM

Tel. : 010/41.81.81 - Ext. 4292.

In order to give you some idea of press reaction to the work of the ESC, the Bulletin will from now on be publishing a selection of articles that have appeared in the press of the Member States. The choice will naturally have to be a limited one.

THE IRISH TIMES

TRENDS, 1 JANUARI 1978

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 3, 1978

Carroll advocates participation

From John Cooney, in Brussels

AN IRISH trade unionist, Mr John Carroll, yesterday told the European Community's economic and social committee that member-countries would move closer towards being truly democratic societies if worker participation in industry and public companies was more widely practised.

Mr Carroll, of the Irish Transport and General Workers' Union, was presenting a report on "Employment participation and company structures in the European Community." Present at the meeting, which brings together representatives of management and workers, was the Commissioner responsible for industry policy, Viscount Danignou.

Ekonomische en Monetaire Unie weer uit de koelkast

Bepaalde verklaringen en toezeggingen van EG-Kommissieleden en regeringsleiders tijdens de voorbije maanden wezen erop, dat het debat over de Europese Economische en Monetaire Unie (EMU) weer op gang zou gebracht worden. Dit punt stond ook op de agenda van de Europese Raad van 5 en 6 december jl.

De Kommissie-voorzitter heeft dus wel toezeggingen gekregen om verder te ijveren voor de opbouw van een monetaire unie, doch de politieke steun blijft gering. Hijzelf bleek niet al te ontgoocheld, ook al miste zijn strategie tot op heden toch het gewenste doel. Op basis van de hem gegeven toezeggingen kan de voorzitter thans wel zijn debat, dat hij als centraal in dit proces beschouwt, laten ontploopen, binnen het parlement, het ~~Ekonomisch en Sociaal~~ Ekonomisch en Sociaal Komitee en de Driepartijenconferentie. Deze publieke discussie, aan de Europese Verkiezingen onmiddellijk voorafgaand, kan een beslissende rol spelen, en daar ligt Jenkins' grote troef. Steeds meer en meer politieke, economische en sociale kringen spreken zich uit ten voordele van verdere integratie, zodat het goed mogelijk is dat de politieke leiders over een bepaalde tijd voor en door hun electoraat gedwongen worden zich definitief te engageren en dat Jenkins bij een volgende gelegenheid het gelijk aan zijn kant haalt.

Roy Jenkins heeft in elk geval wel voorzien dat Europa niet zal gebouwd worden met kleine, technische stapjes, die door de politici dan nog eens geminimaliseerd worden. Deze tactiek uit de voorbije jaren heeft zijn glans verloren en de tijd wordt stilaan rijp voor grote stappen, die van een globale visie getui-



Roy Jenkins ziet de monetaire eenmaking als een beslissende stap die de weg opent voor een politieke eenmaking.

gen en verhinderen dat de EG tot een nieuwe „praatclub” zou vervallen. Monetaire, regionale, sociale en politieke problemen zijn in hun evolutie inderdaad niet meer te scheiden en enkel via een aanpak van het geheel is een historische stap mogelijk, want „Met Geld alleen wird Europa nicht gebaut”, zoals Bondsminister van Financiën H. Apel onlangs schreef. **MARC QUENTEN**

VWD

EUROPA

Der EG-Wirtschafts- und Sozialausschuß wird am 2. Februar das von der EG-Kommission ausgearbeitete Grünbuch vom November 1975 über die Mitbestimmung der Arbeitnehmer und die Struktur der Gesellschaft in der EG erstmals erörtern. Berichterstatter wird der irische Arbeitnehmersvertreter John F. Carroll sein. (27b)

EUROPE

AGENCE INTERNATIONALE
D'INFORMATION POUR LA PRESSE
Société Anonyme fondée le 2 décembre 1952
Président Administrateur Délégué Ludovico RICCARDI
Directeur Rédacteur en Chef Emanuela GAZZO
LUXEMBOURG - BRUXELLES



COMITE ECONOMIQUE ET SOCIAL : AVIS SUR L'AGRICULTURE, L'ALIMENTATION, LA CONSTRUCTION NAVALE, LE FONDS REGIONAL

BRUXELLES (EU), vendredi 3 février 1978 - Le Comité Economique et Social qui a tenu mercredi et jeudi sa session plénière a adopté tous les avis à l'ordre du jour - notamment celui sur le "livre vert", cfr. EUROPE de hier, p. 9 - à l'exception de celui concernant l'harmonisation en matière de responsabilité du fait des produits défectueux, qui a été reporté à la session plénière suivante.

LE COMITE ECONOMIQUE ET SOCIAL DEBATTRA EN PRESENCE DU COMMISSAIRE DAVIGNON DU LIVRE VERT SUR LA PARTICIPATION

BRUXELLES (EU), vendredi 27 janvier 1978 - C'est sous la présidence de M. Basil de Ferranti que le Comité économique et social tiendra les 1er et 2 février 1978 sa 155ème session plénière. Au cours de la session, le Commissaire Davignon assistera jeudi matin à l'élaboration de l'avis sur la "Participation des travailleurs et la structure des sociétés dans la Communauté européenne (livre vert)", demandé par la Commission le 21 novembre 1975.

JOURNAL DU U.P.A., 13.1.1978

LES PRODUCTIONS VEGETALES RICHES EN PROTEINES

Au cours de sa session des 28 et 29 septembre, à Bruxelles, le Co-

mité économique et social de la C.E.E. a approuvé sur la base d'un rapport de M. Clavel (France, activités diverses), directeur adjoint des Affaires économiques et sociales de l'Assemblée permanente des Chambres d'Agriculture chargée des relations internationales), la proposition de la Commission européenne concernant l'amélioration des mesures communautaires en faveur des graines de soja.

Dans son avis, il souligne qu'une véritable incitation à la culture du soja impliquerait des rapports de prix plus réalistes entre le soja et les autres cultures et rappelle l'opportunité de développer aussi l'en-

semble des productions végétales riches en protéines et particulièrement celles qui sont déjà bien adaptées aux conditions naturelles de sol et de climat européens.

D'autre part, dans un autre avis sur la proposition de directive concernant le contrôle du flétrissement bactérien de la pomme de terre, le C.E.S. reconnaît la nécessité de mesures communautaires afin de prévenir la propagation de cette maladie mais estime que le projet de la Commission est trop perfectionniste et devrait se limiter à des dispositions fondamentales nécessaires.

Il demande donc que des recherches concrètes soient lancées afin de déterminer les zones de la C.E.E. dans lesquelles des foyers d'infection sont apparus.

LA CITE, 2.1.1978

Les consommateurs belges et l'action de la C.E.E.

Consomm. belg et action CEE
Certains signes montrent que le ministre actuel des Affaires économiques se montre moins soucieux de la protection des consommateurs que ses prédécesseurs. L'inspection générale « Intérêt des Consommateurs » décidée par le ministre Oeffe n'existe toujours que sur le papier, le secrétariat du Conseil de la Consommation a été réduit à une seule personne (zéro en cas de maladie et de congé), le budget du CRIOC est sacrifié, etc. Quant au ministre de la Santé publique, compétent pour les cosmétiques, les denrées alimentaires, etc., il n'a toujours pas décidé d'appliquer la résolution du Conseil des Ministres européens prévoyant la consultation de toutes les organisations de consommateurs avant l'adoption d'arrêtés ministériels.

On ne s'étonnera donc pas que les consommateurs se tournent souvent vers la CEE. Même si les consommateurs ne sont pas toujours écoutés, ils sont au moins consultés et informés des projets de l'exécutif.

De plus en plus de sujets doivent d'ailleurs être résolus sur un plan européen, et il est donc intéressant de faire un bilan de l'action communautaire. Un tel bilan n'est malheureusement pas possible pour notre pays, les ministres intéressés n'ayant aucun projet politique en matière de défense des consommateurs.

Nous faisons brièvement le point, ci-dessous sur certaines dispositions et certains projets de la CEE intéressant les consommateurs.

DEMARCHAGE A DOMICILE

La Commission pourrait proposer prochainement une modification de sa proposition de directive, pour tenir compte de l'avis du Comité économique et social et du Parlement européen. Le lobby de l'assurance et certaines firmes britanniques de démarchage a domicile exercent sur la Commission une pression constante et certains voudraient considérer que le souscripteur d'une police d'assurance est un épargnant et non un consommateur. Les représentants des consommateurs seraient-ils désolés au profit du « syndicat des actionnaires » ?

ENSEIGNEMENT PAR CORRESPONDANCE

La proposition de la Commission vient d'être transmise pour avis au Comité économique et social et au Parlement européen.

L'ARTIGIANATO D'ITALIA, 20.12.1977

Una dimostrazione concreta di sensibilità

Le piccole e medie

impres

nella Comunità

Il Comitato Economico e Sociale (CES) delle Comunità Europee (sede di incontro delle diverse rappresentanze sindacali: imprenditori, lavoratori, autonomi, ecc.) ha approvato in Assemblea plenaria il parere riguardante « Le piccole e medie imprese nel contesto della Comunità ».

Questo parere costituisce la risposta ad un documento della Commissione delle Comunità Europee, che riassume le osservazioni ad uno studio del 1974. In lo stesso CES per sua iniziativa aveva elaborato.

BULLETIN DE LA FEDERATION DES INDUSTRIES BELGES, 1.1.1978

Problèmes de l'intégration européenne

La Commission *Intégration* s'est réunie le 20 décembre dernier sous la présidence de M. Guillaume. Deux points étaient à l'ordre du jour, à savoir : l'examen des résultats du dernier Conseil des chefs de gouvernement qui s'est tenu à Bruxelles les 5 et 6 décembre et l'examen des travaux communautaires concernant la relance de l'Union économique et monétaire.

Quant aux travaux sur l'Union économique et monétaire, la Commission s'est dans un premier stade penchée sur l'organisation de l'action UNICE dans ce domaine. Suite à la décision du Conseil des chefs de gouvernement de présenter le Plan quinquennal sur l'Union, dit *Plan Ortoli*, au Parlement européen, au Comité économique et social et à une des prochaines Conférences tripartites, l'UNICE en particulier devra élaborer pour le deuxième semestre 1978 au plus tard un avis substantiel en la matière.

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

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 (1976) 80 p. (1975) 62 p. (1974) 60 p. (1973) 64 p.
- Directory (January 1977)
(List of members) 42 p.
- The Right of initiative of the Economic and Social Committee
(October 1977) 124 p.

Opinions and Studies

- EEC's Transport Problems with East European Countries
(December 1977) (Opinion) 164 p.
- Community Nuclear Safety Code (July 1977)
(Study) 50 p.
- Regional Development - Unemployment and Inflation (June 1977)
(Opinion) 130 p.
- Research and Development (November 1976)
(Study) 35 p.
- Systems of education and vocational training
(August 1976) (Study) 114 p.
- Regional Policy (March 1976)
(Opinion) 11 p.
- European Union (July 1975)
(Opinion) 33 p.
- Progress Report on the Common Agricultural Policy
(February 1975) (Study) 52 p.
- The Situation of Small and Medium-sized Undertakings in the
European Community (March 1975) (Study) 69 p.