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I

SUMMARY

Pages

I	- <u>20th ANNIVERSARY OF THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMITTEE</u>	1
II	- <u>159th PLENARY SESSION</u>	4
	<u>Opinions adopted</u>	4
	1. REORGANIZATION OF SHIPBUILDING	4
	2. SOCIAL SECURITY OF SELF-EMPLOYED MIGRANTS	7
	3. ILLEGAL MIGRATION AND ILLEGAL EMPLOYMENT	10
	4. PART-TIME WORK	12
	5. VAT - 7th DIRECTIVE	13
	6. VAT - 8th DIRECTIVE	15
	7. SOLVENTS	16
	8. STATE-TRADING COUNTRIES IN LINER SHIPPING	18
	9. COMMISSION'S MEMORANDUM ON MARINE POLLUTION (AMOCO CADIZ)	19
	10. VETERINARY SECTOR	21
	11. UN LINER CONFERENCE CODE	22
	12. NORMALIZATION OF RAILWAY ACCOUNTS	24
	13. MACHINE TOOLS AND PORTABLE GRINDING MACHINES	26
	14. ELECTRICAL EQUIPMENT USED IN AN EXPLOSIVE ATMOSPHERE	28
	15. HOT-WATER METERS	29
	16. ATMOSPHERIC POLLUTION	31
	17. MICROPOLLUTANTS	33

.../...

II

		<u>Pages</u>
III	- <u>EXTERNAL RELATIONS</u>	34
	Meeting of Environment Section in Sardinia	34
	Meeting of the Economic and Social Committee and the French Economic and Social Council	34
	Meeting in Thessalonica of the EEC- Greece Joint Parliamentary Committee ...	35
	Meeting between ESC and National Economic and Social Councils	36
IV	- <u>NEW REQUESTS FOR OPINIONS</u>	38
V	- <u>PROVISIONAL PROGRAMME OF FUTURE WORK</u> ...	39
VI	- <u>PRESS REVIEW</u>	41

20th ANNIVERSARY OF THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMITTEE

On the eve of the 159th Plenary Session, 30 May, the Economic and Social Committee of the European Communities celebrated the 20th anniversary of its creation. On this occasion the President of the Committee, Mr Basil de FERRANTI (UK) recalled that the conviction on which the Committee is founded is that the organized economic and social forces which make up the European Community, the "constituencies" of the Committee, should be able to press their views through an institution of their own. Political democracy and the freedom that is won through the ballot box is the first bulwark of our European society. But economic and social democracy, in the modern world, is also necessary. We look forward to the further strengthening of this remarkable Assembly.

The 144 members of the Committee, seated here as individuals in their personal capacities, would be lost without the extensive and elaborate support given by the organizations in the Community and in the Member States, he said.

"Just reading a list of these organizations helps to build up a mental picture of what representation entails in an economic and social democracy. It does not add up to a machine for decision-making. Ours are organizations of people representing many millions of people and reflecting the wide range of their fears and ambitions. Our job as Counsellors is to bring people together and establish those personal relationships which is the only way to ensure that there is a two-way flow of communications between you and Brussels".

He also intervened in the current debate concerning the future structure of the European aircraft industry.

"The Committee", he said, "is unanimous in its view that the European market for aircraft is one of the key sectors for European technology and long-term employment".

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In an explicit reference to the decisions about to be made in Britain, Mr de FERRANTI remarked that "the current offers being made by the biggest American manufacturer must give cause for doubt as to whether they will really contribute to the development of European technology over a period of time, or whether in fact they are designed to inhibit the development of a strong European aircraft industry. Surely the right approach to transatlantic collaboration in this - as in all high technology fields - must be based on a strong and united European industry".

The President of the Council, Mr S. AUKEN, said that over the last few years the Community had changed. This is due in part to the broadening of its activities where many new fields opened to it, such as environment, education or energy. On the other hand, current world problems such as inflation or unemployment directly influence the Community. If the Community has changed, so has the work of the Committee due to the increase in the range of activities but also because the Council makes greater use than formerly of the optional consultation procedure. This is in itself some sign of the importance which the Council attaches to the Committee's advice and of the value it places on the Committee's Opinions. Another indication of the Council's great appreciation is to be found in the recognition of the Committee's right to issue Opinions on its own initiative. With this provision, which has been used skilfully, the Committee possesses for the time being all the instruments needed to play its part as the consultative forum composed of the economic and social sectors of the Member countries. As to the coming years, it seems that the Committee will have a very substantial part to play. This is mainly because the challenges now facing the Community as a whole are much more demanding than in the sixties and early seventies. The Committee, combining as it does, a wide range of skills and interest is well placed to provide the Community institutions with the advice, encouragement and stimulation which they will need to match up to these problems.

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Representatives of the Institutions of the European Communities at the Committee's 20th Anniversary celebrations in Brussels.

Speaking for the Commission, Mr VREDELING, Commission Vice-President, said that the importance of the Committee had grown steadily since its inauguration in 1958 and this was especially true after the first summit conference of heads of state and government in Paris in October 1972. The Committee's Opinions had often been of great value to the Commission and as an example Mr VREDELING mentioned the annual Opinion on the Social Situation, the importance of which had increased in step with the central prominence which social issues had assumed over the past few years and which were now reaching into other areas of Community policy : in the first place the issue of mounting unemployment, particularly among young people, and, secondly, the issue of inflation and the consequent increasingly unequal distribution of income and wealth. He expressed the hope that the cooperation between the two institutions would continue in the future along the same fruitful lines as in the past.

On behalf of the European Parliament, Mr YEATS, Vice-President, recalled that contrary to those countries in which an Economic and Social Council may give advice to the Parliament, the Economic and Social Committee does not act as an advisory body to the European Parliament. Nonetheless, since their inauguration twenty years ago, both Parliament and the Committee have shown themselves to be prepared to exchange information on the other's work and links have slowly but steadily been forged between the two institutions. In recent years a pragmatic relationship has been established which took two forms. First, a more balanced distribution of the Committee's documents to members of Parliament had been ensured. Second, hearings of Rapporteurs from the Committee on certain of its Opinions were organized at the request of the appropriate Committees of the European Parliament.

As to the definition of the relationship between the two institutions, it can be said that Parliament is a forum for the expression of political views on any issue connected with the activities of the Community. The Economic and Social Committee provides a platform for leaders from the economic and social sphere who are directly interested in the formulation and application of common policies affecting their field of activity he said. This leads to the conclusion that the specialist consultative function of the Committee is complementary to the generalist, supervisory and consultative functions of Parliament.

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The distinguished audience at the formal session included Mr GEENS, Belgian Minister of Finance, and Mr SPITAEELS, Belgian Minister for Social Affairs, Chairmen of the Institutions, Member of the Commission, the Heads of the Permanent Representations of the Member States of the Community, Ambassadors from the associated African, Caribbean and Pacific States, the Secretaries-General of the European Institutions and the Presidents and the Secretaries-General of the national Economic and Social Councils, as well as the Presidents and Secretaries-General of numerous European and national interest groups.

The speeches were interspersed with a programme of music by Pachelbel, Corette, Vivaldi, von Maldere, Elgar and Beethoven provided by the Solistes de Liège and the Choirs of the European Community, directed by Jean JAKUS.

Silver medals were presented to those Committee members who have been in office since 1958, to the former Presidents, to the former General Secretary and to staff members with twenty years' service in the Committee.

- II -

159th PLENARY SESSION

The 159th Plenary Session of the Economic and Social Committee was held in Brussels on 31 May and 1 June 1978, under the chairmanship of Mr Basil de FERRANTI, Committee Chairman.

Opinions adopted

1. REORGANIZATION OF SHIPBUILDING

Commission's Communication to the Council on the Reorganization of the Community Shipbuilding Industry.

Gist of the Communication

The present policy of most Member States, geared to propping up production and jobs, is liable to freeze capacity at current levels and prevent Community shipbuilding from ever becoming competitive. The long-term result will be that the Community shipping fleet will come under the domination of foreign shipbuilders.

To prevent this happening, the Commission is proposing a comprehensive policy for the shipbuilding industry to :

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- trim capacity to prospective demand;
- create new jobs outside shipbuilding for the displaced manpower;
- site new industry in shipbuilding areas so that shipbuilding workers' special skills can be used;
- modernize yards to make them commercially viable again and able to stand on their own feet, and competitive on the world market.

The Commission wishes to use funds already appropriated or requested under the 1978 Budget for coordinating the various instruments which can help finance the structural adjustment. Another part of its strategy is a clamp-down on abuse of international environment and ship safety regulations to enforce the replacement of obsolete vessels.

Opinion of the Committee

The Economic and Social Committee adopted its Opinion unanimously, except for one abstention.

It notes that the shipbuilding industry throughout the world is suffering from a structural and cyclical crisis unprecedented in scale and duration, due to an imbalance between supply and demand on the new building market. The EEC Shipbuilding industry is in danger of disappearing unless an appropriate Community Policy is rapidly implemented.

While agreeing with the analysis of the causes of the crisis, the Committee would have liked the Commission to have stressed the role played by Japan in the development of the present over-capacity. Whereas, Community yards have increased their production capacity only to a very small degree, Japanese shipbuilders have pursued a policy of expansion.

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The Commission's estimate of the demand for new vessels from Community shipyards in the early 1980s (2.4 million cgrt) may be too optimistic. The figure is derived from a market survey made in 1976 and is based on the assumption that the distribution of orders among the major shipbuilding centres of the world will remain constant. The distribution of orders, however, changed last year to the disadvantage of the Community. It would be unwise, in the Committee's view, to use this figure in fixing a target for new building capacity in the Community.

The Committee makes the following suggestions for rationalization of the sector :

- In view of the strategic and economic importance of the shipbuilding industry, the Community should endeavour to maintain capacity at a level corresponding to the volume of its trade by sea, so as to ensure the Community's security of supplies of essential imports and maintain revenue from shipping as a substantial positive item in the balance of payments.
- Community policy must aim at promoting the production of high-technology vessels (in which the Community shipbuilding industry is already largely specialized) for export to third countries as well as for its own use. The objective should be to achieve the greatest possible balance in trade in new tonnage.

To this end, support should be provided for technological research on design and improvement of construction methods;

- Exports of technology should follow common rules applying to the entire Community shipbuilding industry.

The Committee also considers that a shipbuilding policy should have regard to a broader Community shipping policy.

The problem of vessels which do not measure up to international standards on safety and living and working conditions of crews should be dealt with firmly and effectively, and the Community should act promptly on the Commission's recommendation to bar such vessels from its ports.

With regard to the serious social problems caused by the present shipbuilding crisis, the Committee considers that the Community instruments such as the Regional Fund and the Social Fund do not at present have sufficient resources for effective action on the scale required.

Where reductions in the labour force are inevitable, priority should be given to redeploying workers in other industries, not simply making them redundant. Development of other industries which can absorb such manpower should consequently be encouraged. World economic recovery would, of course greatly facilitate this.

The Opinion was drafted by the Committee's Section for Industry, Commerce, Crafts and Services, under the chairmanship of Mr HEMMER - Luxembourg - Employers. The Rapporteur was Mr EVAIN - France - Employers.

2. SOCIAL SECURITY OF SELF-EMPLOYED MIGRANTS

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, and the Annexes thereto.

Gist of the Commission's Proposals

The progress made in getting the freedom of establishment and the freedom to provide services introduced for the self-employed and developments in Member States' social security systems (some of which already provide the

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self-employed with almost the same cover as persons in paid employment) make it necessary for the self-employed, too, to benefit from the Community coordination of national social security systems.

The need to take action in this field has been repeatedly stressed by both the European Parliament and the Economic and Social Committee and was recognized by the Council in its Resolution of 21 January 1974 concerning a Social Action Programme. This is why the Commission is proposing that Regulation (EEC) No. 1408/71 and its Annexes III and V should be adapted for the benefit of the self-employed.

As the aim is to extend provisions applicable to employed persons to the self-employed, the proposal in no way amends the provisions that apply to employed persons.

For the sake of fairness and simplicity, it has been proposed that, wherever possible, the rules applicable to the self-employed should be the same as those applied to employed persons. Apart from those exceptions, set out below, self-employed persons will be covered by the same Community schemes as employed persons as regards :

- equality of treatment with nationals under the domestic legislation of the Member States;
- determination of the legislation applicable;
- aggregation of insurance periods for entitlement to benefits provided under sickness and maternity insurance, invalidity insurance, old-age insurance, survivors' insurance and unemployment insurance, as well as death grants and family benefits;
- the provision of benefits in cash and in kind provided under sickness and maternity insurance, insurance against accidents at work, death insurance (death grants) and family benefits, regardless of the Member State where the person concerned or the members of his family are staying or residing;

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- the transfer of invalidity, old-age, survivors' and industrial accidents pensions to the territory of any other Community Member State;
- the method of calculating invalidity, old-age and survivors' pensions, if the person concerned is subject to the legislation of more than one Member State.

In addition to this, the general provisions, miscellaneous provisions and transitional and final provisions (with the exception of Article 94) of EEC Regulation No. 1408/71 shall also apply to self-employed persons.

There are a few exceptions which concern mainly :

- some details on the aggregation of insurance periods for entitlement to pensions;
- obtaining unemployment benefits outside the competent State.

To this must be added that in view of their special nature, the pension insurance schemes for self-employed persons of some Member States have, at least for the time being, been left outside the scope of the Regulation.

Opinion of the Committee

The Economic and Social Committee adopted its Opinion by a large majority, with 3 abstentions.

Even though it regrets that the Commission has taken such a long time to act on the Social Action Programme Guidelines, the Committee endorses the proposals, which it has repeatedly called for in the past.

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Nonetheless, it makes a number of general and specific comments about :

- the usefulness of consolidating the numerous texts dealing with the social security of migrant workers;
- the need for the implementing regulation and its annexes to be finalized quickly;
- the abolition of unjustified discrimination with regard to the persons covered by the proposed Regulation;
- the difficulties likely to stem from the fact that special schemes in some Member States are excluded from the proposed Regulation's scope;
- the advisability of reconsidering cases where Community provisions on employed persons are not to be extended to the self-employed.

The Opinion concludes with an appeal in which the Committee declares that the time has now come to take a bold stand and gradually adopt a series of concrete measures to align national laws, within the meaning and in the spirit of Articles 117 and 118 of the Treaty.

This Opinion was based on material prepared by the Section for Social Questions under the chairmanship of Mr HOUTHUYS - Belgium - Workers. The Rapporteur was Mr PURPURA - Italy - Various Interests (replaced by Mr PRONK after Mr PURPURA's death)

3. ILLEGAL MIGRATION AND ILLEGAL EMPLOYMENT

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

Gist of the draft Directive

On 23 February 1977 the Committee delivered an Opinion on an initial Commission proposal for a Directive on the Harmonization of Laws in the Member States to combat Illegal Migration and Illegal Employment. As a result of this Opinion and the Opinion of the European Parliament the Commission has now amended its initial proposal and has submitted a new draft concerning specifically :

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- closer cooperation between the Member States in the campaign against illegal migration and clandestine employment;
- appropriate penalties;
- fulfilment of employers' obligations;
- the protection of workers' employment-related rights.

These objectives are consistent with the guidelines laid down by the Council, i.e. :

- the prevention and punishment of illegal migration and illegal employment;
- the mitigation of prejudice suffered by illegal migrants by safeguarding their rights and making employers fulfil their obligations.

Opinion of the Committee

The Economic and Social Committee adopted its Opinion unanimously.

It is pleased that the new draft takes account of most of its comments on the original proposal.

It particularly welcomes the proposals to safeguard illegal migrants' employment-related rights, to ensure that employers meet their obligations, to enlist the cooperation of the various socio-economic interest groups involved and to set up information services for migrants in their home countries.

The Committee also reiterates its earlier call for Community-level harmonization of penalties, protection of

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political refugees and the prosecution of manpower traffickers throughout the Community.

This Opinion was based on material prepared by the Section for Social Questions under the chairmanship of Mr HOUTHUYS - Belgium - Workers. The Rapporteur was Mr KIRSCHEN - Italy - Workers.

4. PART-TIME WORK (own-initiative Opinion)

Part- Time Employment : Its Effects in the Current State of the Labour Market.

Opinion of the Committee

The Economic and Social Committee's Opinion, which was adopted with no votes against and one abstention, begins with comments on the definition of part-time work, the reasons for taking half-jobs and their function in the present state of the labour market. It is pointed out that part-time work accounts for a significant proportion (about 10%) of the Community workforce and is increasing in a number of sectors.

Part-time working is not a substitute for an expansion of employment, but should basically be regarded as a way of meeting the needs of certain types of workers.

An expansion of part-time working presupposes an improvement in the position of part-time workers. Part-time working is merely one type of work-sharing, and must not operate to the detriment of full-time employment.

The Committee lays down the following requirements :

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- Part-time work must be voluntary;
- It must not lead to excessive costs for companies or society at large;
- Part-time workers must receive protection comparable to that enjoyed by full-time workers;
- Steps must be taken to ensure that part-time work does not lose its true function, and have a disruptive impact on the labour market and social security.

Provided the above conditions and in particular the requisite improvement in the legal status of part-timers are met, steps should be taken (with respect to both employers and workers).

The Opinion was based on preliminary work done by the Committee's Section for Social Questions under the chairmanship of Mr HOUTHUYS - Belgium - Workers. The Rapporteur was Mr van RENS - Netherlands - Workers.

5. VAT - 7th DIRECTIVE

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.

Background to, and essentials of the Commission Proposal

The Sixth Council Directive on the harmonization of legislation of Member States concerning turnover taxes - a common system of VAT : a uniform basis of assessment, was finally approved by the Council in May 1977, some 4½ years after first being proposed by the Commission, and on which the Economic and Social Committee gave its Opinion (Doc. CES 101/74 of 31 January 1974). In order to gain

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agreement on the main aspects of the Sixth Directive proposals, and to enable the "own resources" system of Member State contributions to the Community funds to come into force by 1 January 1978, some particular articles of the original proposals were omitted. Two of these have become the subject of the 7th and 8th "VAT" Directives respectively.

Article 32 of the 6th Directive lays down that by 31 December 1977 the Council should have dealt with a Commission proposal covering the manner in which VAT is to be paid in respect of works of art, collectors' items, antiques and used goods.

The fact is that this group of goods when bought or sold by taxable persons represents an important source of revenue for national governments; the liability of taxable persons for tax on such business varies considerably from Member State to Member State; in most cases at present, a degree of double taxation occurs.

The proposed 7th Council Directive provides that for all items of this nature - except for certain used goods, such as cars, pleasure craft, private aircraft - the taxable amount would be a standard flat-rate percentage of the selling price. For certain used goods, such as cars, etc., mentioned above, the taxable person reselling would be authorized to deduct from the tax chargeable on his reselling price, an amount of tax calculated on the basis of his purchase price.

The Directive furthermore allows taxable persons covered by the special scheme it provides, to opt instead for the normal scheme for value added tax currently obtaining in his own Member State.

Opinion of the Committee

In its Opinion adopted by 28 votes in favour, 16 against and 28 abstentions, the Economic and Social Committee concludes by being highly critical of the Commission's

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proposal and virtually rejects it as it stands. The Committee calls upon the Commission to keep its proposals within the existing VAT rules.

This Opinion was based on material prepared by the Section for Economic and Financial Questions under the chairmanship of Mr MARGOT - Belgium - Various Interests. The Rapporteur was Mr PEYROMAURE-DEBORD-BROCA - France - Employers.

6. VAT - 8th DIRECTIVE

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.

Background to, and essentials of the Commission's Proposal

The Sixth Council Directive on the harmonization of legislation of Member States concerning turnover taxes - a common system of VAT : a uniform basis of assessment, was finally approved by the Council in May 1977, some 4½ years after first being proposed by the Commission, and on which the Economic and Social Committee gave its Opinion (Doc. CES 101/74 of 31 January 1974). In order to gain agreement on the main aspects of the Sixth Directive proposals, and to enable the "own resources" system of Member State contributions to the Community funds to come into force by 1 January 1978, some particular articles of the original proposals were omitted. Two of these have become the subject of the 7th and 8th "VAT" Directives respectively.

Article 17, para. 4 of the 6th Directive lays down that by 31 December 1977 the Council should have dealt with a Commission proposal determining how claims for repayment of VAT should be made by taxable persons who have had to pay VAT outside their own country. The prime aim is to reduce the likelihood of double taxation, and adhere to the principal that equal treatment be given to all taxable persons in the Community, regardless of the Member State in which they incur expenditure attracting VAT.

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Regarding the position of each Member State vis-à-vis non-Member countries, the proposed 8th Council Directive in fact leaves it to each Member State to determine the conditions governing the refund or refusal of the refund to such taxable persons. The refund may not, however, be more favourable than those accorded to Community taxable persons.

Opinion of the Committee

The Economic and Social Committee adopted its Opinion by 38 votes in favour and 19 abstentions.

The Opinion endorses the proposal, seeing it as a transitional arrangement in the interests of fiscal justice pending implementation of the general principle of the abolition of tax frontiers within the Community.

The Committee's only specific observation concerns the second paragraph of Article 7 of the draft Directive, where it questions the setting of minimum sums of 25 and 50 EUA for which refunds may be claimed in a 3-month or 12-month period respectively.

The Opinion was based on material prepared by the Section for Economic and Financial Questions under the chairmanship of Mr MARGOT - Belgium - Various Interests. The Rapporteur was Mr PEYROMAURE-DEBORD-BROCA - France - Employers.

7. SOLVENTS

Proposal for a Council Directive Amending Directive No. 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).

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Gist of the Proposal

The Commission states that the proposed amendments to the Directive of 4 June 1973 on the Classification, Packaging and Labelling of Dangerous Preparations (Solvents) will provide greater protection for the public and especially for persons who frequently come into contact with solvents in the course of their work or their spare time activities.

The amendment seeks to extend the scope of the original Directive to cover mixtures of solvents with non-dangerous substances, to align rules on labelling and symbols, to oblige manufacturers to notify the composition of toxic solvent mixtures to poisons information centres and to require Member States to provide the Commission and the other Member States with lists of their poisons information centres.

Opinion of the Committee

The Economic and Social Committee adopted its Opinion with no dissenting votes and 2 abstentions.

The Committee approves the proposal. It does, however, draw attention to the fact that the 1967 basic Directive on dangerous substances and the Directive on solvents have been properly incorporated into national law by only two Member States, very recently in one case. It therefore urges the Commission to ensure that all the Member States do in fact incorporate these Directives into their national law and really do implement them.

The Committee proposes that the Commission should pay special attention to warning the public of the toxic nature of certain solvents. This could be done by the addition

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of dyes, by the provision of self-adhesive labels or by other appropriate methods. In order to minimize the harmful consequences of any accidents, the Committee also urges the Commission to take a fresh look at the possibility of mandatory first aid instructions on the labels of toxic products.

This Opinion was based on material prepared by the Section for Protection of the Environment, Public Health and Consumer Affairs under the chairmanship of Mr ROSEINGRAVE - Ireland - Various Interests. The Rapporteur was Mr DE GRAVE - Belgium - Workers.

8. STATE-TRADING COUNTRIES IN LINER SHIPPING

Draft for a Council Decision concerning the Activities of Certain State-Trading Countries in Cargo Liner Shipping.

Gist of the Draft

The problems caused by the cargo liner shipping of a number of State-trading countries from Eastern Europe (in particular the Soviet Union, but also to some extent Poland and the German Democratic Republic) have been under examination for some time by the Community institutions.

The draft is intended to provide the Community with a basis for joint counter action by Member States, in cases where the objectives deemed by the Community to be appropriate for relations between its own liner shipping and that of certain State-trading countries have not been met. Since

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commercial action will be ineffective because State-trading countries' shipping lines are not obliged to yield to commercial pressures, only political action is likely to have an impact on these countries.

Opinion of the Committee

The Economic and Social Committee adopted its Opinion by a large majority with 2 abstentions.

It fully endorses the draft Decision, and is gratified to see that the Commission has based itself to a very large extent on the Committee's preliminary work in this field.

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

9. COMMISSION'S MEMORANDUM ON MARINE POLLUTION (AMOCO CADIZ)

Commission Communication to the Council on Marine Pollution Arising from the Carriage of Oil (Amoco Cadiz).

Gist of the Commission's Communication

The Commission has adopted a package of guidelines comprising :

- An action programme on the control and reduction of pollution caused by oil spills at sea (see Annex 1), accompanied by a resolution;
- A proposal for a Council Decision concluding the protocol to the Barcelona Convention of 16 February 1976 for the protection of the Mediterranean Sea against pollution, which covers cooperation in combating pollution by oil and other harmful substances in cases of emergency. The Protocol provides for the parties to cooperate in

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drawing up emergency plans, promoting methods of controlling marine pollution by oil, disseminatory information on the organization of resources and on new methods to prevent and control pollution, and developing relevant research programmes;

- A recommendation for a Council Decision concerning negotiations by the European Economic Community with a view to its accession to the Bonn Agreement of 9 June 1969 on cooperation in dealing with pollution of the North Sea by oil. This agreement provides, in particular, for the reciprocal exchange of information on the combating of marine pollution by oil;
- A draft of a Council Resolution on the extension to 12 miles of the breadth of the territorial waters of all Member States. The effectiveness of regulatory measures and controls by Member States in respect of marine pollution by ships sailing in their territorial waters is directly linked with the extent of the areas of sea in which such measures may be applied. The Commission, therefore, calls on the Member States whose territorial waters are less than 12 miles wide (all of them with the exception of France and Italy) to extend them to that limit.

Opinion of the Committee

The Economic and Social Committee adopted its Opinion unanimously.

It notes the memorandum and urges that appropriate Community measures be introduced as fast as possible. It may later give its Opinion on the individual proposals made by the Commission.

The Opinion was drafted by the Rapporteur-General, Mr HOFFMANN - Germany - Workers.

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On 29 March, at its 157th Plenary Session, the Committee expressed its dismay at the disaster involving the Amoco Cadiz and requested the Council to do everything in its power to avoid a repetition.

10. VETERINARY SECTOR

"Programme of Work to be Carried Out in the Veterinary, Zootechnical and Animal Protection Spheres : Staff required for such Work".

Gist of the Commission's Document

The programme proposed by the Commission, which fits in with the guidelines already set down by the Council in the veterinary field, makes provision for the following :

- The phasing out of barriers to intra-Community trade in live animals and products of animal origin, in particular until frontier checks have been abolished;
- The development for this purpose of measures applicable not only within the Community but also to imports from non-member countries;
- The improvement of the health situation by introducing, in particular, programmes to combat animal diseases;
- The extension of harmonization as rapidly as possible to all those fields where it is necessary on account of existing barriers, etc. (including the fields of zootechnics legislation and animal protection);
- The Council is also asked to note that the full and effective application of the acts adopted by the Council will necessitate an increase in Commission staff, and
- It is further proposed that the Council should invite the Commission to submit to it, within three years after the introduction of inspection procedures, a report

accompanied by proposals on the definitive guidelines to be adopted with regard to veterinary inspection.

Opinion of the Committee

The Economic and Social Committee adopted its Opinion unanimously.

It approves the proposed programme, but notes that :

- the Commission should give priority to carrying out and administering the Directives already adopted by the Council;
- the financial measures needed to put the programme into effect, which have been submitted well behind time, should be implemented as soon as possible.

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

11. UN LINER CONFERENCE CODE

"Proposal for a Council Regulation concerning Accession to the United Nations Convention on a Code of Conduct for Liner Conferences".

Gist of the Commission's Proposal

Member States should ratify the Code only if a number of points are amended to take account of the EEC's specific interests.

One of the key points here is a formal reservation on the definition of a national shipping line. To preclude discrimination between the Member States it is

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proposed that the term "national shipping line", when used to refer to the Member States, should cover not only the Member States' own lines but also the lines of other signatories of the EEC Treaty established on their territory.

The Commission's second point is that, within the EEC and, as far as possible, throughout the OECD, cargo should continue to be allocated between conference lines in accordance with the usual trading agreements.

In addition, it should be mandatory for all EEC conference lines to consult other Member State Lines in the same conference before taking a position on any matter defined in a conference agreement which affects traffic to or from a Member State.

It is also proposed (i) that the Council immediately adopt a Regulation on the application of EEC competition rules to agreements entered into under the Code of Conduct; (ii) that the Commission be authorised to approve the Code in the event of the proposals being adopted; (iii) that the Commission be authorized to work out a common EEC position for the review conference to be held five years after the entry into force of the Code of Conduct.

Opinion of the Committee

The Economic and Social Committee adopted its Opinion unanimously.

The Commission's proposal raises a number of problems such as :

- Ratification procedure and reservation (Articles 1 and 2 and Annex I);
- Commission negotiations with the Member States of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (Articles 5 and 6);

.../...

- Adoption of a Regulation on the application of EEC competition rules to liner conference agreements;
- Review conference (Articles 7 and 8).

The Committee considers that Member States should ratify or accede to the Code of Conduct, but shares the Commission's view that a reservation should be entered regarding the term "national shipping line", since the definition laid down by the United Nations is not in keeping with the EEC Treaty. After thorough study of the matter, it suggests that the Commission should give an even clearer definition that will preclude any doubt about the meaning of "national shipping line".

The Committee believes that ratification of the Code by the Community should not be made conditional upon the outcome of negotiations on this matter at the OECD.

Before the review conference meets, the Commission should study the question of cut-throat competition from vessels not subject to the Code of Conduct and should work out ideas for possible solutions.

This opinion is based on material prepared by The Section for Transport and Communications under the chairmanship of Mr HOFFMANN - Germany - Workers. The Rapporteur was Mr BOS - Netherlands - Various Interests.

12. NORMALIZATION OF RAILWAY ACCOUNTS

"Proposal for a Council Regulation (EEC) amending Regulation (EEC) No. 1192/69 on Common Rules for the Normalization of the Accounts of Railway Undertakings.

Gist of the Proposal

Laws, regulations and administrative procedures adopted by the public authorities in respect of railways other than national railways may entail burdens or benefits

.../...

for such undertakings not unlike those covered by Regulation (EEC) 1192/69. In general, given the present state of integration of transport markets the activities of such undertakings, particularly those involved in international transport, are, in normal circumstances, unlikely to affect trade between Member States. Regulation 1192/69 could therefore be extended to cover exceptional cases only. Where burdens are imposed, compensation should be payable.

Opinion of the Committee

The Economic and Social Committee adopted its Opinion unanimously.

The normalization of railway accounts is an important component of the common transport policy. It is designed to offset extraneous burdens imposed on and benefits granted to railways and thus abolish distortions of competition on the transport market. Also, the clear demarcation of extraneous burdens and the relevant normalization of accounts will make for greater transparency of the actual operating and business results of railway undertakings. Such transparency is essential to ensure that the correct transport policy decisions are taken. Decisions in this sphere affect the general public and all economic operators involved in the transport market.

The Committee therefore fully endorses the Commission proposal.

This Opinion was based on material prepared by the Section for Transport and Communications under the chairmanship of Mr HOFFMANN - Germany - Workers. The Rapporteur was Mr HILDGEN - Luxembourg - Workers.

.../...

13. MACHINE TOOLS AND PORTABLE GRINDING MACHINES

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, and the

"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.

Gist of the Commission's Proposals

The machine tools sector is included in the third phase of the EEC's general programme for eliminating technical barriers to trade. The main reasons why legislation in such a vast sector as machine tools should be aligned are :

- There are big differences between national laws concerning both the technical measures for manufacturing, examining and testing machine tools and the administration procedures necessary before marketing;
- This situation obliges manufacturers of machine tools and similar goods to adapt their output to different national technical requirements;
- Manufacturers are obliged to submit their products to the individual type-approval procedures of each Member State.

The Commission's paper contains two proposals : one for an "outline" directive and the other for a specific type of machine.

The basic principles contained in the "outline" directive are :

.../...

- the solution adopted is that of "optional harmonization", but this does not rule out the possibility that certain implementing directives will be based on "total harmonization".
- Machine tools complying with common EEC rules will be allowed to circulate freely.
- To ensure that EEC standards are adapted rapidly to technical progress, it is planned that in the initial directives any adjustments may be done through a special committee, and not have to go through the complete procedure.

The main procedures in the proposed directives are :

- "EEC Type-Approval", which is the act whereby a Member State records, after testing, that a particular type of machine complies with the requirements of the directive;
- "EEC Verification", which means inspecting a machine to see that it conforms to the approved pattern;
- "EEC Type-Examination", which means the procedure whereby the appropriate approved body in a Member State establishes and certifies that a particular type of machine satisfies Community requirements;
- "EEC Inspection", which means the procedure whereby the approved body ensures that a particular type of machine when mass produced conforms to the approved pattern;
- "EEC Independent Certification", which means the procedure whereby in certain cases the manufacturer himself certifies on his own responsibility that a particular machine satisfies Community requirements.

Opinion of the Committee

In its Opinion, adopted unanimously, the Economic and Social Committee approves the two proposals, although it feels that Common Customs Tariff headings number 84.45 B

.../....

and C, 84.49 and 85.05 are not sufficiently explicit to enable the outline Directive to be implemented. The types of machines coming under these headings will, therefore, have to be defined more accurately.

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

14. ELECTRICAL EQUIPMENT USED IN AN EXPLOSIVE ATMOSPHERE

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.

Gist of the Commission's Proposal

The Commission is continuing its efforts to achieve harmonization along the lines indicated by the Council in its previous Directives on electrical equipment.

The provisions of this proposal supplement those of Directive 76/117/EEC on the approximation of the laws of the Member States concerning electrical equipment for use in potentially explosive atmospheres, to which the proposal constantly refers. However, it spells out certain procedural details which had not been specified in Directive 76/117/EEC. These details relate to the obligations of the body which delivers a certificate of conformity or of control concerning both the notification of the certificate and the provisions with which the body must comply should the certificate come to be revoked.

As for the mark E, it was fixed in agreement with the work of harmonization undertaken at Commission level

.../...

and within the framework of CENELEC (European Electrotechnical Standardization Committee).

Opinion of the Committee

The Economic and Social Committee adopted its Opinion unanimously.

It approves the proposal and is pleased that it provides for aligned standards. However, as the use of the equipment in question may pose safety hazards, "total harmonization" is advocated.

The Committee asks that, before the Commission proposes the changes which it deems necessary, it consult the professional bodies concerned, whether they be representatives of manufacturers, or of consumers, or of standard institutes.

This Opinion was based on material supplied by the Section for Industry, Commerce, Crafts and Services under the chairmanship of Mr HEMMER - Luxembourg - Employers. The Rapporteur was Mr MASPRONE - Italy - Employers.

15. HOT-WATER METERS

Proposal for a Council Directive on the Approximation of the Laws of the Member States relating to Hot-Water Meters.

Gist of the Proposal

The draft directive seeks to create a common market for hot-water meters which comply with the Council Directive of 26 July 1971 on the Approximation of the Laws of the Member States relating to Common Provisions for both Measuring Instruments and Methods of Metrological Control.

It also aims to ensure that those Member States who do not have laws on hot-water meters do not introduce laws,

.../...

regulations, or administrative procedures differing from those in the rest of the Community. To do so would merely create further barriers.

Since existing national laws are based on a legitimate concern to protect consumers and users harmonization of specifications on the design, conditions of use, accuracy and inspection procedures seems to be the only way of removing the drawbacks created by differences in these areas and of creating the conditions necessary for the establishment of the common market.

Harmonization is also consistent with general policy on the rational use of energy, hygiene, behaviour patterns and industrialization demand increasing amounts of hot water which is now extremely expensive.

As with most previous directives in the measuring instrument sector, the Directive comprises a legal instrument and a technical annex. The annex sets out the basic concepts involved and provides an exhaustive list of the specifications which meters must comply with and the tests they must pass in order to qualify for free movement within the Community.

Opinion of the Committee

The Economic and Social Committee adopted its Opinion unanimously.

It endorses the draft Directive insofar as it seeks to create a common market in hot-water meters which are being more and more widely used, especially as a means of saving energy and sharing out costs more fairly between users.

.../...

By showing that hot water is an expensive commodity, hot-water meters encourage consumers to cut down on wastage.

The Commission proposes the introduction of a new Class "O" meter and new performance figures for the other classes. But where meters are to be used specifically for measuring hot water consumption, they have to be at least as accurate as cold-water meters.

Accordingly, bearing in mind the technical advances made since work began on the new Directive and the high unit cost of hot water, it is in the consumer's interest that harmonization should keep pace with technical progress.

The Committee therefore urges the Commission to take a fresh look at the various classes proposed, in the light of consumer interests.

Finally, the Committee goes along with the generally held view that "total harmonization" is desirable.

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

16. ATMOSPHERIC POLLUTION

Proposal for a Council Decision adopting a European Economic Community Concerted Action in the field of Physico-Chemical Behaviour of Atmospheric Pollutants.

Gist of the Commission's Proposal

As part of the Community Environmental Action Programme, the Commission has proposed a programme of research

.../...

into the physico-chemical behaviour of atmospheric pollutants. This would continue and expand the research being done on the physico-chemical behaviour of sulphur dioxide in the atmosphere.

The Community Action Programme will be spread over a four-year period and is aimed at coordinating the research projects listed in the Annex, which are part of the national and Community research programmes. The Commission's financial contribution to this coordination is put at 500,000 u.a.

Opinion of the Committee

The Economic and Social Committee adopted its Opinion unanimously.

The Committee applauds the Commission proposal and also welcomes the suggestion to involve non-Member States in research. Their contribution will, undoubtedly, be valuable.

It is proposed that the "concerted action" should run for four years. Given the complexity and scale of the programme, four years may not be long enough. The measures taken by the Member States and the Commission should, if possible, yield concrete results (even if these are incomplete) during the programme's lifespan.

The Committee is anxious that the concerted action should receive adequate funds.

.../...

This Opinion was based on material prepared by the Section for Protection of the Environment, Public Health and Consumer Affairs under the chairmanship of Mr ROSEINGRAVE - Ireland - Various Interests. The Rapporteur was Miss ROBERTS - United Kingdom - Various Interests.

17. MICROPOLLUTANTS

Proposal for a Council Decision adopting a European Economic Community Concerted Action in the field of Analysis of Organic Micropollutants in Water.

Gist of the Commission's Proposal

As part of the Community Environmental Action Programme, the Commission has proposed a programme of research on the impact of human activities on the aquatic environment and the necessary tools for the surveillance of the quality of the environment.

The Community Action Programme will be spread over a four-year period and is aimed at coordinating the research projects listed in the Annex, which are part of the national and Community research programmes. The Commission's financial contribution to this coordination is put at 600,000 U.A.

Opinion of the Committee

The Economic and Social Committee adopted its Opinion unanimously.

It welcomes the proposal and hopes that the recommendations of the Advisory Committee on programme management will be fully implemented at the conclusion of the programme.

.../...

Priority should be given to the problem of determining those substances which even in small quantities may be harmful to health.

Although the health aspect is not included in the programme, the Committee hopes that note will be taken of this important aspect which is receiving wide attention.

This Opinion was based on material prepared by the Section for Protection of the Environment, Public Health and Consumer Affairs under the chairmanship of Mr ROSEINGRAVE - Ireland - Various Interests. The Rapporteur was Sir John PEEL - United Kingdom - Various Interests.

III

EXTERNAL RELATIONS

Meeting of Environment Section in Sardinia

The Section for the Protection of the Environment, Public Health and Consumer Affairs met in Sardinia from 1-3 May to consider and prepare its Opinion on atmospheric pollutants, micropollutants in water and the packaging of dangerous preparations (solvents).

Meeting of the Economic and Social Committee and the French Economic and Social Council

On 11-12 May a series of meetings was held at the headquarters of the European Communities' Economic and Social Committee in Brussels between a delegation from the Committee and the French Economic and Social Council's Bureau.

A strong commitment to a stronger Community regional policy emerged, the participants particularly emphasizing the need for a Community-allocated "non-quota" section of the European Regional Development Fund.

The progress of approximation in the social and taxation fields was also reviewed. Members considered tax harmonization indispensable for progress to economic and monetary union, and saw evidence that it would help the

.../...

countries of the Community to overcome their current difficulties.

Surveying the general situation of the European Community, the representatives of the two bodies were unanimous in the view that to get out of the current structural crisis it was vital to find a broad consensus between the interest groups.

The delegation from the French Economic and Social Council was as follows : The Chairman, Mr VENTEJOL, the three Vice-Chairmen, Mr DELEAU, Mr de la FOURNIERE, Mr TESSIER, the members : Mr CALVEZ, Mr CARRIERE, Mr DUVAL and Mr MOCH, the Secretaries, Mr FURST and Mr MARTIN, the Secretary-General, Mr LAVONDES, the Head of Administration, Mr VIEU, the Head of the Chairman's Cabinet, Mr PASQUALAGGI, and the Administrator, Mrs CHEVILLER-DUBOIS.

The Economic and Social Committee delegation, led by the Committee's Chairman, Mr de FERRANTI, comprised the Vice-Chairman, Mr van GREUNSVEN, the Chairmen of the Social and Regional Development Sections, Mr HOUTHUYS and Mr LAVAL, the Bureau member, Mr RENAUD, the Chairman of the Tax Harmonization Study Group, Mr CLARK, a member of the same Study Group, Mr CREMER, the Secretary-General, Mr DELFINI, the Director-General, Mr LOUET, and the Head of the Secretary-General's Cabinet, Mr TEISSEIRE.

Meeting in Thessalonica of the EEC-Greece Joint Parliamentary Committee

Following a request from the Chairman of the EEC-Greece Joint Parliamentary Committee, a nine-member delegation from the Economic and Social Committee met a delegation of Greek employers' and workers' representatives in Thessalonica.

The Greek delegation included the Chairmen of the Greek General Confederation of Labour and the Panhellenic Confederation of Agricultural Cooperative Unions, the Vice-Chairman of the Federation of Greek Industries and the Chairman of the Greek Confederation of Smaller Businesses and Master Craftsmen.

.../...

At the meeting, which was held on 16 May alongside the work of the EEC-Greece Joint Parliamentary Committee, the representatives of the various Greek trade associations described the situation in their sector and the problems that accession to the EEC would pose for them.

The members of the ESC then answered questions put to them by the Greek representatives and the members of the Joint Parliamentary Committee, and the meeting ended with a reception given by the Minister for Northern Greece, Mr MARTIS.

At the beginning of the meeting, the former Speaker of the European Parliament, Mr SPENALE, said how pleased he was to see members of the Economic and Social Committee being involved in the work of the European Parliament and pointed out that such meetings were a natural continuation of the contacts between the Committee and the Parliament begun at the instigation of the former ESC Chairman, Mr CANONGE.

Meeting between ESC and National

Economic and Social Councils

The commemoration of the twentieth anniversary of the founding of the Economic and Social Committee provided the Chairmen and Secretary-Generals of the Economic and Social Councils in the Member States of the Community with the opportunity to meet together in Brussels on 31 May. The meeting was arranged at the initiative of the Chairman of the Economic and Social Committee.

The meeting was an informal one and largely given over to discussing the specific role played by each Council in the national context.

Participants thus had the chance to become acquainted with the particular structures and operational

.../...

procedures of all Economic and Social Councils in the Community.

This first meeting showed how useful it would be to hold periodic meetings between leading officials of the various Councils so that all concerned could keep more up to date with the developments of economic and social consultation at national level. In Member States where consultation is on an official footing, reforms are being carried out. In Member States where there are no such ad hoc bodies grouping together all socio-economic interest groups and putting out opinions on the various aspects of the economic situation, however, discussions have been held as to whether such bodies should, in fact, be set up. Some trade and professional interest groups have even made proposals to this effect.

Although the work of Economic and Social Councils is in principle confined to strictly national matters, there is often a spill-over by the very nature of the studies carried out - into a European and world-wide dimension.

Pragmatic relationships have, for example, been gradually built up between the Economic and Social Committee and a number of national Economic and Social Councils and these have taken the form of "hearings" of Rapporteurs and joint meetings of respective Bureaux.

All the personalities who attended this first meeting (which was also attended by socio-economic groups in Member States where consultation has, as yet, no official blessing) were delighted with this initial meeting and expressed the unanimous wish to see similar meetings on a regular basis so that information could be exchanged on developments in the various Member States of the European Community.

.../...

As far as the Economic and Social Committee in particular is concerned, it is worth noting that the role of the Committee in the context of a directly elected European Parliament was also discussed.

IV

NEW REQUESTS FOR OPINIONS

In May the Council asked the Committee to deliver Opinions on the following :

Proposal for a Council Regulation on a common measure for forestry in certain dry Mediterranean zones of the Community.

Proposal for a Council Directive amending the Council Directive of 19 December 1977 concerning mutual assistance by the competent authorities of the Member States in the field of direct taxation.

Proposal for a Council Decision adopting a programme of research for the European Atomic Energy Community on safety in thermal water reactors.

Proposal for a Council Decision adopting a programme concerning the decommissioning of nuclear power plants.

Proposal for an Eighth Directive pursuant to Article 54(3)(g) of the EEC Treaty concerning the approval of persons responsible for carrying out statutory audits of the annual accounts of limited liability companies.

The Committee will be asked for an Opinion towards the end of September on the :

Commission's Annual Report on the Economic Situation of the Community.

.../...

PROVISIONAL PROGRAMME OF FUTURE WORK

June 1978 Plenary Session

Opinions requested by an Institution

- Dry Zones in the Mediterranean Region
- Economic Situation in the Community
- Development of the Social Situation
- Employment of Young People
- Health and Safety at Work
- Pollution of Ground Water
- Cost of Anti-Pollution Measures
- Noise Level of Compressors
- Customs Procedure for Stores
- Pre-packaged liquids

Own-Initiative Work

- International Monetary Disorder

Studies

- Relations between the Community and Greece

July 1978 Plenary Session

Opinions requested by an Institution

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

Own-Initiative Work

- Frontier Workers
- Lomé Convention
- Forestry

.../...

Studies

- Spain
- Tax Harmonization

Information Report

- Londonderry/Donegal : Regional Development

Subsequent Plenary Sessions

Opinions requested by an Institution

- Surveillance of Maritime Waters
- Lamb and Mutton
- Protection of Workers in the Event of Bankruptcy Proceedings
- Misleading Advertising
- Companies
- Annual Report on the Economic Situation
- Code of Conducts for Liner Conferences (additional Opinion)

Own-Initiative Work

- Flags of Convenience
- Consumption of Medicines

Studies

- R & D Management
- Influence of Regional Authorities
- Legal Protection for Consumers
- Hazards arising from the use of Asbestos

VOLKSGAZET

20 jaar economisch en sociaal comité

Op 30 mei e.k. herdenkt het Economisch en Sociaal Comité der Europese Gemeenschappen, dat het twintig jaar geleden werd opgericht. Om 16 u. 30 zal in de Albert I-Zaal van het Congrespaleis te Brussel een plechtige vergadering worden gehouden, met toe-

spraken door de voorzitter van het Economisch en Sociaal Comité, de voorzitter van het Europees Parlement, de voorzitter van de Raad en de voorzitter van de Commissie. Door de Solistes de Liège en de koren van de Europese Gemeenschap onder leiding van Jean

Jakus zal muziek ten gehore worden gebracht van Pachelbel, Corette, Vivaldi, von Maldere, Edgar en Beethoven.

Er zullen zilveren medailles worden uitgereikt aan de leden die vanaf 1958 in het Comité zitting hebben.

LE SOIR 31.5.78

Le Comité économique et social de la C.E.E. célèbre ses vingt ans

A l'occasion du vingtième anniversaire du Comité économique et social de la C.E.E., célébré mardi à Bruxelles, M. Basil De Ferranti, président, a rappelé le rôle de cette institution communautaire. Il a également exprimé devant les 144 conseillers que comprend cet organisme son désir de voir se renforcer le pouvoir du Comité dans un avenir proche.

Rappelons que le Comité économique et social réunit les représentants des différents secteurs de l'économie des neuf pays membres de la Communauté. Sa création en 1958 avait été prévue par le traité de Rome (article 193 à 198) pour associer les employeurs, les travailleurs et les autres secteurs tels l'agriculture, l'artisanat, les petites et moyennes entreprises, le commerce, à la réalisa-

tion de la Communauté. Le C.E.S. est consulté pour avis par la Commission de la C.E.E. ou le Conseil, mais il a obtenu récemment de pouvoir émettre de lui-même des avis sur des sujets communautaires. L'Allemagne, la France, le Royaume-Uni et l'Italie comptent 24 conseillers, la Belgique, les Pays-Bas 12 conseillers, le Danemark et l'Irlande 6 et le Luxembourg 6. Ils sont nommés par leur gouvernement et leur mandat dure quatre ans. L'assemblée actuelle sera renouvelée début 1979.

La Libre Belgique 30.5

Vingtième anniversaire du C.E.S.

Le gouvernement sera représenté par M. Geens, ministre des Finances, et par M. Spitaels, ministre du Travail et de l'Emploi, à la célébration de la création du 20^e anniversaire du Comité économique et social des Communautés européennes, ce mardi 30 mai.

Nachrichten für Aussenhandel 1.6.78

20 Jahre EG-Wirtschafts- und Sozialausschuss

Brüssel. — Der EG-Wirtschafts- und Sozialausschuss (WSA) hat am 30. 5. 78 in Brüssel in Anwesenheit der Präsidenten der europäischen Organe und des belgischen Ministerpräsidenten Leo Tindemans sein zwanzigjähriges Bestehen gefeiert. WSA-Präsident Basil de Ferranti verwies auf die Rolle, die der WSA in 20 Jahren zur Förderung von Konsens und besserem Verständnis zwischen den tonangebenden Kräften der gemeinschaftlichen Gesellschaft gespielt hat. Der WSA habe das Konzept der wirtschaftlichen und sozialen Demokratie verwirklicht. Durch zahlreiche konstruktive Beiträge habe er zur Entwicklung der Globalstrategie der Gemeinschaft beigetragen und zu einer großen Zahl von Einzelvorlagen seine Stellungnahme abgegeben. Einschneidendes Ereignis war die Übertragung eines eigenen Initiativrechts auf den WSA durch die Pariser Gipfelkonferenz vom Oktober 1972.



EUROPE 31.5.78

LE COMITE ECONOMIQUE ET SOCIAL CELEBRE SON VINGTIEME ANNIVERSAIRE

BRUXELLES (EU), mardi 30 mai 1978 - C'est par une séance académique en la salle Albert 1er du Palais des Congrès à Bruxelles que le Comité économique et social a célébré cet après-midi le vingtième anniversaire de sa création.

Dans une allocution d'ouverture, le président du Comité économique et social, M. Basil de Ferranti, après avoir souhaité la bienvenue aux personnalités présentes, a rappelé que les 144 membres du Comité nommés à titre personnel ne pourraient représenter les forces économiques et sociales de la Communauté sans le soutien des organisations dans la Communauté et dans les Etats membres. "Notre tâche de Conseiller est de rassembler les gens et d'établir ces relations personnelles qui assurent une communication dans les deux sens entre vous et Bruxelles". "En tant que président du Comité, j'ai été impressionné par le

WDR

Vorspann: Hier sind der Westdeutsche Rundfunk und der Norddeutsche Rundfunk mit ihrem I. Programm. Aus dem Studio Brüssel hören Sie: EUROPA-REPORT.

H.J. Milhan:

Auf der europäischen Bühne stehen vor allem der Ministerrat und die EG-Kommission im Rampenlicht. Deutlich weniger Beachtung findet das Europäische Parlament und noch weniger der Wirtschafts- und Sozialausschuss, der jetzt seit 20 Jahren besteht.

Europa van Morgen 24.5.78

20 JAAR ECONOMISCHE EN SOCIAAL COMITE

Op 30 mei 1978 herdenkt het Economisch en Sociaal Comité van de Europese Gemeenschappen dat het twintig jaar geleden werd opgericht

Om 16.30 uur zal in de Albert 1 Zaal van het Congrespaleis te Brussel een plechtige vergadering worden gehouden. Er zullen toespraken worden gehouden door de voorzitter van het Economisch en Sociaal Comité, de voorzitter van het Europees Parlement, de voorzitter van de Raad en de voorzitter van de Commissie van de Europese Gemeenschap

Door de Solistes de Liège en de koren van de Europese Gemeenschap onder leiding van Jean Jakus zal muziek ten gehore worden gebracht van Pachelbel, Corette, Vivaldi, Von Maldere, Elgar en Beethoven. Er zullen zilveren medailles worden uitgereikt aan de leden van de SER die vanaf 1958 zitting hebben, aan de voormalige voorzitters, aan de voormalige secretaris-generaal en aan de leden van het personeel die twintig jaar in dienst van het SER zijn. In aansluiting op de plechtige vergadering zal op Kasteel Herfoginmedal een receptie worden gegeven.

La Marseillaise

31.5.78

Viticulture :

dans le même sens et avec le même objectif. Mettre les viticulteurs méridionaux devant le fait accompli, l'élargissement de la CEE situation devant laquelle le plus sage serait encore d'organiser « techniquement » les choses au mieux.

Cette opération politique et idéologique insidieuse ressort nettement une fois de plus de la chronique viticole du journal ce dernier jeudi, rendant compte de la réunion de la Chambre d'Agriculture de l'Hérault, du 28 mars, au cours de laquelle cet organisme a examiné les propositions de Bruxelles. « Midi Libre » écrit : « En tant que directeur de la Chambre M. Dubin qui vient d'être nommé expert auprès du Comité Economique et Social de la Communauté Economique Européenne a développé les pro-

positions de la Commission. En fait, il s'agit de savoir quant on va permettre l'élargissement de la Communauté en plaçant les régions du Midi en état de compétition avec les nouveaux pays candidats. En réalité et avec quelques réserves, il apparaît que le fait politique de l'élargissement de la Communauté à l'Espagne, à la Grèce et au Portugal est pratiquement adopté ».

Financieel Economisch Tijd 2.6.78

Part-time-werk moet aan bepaalde voorwaarden voldoen

Part-time-werk mag niet worden gezien als een alternatief voor een beleid dat is gericht op de ontwikkeling van de werkgelegenheid. Voor bepaalde categorieën van de bevolking kan het part-time-werk evenwel een oplossing zijn.

Dit is het eensluidend advies van het Europees economisch en sociaal comité. In dit comité zijn werkgevers- en werknemersorganisaties vertegenwoordigd, evenals verschillende belangengroepen. Het comité heeft tot taak de Europese commissie en de ministerraad bij beleidsbeslissingen van advies te dienen.

Part-time-werk is volgens het comité slechts een van de mogelijkheden voor een betere verdeling van het beschikbare werk. In ieder geval moet aan bepaalde voorwaarden worden voldaan, aldus het economisch en sociaal comité. Part-time-werk moet vrijwillig worden aangevraagd. Het mag voor de bedrijven geen abnormaal hoge lasten meebrengen. Aan wie part-time werkt moet een regime en een bescherming worden toegekend, analoog met het regime en de bescherming waar werknemers met een volle baan, van genieten. Het part-time-werk mag de arbeidsmarkt en de systemen voor sociale bescherming niet verstoren, aldus het economisch en sociaal comité.


European Community 3-4/78

Worker Participation Eyed

A Commission proposal to institute worker participation in corporate decision-making got a favorable opinion from the EC Economic and Social Committee in early February.

The committee advised that a final proposal for an EC directive should be flexible and take into account existing systems and traditions in some member countries. It also advocated the introduction of a two-tier corporate board system in countries where one does not already exist and the implementation of special organs to represent workers in large companies where that is not already in practice.

EC Commissioner Etienne Davignon, in charge of industrial affairs, also said there should be a lengthy transition period involved in adopting any such system throughout the Community.



2-4.6.78

Travail à temps partiel : réserves du Comité économique et social de la C.E.E.

Le Comité économique et social des Communautés européennes, organe consultatif regroupant les partenaires sociaux du Marché commun, souligne dans un avis sur le travail à temps partiel, adopté à l'unanimité, que celui-ci ne doit pas être considéré comme une alternative à une politique de développement de l'emploi. Cette forme d'organisation du travail doit essentiellement être envisagée comme un moyen de répondre aux aspirations et aux besoins de certaines catégories de la population qui désirent occuper un emploi à temps partiel. Conçu ainsi, le travail à temps partiel peut, selon le comité, apporter une contribution dans le domaine de l'emploi pour certaines catégories de demandeurs d'emploi.

Le travail à temps partiel ne peut être considéré que comme l'un des moyens susceptibles de permettre une meilleure répartition de l'emploi disponible, et ne peut être considéré comme une alternative au travail à temps plein, ajoute le Comité.



5-6 / 78

El Comité Económico y Social

El Consejo Europeo destacó la importancia que les concede a los trabajos del Comité Económico y Social, lanzando un llamamiento a todas las partes interesadas con el fin de que, con motivo de la renovación del Comité en septiembre de 1978, cooperen con el fin de aumentar la eficacia de la labor del Comité, habida cuenta del papel que al mismo le corresponde en el proceso decisorio de las Comunidades Europeas.

**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 (1977) 70 p. (1976) 80 p.
- Directory (January 1978) (List of members) 42 p.
- The Right of initiative of the Economic and Social Committee (October 1977) 124 p.
- 20th Anniversary of the Economic and Social Committee (May 1978) 19 p.

Opinions and Studies

- Small and Medium-sized Enterprises in the Community Context (April 1978) (Opinion) 29 p.
- Industrial Change and Employment (November 1977) (Opinion) 98 p.
- EEC's Transport Problems with East European Countries (December 1977) (Opinion) 164 p.
- Community Nuclear Safety Code (July 1977) (Study) 50 p.
- Regional Development - Unemployment and Inflation (June 1977) (Opinion) 130 p.
- Research and Development (November 1976) (Study) 35 p.
- Systems of education and vocational training (August 1976) (Study) 114 p.
- Regional Policy (March 1976) (Opinion) 11 p.
- European Union (July 1975) (Opinion) 33 p.
- Progress Report on the Common Agricultural Policy (February 1975) (Study) 52 p.
- The Situation of Small and Medium-sized Undertakings in the European Community (March 1975) (Study) 69 p.