

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMITTEE
OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES

BULLETIN

November 1978

N° 11

INDEX

Pages

I.	Extracts from the speech delivered by Mrs F. BAIJUEL GLOGLIOSO, Chairman of the Economic and Social Committee, at the opening of the 163rd Plenary Session	1
II.	<u>163rd PLENARY SESSION</u>	4
1.	EUROPEAN MONETARY SYSTEM	5
2.	ANNUAL REPORT	8
3.	ACCESSION OF GREECE	13
4.	PROTECTION OF EMPLOYEES - INSOLVENCY	14
5.	1979 GENERALIZED TARIFF PREFERENCES	18
6.	COMBINED ROAD/RAIL CARRIAGE OF GOODS	19
7.	PRESERVATIVES - 14th AMENDMENT	21
8.	SECOND PROGRAMME OF MEDICAL RESEARCH	22
9.	MEASURES TO ACHIEVE A BALANCE ON THE WINE MARKET	23
10.	FRESH MEAT	30
11.	MATERIALS FOR THE USE OF THE BLIND	31
12.	TARIFF CUTS ON IMPORTS OF EDUCATIONAL GOODS	33
13.	DECOMMISSIONING OF NUCLEAR POWER PLANTS ...	34
14.	THERMAL WATER REACTORS	36
15.	STANDARDIZATION OF FORMS (RESOLUTION No. 119 (REVISED))	39
16.	ACTIVITIES OF CERTAIN THIRD COUNTRIES IN CARGO SHIPPING	40
17.	FRUIT JUICES	41

<u>INDEX (continued)</u>	<u>Pages</u>
III. <u>EXTERNAL RELATIONS</u>	43
Official Visits by the Chairman of the ESC	43
Meeting with the Commission President	43
Meeting with the President of the European Parliament	43
Visit to the Council of Europe	44
Meeting with the President of COREPER	44
Study Group meeting in Frankfurt	45
An ESC Delegation visits Glasgow	45
ESC participation in the work of the EEC/Greece Joint Parliamentary Committee	46
IV. <u>NEW REQUESTS FOR OPINIONS</u>	47
V. <u>PROVISIONAL PROGRAMME OF FUTURE WORK</u>	48
VI. <u>PRESS REVIEW</u>	51

I

Extracts from the speech delivered by Mrs F. BADUEL GLONIOSO
Chairman of the Economic and Social Committee, at the opening
of the 163rd Plenary Session

"As every Committee Chairman does at the start of his term of office, I made three formal visits to His Excellency, Mr SIGRIST (Germany), the Chairman of the Permanent Representatives Committee, Mr Roy JENKINS, the President of the Commission, and Mr Emilio COLOMBO, the President of the European Parliament. These visits were aimed at finding ways and means of improving our work in line with their expectations and keeping their demands of us on a level with our work schedules and resources.

In this connection, I should like to add that an explicit, though diplomatic, request was made that we should issue clear, incisive Opinions and that the positions of the Committee Groups and particular interest groups should be made clear in general and on particular proposals.

Another aspect of our work that was discussed at these meetings was the coordination of our Opinions with the Parliament's Opinions on the same subjects. I also requested that the Commission and the Council give us replies enabling us to assess the impact of our work ...".

"I am able to say that the reports of the Commission, the Council and the Parliament on the Committee's work were positive. In this assessment of the Committee's work I should

also like to include the Secretariat, to whom I extend my thanks. As part of the growing commitment which has marked the Committee's activity, we are requested by our Community partners to prepare Opinions, reports and studies of quality and significance for the Community.

Our activity has been perfected over the years, and we should now direct our efforts towards (1) making better use of our right of initiative; (2) improving the operations of the Committee; (3) developing closer and more useful contacts between the Committee Chairman and the Chairmen of the Sections and Groups ...".

"In my opinion, we should give priority in our work for next year to several important subjects : (a) employment, in the wake of the Tripartite Conference; (b) the European monetary system and economic and monetary union; (c) industrial restructuring; we should make use of our right of initiative for certain sectors (e.g. textiles); (d) enlargement to include three new members (Greece, Spain, Portugal); (e) completion of our Opinion on Lomé II.

On these points, I propose to submit an outline proposal to the Bureau to enable a work programme to be drawn up.

On the basis of the Committee's guidelines and work programme, the Subcommittee on the revision of the Rules of Procedure must take into account in its work the internal re-organization which is needed to make better use of the Secretariat, the need to tackle subjects in good time and our outside contacts with the other institutions, particularly the Parliament.

I believe it is very important that we urge the press to cooperate in publicizing our discussions and their results, so as to keep public opinion in Europe informed and give all our members the forum and the opportunity they need to elaborate on the contribution the Committee is making. In this we must keep uppermost in our minds the direct elections to the European Parliament which, I repeat, represent for all of us the opportunity to submit to the popular vote what has been accomplished over the last 20 years and let the people decide what kind of Europe they intend to help to build".

II

163rd PLENARY SESSION

The 163rd Plenary Session of the Economic and Social Committee of the European Communities was held in Brussels on 29 and 30 November 1978. It was presided over by the Committee's Chairman, Mrs Fabrizia BADUEL GLORIOSO.

The highlight of the Session was the attendance of Mr F. X. ORTOLI, the Vice-President of the Commission, at the discussions on the European Monetary System and the economic situation in the Community. Mr ORTOLI made the following statement :

He hoped that agreement could be reached on four points :

- Standard, automatic intervention arrangements should be backed up by an "early warning system" which would detect unusual pressures on member currencies. Appropriate action would be taken when these occurred. For example, where a currency diverged from the mean, remedial action could be mandatory or there could be a (perhaps strong) moral obligation to act. Mr ORTOLI thought that the EMS countries would opt for the moral obligation approach. Either national currencies or ECUs could be used as vehicles for intervention. Exchange rates, reserves and interest rates could be adjusted;
- The EMS to have more substance than the Snake;

- Recognition of the fact that purely monetary matters were inadequate, and had to be underpinned by political and economic measures, on a realistic, flexible basis;
- Relevant economic policies to be mutually consistent and concerted on a permanent basis.

The EMS would not be viable without convergence of policies and economic performances. To build a sound system, it would be necessary, in 1979, to gear policies to better employment, not forgetting the need to optimize growth. After that initial stage, if everything went well, steps should be taken to establish a Monetary Fund, to achieve greater stability, to ensure a more consistent policy mix, to bring economic trends more closely into line, to concert action more closely and to put the recession behind us.

Adoption of Opinions

1. EUROPEAN MONETARY SYSTEM

Proposal for a Council Regulation establishing a European Monetary System

Gist of the Commission's Proposal

This referral has had the urgency procedure applied to it, since the Council would need to approve this enabling Regulation in December IF the European Monetary System as such is to be introduced on January 1, 1978 (a stated intention of the Bremen European Council in July 1978 and to be confirmed by the 4/5 December 1978 European Council Meeting).

This draft regulation neither spells out the principles of the European Monetary System, nor does it deal comprehensively with the many aspects of the System; it deals only with one piece of the system. It provides the minimum of what would be legally required for the system - as so far outlined - to go into operation. The rest of the System can be handled by the various Central Banks without any further Regulations.

The 1973 Regulation (EEC 907/73) set up the European Monetary Cooperation Fund. It did not, however, entitle the EMCF to have reserves on deposit, to accept gold and dollars or, indeed, to issue ECUs (the newest version of the European Unit of Account). This draft Regulation does just that (Article 1). It also authorizes the use of ECU as a means of settlement between the monetary authorities of Member States, and for transactions between those authorities and the Fund.

Opinion of the Committee

The ESC adopted its Opinion by 80 votes in favour, 4 against and 6 abstentions.

The Committee approved the setting-up of a European Monetary System aimed at bringing about greater monetary stability and solidarity in the Community and at world level. The way in which such a system was organized and operated should be sufficiently flexible as to enable realistic exchange rates to be established and maintained, such rates to reflect the balance in economic relations between the participating countries.



From right to left : Mr F. X. ORTOLI, Vice-President of the Commission
Mrs BADUEL GLORIOSO, Chairman of the Economic and Social Committee,
and Mr LOUET, Secretary General of the Economic and Social Committee.

The Committee therefore endorsed the proposed regulation but said that it must be able to give an Opinion on every aspect of the European Monetary System's operation and the rules relating thereto in order, among other things, to assess the scheme's effects on the different economic and social policies of the Community, particularly the Common Agricultural Policy. This should be done as soon as new information was forthcoming from the Commission.

This Opinion was based on material prepared by the Section for Economic and Financial Questions :
Chairman : Mr ROLLINGER - Various Interests - Luxembourg. The Rapporteur was Mr CHARPENTIE - Various Interests - France.

2. ANNUAL REPORT

Annual Report on the Economic Situation in the Community in 1978.

The Principal Elements of the Commission's Annual Report

The preparation of an Opinion on the Commission's Annual Report on the Economic Situation in the Community is now a regular feature of the Committee's Calendar. It is in fact a requirement under Article 4 of the Council Decision of 18 February 1974 on the attainment of a high degree of convergence of the economic policies of the Member States of the European Economic Community, that the Council consult the Committee before examining the Commission's Report during the fourth quarter.

The presentation of the Commission's Annual Report on the Economic Situation in the Community differs from previous years. The policies - and thus the political content - are separated from the analysis of the situation. The analysis is in fact a large document appended to the Report itself, and called an Annual Economic Review.

Forecasts given in the Report include the following :

Growth in GDP volume	: 2.6% (1978), 3.5% (1979)
Increase in consumer prices	: 6.9% (1978), 7% (1979)
Current account surplus	: 8.3 billion EUA (1978) 8.5 billion (1979)
Proportion unemployed	: 5.7% (1978), 5.6% (1979).

The Commission sees the present as a transitional stage between the economic crisis and the prospect of lasting growth.

It believes that a moderate but lasting rate of expansion must be achieved, for unemployment to be reduced. It believes that the objective of unemployment can only be achieved over a period of time.

It lays great store by the effective coordination of the Nine's economic policies - called Concerted Action.

The European Monetary System (EMS) is also assumed by the Commission to have become a reality from the beginning of 1979. Monetary stability will in itself represent a growth factor.

The Commission has not abandoned its objective of reducing public administrations' deficits as a percentage of the gross domestic product. In the short-term, however, the Community should be content with a deceleration of the increase, being aware of the need to support the economic situation within reasonable limits by public spending.

Some Elements of the Committee's Opinion

The ESC adopted its Opinion by 35 votes in favour, 27 against and 12 abstentions.

The Committee welcomes the new presentation of the Commission's Annual Report insofar as it has introduced the long-awaited analytical document - the Annual Economic Review - as an appendix. It criticizes the Commission however for the absence of data in the Annual Report proper, essential for the plausibility of the policies proposed.

The presentation of the Committee's Opinion broadly follows that of the Commission's Annual Report, dealing with Community objectives, the proposals for concerted action, and the European Monetary System. It concentrates however, on the Community's on-going economic problems and policy options, and especially on labour market and employment policies.

Overall, the Committee's view is that the Community should aim at growth of the Nine's respective economies, as a means of reducing unemployment.

It is sceptical, however, of the possibility of the Community's achieving in the foreseeable future, growth figures recorded in the 1960's. The implications of this on the labour market must therefore be faced up to. It considers the claim made in the Commission's Annual Report ~~that~~ unemployment in the Community has peaked, to be premature and without foundation. It says that the continuing unsatisfactory situation on the labour market calls for intensified measures to promote employment. The measures should be designed to strengthen economic growth and redistribute the work available. It should also include action aimed at the restructuring of industry. Anti-cyclical measures are not enough to achieve an acceptable level of employment within a reasonable space of time.

The Committee furthermore holds that growth must come not only from short-term fiscal stimuli, but by a package including the introduction of EMS and measures of a restructuring nature.

Growth policies are said by the Committee to have been less than successful because foreign demand has fallen off. It urges the Commission to put forward policies that will help to resolve deficit countries' debts, these imbalances having an adverse effect on the world economy and on world trade.

Special emphasis is put by the Committee on a selective attitude towards growth, in the implementation of expansionary policies, taking into account factors such as employment, energy, the environment, the position of developing countries and the social and regional implications of structural changes.

The Appendix to the Opinion is a detailed account of the Economic Situation in the Federal Republic of Germany, a resumé of which forms the last part of the **Committee's Opinion itself**. This is the second time that the Committee has looked at the problems and policies being applied in an individual Member State (June 1978 : Denmark).

This account of the German Situation illustrates the situation of a country which has succeeded in attaining the objectives of price stability and external balance whilst at the same time failing to achieve its potential growth targets or to reduce the level of unemployment to an acceptable norm.

It would seem that the short-term counter-cyclical policy was inappropriate because it often had a pro-cyclical effect in practice. Stabilization of monetary policy, financial and economic policy and incomes policy seems more appropriate. Such a strategy should be geared to medium-term productive potential and would help to stabilize the expectations of the private sector.

The Section considers that there are two stages on the path to macro-economic objectives.

In the first stage, wage and price inflation must be curbed and structural distortions must be exposed so that the foundation can be laid for solid economic growth.

In the second stage, the money supply and public expenditure must be geared to productive potential. It must be accepted that changes in the profits/wages ratio cannot be implemented immediately.

Unemployment, however, will remain the number one problem in the coming years. Full employment could be achieved by 1985 if real GNP rose by 3½% per year. The growth rate in GNP could of course work out higher if there were an increase in productivity in excess of the estimated 3% per year.

Options open to the Federal German Government in order to achieve full employment, by actually promoting growth are :

- policy measures affecting the supply side (investment, production, training, etc.)
- policy measures directly affecting the demand side (increased state consumption and investment, and fiscal measures).

In its conclusion on the Situation in the Federal Republic of Germany the Committee says that experience has shown that any attempt to reduce the budget deficit by cutting the government expenditure - particularly investments - hampers the growth of production and leads to deficits in the medium term.

This Opinion was based on material prepared by the Section for Economic and Financial Questions, Chairman : Mr STARATZKE - Germany - Employers. The Rapporteur was Mr GORIS - Holland - Various Interests.

3. ACCESSION OF GREECE

Greece's application for membership of the Community.

Opinion of the Committee

The ESC adopted its Opinion by 48 votes in favour, 2 against and 9 abstentions.

In this Opinion the Economic and Social Committee approves the entry of Greece into the Community. It considers that both Greece and the Community will be strengthened thereby. The Committee does, however, put forward a number of critical observations regarding the effects of accession on the agricultural sector, sensitive industrial products and the free movement of workers.

It argues for a graduated timetable allowing the economies and, more particularly, the agriculture, of the Community and Greece time to adapt. The Committee feels that the transitional measures should be accompanied by a two-way safeguard clause.

Finally, it is of the opinion that competition between the Nine and Greece must not be distorted by artificial incentives, such as subsidies for the transport of both processed and non-processed agricultural products and export subsidies for industrial goods.

The Committee urges all regions and sectors of the Community to bear the burden of the consequences of accession.

This Opinion was based on material prepared by its Rapporteur-General, Mr DE RIDDER - Belgium - Various Interests.

4. PROTECTION OF EMPLOYEES INSOLVENCY

Proposal for a Council Directive on the Approximation of the Laws of the Member States concerning the Protection of Employees in the Event of the Insolvency of their Employer

Gist of the Commission's Proposal

Detailed investigations by the Commission into the law and practice in the Member States as regards insolvency proceedings

have shown that employees' claims arising from their contracts of employment are inadequately protected under bankruptcy law. The situation would appear to call for harmonization of the laws of the Member States with a view to ensuring adequate protection for employees in the event of their employer becoming insolvent.

In principle, the Directive applies to all cases of insolvency occurring within the territorial scope of the Treaty. The Directive will therefore also acquire legal significance for employers from non-Member countries if they have undertakings or businesses within the Community and the claims of employees there have not been satisfied. Employees sent to work in non-Member countries by an employer established within the territorial scope of the Treaty are also covered by the Directive and enjoy the same protection.

The following are some of the most important points of the Directive :

Article 3 states that the concept of claims arising from an employment or training relationship is to be taken in the widest possible sense.

Article 4 restricts the limitations which may be placed on the liability of the guarantee institutions. However, it makes no mention of absolute amounts. Instead, it takes an amount equivalent to the remuneration or payments for three months as the criterion for a reasonable limitation.

Article 6 requires Member States to ensure that employees' entitlement to social security benefits is not adversely affected by non-payment of contributions resulting from the insolvency of their employer. The choice of ways and means is left to Member States.

Article 8 makes it clear that the Directive lays down minimum requirements only. Existing laws, regulations and administrative provisions which are more favourable for employees may therefore continue to be applied.

Gist of Committee Opinion

The ESC adopted its Opinion by 83 votes in favour, 2 against and 9 abstentions.

The Committee approves the aim of the proposed Directive, namely that workers should be better protected in the event of the insolvency of their employers, whatever the circumstances involved. The Committee points out that insolvencies of employers have a particularly severe effect on workers, who lose not only their jobs but also frequently lose their entitlement to payment of outstanding wages.

The fact that liquidation is generally a very lengthy affair represents yet another problem for workers who urgently need their wages in order to meet their day-to-day expenses and those of their families. Even if in the course of the insolvency proceedings it turns out that assets are still available to enable workers' claims to be met in full or in part, it is often a matter of years before the payments are made. The decline in the value of the money in the intervening period is another factor which has to be accepted.

The Committee is of the opinion that the risk of bankruptcy is only partly dependent upon the prevailing economic situation. It is also linked to a certain extent to the increasing capital intensity of the economy and inadequate financing arrangements. Technological progress is another factor which plays a role in this respect. The world-wide problem of structural change is another of the causes of insolvencies.

The Committee thus considers that the financial protection for workers proposed in the draft Directive is in the interests not only of workers, but also of employers and the economy as a whole.

It would also point out that in most Member States in which measures similar to those proposed have already been taken, funds are provided solely by the employers. This is justified since employers' insolvency is completely outside the employees' control and is simply a business risk.

Moreover, the Member States also have the possibility of financing measures out of official funds.

The Committee considers that the Member States should decide how employees' claims should be submitted. Employers must contribute towards the financing of the institutions; the public authorities and, possibly, employees may also contribute.

This Opinion was based on material prepared by the Section for Social Questions, Chairman : Mr HOUTHUYS - Belgium - Workers. The Rapporteur was Mr MUHR - Germany - Workers.

5. 1979 GENERALIZED TARIFF PREFERENCES

Commission's Proposals concerning the European Community's Scheme of Generalized Tariff Preferences for 1979.

Gist of the Commission's Proposal

The Commission is now submitting its ninth series of proposals on generalized tariff preferences for developing countries, in keeping with a ten-year offer made by the Community to UNCTAD in 1969.

The current proposals are, in the main, a continuation of the system already in force, though a new scheme for textiles is envisaged. This scheme has had to be brought into line with the Multifibres Arrangement, which has its own system of product classification (enabling markets to be monitored in the light of the different products' sensitivity) and also provides for separate quotas to be laid down for individual countries in bilateral agreement.

Gist of the Committee's Opinion

The ESC adopted its Opinion by a large majority (4 votes against and 10 abstentions).

The Committee endorses the Commission's proposals and is pleased to see that the Commission has gone some way towards allaying the anxieties which it expressed at previous consultations on this matter.

Nevertheless, the Committee recommends that the Community GSP scheme become more selective as regards both countries and products and benefit those countries most in need; it also recommends that a policy be sought which is compatible with the international arrangements concluded by the Community in the sectors concerned.

In the specific case of textiles, the Committee cannot accept the Commission's proposal because of the precarious situation in this sector. It proposes that the 1978 scheme be readopted with an increase so as to benefit the poorest developing countries.

This Opinion was based on material prepared by the Section for External Relations, Chairman : Mr de PRECIGOUT - France - Employers. The Rapporteur was Mr CREMER - Germany - Workers.

6. COMBINED ROAD/RAIL CARRIAGE OF GOODS

Proposal for a Council Directive amending Directive No. 75/130/EEC on the Establishment of Common Rules for Certain Types of Combined Road/Rail Carriage of Goods between Member States.

Gist of the Commission's Proposal

Under Article 7 of Council Directive No. 75/130/EEC of 15 February 1975, the Council is called upon to decide before 31 December 1978 on the system to be applied to combined road/rail transport thereafter.

The Commission has put forward three main proposals :

- maintenance of the present system on a permanent basis;
- extension of the lifting of all quotas and abolition of all authorizations to cover both international and national traffic, irrespective of the road transport firm responsible for carriage in the initial and final stage;
- extension of the rules of the Directive to cover combined road/rail container transport.

Gist of the Committee's Opinion

The ESC adopted its Opinion unanimously.

It approves the Commission proposal inasmuch as it puts the present system on a permanent footing.

The Committee nevertheless regrets that it cannot approve the proposal to extend the liberalization from all quotas and authorizations to both international and national traffic, irrespective of the road transport firm responsible for carriage in the initial and final stage. If this proposal were to go through, it would mean that such traffic would no longer be subject to national rules governing access to the market.

It agrees, however, with the Commission's proposal to extend the rules of the Directive to cover combined road/rail container carriage. In the view of the Committee, the extension is justified because an increasing number of containers transported

internationally by road would be able to use this technique. Furthermore, the Committee considers that the present distinction between swap bodies (to which the 1975 Directive applies) and containers is an artificial one: nor does it take into account the fact that these two types of container in practice fulfil the same economic function. All the underlying arguments behind the Directive thus argue in favour of including container traffic in a liberalized combined road/rail transport system, thus making this technique more attractive for the markets concerned.

This Opinion was based on material prepared by the Section for Transport and Communications, Chairman : Mr HOFFMANN - Workers - Germany. The Rapporteur was Mr RENAUD - Employers - France.

7. PRESERVATIVES - 14th AMENDMENT

Proposal for a Council Directive Amending for the 14th time Directive 64/54/EEC on the Approximation of the Laws of the Member States concerning the Preservatives Authorized for use in Foodstuffs Intended for Human Consumption.

Gist of the Commission's Proposal

The utilization of thiabendazole was temporarily authorized until 1 January 1979 pending the outcome of toxicological investigations. On the basis of a recommendation from the Scientific Committee for Food, the Commission is proposing to authorize definitively the use of thiabendazole at the previously authorized levels, viz. 6 mg/kg in the case of citrus fruit and 3 mg/kg in the case of bananas. In addition, as the Economic and Social Committee recommended the Commission proposes to make the provisions on product labelling and consumer information mandatory.

Gist of the Committee's Opinion

The ESC adopted its Opinion unanimously.

It approves the proposal for a Directive. It stresses the importance of compliance with the provisions on consumer information when the Directive is put into effect in national laws.

It trusts that the Commission will take up the whole range of products used for treating fruit and vegetables at the earliest opportunity given that certain fungicides which are authorized in the Member States are not covered by the Directive.

The Opinion was based on material prepared by the Section for Protection of the Environment, Public Health and Consumer Affairs, Chairman : Miss ROBERTS - Various Interests - United Kingdom. The Rapporteur was Mr DE GRAVE - Workers - Belgium.

8. SECOND PROGRAMME OF MEDICAL RESEARCH

Proposal for a Council Decision adopting a Second R & D Programme of the European Economic Community in the Sector of Medical and Public Health Research, consisting of Five Multiannual Concerted Projects.

Gist of the Commission's Proposal

The Commission is proposing multiannual concerted projects in the following fields :

- Attempted suicide as public health problem;

- Detection of tendency to thrombosis;
- Evaluation, understanding and substitution of impaired hearing;
- Criteria for perinatal monitoring;
- Common standards for quantitative electrocardiography.

The Community's contribution towards this programme will be 2.7 million EUA. The Commission will be responsible for its co-ordination.

Gist of the Committee's Opinion

The ESC adopted its Opinion unanimously.

The Committee welcomes the Community projects in the field of medical research and proposes that attention also be given to cancer research, in particular the prevention, diagnosis and treatment of this disease and after-care.

This Opinion was based on material prepared by the Section for Protection of the Environment, Public Health and Consumer Affairs, Chairman : Miss ROBERTS - Various Interests - United Kingdom. The Rapporteur was Mrs HEUSER - Various Interests - Germany.

9. MEASURES TO ACHIEVE A BALANCE ON THE WINE MARKET

Communication from the Commission to the Council on the Action Programme 1979-1985 for the Progressive Establishment of Balance on the Market in Wine.

Gist of the Commission's Proposals

The Commission of the European Communities has made a report to the Council of Ministers on the progressive establishment

of balance on the market in wine. This includes an action programme for the period 1979-1985, aimed at bringing about structural improvements and increasing outlets, with a view to gradually overcoming the imbalance in the table wine sector. This imbalance has resulted from an average annual increase of 1% in wine production combined with a stagnating consumption. Although there are no surpluses at present, the Commission feels that production of table wines is tending towards a surplus of between 6 and 10 million hectolitres out of a total annual table wine production in the region of 100 million hectolitres.

According to the Commission estimates, the proposed programme will consist of the modernization of 200,000 hectares of vineyards and the conversion or withdrawal from wine growing of about 100,000 hectares. The cost of the whole programme (seven years) will be about 880 million u.a., of which 51 million u.a. annually will be borne by the European Agricultural Guidance and Guarantee Fund (EAGGF).

The Commission report, which is accompanied by formal proposals (other more technical proposals will be submitted later), follows an invitation from the Council of Ministers contained in its Resolution of 12 May 1978. In that document the Council had agreed that there was a clear connection between the improvement of structures in the wine sector and the need to bring about a more efficient market structure. It had decided on the principles for reinforcing market discipline in the case of surpluses (e.g. by the application of compulsory distillation) and support measures for market prices (e.g. export refunds, aid for musts and, where necessary, a floor price for marketing accompanied by distillation). Where these measures are not within the jurisdiction of the Commission itself, it will submit formal proposals so that the Council may give the principles adopted a concrete form. The measures can be summarized as follows :

Measures to Provide More Outlets :

- New call to the Member States to reduce excise duties on wine;
- Launching of publicity and promotional campaigns;
- Encouragement to progressively replace sucrose by concentrated musts in the enrichment and production of certain wines.

Measures to Control Production and Quality :

- Classification of vineyards in three categories based on natural criteria such as rainfall, temperature, gradient, etc.;
- Proposal for a directive concerning the Charentes region of France; the Commission is proposing a regional conversion plan for vineyards in the Charentes departments (Cognac) to adapt growing areas to the particular marketing possibilities of the wines produced there. The Guidance Section of the EAGGF would reimburse 50% of eligible expenditure and the scheme would run for 3 years after the directive was notified. The scheme would only cover vineyards planted before 1 November 1974 up to a limit of 5,000 hectares.

Market measures :

Following the Council Regulation of 12 May 1978, the Commission proposes :

- Inclusion in the basic Regulation on wines of a legal basis for fixing a minimum market price accompanied by distillation. The

Council had already adopted the principle of this floor price in time of serious crisis, where the representative market price of one type of table wine remains at less than 85% of the guide price for three consecutive weeks. The establishment of a minimum price in a specific case will be the subject of a Council decision at a later date;

- Increase of the maximum additional rate of obligatory distillation from 6 to 8%. This provision will also apply in those regions of Italy which are at present exempt but, to take into account the balance of obligation (obligatory distillation of wines obtained from table grapes already applies in Italy), the maximum rate proposed for Italy is 5%;
- Addition to the basic Regulation of an Article permitting the Council to take rapid decisions, where circumstances make it necessary, to grant aid for concentrated musts and rectified concentrated musts.

Gist of the Committee's Opinion

The ESC Opinion was adopted by 37 votes to 26 with 10 abstentions.

Bearing in mind the stage reached by the Council in its work the Committee decided to issue an Opinion first of all on certain topics that might well be the subject of Council decisions before the end of the year.

In the months ahead the Committee will be bringing out another Opinion that will deal in greater depth with all the matters covered in the Commission's Action Programme.

The present Opinion is divided up under the following headings :

General Comments on the Points Taken Into Consideration

The Committee here referred to its previous positions on how to achieve a balance on the wine market, particularly its Opinion of 13 July 1978 on agricultural problems in the Mediterranean regions of the EEC.

It maintained that if one took account of the last two grape harvests the Commission's forecasts regarding wine surpluses would turn out to be much too low.

The Committee pointed out that since the introduction of a common wine policy in April 1970 the Community's potential wine output did not seem to have grown. Because of improvements in techniques, planting methods and general care several table wine producing regions had shown an increase in yield per hectare; but overall it seemed that potential EEC wine output had at least stabilized, if not decreased.

The Committee felt, however, that there was still an obvious risk of cyclical surpluses. Machinery was needed that was sufficiently effective to prevent temporary imbalances on the market and a fall in prices.

Rectified Concentrated Musts

The Committee emphasized the benefits of providing permanent encouragement for the use of concentrated musts to enrich wines, saying that such a process had the advantage of using vine-based products and thus helping the general balance of the wine market.

The Committee also felt that the aid for must use should be supplemented by permanent machinery to encourage the long-term stockpiling of concentrated musts.

Minimum Prices

The Committee pointed out that although the concept of a minimum price represented an important new addition to the machinery designed to organize and bring about a balance on the wine market a permanent intervention system to support market prices at an adequate level, which the Council had already recommended, would certainly remove the need for a minimum price.

However, the minimum price scheme should not conflict with Article 31 b) of Regulation No. 816, which prohibited any restriction of quantity or measure having equivalent effect.

The Committee felt that if the procedure planned by the Commission was to be effective the following principles should be adopted :

- 1) A crisis situation should be defined as one where the market price was less than 90% of the guide price;
- 2) Distillation should be begun when the market price was 90% of the guide price; and
- 3) Long-Term storage contracts guaranteeing payment during the period of crisis should be taken out.

Over-production of wine

On this point the Committee expressed the gravest reservations about the Commission's proposals, bearing in mind what it had said earlier, and reserved the right to come back on the whole question of over-production later when it had had time to study the facts in greater detail.

Proposed Directive concerning the Charentes Region

The Committee considered that the planned grubbing-up programme, covering 5,000 hectares, could be put into effect without delay as a first step if, as at present, the amount of surplus acreage could be estimated at 15,000 hectares.

However, the Committee wanted to see the programme applied to vineyards which were least suited to producing spirits, to the extent that sufficient production had to be retained to cope with a pick-up in demand. To bring this about, the Committee said, it would be a good idea to vary the aid provided in the light of a vineyard's productivity.

The Ban on New Plantings

To prevent a legal vacuum from occurring the Committee was in favour of a one-year extension to Regulations No. 1162/76 and 1163/76 (i.e. those concerning the banning of new plantings and the grubbing-up of Community vineyards), which were due to expire on 30 November 1978.

This Opinion was based on material supplied by the Section for Agriculture, Chairman : Mr EMO CAPODILISTA - Italy - Various Interests. The Rapporteur was Mr GUILLAUME - France - Various Interests.

10. FRESH MEAT

Proposal for a Council Directive amending Directive No. 64/433/EEC on Health Problems affecting Intra-Community Trade in Fresh Meat.

Gist of the Commission's Proposal

Meat from male pigs used for breeding and from hermaphrodite and cryptorchid pigs frequently has a strong sexual odour. The ban on intra-Community trade in such meat should therefore remain in force. It is, however, proposed to authorize trade in meat from male pigs used for breeding provided they are castrated at least six weeks before slaughter. Council directive 64/433/EEC is to be amended accordingly.

Gist of the Committee's Opinion

The ESC adopted its Opinion unanimously.

The Committee endorses the proposed ban on the sale of meat from hermaphrodite pigs. It welcomes the proposal to authorize the sale of meat from breeding boars provided they have been castrated at least six weeks before slaughter. The Committee feels, however, that modern equipment to measure smell and taste would provide a more satisfactory solution to problems in this area, particularly as far as consumers are concerned. The Committee also alludes to

the difficulty in determining whether or not a boar has been used or intended to be used for breeding. It takes the view that meat from breeding boars should be clearly identified as such when marketed.

This Opinion was based on material prepared by the Section for Agriculture, Chairman : Mr EMO CAPODILISTA - Italy - Various Interests. The Rapporteur was Mr HOVGAARD JAKOBSEN - Denmark - Various Interests.

11. MATERIALS FOR THE USE OF THE BLIND

Draft Council Regulation on the Importation Free of Common Customs Tariff Duties of Materials for the Use of the Blind and Other Handicapped Persons.

Gist of the Commission's Proposal

The Agreement on the importation of educational, scientific and cultural materials, adopted by the General Conference of UNESCO at its fifth session, held in Florence in July 1950, provides for the granting of duty-free entry for certain articles for the blind.

These provisions are currently included in Council Regulation (EEC) No. 1798/75 of 10 July 1975 on the Importation Free of Common Customs Tariff Duties of Educational, Scientific and Cultural Materials.

At its nineteenth session, held in Nairobi in November 1976, the General Conference of UNESCO adopted a protocol to the Florence Agreement which, among other things, extends the duty relief from customs duties provided for in the Agreement to articles for the blind and, under certain conditions, to all materials specially designed for the education, employment and social advancement of other physically or mentally handicapped persons (Annex E).

The main purpose of the Commission's proposal is to give effect at Community level to the provisions of Annex E to the Protocol to the Florence Agreement.

Furthermore, in view of the objective being pursued, the Commission, after consulting the representatives of the Member States, considered it possible to propose to the Council that it go beyond the obligations devolving upon the European Economic Community as a result of the signature of the Protocol to the Florence Agreement.

Gist of the Committee Opinion

The ESC adopted its Opinion unanimously.

It approved the extension to other handicapped persons of the measures relaxing import conditions which have hitherto been reserved solely for the blind. It emphasized that no distinction should be made between categories of handicapped persons, and that steps should be taken towards establishing a single system for the benefit of all such people.

The Committee wanted precise criteria to be established as regards conditions of equivalence, so that the provisions of the Regulation were applied uniformly.

Finally, it drew attention to the need for a correct interpretation of the definition of an operation effected "on a non-profit-making basis".

This Opinion was based on material prepared by the Section for Industry, Commerce, Crafts and Services. Chairman : Mr van CAMPEN Netherlands - Employers. The Rapporteur was Mr MARVIER - France - Various Interests.

12. TARIFF CUTS ON IMPORTS OF EDUCATIONAL GOODS

Draft Council Regulation amending Regulation (EEC) No. 1798/75 on the Importation Free of Common Customs Tariff Duties of Educational, Scientific and Cultural Materials

Gist of the Draft Regulation

In Regulation (EEC) No. 1798/75 of 10 July 1975, the Council laid down the conditions governing the importation free of Common Customs Tariff duties of educational, scientific and cultural materials. The provisions of this Regulation are largely based on those of the Agreement on the Importation of Educational, Scientific and Cultural Materials drawn up under the auspices of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO).

On 26 November 1976 the nineteenth General Conference of UNESCO adopted a Protocol to the above Agreement with a view to extending relief from customs duties to certain products hitherto excluded from such relief. Since the European Economic Community and its Member States are contracting parties to that Protocol it will be necessary to amend Regulation (EEC) No. 1798/75 to bring it into line with the abovementioned Protocol.

Gist of the Committee Opinion

The Economic and Social Committee adopted its Opinion unanimously.

The Committee approved the Commission's proposal but deplored the European Economic Community's inability to adopt more liberal provisions than those applied between states which had no special links with one another. The Committee trusted that the Community would introduce proper arrangements for trade in cultural

materials and the like between Member States that took account of the particular nature of such goods and of the need to step up cultural exchanges.

This Opinion was based on material prepared by the Section for Industry, Commerce, Crafts and Services, Chairman : Mr. van CAMPEN - Netherlands - Employers. The Rapporteur was Mr. MARVIER - France - Various Interests.

13. DECOMMISSIONING OF NUCLEAR POWER PLANTS

Proposal for a Council Decision adopting a Programme concerning the decommissioning of Nuclear Power Plants

Gist of the Communication

It is possible that some 100 nuclear reactors in the Community will have to be taken out of service between now and 2010. The Commission is proposing an indirect R & D programme to devise a system of management of redundant nuclear power stations and of the radioactive waste produced in their dismantling which would provide man and his environment, with the best possible protection.

The R & D work will concentrate on :

- long term integrity of buildings and systems;
- decontamination for decommissioning purposes;
- dismantling techniques;
- treatment of specific waste materials : steel, concrete and graphite;

- large transport containers for radioactive waste produced in the dismantling of nuclear power plants;
- estimation of the quantities of radioactive wastes arising from decommissioning of nuclear power plants in the Community;
- influence of nuclear power plant design features on decommissioning.

The programme is to run for a five-year period. It would cost an estimated 0.33 million EUA on the Community budget and would require a staff of five.

An advisory Committee on Programme Management (ACPM) would be set up to advise the Commission on the programme.

Gist of the Opinion of the Committee

The Economic and Social Committee adopted its Opinion by a large majority with one vote against.

It backs the plan for a five-year Community research programme costing 6 million EUA.

It notes that every nuclear plant, just like any other industrial installation, will have to be taken out of service one day. Nuclear power plants, however, pose special problems because of the presence of radioactivity. Therefore special measures must be taken to protect man and his environment from the moment a plant is taken off stream up to the point where it has been completely

removed. The Committee notes that while studies have shown that the decommissioning of modern nuclear power plants pose no fundamental difficulties, relatively little practical experience has been gained so far. The Committee therefore believes that research efforts must be stepped up.

The Committee places particular emphasis on the protection of staff engaged in decommissioning work. Radiation protection standards must of course be observed. Within these overall limits, one of the principal aims must be to reduce the cumulative doses received, and hence the number of workers exposed to radiation, to the absolute minimum. The Committee believes that the results of the R & D work should contribute to a set of rules for decommissioning which should be drawn up by the Community, having consulted the Member States and both operators and workers in the nuclear industry.

This Opinion was based on material prepared by the Section for Energy and Nuclear Questions, Chairman : Mr HATRY - Belgium - Employers. The Rapporteur was Mr FRIEDRICHS - Germany - Workers.

14. THERMAL WATER REACTORS

Proposal for a Council Decision adopting a Programme of Research for the European Atomic Energy Community on Safety in Thermal Water Reactors.

Gist of the Communication

The Commission proposes to back up the direct R & D currently being carried out by the Community, with an indirect R & D programme on thermal water reactor safety. Its overall aim is to

supply industry and governmental organizations with necessary basic information, thus contributing to the safe production of nuclear power and to the protection of the population and the environment.

The R & D work would concentrate on the following priority areas :

- the loss of coolant accident (LOCA) and subsequent correct functioning and effect of the emergency core cooling system (ECCS);
- the protection of nuclear installations against gas cloud explosions;
- the escape of radioactive fission products and dispersion in the atmosphere following a reactor accident.

The programme would run for a five year period. It would cost an estimated total of 8.8 million EUA on the Community budget and would require a staff of five.

The Commission would be advised in the running of the programme by the existing Advisory Committee on Programme Management (ACPM) responsible for direct action R & D on reactor safety.

Gist of the Opinion of the Committee

The Economic and Social Committee adopted its Opinion by a large majority with 1 vote against.

The Committee approves the plan for a five-year Community research programme costing 8.8 million EUA.

The Committee believes that the research work can help confirm existing knowledge and guarantee the effectiveness of the safety levels achieved in thermal water reactors. It hopes that the findings will also help to promote Community-wide alignment of safety standards and rules.

Since reactor safety covers a vast field which is already the subject of many international programmes, the Committee believes that the greatest possible care is needed to avoid duplication. The Committee considers that, when the programme is reviewed after two years of operation, it should, if necessary, be modified so as to ensure that maximum useful results are obtained at the end of the five-year period.

The Committee notes that there are no qualified workers' representatives on the different committees which will monitor the programme. It reiterates its view that qualified and competent experts from the Member States and representing all those affected by nuclear energy (employers, workers and users) should also be involved, particularly in working out a common viewpoint on basic matters such as safety requirements.

In the allocation of funds between the different headings of the programme, the Committee considers that account should be taken of the specific nature of each, the results of existing experiments and the real importance of undertaking research in areas still insufficiently investigated.

This Opinion was based on material prepared by the Section for Energy and Nuclear Questions, Chairman : Mr HATRY - Belgium - Employers. The Rapporteur was Mr BONETY - France - Workers.

15. STANDARDIZATION OF FORMS (RESOLUTION No. 119 (REVISED))

Proposal for a Council Decision concerning the Acceptance by the Community of Resolution No. 119 (revised) of the Economic Commission for Europe on the Standardization of the Forms used for Authorizations for International Goods Transported by Road.

Gist of the Commission proposal

The United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) Resolution No. 119 (revised) on the standardization of the forms used for authorizations for international goods transport by road is intended to standardize models in a large number of European countries and thereby facilitate the international carriage of goods by road.

Gist of the Opinion of the Committee

The Economic and Social Committee adopted its Opinion unanimously.

It approves the Commission proposal that Resolution No. 119 (revised) of the United Nations be accepted.

This Opinion was based on material prepared by the Section for Transport and Communications, Chairman : Mr HOFFMANN - Workers - Germany. The Rapporteur was Mr RENAUD - Employers - France.

16. ACTIVITIES OF CERTAIN THIRD COUNTRIES IN CARGO SHIPPING

Draft Council Decision amending Decision 78/774/EEC concerning the Activities of Certain Third Countries in the Field of Cargo Shipping, and the Draft Council Decision on the implementation of Article 2 of Decision 78/774/EEC concerning the Activities of Certain Third Countries in the Field of Cargo Shipping.

Gist of the Commission's Proposal

Council Decision 78/774/EEC of 19 September 1978 stipulates that information is to be collected in future about the merchant fleets of non-EEC countries whose practices are detrimental to the shipping interests of EEC countries.

However, the Commission believes it would be desirable also to collect information about the non-harmful shipping practices of both EEC and non-EEC countries so that a fuller picture of events on the market can be obtained.

Gist of the Opinion of the Committee

The Economic and Social Committee adopted its Opinion unanimously.

The Committee agrees with the Commission's proposal, but advocates that the collection of information about the behaviour of freight liner services should be confined initially to two main Community export trade routes (East Africa and Central America, including Mexico and the West Indies).

This Opinion was based on material prepared by the Section for Transport and Communications, Chairman : Mr HOFFMANN - Germany - Workers. The Rapporteur was Mr HENNIG - Germany - Various Interests

17. FRUIT JUICES

Proposal for a Council Directive amending Directive 75/726/EEC on the Approximation of the Laws of the Member States concerning Fruit Juices and Certain Similar Products.

Gist of the Commission Proposal

The Commission is proposing to :

- allow citric acid or lemon juice to be added to pulpy nectars obtained from sweet cherries and apples;
- lower the minimum natural acidity figures adopted for apple, pear, peach and citrus fruit nectars;
- waive the minimum acid requirement for pulpy nectars which can be acidified;
- allow Member States who so wish to extend to four years the deadline after which they must prohibit trade in products which do not comply with Directive No. 75/726/EEC.

Gist of the Opinion of the Committee

The Economic and Social Committee adopted its Opinion by 53 votes to 0, with 10 abstentions.

Although the Committee approved the Commission's proposal it had some remarks to make about the waiver allowing the United Kingdom to add lactic acid to fruit juices.

It also asked that the extension of the deadline for implementing Directive 75/726/EEC should only be granted to those Member States that had not been able to incorporate the Directive into their own national laws in good time.

The Committee called upon the Commission and the Council to make an immediate start on adopting the directive on non-alcoholic drinks and asked the Commission to find a permanent solution enabling tomato juice to be included once again within the scope of the directive.

This Opinion was based on material supplied by the Section for Agriculture, Chairman : Mr EMO CAPODILISTA - Italy - Various Interests. The Rapporteur was Mr DE GRAVE - Belgium - Workers.

*

*

*

III

EXTERNAL RELATIONS

Official Visits by the Chairman of the Economic and Social Committee

Meeting with the Commission President

The Chairman of the European Communities' Economic and Social Committee, Mrs Fabrizia BADUEL GLORIOSO, has paid her first official visit to the President of the Commission, Mr Roy JENKINS. She was accompanied by the Committee's Secretary-General, Mr Roger LOUET.

Mrs BADUEL GLORIOSO told Mr JENKINS of the remarks she had made at the Committee's meeting on 18 October, after her election. She had spoken of the need to improve the Committee's way of working and had called upon the Commission to pay more attention to Committee Opinions. Also discussed were possible ways of involving the Committee more closely in the campaign for direct elections to the European Parliament, due to be held in June next year.

Meeting with the President of the European Parliament

Mrs BADUEL GLORIOSO, accompanied by Mr LOUET, had a meeting with the President of the European Parliament in Strasbourg on 14 November 1978.

They discussed past relations between the Parliament and the ESC, which resulted in numerous contacts, and examined how such contacts could be put on a broader footing. They also considered methods whereby each Institution could be kept better informed about the other.

Visit to the Council of Europe

During her visit to Strasbourg, the ESC Chairman also met the Secretary-General of the Council of Europe, Mr ACKERMANN, and the assistant Secretary-General, Mr ADINOLFI.

The chief aim of this meeting was to start a two-way flow of information on the activities of the two Institutions.

Meeting with the President of COREPER

On 17 November 1978, the Chairman of the Economic and Social Committee Mrs BADUEL GLORIOSO, accompanied by the Secretary-General of the ESC, Mr Roger LOUET, paid her first official visit to the Permanent Representative of the Federal Republic of Germany, Mr Helmut SIGRIST, Chairman of COREPER.

At this meeting, the ESC Chairman trusted that relations with the Council of the Communities would continue to be good and that, in particular, the long-established practice of visits by the acting President of the Council would be kept up.

Mrs BADUEL GLORIOSO also expressed the wish to continue with the tradition started when Mr LAPPAS was Chairman of the ESC, of meetings between the Chairman and Vice-Chairmen of the ESC and the Committee of Permanent Representatives. The scope for this procedure could be broadened by having meetings on more specific matters.

In view of the increasing number of referrals and the ESC's workload, it was proposed that consideration be given to introducing a more flexible procedure for forwarding requests for Opinions from the Council in order to give the Committee enough breathing space to deliver its Opinions in time.

On a more general plane, attention was paid in particular to analyzing the machinery proposed for the European economic and monetary system, the implementation of the findings of the Tripartite Conference on employment of 9 November 1978 and the issues raised by the accession of Greece, Spain and Portugal.

Study Group meeting in Frankfurt

A Study Group of the ESC's Section for Economic and Financial Questions met in Frankfurt on 6 and 7 November to prepare a Committee Opinion on the Economic Situation in the Community, as well as a Study devoted to the Federal Republic of Germany which was prepared in cooperation with the most important professional and trade union organizations in the country.

An ESC Delegation visits Glasgow

The severe problems of the European shipping and shipbuilding industries, ham-strung by flags of convenience, sub-standard ships, poor safety at sea, flag discrimination and the policies of new shipping nations were highlighted at top European level by the Economic and Social Committee at Glasgow. A Study Group of the Section for Transport and Communications visited the shipyards and port installations at Glasgow from 21 to 23 November and had talks

with officials and representatives of the Strathclyde Regional Council and with the International Transport Workers' Federation on this subject.

The Delegation, led by Committee Vice-Chairman, Mr Edmond RENAUD (France) was received on Tuesday, 21 November by Mr Charles O'HALLORAN, convener of the Strathclyde Regional Council.

ESC participation in the work of the EEC/Greece Joint Parliamentary Committee

The Co-Chairman of the EEC/Greece Joint Parliamentary Committee invited a nine-man ESC delegation to attend a meeting with representatives from the professions and commerce of Greece, which was held in Paris from 23 to 25 November. The meeting was a follow-up to talks held in Salonica last May with representatives of Greek economic and social interest groups and in which an ESC delegation also took part. These meetings were designed to give members of the Parliamentary Committee a broader understanding of the situation and to ascertain the views of the economic and social interest groups on the practical effects of the provisions of the Treaty of Association and on the problems raised by Community membership.

*

*

*

IV

NEW REQUESTS FOR OPINIONS

The Council has requested the Committee to deliver Opinions
on :

- Draft Council Regulation (EEC) on Community Aid for Industrial Restructuring and Conversion Operations
- Proposal for a Council Regulation (EEC) on the Implementation in the Solar-Energy Sector of Council Regulation (EEC) No. 1302/78 concerning the Granting of Financial Support for Projects to Exploit Alternative Energy Sources
- Proposal for a Council Directive authorizing the Italian Republic to Postpone the Notification and Implementation of its National Plans for the Accelerated Eradication of Brucellosis and Tuberculosis in Cattle
- Proposal for a Council Directive on Brucellosis, Tuberculosis and Swine Fever and prolonging Certain Derogations Granted to Denmark, Ireland and the United Kingdom
- Proposal for a Council Regulation on Health Problems affecting Intra-Community Trade in Fresh Meat and Fresh Poultrymeat which has been Minced, Ground or Similarly Chopped with or without the Addition of other Foodstuffs, Additives and Condiments
- Proposal for a Council Decision for rendering mandatory the Procedures for Ship Inspection forming the Subject of Resolutions of the Inter-Governmental Maritime Consultative Organization
- Draft Council Directive on Minimum Conditions required of Certain Tankers entering or leaving Community Seaports
- Draft for a Council Directive on Piloting of Vessels by Deep-Sea Pilots in the North Sea and English Channel

*

*

*

PROVISIONAL PROGRAMME OF FUTURE WORK

December 1978 Plenary Session

Opinions requested by Institutions

- Monetary System - CAP
- Roll-over Protection for Tractors
- Towing Hooks for Tractors
- Tractor Lights
- Industrial Restructuring
- Brucellosis in Italy
- Brucellosis in Denmark
- Reference Methods
- Climatology Research
- Recycling of Urban Waste
- Cultural Sector
- Bovine Leucosis
- Protection against ionizing radiation
- Animal Foodstuffs
- Maritime Transport
- Environmental Research

January 1979 Plenary Session

Own-initiative Opinion

- Regional Development Fund Annual Report

Study

- Spain

Opinions requested by Institutions

- Fresh Poultrymeat
- Misleading Advertizing
- Temporary Importation Arrangements
- Labelling of Domestic Appliances
- Drinking Water Quality
- Accidents in the Home

February 1979 Plenary Session

Own-initiative Opinion

- Use of Medicines

Opinions requested by Institutions

- Lamb and Mutton
- Plastic Materials for Foodstuffs
- Public Service Obligations and Transport Aid
- Accounting System for Infrastructure Expenditure
- Energy R & D
- Fast Breeder Reactors
- Drainage of Catchment Areas in Ireland
- Solar Energy Projects

March 1979 Plenary Session

Opinions requested by Institutions

- Adjustment of Goods Transport Capacity
- 8th Company Law Directive
- Liner Code

Subsequent Plenary Sessions

Own-initiative Opinions

- Community enlargement
- Flags of convenience

Studies

- R & D Management
- Influence of Regional Authorities

Opinions requested by Institutions

- Common Market Organization in Wine
- Company Taxes

*

*

*

VI - EXTRAITS DE PRESSE

Le Soir
26-27.11.78

Portrait *Fune syndicaliste européenne*

Fabrizia Glorioso, présidente décidée du Comité économique et social

« A 29 ans, j'aurais pu être la première femme élue à la tête d'une association d'étudiants, mais j'ai oublié de voter pour moi. Depuis lors, à toutes les élections je vote pour moi! » Le regard noir, malicieux, M^{me} Fabrizia Baduel Glorioso apprécie l'étonnement que provoque cette franchise. « Quand j'ai débuté mon engagement politique, en 1945, je ne connaissais pas les rouages de la mécanique, mais j'ai vite appris. Elle avoue avoir aussi voté pour elle le 18 octobre dernier, lorsqu'elle a été élue à la présidence du Comité économique et social (C.E.S.) de la C.E.E.

Le Soir
29-30.10.78
Paul Hatry ou la vie
d'un fort en thème

Financial Times
22.11.78

Briefing time

Candidates for the European Parliament he warned? R. L. Doble, the former chief executive of Greenwich, has some experiences which could be repeated. The European Parliament Report counts that after he was appointed as UK local government representative to the Economic and Social Committee, he began to receive a stack of mail from Brussels. The documents were for his first meeting there. When he watched them he found they totalled the same as his plane baggage allowance.



Après être passé par « L'Innovation », l'Organisation européenne de coopération économique à Paris, trois cabinets libéraux, il organise la Fédération pétrolière pour en faire l'une des meilleures associations professionnelles. Il représente également l'industrie belge dans un certain nombre de commissions internationales et depuis la semaine dernière, il est membre du Comité économique et social de la Communauté européenne et président de sa commission « Energie ».

Vos loisirs? La question lui paraît presque incongrue. Mais attendez, il a une bonne excuse: le lundi, il donne plusieurs

Trierischer Volksfreund
12.10.78

Der Wirtschafts- und Sozialausschuss hat die italienische Gewerkschaftlerin Fabrizia Baduel Glorioso für zwei Jahre zu seinem Präsidenten gewählt. Baduel Glorioso ist die erste Frau an der Spitze des Gremiums, das 1958 geschaffen wurde.

terra e vita 25.11/ 1.12.78

Il Comitato Economico Sociale

Al pari del Parlamento, del Consiglio, della Commissione e della Corte di Giustizia, il Comitato Economico Sociale — CES — è organo istituzionale della CEE. Esso vuole responsabilizzare le varie categorie sulla costruzione della Comunità e fornire loro uno strumento istituzionale per far conoscere alla Commissione ed al Consiglio il loro punto di vista sui vari problemi.

Daily Record 24.11.78

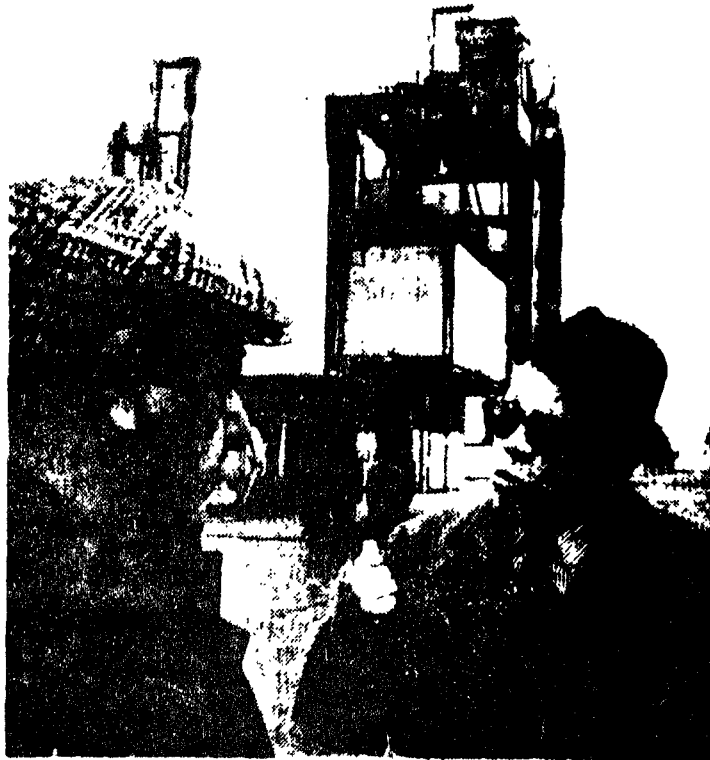
**Ships
shape
plan to
save jobs**

A "SCRAP and build" policy must be negotiated within five years to save ship yard jobs in Europe including Clydeside

British ships could be banned from European ports if they don't match up to standards required

A Belgian delegate of EEC probe team visiting Clydeside said last night: "British merchant ships which are not up to the standards will be affected. We want all shipbuilders to know we are taking action"

A German delegate advocated a policy to subsidise shipbuilding to ensure that ships of high standard are available in the future



The EEC delegation visited the Clydeport container terminal at Greenock. Our picture shows its leader, M. Edmond Renaud (right) with a straddle carrier in the background

Folketidende 4.11.78

Nye danske medlemmer af det økonomiske og sociale udvalg i EF

De europæiske Fællesskabers økonomiske og sociale udvalg har holdt konstituerende møde for sin 6 årsperiode under forside af sin aldersformand Yves Chabrol og under nærværelse af repræsentanter for Rådet og Kommissionen. Rådet har for en ny fireårsperiode beskikket de 144 medlemmer af De europæiske

Fællesskabers økonomiske og sociale udvalg. Listen over danske medlemmer ser således ud: Johannes Amundsen, Dansk Arbejdsgiverforenings kommitterede i Internationale anliggender

Finn Brettenstein, kontorchef, Industrirådet (nyvalgt).

Karen Gredal, næstformand Forbrugerrådet

Erik Hovgård Jacobsen, afdelingschef, Landbrugsrådet (nyvalgt).

Martchen, økonomisk konsulent, flyveklub af folkets klub.

Preben Nielsen, økonomisk medarbejder, Landsorganisationen i Danmark (LO).

Poul Nyrup Rasmussen, økonomisk rådgiver, Landsorganisationen de samvirkende forbund (LO).

Knud Mols Sørensen, foretningsfører, medlem af EEF's foretningsudvalg, Dansk Styremandsforening (nyvalgt)

Kaj Storm Hansen, konsulent Grosserer Selskabet

Udvalget er en rådgivende forsamling, som træder sammen næsten hver måned for som led i EEF's lovgivningsprocedure at afgive udtalelser over for Rådet og Kommissionen

K.N.

**The Scotsman
24.11.78**

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

- Youth Unemployment — Education and Training (November 1978) (5 Opinions) 97 p.
- The Stage reached in aligning labour legislation in the European Community (June 1978) (Documentation) 60 p.
- Employment in Agriculture (Study) (June 1978) 135 p.
- Monetary Disorder (Opinion) (June 1978) 98 p.
- 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.