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164th PLENARY SESSION

The 164th Plenary Session of the Economic and Social Committee of the European Communities was held in Brussels on 19 and 20 December 1978. It was presided over by the Committee's Chairman, Mrs **Fabrizia** BADUEL GLORIOSO.

Adoption of Opinions

1. IMPACT OF THE EUROPEAN MONETARY SYSTEM ON THE COMMON AGRICULTURAL POLICY

Proposal for a Council Regulation (EEC) on the Impact of the European Monetary System on the Common Agricultural Policy.

Gist of the Commission document

The Commission is of the opinion that if it is impossible henceforth to have a system of reference other than the ECU for the common agricultural policy, this change should not automatically give rise to a change in the current level of prices both in national currencies and at Community level; nor should it give rise to a change in the distribution of the MCA's.

The prices and all the data expressed in u.a. for the purposes of the common agricultural policy should therefore be given in ECU by using a co-efficient corresponding to the difference between the ECU and the EMUA (or about 1.2.).

At the same time the green rates used for the common agricultural policy should be adjusted by applying a co-efficient corresponding to the above (1 : 1.2 or about 0.833).

Opinion of the Committee

The Economic and Social Committee adopted its Opinion by 97 votes to 10, with 13 abstentions. It approves the draft regulation, subject to the following comments :

The Committee welcomes the Commission proposals, without which the decisions setting up the European Monetary System would be incomplete. The Commission proposals ensure that when the European Monetary System comes into operation farm prices in the Member States as well as EAGGF payments in aid of structural projects will remain unchanged in money terms.

The Committee hopes that the European Monetary System will lead to greater currency stability between the Member States of the Community. If this happens, the prospects of returning to greater EEC unity in the agricultural sector are likely to be brighter. Greater currency stability will make it possible, in particular, to phase out monetary compensatory amounts. In this connection, the Committee refers to its Opinion of 1 February 1978 on the Proposal for a Council Regulation relating to the Fixing of Representative Conversion Rates in Agriculture, (published in O.J. No. C 84 of 8 April 1978).

In particular, it draws attention to the problems arising out of the fact that not all EEC countries have become full members of the European Monetary System.

The Economic and Social Committee based its Opinion on material prepared by its Section for Agriculture under the Chairmanship of Mr EMO CAPODILISTA - Italy - Various Interests. The Rapporteur was Mr SCHNIEDERS - Federal Republic of Germany - Employers.

2. CULTURAL SECTOR

Community Action in the Cultural Sector (Communication from the Commission to the Council)

Gist of the Commission document

This memorandum endeavours to describe the present state of progress of Community action in the cultural sector and to indicate further developments to be aimed at. The scope of this action, defined as cultural sector, is to be seen as the socio-economic whole formed by persons and undertakings dedicated to the population and distribution of cultural goods and services. Community action in the cultural sector is centred on solving the economic and social problems which arise in this sector as in all others. Community action thus aims to support culture by gradually creating a more propitious economic and social environment.

The Community's task is seen as firstly moving on to practical measures in well-defined spheres such as, for example, the taxation system applying to cultural foundations or copyright law and, secondly, to obtain the maximum possible benefit from the results achieved by the Council of Europe as regards the preservation of European architectural heritage.

Most Community action in the cultural sector is nothing more than the application of the EEC Treaty to this sector. This involves freedom of trade, freedom of movement and establishment, harmonization of taxation systems and legislation. Application of the Treaty concerns, for example, the freedom of movement and :

establishment for cultural workers, the freedom of trade in cultural jobs, harmonization of laws on copyright and related rights, as well as social aspects. There is general agreement on the idea that cultural workers should share the advantages of social progress, not only for reasons of social justice, but to ensure that culture itself is maintained and developed. Since cultural workers are still badly protected by social security, a series of measures should be taken to increase their cover against social risks.

The Commission is also intending to take action with respect to cooperation among the Member States' cultural institutes and the promotion of socio-cultural activities at European level.

Opinion of the Committee

The Economic and Social Committee adopted its Opinion by 78 votes in favour, 13 against and 10 abstentions.

It welcomes the initiative taken by the Commission within the cultural sector. It is in broad agreement with its proposals which are centred on solving the economic and social problems which arise in this sector.

The Committee takes the view that the mounting economic and social problems facing "cultural workers" have to be dealt with and that the basic intention should be to provide the cultural sector with all the benefits and advantages of the European Community as, for example, free movement and establishment; harmonization of tax and law and in particular royalties.

It feels that the consequences of technological change and development need to be seen in their proper perspective so that there can be a balance between the interests of the users and the need for authors and publishers to obtain a reasonable return for their work. The case of performers is unique. Their recorded broadcasts and televised performances compete with their own live performances and hence endanger the survival of the living theatre and music.

Furthermore, the Committee is surprised that the cinema is not specifically included in the Community Action Programme. The Committee urges the Commission to take up the problems within the cinema sector by extending the scope of the Action Programme to it and so help to improve the economic and social position of the workers engaged in that activity. The Committee also encourages the voluntary adoption of a record card system for making it easier to recover stolen cultural goods. Disparities existing in the present legislation between one country and another as to combatting thefts of cultural goods also aid and abet thieves and illicit dealers. Thus, the Committee supports harmonizing preventive legislation in this area.

It expresses dissatisfaction with the operation of some private artistic agencies which give rise to abuses and should be supervised by Government authorities. Cultural workers should soon be able to use the "SEDOC" system (European system of information distribution on the supply and demand of jobs) so as to receive information and advice regarding employment opportunities in that sector.

It welcomes the proposal of the Commission for the training periods for young cultural workers in a Community country other than their own. But at the same time, the Committee is concerned that all necessary measures will be taken to ensure that their social security benefits in the host country shall not be less than those to which they are entitled in their home countries.

As to taxation of cultural workers, there is agreement with the proposal that taxable earnings should be spread retrospectively over several years and in advance as, for example, in the sale of copyright (in those countries where sale of copyright is taxed).

The Committee urges that there should be a recommendation to ratify the Rome Convention (of 1961, for the Protection of Performers, Producers of Phonograms and Broadcasting Organizations). Already five countries of the nine member countries have ratified.

The Committee shares the Commission's concern for the protection of the work of the creative craftsmen and points at the same time to the difficulties encountered when having to differentiate between mass produced pseudo-cultural goods (as a consequence of technical development) and genuine artistic and cultural objects.

Within the area of social welfare and social security, the Committee urges that social security will have to be adopted to suit the special circumstances of cultural workers, as their work is often of an intermittent nature.

As to the promotion of nuclear conservation techniques, the Committee requests that more precise information on the consequences of using these nuclear techniques should be made available.

The Committee recommends that the Commission draft a proposal calling on the Member States (a) to reserve a percentage of public expenditure for works of applied art and (b) to stipulate that, in administrative office buildings, a certain percentage of the gross capital expenditure should be set aside for the creation of works of art.

The Committee points out, in conclusion, that all people from all walks of life should be integrated far more into the cultural life of Europe. The diffusion of culture into small rural communities and towns is still a major problem. The Committee asks the Commission to carry out a study to focus attention particularly on the preservation and development of minority language and on young people and people living in rural areas as to how to involve them in the cultural life of a country.

The Economic and Social Committee based its Opinion on material prepared by its Section for Social Questions under the Chairmanship of Mr HOUTHUYS - Belgium - Workers. The Rapporteur was Mr ROSEINGRAVE - Ireland - Various Interests.

3. AID FOR INDUSTRIAL RESTRUCTURING AND CONVERSION OPERATIONS

Proposal for a Council Regulation (EEC) on Community Aid for Industrial Restructuring and Conversion Operations.

Gist of the Commission's Proposal

The Commission's proposal is the direct outcome of 20 million EUA of aid being made available in the 1978 budget to fund restructuring and conversion work in crisis-hit industries.

The first batch of aid will be used to help the ship-building industry, for which a Council Resolution based on a Commission proposal has already been adopted, and the synthetic fibres industry, where there does not seem to be any need to define a policy in more precise terms in view of the fact that the crisis' main features are well known and are the subject of general agreement.

The Commission's proposal seeks :

- firstly, to resolve a legal and budgetary problem; the money provided for in the budget has to be used up and the respective powers of the Commission, the Council and the specially created Advisory Committee have to be determined; it will be for the Council to decide on the sectors which are to receive aid but a good deal of freedom has been granted to the Commission, which will lay down the guidelines for specifying the criteria governing the grant of aid;
- secondly, to coordinate the aid with ERDF and Social Fund aid; the aid available under this new Draft Regulation will be used for restructuring operations in the main and will only be used for conversion operations in cases where the ERDF and the Social Fund do not help;
- and thirdly, to determine the type of aid to be given, viz. interest rebates or investment premiums.

The aid must supplement national aid regardless of whether the latter is granted directly or makes use of other Community instruments.

Finally, the aid will be able to be granted to all crisis-ridden industries for both the merging of firms and the diversification of activities; the 1979 draft budget will draw a distinction between aid for crisis-hit industries and aid for the oil refining industries and will specify the amounts to be granted to both categories.

Opinion of the Committee

The Economic and Social Committee adopted its Opinion by 89 votes to 2 with 2 abstentions. It approves the Commission's plan for aid to be provided for restructuring and conversion operations in crisis-ridden industries. This plan is commensurate with the views expressed by the Committee on several occasions in the past.

Since the Regulation is likely to play a more and more far-reaching role in the future, the Committee thinks that special attention will have to be paid to the danger of distortions in competition between Community firms being created or aggravated and that priority will have to be given to the proper harmonization of national and Community aid. This should not, however, force all the Member States to set up their own aid schemes, nor tie Community aid too closely to the provision of similar aid by the Member State in question.

Allowance will also have to be made for the big differences from one sector to another or between firms and the aid will have to take account of both general social requirements and the need for industries to be competitive.

The Committee approves the proposal that the Commission, which will be assisted by an Advisory Committee, is to have a high degree of autonomy in considering applications for aid and defining how this aid will be granted. It will be for the Council, however, to decide which sectors are to receive aid. The Committee would, nonetheless, like to be consulted about these Council decisions and would also like the Commission to seek the views of the employers and workers concerned by each operation.

While acknowledging that the Regulation should be set aside in the first place for restructuring operations, the Committee thinks that it could also aid conversion operations by creating new jobs in the tertiary and other sectors. In this respect it welcomes the fact that priority is to be given to small and medium-sized enterprises.

The Committee notes finally that the sum of 20 million EUA provided for restructuring and conversion operations in the current year is relatively modest and thinks that it should be possible to increase this sum on the basis of the initial results obtained.

The Economic and Social Committee based its Opinion on material prepared by its Section for Industry, Commerce, Crafts and Services Chairman : Mr van CAMPEN - Netherlands - Employers. The Rapporteur was Mr EVAÏN - France - Employers.

4. IONISING RADIATION

Proposal for a Directive (EURATOM) of the Council amending the Directive laying down the Basic Safety Standards for the Health Protection of the General Public and Workers against the Dangers of Ionizing Radiation

Gist of the proposal

The Commission now proposes to revise the 1976 EURATOM Standards to take account of recent recommendations of the

universally recognized International Commission on Radiological Protection (ICRP). The revisions define new concepts and units and provide values which take account of new metabolic data. They are calculated in a more logical way. For the first time, they take account of the additivity of the radiation to which the various organs and tissues are exposed.

The revised Directive also provides for a **procedure**, which would allow the Basic Standards to be regularly updated in future, so as to keep them closely in line with the latest advances in scientific knowledge. A "Standing Committee" would be set up for this purpose.

Opinion of the Committee

The Economic and Social Committee adopted its Opinion by 66 votes in favour, 1 against and 4 abstentions. It approves the proposed amendments to the EURATOM basic safety standards.

In particular, the Committee welcomes the Commission's acceptance of the Committee's view on the importance, in the field of radiological protection, of progressively updating Community safety standards to take account of developments in international research.

The Economic and Social Committee emphasizes the need to respect its right to be consulted under Articles 31 and 32 of the EURATOM Treaty.

The Economic and Social Committee based its Opinion on material prepared by its Section for Energy and Nuclear Questions under the Chairmanship of Mr HATRY - Belgium - Employers. The Rapporteur was Mr Preben NIELSEN - Denmark - Workers.

5. ROLL-OVER PROTECTION STRUCTURES OF TRACTORS

Proposal for a Council Directive on the Approximation of the Laws of the Member States relating to the Roll-Over Protection Structures of Wheeled Agricultural or Forestry Tractors - Static Tests

Gist of the draft Directive

The Community type-approval procedure for wheeled agricultural or forestry tractors covered by Council Directive 74/150/EEC of 4 March 1974 also includes roll-over protective structures (safety cabs and frames). The Council adopted on 28 June 1977 a Directive on this subject, covering more specifically the requirements, based on dynamic tests (pendulum tests), for testing the strength of safety cabs or frames and their attachment to the tractor. This Directive is based on the standardized testing codes for agricultural tractors adopted by the OECD in 1970 and 1973. It emerged during the preparation of this Directive that there were several gaps in both of these codes which, in particular, did not enable light tractors (mass less than 1.5t) and heavy tractors (mass greater than 4.5t) to be tested. However, owing to recent advances in technology there is a marked trend towards the production and therefore use of heavy tractors. It is therefore essential also to be able to test the protective structures of such tractors by means of a common inspection procedure.

The surveys carried out have shown that the dynamic tests were not adapted to tractors having a mass of more than 4.5t. On the other hand, static tests enable a significant number of the drawbacks associated with the dynamic tests to be eliminated.

The static tests can be carried out on all types of tractors having a mass of more than 1.5t. They are not suitable for light tractors, which are still in the process of harmonization.

The static tests are also suitable for the range of tractors falling within the scope of the Council Directive of 28 June 1977 relating to dynamic strength testing, i.e. tractors having a mass of 1.5-4.5t. It ought therefore to have been possible to envisage the repeal of this Directive, but these tests can to a great extent be considered as equivalent to the static tests for the range of tractors having a mass of 1.5-4.5t. Requiring manufacturers to acquire extremely costly equipment in order to be able to inspect structures on the basis of static tests is therefore unjustifiable. It is therefore proposed that for this range of tractors a choice of test method (dynamic or static) to which the structure will be submitted during the type-approval tests be left to the manufacturers.

It is proposed that only the static test be applicable to tractors having a mass of more than 4.5t. Such tractors would in addition also be required to be fitted with a ROPS in order to be eligible for EEC type-approval. This condition has already been imposed on tractors having a mass of 1.5-4.5t by the Council Directive of 28 June 1977.

Opinion of the Committee

The Economic and Social Committee adopted its Opinion unanimously. The Committee approves the Commission's proposal and hopes that the latter will present proposals on the other elements and characteristics of roll-over protection structures as soon as possible.

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

6. TOWING HOOKS ON TRACTORS

Proposal for a Council Directive on the Approximation of the Laws of the Member States relating to the Towing Hooks and Reverse on Wheeled Agricultural or Forestry Tractors.

Gist of the Commission's Proposal

This proposal for a Directive is to form part of the Community type-approval procedure provided for in Council Directive 74/150/EEC of 4 March 1974.

The Commission has decided that tractors must be fitted with a device for the attachment of a towing bar or cable.

The part concerning the reverse is based on the Convention on road traffic (Vienna, 8 November 1968) which provides that all vehicles having a maximum authorized weight over 300 kg must be fitted with such a device.

Opinion of the Committee

The Economic and Social Committee adopted its Opinion unanimously. It approves the Commission's proposal, subject to reservations on certain details.

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

7. TRACTOR LIGHTS

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

Gist of the Commission's Proposal

The Community type-approval procedure for wheeled agricultural or forestry tractors laid down in the Council Directive of 4 March 1974 also embraces the design and fitting of lighting and light-signalling devices.

The Commission addressed a proposal for a Directive on the fitting of such devices to the Council on 27 June 1974. This proposal for a Directive therefore only concerns their design. As part of the type-approval procedure for motor vehicles and their trailers, the Council, acting on a proposal from the Commission, has already adopted design requirements for all devices whose fitting to motor vehicles is either mandatory or optional.

The present proposal provides for the fitting of lighting and light signalling devices to wheeled agricultural or forestry tractors. However, since the devices fitted to tractors have the same design characteristics as those fitted to motor vehicles the

Commission thought it advisable not to draw up special requirements for their fitting to tractors but rather to refer to those adopted for motor vehicles.

Opinion of the Committee

The Economic and Social Committee adopted its Opinion unanimously. It approves the Commission's proposal, though it would like the Commission to judge from Member States' experiences whether there is a case for tractors driven on public highways being fitted with special lights.

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

8. BRUCELLOSIS AND TUBERCULOSIS IN CATTLE IN ITALY

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.

Gist of the Commission's Proposal

The Commission proposes postponing, for one year, the deadlines for introducing and terminating the Community measures in Italy.

Opinion of the Committee

The Economic and Social Committee adopted unanimously its Opinion. It approves the Commission's proposal and hopes that Italy will endeavour to make wise use of the one-year postponement it is to be granted.

The Economic and Social Committee based its Opinion on material prepared by its Section for Agriculture under the Chairmanship of Mr EMO CAPODILISTA - Italy - Various Interests. The Rapporteur was Mr BUKMAN - Netherlands - Various Interests.

9. BRUCELLOSIS, TUBERCULOSIS AND SWINE FEVER DEROGATIONS GRANTED TO DENMARK, IRELAND AND THE UNITED KINGDOM

Proposal for a Council Directive on Brucellosis, Tuberculosis and Swine Fever and Prolonging Certain Derogations Granted to Denmark, Ireland and the United Kingdom.

Gist of the Commission's Proposal

As regards tuberculosis and swine fever, the final solution to the technical problems depends essentially on Community rules which are being drawn up at present, and therefore the derogations granted to Denmark, Ireland and the United Kingdom should be prolonged by one year. However, for the latter two States it is now possible to limit the derogation to the standards for the manufacture and use of tuberculins.

Opinion of the Committee

The Economic and Social Committee adopted its Opinion unanimously. It approves the Commission's proposal but calls on the Commission to do everything to ensure that uniform Community rules with regard to protection against these diseases can be laid down in 1979.

The Economic and Social Committee based its Opinion on material prepared by its Section for Agriculture under the Chairmanship of Mr EMO CAPODILISTA - Italy - Various Interests. The Rapporteur was Mr BUKMAN - Netherlands - Various Interests.

10. REVISED ENVIRONMENTAL RESEARCH PROGRAMME

Proposal for a Council Decision reviewing the Second Multi-Annual Research and Development Programme for the European Economic Community in the Environmental Field (Indirect Action) adopted by Decision 76/311/EEC

Gist of the Proposal for a Decision

The Commission is proposing that the Second Environmental Research Programme of 15 March 1976 be reviewed in the light of the requirements of research already under way. The ceiling for expenditure is to be increased to 20.8 EUA. Staffing is to remain at its present level of 10.

Opinion of the Committee

The Economic and Social Committee adopted its Opinion by 66 votes to 6 with 9 abstentions.

It applauded the Commission proposal, saying that it was necessary, indeed vital, to pursue current research and to implement the new projects contained in the four research areas covered by the Multi-Annual Research Programme.

The Committee once again reiterated a position that it had expressed repeatedly in the past, namely that the important thing was to prevent all types of pollution beyond acceptable limits and consequently to concentrate environmental research on the identification of pollutants, thus enabling them to be fought more effectively.

The Committee also repeated its call for research into noise pollution, particularly in towns and cities, at work and in recreational areas.

The Committee based its Opinion on material supplied by its Section for Protection of the Environment, Public Health and Consumer Affairs under the Chairmanship of Miss ROBERTS - United Kingdom - Various Interests. The Rapporteur was Mrs HEUSER - Germany - Various Interests.

11. R & D REFERENCE MATERIALS

Proposal for a Council Decision adopting a Research and Development Programme for the European Economic Community in the field of reference materials and methods (Community Bureau of Reference - BCR) and applied metrology (non-nuclear indirect action) (1979-1982)

Gist of the Proposal

"Reference materials" are materials or substances, whose properties are sufficiently well established to be used for the calibration of instruments or the verification of measurement methods.

The Community has contributed to the development of these materials through two R & D programmes. The first ran from 1973 to 1975. The second, costing 2.7 MUA, started in 1976 and expires on 31 December 1978. The Commission now proposes a third programme costing 11.3 MUA to run for 4 years, starting on 1 January 1979.

The programme relates to :

- the preparation, in close collaboration between the member countries, of reference materials of interest to the Community;
- the joint definition of reference methods;
- characterization of materials;
- distribution of certified reference specimens resulting from the programme;
- research in the field of applied metrology.

Opinion of the Committee

The Economic and Social Committee adopted its Opinion unanimously. It approves the research programme, involving Community expenditure of 11.3 million EUA over 4 years.

The Committee recognizes that standard measures and measuring systems are needed in nearly every branch of commercial, industrial, medical and scientific activity. Their progressive harmonization is of great importance for industry and trade within the Community.

Noting the range of reference materials made available or being prepared under Community programmes to date, it particularly welcomes the emphasis on work which directly relates to Community sectoral policy objectives and the improvement of living conditions.

The Community should, according to the Committee, continue to aim at providing reference materials which are scientifically good and reliable, which are internationally applicable, and for which there is a clear user requirement.

The Committee believes it is essential to back up the valuable research work being done by the Community with a comprehensive information programme on the materials available, so that the maximum practical benefit may be derived from them.

Finally, the Committee welcomes the addition of a new programme on "Applied Metrology" which it regards as a first step towards a more wide-ranging programme of cooperation between national bodies.

The Economic and Social Committee based its Opinion on material prepared by its Section for Energy and Nuclear Questions under the Chairmanship of Mr HATRY - Belgium - Employers. The Rapporteur was Mr von der DECKEN - Germany - Various Interests.

12. R & D CLIMATOLOGY

Proposal for a multiannual research programme in the field of Climatology (Indirect Action - 1979-1983)

Gist of the Proposal

Natural climatic variations are known to have a major impact on human civilization. These effects have been keenly felt in recent years in droughts, bad harvests, floods and other extremes. But relatively little is known about the causes of such variations.

As a European contribution to worldwide efforts, the Commission proposes a research programme to:

- achieve a better understanding of mechanism and behaviour of climate;
- assess the impact that climatic variability could have on basic human resources, as well as the role that man could be playing on that variability itself.

The R & D programme would run for 5 years, starting 1 January 1979. It would be carried out 'indirectly' i.e. by cost-sharing contracts. The total cost of the Community budget would be 8 million EUA.

An Advisory Committee on Programme Management (ACPM) would be set up to assist the Commission.

Opinion of the Committee

The Economic and Social Committee adopted its Opinion unanimously. It approves the planned research programme.

The Committee believes that research on climatology is suited to international cooperation. It therefore stresses that any individual research should fit in with worldwide efforts. It believes that the Community programme can make a useful regional contribution. But it must be open to full participation by all European countries, whether members of the Community or not.

It notes the growing public awareness of the importance of climate on economic and social activity and the possibility that human activities may themselves, in some way, be contributing to these climatic variations. In view of the growth of the CO₂ concentration in the atmosphere, the release of waste heat, etc., it feels there is a need for particular emphasis on "man-climate interactions".

The Committee stresses the importance of reviewing the programme at regular intervals, in order to assess the results obtained and to identify fields for further research.

The Economic and Social Committee based its Opinion on material prepared by its Section for Energy and Nuclear Questions, under the Chairmanship of Mr HATRY - Belgium - Employers. The Rapporteur was Mrs CLARK - United Kingdom - Various Interests.

13. R & D - SECONDARY RAW MATERIALS

Proposal for a Council Decision adopting a Research and Development Programme of the European Economic Community in the Field of Recycling of Urban and Industrial Waste (Secondary Raw Materials) indirect Action (1979-1982)

Gist of the Proposal

Early in 1978, the Community adopted several research programmes dealing with raw materials. These covered "primary raw materials" (18 MEUA, 4 years), "exploration and extraction of uranium" (3 MEUA, 3 years) and "recycling of papers and board" (2.9 MEUA, 3 years).

The Commission now proposes to add a programme on "secondary raw materials", concentrating on:

- recovery of materials and energy from solid urban refuse;
- recovery of materials and energy by thermal treatment of waste;
- fermentation and Hydrolysis of organic waste of agricultural and industrial origin;
- recovery of waste rubber.

The R & D work would be carried out on the basis of cost-sharing contracts ("indirect action"). The programme would run for 4 years from 1 January 1979. It would cost 13 million EUA on the Community budget.

An Advisory Committee on Programme Management (ACPM) would be set up to assist the Commission.

Opinion of the Committee

The Economic and Social Committee adopted its Opinion unanimously and approved the proposal.

The Committee believes that the new programme will complement several other research programmes recently adopted by the Community in the field of raw materials. These covered "primary raw materials" (18 MEUA, 4 years), "exploration and extraction of uranium" (3 MEUA, 3 Years) and "recycling of papers and board" (2.9 MEUA, 3 years).

The Committee suggests that this research work could form part of an overall Community programme on "War-on-Waste" which might also embrace:

- financial assistance for demonstration projects (after research results become available) to promote the practical application of promising techniques;
- an information programme on available recycling techniques;
- and, ultimately, Community guidelines on the recycling of waste materials.

It welcomes the fact that the programme sets out to build on what has already been achieved by bodies in the Member States, rather than to duplicate existing research. It requests that it be informed of progress in the work.

The Economic and Social Committee based its Opinion on material prepared by its Section for Energy and Nuclear Questions under the Chairmanship of Mr HATRY - Belgium - Employers. The Rapporteur was Mr Preben NIELSEN - Denmark - Workers.

14. STRAIGHT FEEDINSTUFFS

Proposal for a Council Directive amending Directive
No. 77/101/EEC on the Marketing of Straight Feedingstuffs .

Gist of the Commission's Proposal

The object of the Proposal is as follows:

- to amend certain of the provisions of Council Directive 77/101/EEC on the Marketing of Straight Feedingstuffs by permitting manufacturers to express the quantity of feedingstuffs in terms of net weight, volume (in the case of liquid feedingstuffs) or unit (in the case of certain feedingstuffs sold individually). Furthermore, since the Member States are able to fix marketing requirements for feedingstuffs other than those listed in the Annex to the Directive, the Commission proposes that they should also be permitted to subject such feedingstuffs to the marketing requirements set out in the Directive;
- to defer the date of entry into force of the Directive on straight feedingstuffs, which was to have been 1 January 1979, by two years.

Opinion of the Committee

The Economic and Social Committee adopted its Opinion unanimously.

The Committee approves the Commission's proposal but expresses regret that the Directive on compound feedingstuffs, which is intended to complement the Directive on straight feedingstuffs, has not yet been adopted by the Council.

The Committee trusts that the Directive on compound feedingstuffs will be adopted by the end of 1978 so as to allow all the Member States to incorporate the Directive into national law in good time.

The Economic and Social Committee based its Opinion on material prepared by its Section for Agriculture under the Chairmanship of Mr EMO CAPODILISTA - Italy - Various Interests. The Rapporteur was Mr PAGGI - Italy - Employers.

NOMINATION OF THE NEW SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMITTEE

The Council of the European Communities has just appointed Mr Roger LOUET as Secretary-General of the Economic and Social Committee. He replaces Mr Delfo DELFINI, who retired in July.

Mr LOUET was formerly Secretary of the Force Ouvrière Confederation in France and has a long experience of international and European affairs. He has been a member of the Governing Body of the International Labour Office and was often the European Trade Union Confederation's spokesman on labour matters.

Mr LOUET has also been Vice-Chairman of the Social Affairs Section of the French Economic and Social Council and a Section Chairman of the Commission for the National Plan.

He has been Director-General of the Economic and Social Committee since 1973.



Mr Roger LOUET, new Secretary-General of the Economic and Social Committee.

III

NEW REQUESTS FOR OPINIONS

During the month the Council requested the Committee to deliver an Opinion on :

1. Proposal for a Council Directive Establishing Safety Measures Against the Conjectural Risks Associated with Recombinant DNA Work
2. Proposal for a Research and Training Programme (1979-1983) for the European Atomic Energy Community in the Field of Controlled Thermonuclear Fusion
3. Memo on Forestry Policy in the European Community
Proposal for a Council Resolution Concerning the Objectives and Principles of Forestry Policy

Proposal for a Council Decision to set up a Forestry Commission
4. Proposal for a Council Directive on the approximation of the laws, regulations and administrative provisions of the Member States relating to construction products
5. Proposal for a Council Resolution laying down a list of priority products to be covered by directives implementing the Directive of the Council on the approximation of the laws, regulations and administrative provisions of the Member States relating to construction products
6. Proposal for a Council Decision amending Directive 64/432/EEC (animal leucoses, etc.)
7. Proposal for a Council Regulation (EEC) amending Regulation (EEC) No. 222/77 on Community Transit

8. Proposal for a Council Directive (EEC) on the approximation of the laws of the Member States relating to safety requirements for tower cranes for building work
9. Proposal for a Council Directive amending Directive 150/74/EEC on the approximation of the laws of the Member States relating to the type-approval of wheeled agricultural or forestry tractors
10. Proposal for a Council Directive on the approximation of the laws of the Member States relating to the operating space, access to the driving position (entry and exit facilities), and to the doors and windows of wheeled agricultural or forestry tractors
11. Drawing-up of an own-initiative Opinion on structural problems in industry having a bearing on growth

IV

PROVISIONAL PROGRAMME OF FUTURE WORK

January 1979 Plenary Session

Opinions requested by Institutions

- Community Transit
- Accounting System for Infrastructure Expenditure
- Fast Breeder Reactors R & D
- Solar Energy Projects
- Drinking Water Quality
- Accidents in the Home
- IMCO Ship Inspection

Own-Initiative Opinion

- Frontier Workers

Studies

- Asbestos
- Quasi-Judicial Consumer Protection
- Spain (continuation)

February 1979 Plenary Session

Opinions requested by Institutions

- DNA Research
- Fresh Poultrymeat
- Sheepmeat
- Plastic Food Packaging

Opinions requested by Institutions (continued)

- Public Service Obligations and Transport Aid
- Misleading Advertizing
- Labelling of Domestic Appliances
- R & D Fusion
- Temporary Importation Arrangements
- Coal Trade Aid
- R & D Energy
- Farm Prices (request for Opinion scheduled)

Own-Initiative Opinions

- Use of Medicines
- ERDF Annual Report

March 1979 Plenary Session

Opinions requested by Institutions

- Leukosis in Cattle
- Cranes
- Forestry Tractors
- Forestry Tractor Cabs
- Adjustment of Goods transport Capacity
- 8th Company Law Directive
- Liner Code
- Forestry Policy
- Construction Products
- Common Organization of Wine Market

Later Plenary Sessions

Opinions requested by Institutions

- Company Taxes
- 1978 Social Situation

Own-Initiative Opinions

- Structural Aspects of Growth
- Community Enlargement
- Flags of Convenience

Studies

- R & D Management
- Influence of Regional Authorities
- Cereal Substitutes

EXTRAITS DE PRESSE

Le Figaro 1.12.78

Ortoli : « Le système monétaire européen sera très différent du « serpent » »

A quatre jours du Conseil européen François-Xavier Ortoli, vice-président de la Commission, a présenté un tableau d'ensemble du projet de système monétaire européen devant le comité économique et social des Neuf appelés à donner un avis sur un texte en trois articles.

1 - Le Fonds européen de coopération monétaire est habilité à recevoir des placements de réserves monétaires des Etats membres de la C.E.E. et à émettre des ECU en contrepartie.

2 - Les ECU peuvent servir de moyens de règlement entre les autorités monétaires des Etats membres et pour les opérations entre ces autorités et le Fonds.

3 - Le présent règlement entre en vigueur le 1^{er} jan-

vier 1979. Pour François-Xavier Ortoli, ce système est très différent de celui du « serpent ». Comme lui, il a pour but d'établir une stabilité monétaire en reliant de très près les monnaies aux parités fixées entre elles. En revanche c'est un mécanisme beaucoup plus puissant puisqu'il offre la possibilité de crédits beaucoup plus élevés de beaucoup plus longue durée.

Il est beaucoup mieux outillé pour faire face à des tensions durables et offre des possibilités d'ajustement des parités quand les rapports de change ne sont plus réalistes. L'indicateur de divergences montrera quand le cours d'une devise s'écarte de l'évolution moyenne des autres. On en cherchera ensemble la cause et l'on s'efforcera d'y reme-

dier par toute une gamme de moyens : interventions, changements de parité, des politiques de taux d'intérêt, de réserves obligatoires, de conjonctures, etc., il est reconnu - au moins en théorie - que le système exige une convergence beaucoup plus forte des

économies et un renforcement de l'action au niveau des structures dans les pays les plus faibles.

L'accueil du Comité économique et social a été franchement positif. « Pour sortir du désordre monétaire mondial, a déclaré le rapporteur Ivan Charpentier (F.) il faut d'abord balayer devant notre porte. »

Les agriculteurs s'inquiètent de ce que deviendront les montants compensatoires monétaires : ils seront libérés en ECU, resteront au même niveau, mais la

Commission voudrait en préparer la résorption.

Comment se situera l'or par rapport à l'ECU ? Il faudra bien savoir à quel prix le Fonds européen en acceptera éventuellement le dépôt. Ce sera un prix proche du marché. Le nouveau système ne risque-t-il pas, par les conditions qu'il posera au crédit, d'exercer une influence déflationniste ? Les mécanismes de crédit à court terme resteront souples. En revanche, à moyen terme des conditions de discipline économique sont posées. Mais avec ce sans système monétaire européen, a précisé F.-X. Ortoli si vous avez un déficit de vos paiements vous aurez la purge.

Jean Lecercf.

Hansard 17.11.78

Economic and Social Committee
 (Consumer Protection)

74. Mr. Cartwright asked the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps he intends to take to improve the representation of consumer interests in the Economic and Social Committee of the EEC.

La Libre Belgique

25.12.78

Le Comité économique et social européen estime insuffisants les fonds destinés à la restructuration

Le Comité économique et social des Communautés européennes vient d'approuver l'intention de la Commission de créer un cadre destiné à favoriser la restructuration et la reconversion des secteurs en difficulté. Mais il considère que le budget ouvert dans ce but est trop modeste. Cette dotation devrait pouvoir être élargie sur base des premiers résultats intervenus.

Etant donné que le règlement est susceptible de jouer à l'avenir un rôle de plus en plus large, le Comité estime qu'il faut veiller aux risques de création, et d'aggravation, de distorsions dans la concurrence entre entreprises communautaires et qu'il est nécessaire que soit réalisée en priorité une bonne harmonisation des aides nationales et des

aides communautaires. Ceci ne devrait cependant avoir pour effet ni d'obliger tous les Etats membres à instaurer leur propre régime d'aide, ni de lier d'une manière trop rigoureuse l'intervention communautaire à une possibilité d'intervention analogue de l'Etat intéressé.

Pour que les fonds communautaires soient utilisés à bon escient, il serait indispensable que la Communauté se fixe des objectifs précis, en priorité sur le plan de l'emploi, et s'efforce de mieux mesurer à plus long terme l'interdépendance existant entre les différents secteurs en déclin ou en expansion, sur ce plan, peut-être, les autorités communautaires n'ont jusqu'à présent pas fait suffisamment preuve de prévoyance ou d'un sens des responsabilités.

L'Italie Cooperativa

27.10.78

Il dr. Morselli nel Comitato economico - sociale della Cee

E' una donna, l'italiana Patrizia Baduel Glorioso, il presidente del Comitato economico sociale (Ces) della Cee per il biennio '78-'80.

La Baduel, dal 1965 a capo dell'ufficio internazionale della Cisl, è stata designata alla presidenza dopo il rinnovo dei componenti il comitato che ha avuto luogo nel corso di questo mese.

Per l'Italia sono stati nominati 24 componenti, 8 in rappresentanza delle organizzazioni dei lavoratori, 8 in rappresentanza dei datori di lavoro e 8 in rappresentanza di altri settori. A rappresentare la Confcooperative è stato nominato il dr. Pietro Morselli, capo del Servizio esteri confederale.

Il Comitato economico e sociale è organo consultivo della Cee ed esprime i pareri sui provvedimenti presentati presso la Commissione.

Irish Press 21.12.78

EEC 'could hit writer tax here'

Cultural workers in Ireland and the rest of the EEC countries have been treated as second class citizens for far too long Mr. Thomas Rosingrave, director of Muintir na Tire and vice-president of the Economic and Social Committee of the EEC, said in Brussels.

Community action in the cultural sector had a special significance for Ireland because future EEC directives could undermine an Irish film industry, abolish tax exemption for Irish writers, composers, painters and sculptors and weaken performer rights in the area of control of their recorded programmes, he added.

And Irish Actor's Equity has welcomed a new draft opinion approving implementation of community action in the cultural sector which was adopted at the Brussels meeting.

L'Avenir du Luxembourg
11.12.78

LA PLACE DES ORGANISMES A BUT NON LUCRATIF DANS L'EUROPE DE 1980

Les représentants des organisations coopératives, mutualistes et associatives des pays du Marché commun se sont réunis pour la première fois les 16 et 17 novembre 1978 dans les locaux du comité économique et social de la C.E.E., en présence d'un représentant du B.I.T., à l'occasion d'un pré-colloque sur « la place des organismes à but non lucratif dans l'Europe de 1980 ».

Compte tenu du fait que le monde moderne traverse une des

crises politique, économique, sociale, culturelle et morale la plus importante qu'il ait connue depuis la Renaissance, les organisations mutualistes, coopératives et associatives ont estimé que les valeurs fondamentales grâce auxquelles elles se sont développées depuis plus d'un siècle représentent plus que jamais une voie répondant aux besoins de solidarité, d'indépendance, de liberté, de responsabilité par la participation et d'innovation auxquels aspirent les hommes de notre temps.

Les organisations réunies ont souhaité, d'une part, voir clarifier les frontières du champ que les activités de l'économie sociale recouvrent actuellement, et d'autre part, faciliter la naissance d'une nouvelle vague non conventionnelle d'organismes d'économie associative qui se développe spontanément en raison des besoins nouveaux non satisfaits par les sociétés post-industrialisées de l'Europe actuelle.

Ils ont pour cela décidé de toute une série de travaux et de recherches sur le plan qualitatif et quantitatif pour que le colloque de Genève, prévu dans les locaux du B.I.T. en novembre 1979, leur permette

de définir une stratégie pour l'Europe de demain conforme à leurs principes et à leurs réalisations.

**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 1979) (List of Members) 41 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

- Employee Participation and Company Structure (September 1978) (Opinion) 116 p.
- 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.