

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMITTEE
OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES

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165th PLENARY SESSION

The Economic and Social Committee of the European Communities held its 165th Plenary Session in Brussels, on 24 January 1979. Its Chairman, Mrs Fabrizia BADUEL GLORIOSO, presided.

Excerpts from the President's Speech

Mrs BADUEL GLORIOSO opened the 165th Plenary Session by outlining her short-term objectives to the Committee. These included firstly, the revision of the Rules of Procedure so as to simplify and clarify points of procedure, secondly, the formation of a group on the Lomé Convention so that the Committee did not remain inactive in the face of these important international negotiations, and thirdly, the strengthening of relations with the press. She also stated that the Committee should improve and strengthen its relations with the European Parliament.

In particular, the Chairman stated that the Committee's programme of work must at all times look for ways of encouraging economic recovery in the Community and, with this, a growth in employment, while at the same time maintaining conditions of relative stability. She added that the enlargement of the Community, Mediterranean policy and the Lomé agreements were factors which could help to boost foreign demand within the framework of growing cooperation and interdependence.

In conclusion, she told the Plenary Session about the talks she had had with political leaders in Portugal and Italy and with the Presidents of the European Court of Justice and the European Investment Bank. She also announced her plans to visit Paris, Dublin, Copenhagen, London, Bonn, Madrid, Athens and Ankara in the near future.



Mrs. BADUEL GLORIOSO, President of the Economic and Social Committee, at the Plenary Session. On the right, Mr RENAUD, Vice-President, and on the left Mr LOUET, Secretary-General.

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Adoption of Opinions

1. FRONTIER WORKERS (own-initiative Opinion)

The Problems of Frontier Workers.

Gist of the Opinion

In this own-initiative Opinion, adopted unanimously, the Committee first of all made a few remarks on the regional aspects of the situation of frontier workers and advocated increased cross-frontier cooperation in various areas (employment, the environment, public health, cultural sector, etc.). The Committee then considered the definition of a "frontier worker" and tried to evaluate the scale of cross-frontier work, its salient features and dominant trends. The Committee listed reasons why workers went to work in neighbouring countries and drew attention to the wide range of laws on cross-frontier work.

The second part of the Opinion analyzed frontier workers' problems under the following headings :

- Jobs and vocational training;
- Participation in internal company procedures;
- Temporary employment agencies;
- Social security;
- Labour law;

- Exchange rate fluctuations;
- Taxation;
- Transport, and
- Housing.

In the concluding section of the Opinion several concrete proposals were made with a view to improving the situation of frontier workers in the above areas and their living and working conditions.

The Committee ended by noting that the success of the measures taken would to a large extent hinge on close cross-frontier cooperation between local and regional authorities, and between socio-economic organizations in frontier areas.

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

2. SOLAR ENERGY PROJECTS

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.

Gist of the Proposal

Community-backed research work on solar energy which began in 1975, shows that certain applications are on the threshold

of economic competitiveness. The Commission now proposes to support demonstration projects which would encourage industry to invest in these solar applications.

Support would be granted for projects using solar energy for central heating or air conditioning, producing mechanical and/or electrical energy, heat for industrial or agricultural applications, fuel production.

The Community would provide 25%-49% of the total estimated cost of projects (in general, those over 100,000 EUA) which satisfy certain conditions. The scheme would run for five years and cost a total of 60 MEUA.

Reference is made to an advisory Committee on the management of projects which would assist the Commission.

Gist of the Opinion

The Committee adopted by 72 votes in favour, 2 votes against and 5 abstentions, its Opinion approving the proposed scheme.

The Committee notes that solar energy appears to be the most promising of the new, renewable sources. The Committee believes that the Community should back up its existing research efforts with a scheme of commensurate size which would provide financial support for demonstration projects on solar techniques in order to promote their practical application. The Committee believes that the proposed budget of 60 million EUA is a modest one, and should not be cut back in any circumstances, given that the cost of solar energy is still relatively high in relation to conventional sources.

The Committee also calls for a similar research effort at national level.

It welcomes the broadening of the Community's scheme for financial support for demonstration projects to develop alternative energy sources and hopes that the Commission will shortly submit similar proposals to cover wave, tide and wind energy.

This Opinion was based on material prepared by the Section for Energy and Nuclear Questions under the chairmanship of Mr HATRY - Belgium - Employers. The Rapporteur was Mr CECONI - Italy - Employers.

3. R & D - FBR SAFETY

Proposal for a Council Decision adopting a Research Programme for the European Atomic Energy Community on Codes and Standards for Fast Breeder Reactors (structural integrity of components).

Gist of the proposal

The Commission accordingly proposes a research programme on codes and standards for fast breeder reactors which would run for a period of five years from 1 January 1979 and cost 5,825 MEUA on the Community budget.

The aim of the programme is to make gradual progress towards the establishment of a base which could be used for the gradual elimination of dissimilarities in codes and standards for fast breeder reactor components in the Community. The research programme would concentrate on :

- the evaluation and quantification of dissimilarities in manufacturing standards and quality codes;

- a comparative study of structural analysis and design codes;
- evaluation and quantification of the similarities in materials.

The ultimate aim would be to make it possible for the regulatory authority in one Member State to accept components which had been licenced by the regulatory authority in another Member State.

Gist of the Opinion

In this Opinion, adopted unanimously, the Economic and Social Committee takes a favourable view of the research programme outlined and lays particular emphasis on the long-range approach of the proposed programme.

It notes that fast breeders are currently passing through the demonstration stage, and consequently technical developments in this field have not yet been terminated and harmonization of codes and standards has not yet been possible. Nevertheless, the Committee believes that the work on the structural integrity of fast breeder components envisaged in the proposal will contribute towards the safety of these components and is also important with regard to later harmonization in this field.

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

4. ACCOUNTING SYSTEM FOR TRANSPORT INFRASTRUCTURE

Proposal for a Council Regulation (EEC) amending Regulation (EEC) No. 1108/70 introducing an accounting system for expenditure on infrastructure in respect of transport by rail, road and inland waterway.

Gist of the Commission's Proposal

Council Regulation (EEC) No. 1108/70 of 4 June 1970 introduced a standard permanent accounting system for infrastructure expenditure.

The Commission believes it is important to make amendments to the accounting system, the list of infrastructures and the returns on the use of infrastructures provided for by the above Regulation in the light of experience and of the development of the common transport policy.

Gist of the Opinion

The Economic and Social Committee adopted its Opinion unanimously. It approves the Commission proposal, which clarifies misunderstandings and facilitates matters in connection with both the accounting system and the submission of returns.

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

5. ACCIDENTS IN THE HOME

Proposal for a Council Decision introducing a Community System of Information on Accidents in which Products are involved, outside the Spheres of Occupational Activities and Road Traffic.

Gist of the Proposal for a Decision

The aim of the proposal is to introduce a Community system of information on accidents in the home and its immediate vicinity, such as the garden, yard and garage. Traffic accidents and accidents occurring in the course of occupational activities are excluded. The Commission's action is part of a programme comprising three stages. The first will run for 18 months and should enable a pilot project to be set up. In the second stage the entire infrastructure for the information system will be set up. Finally, from 1 January 1982, this system will become fully operational. The Commission will be responsible for the administration of this system and will draw up an annual report on its activities and further reports on specific topics. On the basis of the information gathered, the Commission intends to put proposals before the Council for avoiding accidents in which products are involved.

Gist of the Opinion

The Economic and Social Committee adopted its Opinion unanimously.

It approves the Commission's proposal. It considers that the proposal represents the first step towards action to control accidents in the home. It hopes that such action will be taken reasonably quickly using the appropriate instruments.

The Committee stresses the need both to provide adequate information on the risks attached to the use of certain products and to ensure that such products come with precise, detailed instructions on how to install and operate them.

The draft Decision stipulates that its scope can only be extended by a unanimous Council decision. Although the draft Decision has been submitted under Article 235 of the Treaty, which requires unanimity, the Committee feels that any decision on the extension of the Decision's scope should be taken by a qualified majority.

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

6. ANALYSIS FOR ABSTRACTION OF DRINKING WATER

Proposal for a Council Directive on the Methods of Measurement and Frequencies of Sampling and Analysis of the Parameters of the Quality Required of Surface Water Intended for the Abstraction of Drinking Water in the Member States.

Gist of the draft Directive

The draft Directive is concerned with the methods of measurement, and frequencies of sampling and analysis, of the

parameters relating to the quality required of surface water intended for the abstraction of drinking water in the Member States. The draft Directive covers all the surface waters falling under Directive No. 75/440/EEC.

The Commission proposes that the frequency of sampling and analyzing each parameter should be fixed every year by the Member States, due account being taken of the population served and the amount of water abstracted. Where the quality of surface water intended for the production of drinking water is considerably above that required, the Member State concerned may reduce the frequency of sampling and analysis after consulting the Commission. Member States should therefore forward the results of the survey to the Commission and inform it of the sampling frequencies they propose to adopt.

Each surface water sample from the point of abstraction shall be taken not less than 50 cm below the surface of the water and at least 50 cm above the bottom. Where these requirements cannot be met the samples shall be taken halfway between the surface and the bottom. Sampling shall avoid any degradation in environmental conditions and be representative of water quality at the point of sampling. The sampling of dissolved or emulsified hydrocarbons shall be done at the surface.

The draft Directive describes in detail what is meant by "standard measuring method", "limit of detection", "accuracy" and "precision". Because there is a risk of substantially modifying values during transport or if samples are carried out or kept in containers for a fairly long time (e.g. temperature and pH), the draft Directive sets out the conditions to be met when measuring certain parameters.

Gist of the Opinion

The Economic and Social Committee adopted its Opinion unanimously. It approves the proposed Directive which complements the other Commission provisions on the quality required of surface water intended for the abstraction of drinking water. An alignment of measurement methods and frequency of sampling is in the interests of the public at large.

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

7. IMCO INSPECTION PROCEDURES

Proposal for a Council Decision rendering Mandatory the Procedures for Ship Inspection forming the Subject of Resolutions of the Inter-Governmental Maritime Consultative Organization (IMCO).

Gist of the Commission's Proposal

This proposal is one of a package submitted by the Commission to the Council for making sea transport safer and for both averting and curbing the pollution of Community waters and shores.

These proposals have been submitted in response to the declarations made by the European Council on 7-8 April 1978 and, again on 6-7 July 1978 in the wake of the Amoco Cadiz disaster, about the need for still greater efforts to be made at Community level to improve safety at sea.

The present proposal serves this end and, in the Commission's view, should enable a start to be made towards standardizing the inspections carried out on vessels in ports of the Community.

Gist of the Opinion

By its unanimous Opinion the Committee supports this proposal, which it regards as the first step towards the Council's aim - set out at its 12 June 1978 meeting - of reinforcing ship inspection procedures and aligning the laws governing this matter in the Member States. It goes a long way towards ensuring the effective implementation of international agreements on maritime safety.

The Committee also expects the Commission to submit the necessary proposals for the further alignment of inspection regulations immediately after the adoption of the present Decision.

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

8. AMENDMENTS TO THE COMMUNITY TRANSIT REGULATIONS

Proposal for a Council Regulation (EEC) amending Regulation (EEC) No. 222/77 on Community Transit

Gist of the Commission's Proposal

This proposal relates to the flat-rate guarantee system and to the provisions applicable to goods carried by travellers or contained in their luggage.

Flat-rate Guarantee System (Article 32 of the Regulation)

The application of the European unit of account (EUA) to legal measures of the Institutions of the European Communities makes it necessary to convert into EUA the flat-rate amount expressed in units of account in the basic Regulation. In addition it is advisable to take this opportunity to bring up to date the amount of 5,000 UA which is the present maximum liability of the guarantor. In view of the rate of inflation since 1969 it is proposed to increase the amount from 5,000 UA to 7,000 EUA.

Finally it is proposed to calculate the equivalent of the EUA in national currencies only once per year.

Special Provisions applying to Goods Carried by Travellers or Contained in their Luggage (Article 49 of the Regulation)

The proposal seeks to simplify the formalities when travellers cross internal frontiers of the Community by abolishing the ceiling of 300 UA above which they are required to prove the Community status of goods which they are carrying. In future goods will be accepted as having Community status when they have been so declared and there is no reason to doubt the accuracy of the declaration.

Gist of the Opinion

The Economic and Social Committee adopted its Opinion unanimously.

It noted that the maximum flat-rate amount referred to in Article 32 of the basic regulation, which had hitherto been expressed in units of account, was to be converted into European units of account. The Committee approved the proposal to increase this amount from 5,000 UA to 7,000 EUA.

The Committee also approved the abolition of a rule that travellers had to prove that goods carried by them or contained in their luggage had "Community status".

This Opinion was based on material supplied by the Rapporteur-General, Mr HIPP - Germany - Employers.

The Economic and Social Committee also prepared the following study :

9. USE OF JUDICIAL AND QUASI-JUDICIAL MEANS OF CONSUMER PROTECTION

The Use of Judicial and Quasi-Judicial Means of Consumer Protection in the European Community and their Harmonization.

Gist of the study

The Economic and Social Committee adopted its study by a large majority with 7 abstentions.

After reviewing the present situation as regards the judicial protection of the consumer in the Community, as well as the problems connected with the exercise of consumer rights in the various Member States, the Study points to certain possible improvements in the following areas in particular :

- information and education.

The following measures are recommended in this sphere :

- . research into the effectiveness of various methods of disseminating information;
 - . the exchange of information between Member States on information activities and the results of such activities;
 - . promotion of the use of the mass media, such as radio and television, for consumer information;
 - . ensuring that attention is paid to the basic principles of the law at all levels of education, so that consumers become familiar with the law from childhood on;
- legal assistance and advice

The Committee asks the Commission to encourage the setting-up of consumer advice centres, which would have to meet the following conditions :

- . there should be sufficient knowledge of the law and of consumer law in particular;
- . they should be easily accessible and therefore, geographically decentralized;
- . it should be possible to obtain preliminary advice either free or for a small fixed charge;
- . it should be possible to obtain assistance (such as advice and mediation) with consumer problems, even if they do not come before the courts;

- . the right to give consumers legal advice should not be confined to lawyers; representative consumer organizations and other suitable bodies should also be granted this right (where they do not already have it) or be allowed to keep it.

- conciliation and arbitration bodies :

In the Committee's view, such bodies can prevent cases that would be simple to solve from coming before the courts. The Committee thinks, however, that it must be possible to have recourse to the courts for cases that cannot be settled in this way. The following principles should be observed in setting up these bodies :

- . the impartiality and independence of the body must be guaranteed;
- . if the body includes manufacturers and traders, there should be an equal number of consumer representatives;
- . it is desirable that the conciliation body should try to get the consumer and the manufacturer or trader to submit to the conciliation procedure and accept the recommendations of the conciliation body;
- . the proceedings should be inexpensive, rapid, and the formalities kept to a minimum;
- . expensive expert reports should be avoided where possible by the inclusion of experts on the body;

- Simplification of the processes of law for small claims :

The Committee is aware that the approach to the problem of new procedures to improve consumer protection differs from one Member State to another. Nevertheless it thinks that the Commission should examine the possibilities of introducing such procedures and perhaps propose a Directive, which should be based on the following points :

- . the procedure should be simple and free of unnecessary formalities; the complainant must be able to bring his case before the judge himself, the complaint being stated by filling in a simple form. Help should be provided in filling in the form, by the court officials, for instance, or a consumer advice centre;
- . there should be no obligation to be represented in the proceedings. A ban on the use of lawyers does not, however, seem desirable, in the consumer's interests as well. The financial risk could be limited (precisely because the amount at stake is not great) by not consistently ordering the losing party to pay the other's costs. The consumer should also have the opportunity of being represented by a representative consumer organization;
- . it should be possible for the case to be dealt with orally;
- . the judge should have great freedom regarding the way in which the proceedings are conducted. This freedom should embrace inter alia : the ways in which evidence may be furnished; the interrogation of the parties or witnesses, outlining the proceedings to the parties;

- . the costs of the actual proceedings should be very low;
- . high costs for expert investigation should be avoided. The judge must weigh the claim against the probable cost of expert opinions and take account of the nature of the product and the financial means of the complainant. The judge should inform the consumer about the costs and offer the possibility of an expert opinion free of charge if the consumer's financial position or other circumstances so warrant;
- "General interest" and class actions.

In the Committee's view, the possibility of consumer organizations defending consumer rights -- whether the interests of an individual consumer or a group of consumers or consumers' common interests are involved, and even where the organization has no direct material interest itself -- should be laid down in statutory measures. The Committee therefore suggests that a Directive be drafted in which the following points are laid down or taken into account :

- . the general principle that representative consumer organizations and bodies working in the interests of consumers can defend consumers' rights at law;
- . the actions that these bodies should be allowed to bring : actions seeking an injunction prohibiting certain acts, the correction of forbidden statements, publication of the court's decision. The right should also be given to seek compensation for consumers who have expressed the wish to be represented (on the lines of the bill amending the Law prohibiting Unfair Competition in the Federal Republic of Germany);
- . the criteria such bodies must satisfy in order to qualify for these powers.

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

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II

EXTERNAL RELATIONS

Visits by President of Economic and Social Committee

- to Portugal

The Chairman of the Economic and Social Committee, Mrs Fabrizia BADUEL GLORIOSO, was invited to attend the first Congress of Portuguese economic activities (industry, commerce, agriculture), which was held in Lisbon from 11 to 13 January.

The lively debate highlighted various aspects and problems of Portugal's membership in the EEC, which the recent opening of negotiations have made a current topic.

During her stay, she was received by the President of the Republic, General Antonio Ramalho Jacinto EANES, and the Deputy Prime Minister, Jacinto NUNES, and visited the Italian Ambassador, Pier Luigi ALVERA.

The visit stressed the importance of the part played by representatives of the various economic and social interest groups. It underlined the Committee's role and the opportunities for immediate contacts between such groups in the Community and Portugal and highlighted the broader problems facing the Community with the prospect of its expansion to include the three new Members. The Portuguese representatives expressed the hope that the negotiations would be concluded in 1981.

In a statement to the Lisbon newspaper "Diario de Noticias" Mrs BADUEL GLORIOSO emphasized that "in Europe today some democracies are stronger than others, but all of them must join forces to defend and strengthen democracy in Europe, because any weakening of democracy in any one country would have serious effects in all the others".

This was the first time a Chairman of the Economic and Social Committee had visited Portugal. An official visit is planned for a later date to meet with representatives of Portuguese social and economic activities (businessmen, workers, farmers, representatives of trade and small businesses).

Mrs BADUEL GLORIOSO was accompanied by the Secretary-General of the Committee, Mr Roger LOUET and Mr Giovanni F. di MURO, Chef de Cabinet.

- to the European Investment Bank

On 18 January Mrs BADUEL GLORIOSO had a meeting in Luxembourg with the President of the European Investment Bank, Mr LE PORTZ, and members of the EIB board.

Mr LE PORTZ emphasized the EIB's activities in connection with job-creating investment (industrial restructuring and regional policy) and with the expansion of Mediterranean policy and the Convention of Lomé.

Mrs BADUEL GLORIOSO stressed the need for more coordination of the various financial instruments of the Community Institutions. The amount of finance available should be increased in order to

counter the crisis more effectively (particularly as regards unemployment and regional imbalances) and strengthen links with developing countries.

While keeping within its remit, the EIB was called on to play a major role in implementing Community domestic and external policies.

Mrs BADUEL GLORIOSO asked Mr LE PORTZ to address a forthcoming Plenary Session of the ESC on the EIB's activities. This would afford an opportunity for questions of mutual interest to be discussed.

Mrs BADUEL GLORIOSO was accompanied by the Secretary-General, Mr LOUET, and her Chef de Cabinet, Mr di MURO.

- to the Court of Justice

During her visit to Luxembourg on 18 January, Mrs BADUEL GLORIOSO had a meeting with the President of the Court of Justice of the European Communities, Mr Hans KUTSCHER, the members of the court and the Registrar.

The Committee Chairman was accompanied by the Secretary-General, Mr Roger LOUET, and her Chef de Cabinet, Mr Giovanni F. di MURO. She stressed the eminent role which is played by the Court of Justice in shaping Community law. She emphasized that there was a need to make the general public and, in particular, economic and social groups more aware of the beneficial influence of the Court, for instance, in the sphere of individual rights. This was an element of European democracy.

The Chairman of the Committee hoped that a representative of the Court of Justice could take part in a Plenary Session of the ESC so as to give it a better insight into the importance of the Court's role.

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III

NEW REQUESTS FOR OPINIONS

During the month of January, the Council requested the Committee to deliver Opinions on :

Proposal for a Council Directive amending Directive 77/504/EEC on Pure-Bred Breeding Animals of the Bovine Species

Proposal for a Council Regulation (EEC) amending Regulation (EEC) No. 816/70 introducing Supplementary Provisions concerning the Common Organization of the Market in Wine (Doc. COM(78) 720 final)

Proposal for a Council Directive on the Weights and Certain Other Characteristics (not including Dimensions) of Road Vehicles used for the Carriage of Goods

Proposal for a Council Directive on the Approximation of the Laws of the Member States relating to Certain Types of Simple Pressure Vessels

Proposal for a Council Directive on the Approximation of the Laws of the Member States relating to Noise emitted by Lawn Mowers

Proposal for a Council Regulation laying down Community Measures to combat Classical Swine Fever

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IV

PROVISIONAL PROGRAMME OF FUTURE WORK

February 1979 Plenary Session

Opinions requested by Institutions

- Leukosis in cattle
- Sheepmeat
- Public service obligations and transport aid
- Temporary admission of goods
- Aid to trade in coal
- Farm prices (likely consultation)
- Energy R & D
- Community road transport quotas
- Adjustment of road transport capacities
- Pure-bred breeding animals

Own-initiative Opinion

- Annual Report on Regional Development Fund

Study

- Asbestos

March/April 1979 Plenary Session

Opinions requested by Institutions

- DNA/research
- Fresh poultrymeat
- Building site cranes
- Forestry tractors
- Forestry tractor driving seats
- 8th Directive on company law
- Code of conduct - liner conferences
- Fusion R & D
- Wine sector (concentrated musts) (Doc. COM(78) 720 fin)
- Plastic materials for foodstuffs
- Energy Consumption of domestic appliances
- Misleading advertizing

Own-initiative Opinion

- Use of Medicines

Study

- Spain (continued)

May 1979 Plenary Session

Opinions requested by Institutions

- Forestry policy
- Products used in the building industry
- Weight of road vehicles
- Simple pressure vessels
- Sound-emission levels of lawn mowers
- Balance on the wine market (Doc. COM(78) 260 final)

Subsequent Plenary Sessions

Opinions requested by the Institutions

- Corporation taxes
- Social situation 1978 (June)
- Economic situation (June)
- Prevention of swine fever

Own-initiative Opinion

- Structural aspects of growth
- Enlargement of the Community
- Flaws of convenience

Studies

- R & D management
- Influence of local authorities
- Cereal substitutes

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MEMBERS' NEWS

Appointment

On 13 December 1978 the Council of the European Communities appointed Mr F. CHAPPLE as a member of the Economic and Social Committee.

Secretary-General of the Electrical, Electronic, Telecommunications and Plumbing Union, Mr CHAPPLE will replace Mr L. MURRAY who has resigned.

Mr CHAPPLE will be a member of Group II (Workers).

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Handelsblatt 10.1.79

Brüssel ändert Vorschlag über Bilanzrichtlinie

vwd BRUSSEL. Die EG-Kommission hat eine Reihe Änderungen an ihrem dem EG-Ministerrat vorliegenden Richtlinienvorschlag über den Konzernabschluß vorgenommen. Sie trägt damit den Stellungnahmen des Europäischen Parlaments und des Wirtschafts- und Sozialausschusses sowie der vom Ministerrat verabschiedeten Vierten Richtlinie über den Jahresabschluß von Gesellschaften Rechnung. Die Kommission hält im abgeänderten Entwurf grundsätzlich an der von britischer Seite umstrittenen Definition fest, wonach die einheitliche Leitung für das Beherrschungsverhältnis entscheidend ist. Sie hat jedoch dem Wunsch des Parlaments entsprochen und gewisse Vorkehrungen getroffen, daß für Anteile, die an Unternehmen gehalten werden, bei denen eine Vermutung der Abhängigkeit besteht, die jedoch keiner einheitlichen Leitung unterstellt sind, besondere Angaben gemacht werden sollen.

Die Kommission hat ebenfalls teilweise den Bedenken des Europäischen Parlaments Rechnung getragen, wonach eine generelle Verpflichtung der Teilkonzerne, einen konsolidierten Konzernabschluß vorzulegen, zu kostspielig und nur von begrenztem Nutzen wäre. Die Kommission übernimmt den Gedanken des Parlaments, daß der Gesamtkonzernabschluß Vorrang hat. In Übereinstimmung mit dem Wirtschafts- und Sozialausschuß hält sie jedoch einen Verzicht auf einen Teilkonzernabschluß nur für gerechtfertigt, wenn weitere Voraussetzungen gegeben sind. Zu nennen sind vor allem die Zustimmung der Aktionäre oder Gesellschafter des betreffenden abhängigen Unternehmens, die Erklärung des herrschenden Unternehmens, für die von dem abhängigen Unternehmen eingegangenen Verpflichtungen einzustehen, und Maßnahmen zur Offenlegung

Le Peuple
17.1.79

Aux Communautés Européennes

Le Conseil des Communautés européennes vient de nommer Roger Louet au poste de secrétaire général du Comité économique et social.

Ancien secrétaire de la Confédération « Force Ouvrière » (France), Roger Louet a une longue expérience internationale, notamment comme membre du Conseil d'administration du Bureau international du travail et dans les instances européennes où il fut souvent le porte-parole de la Confédération européenne des syndicats pour les questions sociales.

Roger Louet a été également vice-président de la section des affaires sociales du Conseil économique et social français et président de section au Commissariat au Plan.

Depuis 1973, Roger Louet était directeur général au Comité économique et social.

Hansard 08.12.78

Diario de Noticias

13.1.79

Fabrizia Glorioso em Lisboa

Dirigente da CEE contacta as realidades portuguesas

«Sinto-me orgulhosa e feliz por vir a Portugal como a primeira «embaixadora» dos meios económicos e sociais europeus a visitar o vosso País», declarou, ontem ao «D.N.» a presidente do Comité Económico e Social da Comunidade Económica Europeia, Fabrizia Baduel Glorioso, que se encontra em Lisboa, a fim de tomar contacto com os problemas e as realidades da vida nacional. Esta manhã, Fabrizia Glorioso deverá ser recebida pelo Presidente da República e, ainda, pelo vice-primeiro-ministro, Jacinto Nunes.

Economic and Social Committee

19207 (Payments to Members)

Mr. David Mitchell asked the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what salary, retainer or honorarium will be paid to new British members of the Economic and Social Committee of the EEC; and what expenses were paid for the last year of their term to the previous United Kingdom representatives.

Mr. Judd: The Economic and Social Committee, which is itself responsible for its administration, pays only allowances to cover travel and subsistence expenses and does not pay any salaries, retainers or honoraria. The money required is provided from the Community budget and is subject to financial control by the European Court of Auditors. We do not, however, have details of the individual payments.

Femmes d'Aujourd'hui

L'EUROPE ET NOUS

Jan. 79

FABRIZIA BADUEL GLORIOSO

PRÉSIDENTE DU COMITÉ ÉCONOMIQUE ET SOCIAL DES COMMUNAUTÉS EUROPÉENNES



Fait sans précédent, voici qu'une femme se trouve à la tête d'un des organes dirigeants de l'Europe des Neuf. Italienne, docteur en droit, syndicaliste, Fabrizia Baduel Glorioso a été élue, le 18 octobre 1978, présidente du Comité économique et social

des Communautés européennes. Dans son grand bureau bruxellois, nous avons rencontré une femme vive, élégante et sympathique, que ses hautes fonctions n'ont pas éloignée des difficultés quotidiennes des Européens. Elle nous a parlé de sa vie multiple.

Berlinske Tidende 09.1.79

Hun har oplært erhvervslivets ledere

Af
Jakob Johannsen

Det bliver ikke nemt for erhvervslivet at løbe om hjørner med Forbrugerrådets ny formand. Hun kender nemlig markedsmekanismerne og konkurrencemidlerne lige så godt som de fleste virksomhedsledere. Cand.

polit. Karen Gredal, der fungerer som Forbrugerrådsformand efter Dorthe Bennedsen, har undervist i konsumentøkonomi på Handelshøjskolen i de sidste 24 år. Og de direktører, der har læst afsætningsøkonomi på HD-området denne periode, har haft hende som lærer.

Hun holdt op med at undervise på Handelshøjskolen i august sidste år, men har fortsat nok at rive i. Ved siden af formandsposten er hun bl. a. medlem af det økonomiske og sociale udvalg i EF-hovedkvarteret i Bruxelles, udpeget af udenrigsministeren efter indstilling fra Forbrugerrådet.



»Jeg har en anden vinkel til forbrugersagen end politikerne,« siger Forbrugerrådets ny fungerende formand, cand. polit. Karen Gredal.

Foto: Mini Wolff

Dec. 78

fatti e problemi

UNA CONFERENZA
PROMOSSA DAL CES

L'economia «sociale» negli anni '80

Convocata dal Comitato economico e sociale della Cee, in accordo con il Bureau International du Travail (BIT) di Ginevra e con il CIRIEC (Centre International de Recherche et d'Information sur l'Economie Collective) si è tenuta a Bruxelles il 16 e 17 novembre scorsi una riunione tra esperti dei 9 paesi della Comunità per definire i temi e le modalità organizzative di una Conferenza internazionale che si terrà a Ginevra nel novembre 1979, sotto gli auspici del BIT, e che tratterà il tema «Il ruolo degli organismi a scopo non lucrativo nell'Europa del 1980».

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.