

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL CONSULTATIVE ASSEMBLY

BULLETIN

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234th Plenary Session

The Economic and Social Committee of the European Communities held its 234th Plenary Session in Brussels, on 26 and 27 February 1986. The Committee's Chairman, Mr Gerd Muhr, presided.

The Session was attended by the Commission's President, Mr Jacques Delors, who presented the Commission's programme for 1986.

Extract from the speech by the ESC Chairman, Mr Muhr

Mr Muhr welcomed Mr Delors and stated, *inter alia*, the following:

'There is no need to emphasize the importance we attach to economic policy, particularly from the growth and employment angles. Your colleague and our former member, Alois Pfeiffer, met with broad support from us when presenting the Commission's ideas here last year.

We took the view, however, that the measures adopted thus far to combat unemployment were inadequate or not effective enough and called for steps to be taken at both Community and national level to bring about a more rapid recovery of the European economy and the employment situation.

As regards the preparation and implementation of these steps we naturally attached particular importance to the dialogue with the two sides of industry. A completely new situation has now arisen as a result of the sharp decline in oil prices and the fall in the dollar. How does the Commission intend to take account of or make use of these changed conditions?'

Summary of the speech by Mr Delors, President of the Commission

'What have we achieved so far and in which direction are we heading?' These are the questions Mr Delors addressed himself to when presenting the Commission's programme of action for 1986.

The year 1985, said Mr Delors, saw the acceptance of the integrated Mediterranean programmes thanks to the support of the European



Yves SMETS. Photo News

*Mr J. Delors submitting the Commission's 1986 work programme to the Economic and Social Committee.
From left to right: Mr R. Louet, ESC Secretary General; Mr Gerd Muhr, ESC Chairman; Mr J. Delors, EC President.*

Parliament and Economic and Social Committee. 1985 also marked the end of the run-up to enlargement and opened the way for Europe to enter a third phase in its history with an intergovernmental Conference that should result in a second Treaty, i.e. the Luxembourg Treaty comprising a Single Act and paving the way for European Union in the Community of Twelve.

This future Treaty confirms the platform for relaunching the Community to be established by the Commission in 1986. This platform comprises five objectives:

- a huge market with no frontiers;
- a technology Community;
- increased economic and social cohesion;
- monetary cooperation, with a stronger EMS and ECU;
- the beginnings of a 'social dimension' to Europe.

The Community of Twelve will have to face its first test this year. Now that enlargement has been successfully completed, can the Community also be deepened?

Progress ought to be made on several fronts in 1986 towards the completion of the internal market. The ESC's role, Mr Delors pointed out, will be decisive, as its work in the past has demonstrated. 1986 should also see a more dynamically run Community and better growth. It would also be the year in which it would become apparent whether the Community had the courage to speak with one voice on such international issues as indebtedness and energy pricing.

Summary of the speech by Mr van Greunsven, Chairman of the Workers' Group

Referring to the Commission's programme, Mr van Greunsven (Netherlands) called for the strengthening of the internal market as quickly as possible. He was pleased to see that the Commission had finally taken account of the social aspects, thereby filling a gap. He urged the Commission not to omit the social dimension from its proposals. The completion of the internal market must not lead to a worsening of the workers' lot. Mr van Greunsven also called for a cooperative growth strategy which created new jobs. The supply side should be well structured, he added, but demand could by no means be neglected either. Member States had to align their policies in this field and not go it alone.

Summary of the speech by Mr Staratzke, Chairman of the Employers' Group

Mr Staratzke (Germany) welcomed the Commission's proposals on completing the internal market but pointed out that difficulties generally arose when it came to details. The crux of the matter was to create relations of confidence and trust among Member States. Was it not true, he asked, that the Economic and Social Committee was particularly qualified for such a task? In view of the Commission's aim to bring about greater technological cooperation, he considered the 2% of the Community budget allocated to that sector to be insufficient. As to measures for stabilizing the world monetary system, he predicted that they were bound to fail if they were based on the manipulation of exchange rates.

Summary of the speech by Mr Margot, Various Interests Group

Mr Margot (Belgium) was very pleased with the new Commission for having given one of the Commissioners special responsibility for small and medium-sized enterprises. A specific policy ought to be pursued regarding the SME sector, covering such subjects as technical assistance, loans and the reduction of red tape. In addition, this policy should enable SMEs to operate more effectively by providing them, for example, with fuller information on matters concerning them. In view of the growing role of SMEs, Mr Margot hoped in conclusion that they would be actively involved in the achievement of a social consensus.

OPINIONS ADOPTED

1. CANCER PREVENTION

'Proposal for a Council Resolution on a programme of action of the European Communities on cancer prevention'

Gist of the Commission document

This proposal falls within the framework of the Commission's communication of September 1984 to the Council on cooperation at Community level on health related problems, which includes cancer.

Many common fatal cancers occur in large part as a result of personal, social and environmental factors, and are largely preventable.

The present proposal therefore sets out the priorities in an action programme for cancer prevention, as follows:

development of a nutritional strategy;
action against smoking;
allocation of resources to preventive and therapeutic services;
improvement in epidemiological data;
health education;
international collaboration.

Gist of the Committee Opinion¹

Concentrating on the five most lethal forms of cancer, it would be possible to reduce mortality by 10% to 15% if Europe were to make a concerted effort in fundamental research and in the prevention, detection and treatment of cancer. This is one of the ideas advanced by the Economic and Social Committee in an opinion which was adopted by 63 votes for with 14 abstentions.

In the European Community, one million people develop cancer every year and 500 000 people die from it. 20% of deaths before the age of 70 are cancer-related. Between now and the year 2 000, more than one million people are likely to die from lung cancer alone. One of the principal causes of lung cancer is tobacco. According to recent evaluations, a considerable reduction in tobacco consumption would lead to a substantial fall in cases of cancer.

The role of exogenous factors (tobacco, alcohol, diet, environment, etc.) varies according to the population in question and may also depend on socio-geographical criteria. The role of individual life-styles is so important that tackling this aspect will make it possible to reduce appreciably the risks of cancer.

The Committee considers that an overall European strategy and a concerted plan of action are absolutely necessary if the campaign against cancer is to be effective.

This plan of action comprises a medical research programme for the years 1987 to 1999 with the task of implementing an anti-cancer campaign in the areas of screening, diagnosis, chemical methods of treatment and tests, and research.

We would underline that the content of the proposal submitted to the Committee is only part of the more general plan. This general plan gives more coherence to the policy for fighting cancer — a disease which is a veritable scourge of society.

¹ CES 233/86.

The ESC also urges that the *ad hoc* Committee¹ should comprise not only scientists and cancerologists but — given the existence of occupational cancer — representatives of the two sides of industry as well.

The Committee also considers that research should be planned and coordinated at Community level both from a general and professional point of view.

Finally, the Section also attaches the utmost importance to (a) providing the public with correct information, (b) making as many people as possible aware of, and involved in, preventive action, and (c) promoting knowledge of the therapeutic treatments for the most widespread forms of cancer. Schools and universities should also be the target of an information campaign.

This opinion was drawn up in the light of the paper produced by the Section for Protection of the Environment, Public Health and Consumer Affairs, chaired by Mrs Heuser (Germany — Various interests). The rapporteur was Mr Brassier (France — Various interests).

2. CONSUMER EDUCATION

'Draft Council resolution concerning consumer education in primary and secondary schools' (COM(85) 369 final)

Gist of the Commission's proposal

Consumer education is one of the five basic rights listed in the original consumer action programme, and the Commission is anxious that the Member States should ensure the gradual introduction of consumer education into school curricula at primary and secondary level.

To encourage this the Commission proposes in the present Resolution to undertake specific actions during the period 1985 to 1987, particularly in the following fields:

- teacher training;
- teaching materials.

Gist of the Committee Opinion²

More than 10 years after the birth of a Community consumer-protection policy, the Economic and Social Committee would have

¹ This Committee will be asked to forward recommendations on how a European campaign against cancer can be implemented

² CES 231/86.

preferred the Commission to have proposed a directive, rather than a resolution, on consumer education.

How are young consumers to be educated? This was the question considered by the ESC in an opinion, adopted unanimously with one abstention. The ESC takes the view that if we are to have free and responsible citizens it is necessary above all to develop a critical awareness in primary and secondary school-children of social values — a critical awareness of the goods consumers buy and of the services they use as customer, patient, etc. Consumers should not accept just anything — that is why it is essential that they should be helped to become responsible individuals.

Consumer education fulfils a vital socio-economic function. It also contributes to smooth operation of the market and its development in terms of a higher standard of products and services. To this end, producers — as well as operators in all sectors directly or indirectly linked with the market-place — should be involved in framing the Community programme. The main thing is to improve not just the quality of products but also the way in which they are made.

The ESC also advocates the drawing-up of advertising standards taking special account of the impact of advertisements on children. The economic and social environment also plays a key role here.

The information and education offered in schools should take account of the family environment of the young consumer. Consumption is after all to a large extent determined by the consumer's way of life, his family ties and his disposable income. The family therefore has an influence on the behaviour of young people as consumers. The family also determines how successful consumer education for the young will be.

The ESC points out that although the age at which children start school differs from one Member State to another, consumer education should commence as early as possible, i.e. at the primary school. The ESC considers that a multidisciplinary approach should be adopted.

This opinion was drawn up in the light of the paper produced by the Section for Social Questions, chaired by Mr Kirschen (Italy — Workers). The rapporteur was Mrs Rangoni-Machiavelli (Italy — Various interests).

3. EUROPEAN REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT FUND (ERDF)

'European Regional Development Fund — 10th report from the Commission to the Council'

Gist of the Commission document

The Commission's 10th annual report on the ERDF sets out the ERDF's activities in 1984 and reviews the period 1975-84. It describes 1984 as an eventful year for European regional policy.

In 1984 the ERDF's annual budget allocation amounted to 2 140 million ECU or 7.3% of the Community budget. Payment appropriations were fixed at 1 710 million ECU and, like the commitment appropriations, were almost entirely used up. A total of 4 350 investment projects and 43 studies were financed, selected from among 5 900 applications for assistance.

A survey is given of the first decade of ERDF activities with a breakdown of assistance according to country, region, type of operation and contribution to job creation.

In 1984 some 85% of assistance went to infrastructure projects and 14% to productive investments in industry and services, directly creating some 69 000 jobs as envisaged. To this figure should be added the jobs created indirectly.

The report also refers to the reform of Community regional policy as from 1985.

It gives an analysis of Community support measures and more specifically the number of applications received and approved, the type of assistance given to infrastructure projects and small projects, the sums spent on the financing of studies, as well as information on the publicity given to ERDF operations.

The report also mentions specific Community regional development measures (or non-quota measures) which are implemented in regions that are liable to be affected by the consequences of decisions taken under other Community policies and in particular in peripheral regions that are faced with specific problems connected with their remoteness.

In the period 1981-85 these programmes received financial assistance amounting to 220 million ECU.

Commitments aggregated 61 million ECU in 1984, bringing to 140 million ECU the total figure for commitments since 1981.

The report also analyses the geographical distribution of ERDF assistance. It goes on to deal with second-generation regional development programmes and the opinion of the Commission on these programmes.

Reference is also made to integrated regional development operations and the preparation of integrated Mediterranean programmes (IMPs).

An annex gives figures for the period 1975-84.

Gist of the Committee Opinion¹

In an opinion, adopted by a large majority with two votes against, the Committee is appreciative of the fact that the 10th ERDF report is clearer and more thorough in its presentation of data than previous reports.

The Committee emphasizes that ERDF interventions have not been effective enough and that there has been a lack of coordination with the other structural Funds and financing instruments.

The Committee also:

- draws attention to the economic plight of certain frontier and island areas;

- agrees that SMEs can make an important contribution to job creation;

- is pleased to see that the new ERDF Regulation incorporates a number of earlier Committee proposals for a more coordinated and effective regional policy;

- is in favour of directly supporting integrated regional development operations and integrated programmes, which will enable regional aid requirements to take priority in allocations from the structural Funds; this will promote more rapid and self-sufficient development;
- proposes that a more dynamic and effective regional policy should be adopted;

- mentions the doubling of ERDF resources and the concentration of grants in sectors where more jobs can be created at a lower cost, in line with regional development objectives;

- urges the Commission to act promptly to provide information and administrative and technical assistance for national and local

¹ CES 232/86.

authorities, so that the new ERDF Regulation can be successfully and effectively applied.

Regional development, and support for it from the Community's financing instruments, could, by drawing on all the natural productive and human resources of the regions, prove to be a key factor in combating the recession.

This opinion was drawn up in the light of the paper produced by the Section for Regional Development, chaired by Mr Dassis (Greece — Workers). The rapporteur was Mr Kamizolas (Greece — Various interests).

4. EUROPEAN ROAD SAFETY YEAR (1986) (Own-initiative opinion)

Background

In 1984 the Committee was asked by the Council to issue an opinion on the Draft Council Resolution of 20 March 1984 on the implementation of a Community programme on road safety. Following this, on 19 December 1984 the Council adopted a resolution on road safety which included the designation of 1986 as European Road Safety Year. Meeting on 14 November 1985, the Council adopted conclusions on European Road Safety Year (1986) and future Community road safety measures.

Gist of the Committee Opinion¹

In the face of the alarming road safety situation in the 12 EEC States, the Economic and Social Committee stressed the need for active participation in the 1986 campaign. The Committee was delighted to see 1986 designated European Road Safety Year. On various occasions, the Committee has stressed the need for concerted action at European level on road safety. The Committee cannot remain indifferent to the road safety figures: in 1984 more than 52 000 people were killed and 1.6 million injured on the Community's roads.

In its opinion adopted unanimously, the Committee welcomes the action planned to educate the public and to encourage legislation and research. The focus should be child safety, protection of cyclists and motorcyclists, drunken driving, wearing of seatbelts and observation of speed limits.

The Committee notes with regret that the Council has not always taken sufficient account of its suggestions for increasing road safety, e.g. as regards drivers' hours.

¹ CES 229/86.

The Committee asks the various socio-economic groups which it represents to give their active support to all action on road safety, whether at Community or national level.

This opinion was drawn up in the light of the paper produced by the Section for Transport and Communications chaired by Mr Delourme (Belgium — Workers). The rapporteur was Mr Masprone (Italy — Employers).

5. MAJOR ACCIDENTS

'Proposal for a Council Directive amending Directive 82/501/EEC on the major-accident hazards of certain industrial activities' (COM(85) 572 final)

Gist of the Commission document

Article 19 of the Council Directive of 24 June 1982 on the major-accident hazards of certain industrial activities (Directive 82/501/EEC) requires that by 8 January 1986 at the latest the Council reviews Annexes I, II and III on a proposal from the Commission. The Commission is presenting this proposal for a revision of Annexes I, II and III in order to fulfil this requirement.

Directive 82/501/EEC has been in force for only a short period (since 8 January 1984), and the experience and knowledge of measures to prevent major accidents and limit their consequences is still rather limited. For the time being, therefore, the Commission is proposing a limited revision of Annexes I, II and III. This revision, which is restricted to certain entries and threshold quantities laid down in the annexes, is necessary in order to correct a number of technical errors and inaccuracies. It is also useful from the point of view of ensuring a more balanced and effective implementation of the Directive. However, the revision does not substantially change the scope and contents of the Directive.

Later, when there has been more experience of implementing the Directive and, therefore, when it is possible to examine in depth the scope and contents of Annexes I, II and III, and to see how these annexes can be amended more substantially in order to improve the prevention of major accidents and the limitation of their consequences, the Commission intends to propose a fundamental revision of Annexes I, II and III, to be prepared on the basis of systematic criteria.

The proposed amendments to Annex I aim to clarify the wording of this annex in order to avoid misunderstandings and distortions in the implementation of the Directive at national level.

As regards the amendments proposed for Annexes II and III, part of them are dictated by the need to reinforce the provisions of the Directive with respect to certain industrial activities involving, or possibly involving, particularly dangerous substances (chlorine, carbonyl chloride, methyl isocyanate, etc.).

Some other proposed amendments aim to refine the definition of certain substances or groups of substances and the corresponding threshold quantities in order to better reflect the different range of hazards posed by the various forms and types of these substances or groups of substances (e.g. ammonium nitrate, nickel and cobalt compounds).

Finally, obvious omissions are corrected: the entry 'liquid oxygen' is inserted in Annex III and entry 'sulphur trioxide' is inserted in both Annexes II and III.

Gist of the Committee Opinion¹

In its opinion adopted by 80 votes for, 12 votes against and 14 abstentions, the Committee approves the Commission's proposal and reaffirms the importance it attaches to the adoption and effective implementation of measures designed to (a) prevent major accidents caused by certain industrial activities, and (b) limit their consequences for workers, the general public and the environment.

It calls upon the Commission to continue its efforts to acquire a better knowledge of different industrial processes so that it can introduce criteria which are as objective and scientific as possible, thereby making it possible to bring the annexes into line with scientific and industrial developments.

The Committee also emphasizes that the adoption of Community and national measures on the major-accident hazards of certain industrial activities must not lead to an 'export' of risks to countries where safety rules might be less rigorous. To allow such a situation to develop would be immoral and particularly unacceptable not only from a strictly human point of view but also socially and economically.

This opinion was drawn up in the light of the paper produced by the Section for Social Questions, chaired by Mr Kirschen (Italy — Workers). The rapporteur was Mr Brassier (France — Various interests).

¹ CES 230/86.

6. R&D ENVIRONMENT

'Proposal for a Council Decision adopting multiannual R&D programmes in the field of the environment (1986-90)'

Gist of the draft Directive

The measures proposed by the Commission follow on from the European Council in Stuttgart in 1983 at which attention was drawn to the urgent need to act more quickly with regard to national, EC and international measures to combat environmental pollution and to step up these measures.

An initial outline programme adopted on 25 July 1983 covered EC research, development and demonstration projects.

The draft Directive under consideration sets out three programmes, the first two of which — dealing with the protection of the environment and climatology — are sequels to programmes which have already been carried out. The third programme, dealing with major technological hazards, is a new programme designed to improve our understanding of major accidents, such as those at Bantry Bay, Seveso and Bhopal, make prevention measures more effective and lessen the impact of disasters.

Gist of the Committee Opinion¹

In its opinion adopted unanimously, the Committee approves the draft programmes and urges the Council not to reduce the proposed allocation of 105 million ECU. Greater scientific application and increased financial investment in research is required if Europe is to remain on a par with the other developed countries.

In its opinion the Committee deals with a number of specific issues, including the following:

- cooperation with other countries,
- dissemination of research findings,
- links between research and the policies for promoting the new technologies,
- links with the other R&D programmes,
- involvement of industry,
- consultation of interested parties.

¹ CES 226/86.

With regard to the programmes themselves, the Committee draws particular attention to the advisability of starting work this year on the programmes dealing with major technological hazards in view of their importance in the drive to safeguard the environment and protect public health.

This opinion was drawn up in the light of the paper produced by the Section for Environment, Public Health and Consumer Affairs, chaired by Mrs Heuser (Germany — Various interests). The rapporteur was Mr De Grave (Belgium — Workers).

7. EXPORT AND IMPORT DECLARATION FORMS

'Proposal for a Council Regulation amending Regulation (EEC) No 1900/85 introducing Community export and import declaration forms' (COM(85) 688 final)

Gist of the Commission document

Following the adoption on 18 February 1985 of the reform introducing a single administrative document in place of the dispatch and transit forms used hitherto in intra-Community trade in goods the Council adopted on 8 July 1985, Regulation (EEC) No 1900/85 introducing Community export and import declaration forms in order to rationalize the paperwork involved in all other types of trade, particularly with third countries.

The discussions held to finalize the rules for implementing the single intra-Community document covered *inter alia* the formulation of codes to be used in connection with that document. It became apparent, however, in the course of these discussions, that it was technically impossible to formulate codes for intra-Community trade without taking account of the requirements of other types of trade. A list of codes covering all types of trade must, therefore, be adopted in due course. The present draft Regulation thus creates a legal basis for this by inserting a new Article 8 in Regulation No 1900/85.

Gist of the Committee Opinion¹

In its opinion adopted unanimously, the Committee endorses the proposed amendment on the following grounds:

The Regulation now being amended provided for export and import declaration forms aligned on the forms for intra-Community trade.

¹ CES 227/86.

Appropriate powers must be delegated to the Commission so that discrepancies between the codes for intra-Community trade and the codes for trade with non-Member States can be avoided and so that further alignments on intra-Community trade can be made, where necessary. That is the purpose of the amendment.

This opinion was drawn up in the light of the paper produced by the Section for Industry, Commerce, Crafts and Services, chaired by Mr de Wit (Netherlands — Employers). The rapporteur was Mr Broicher (Germany — Employers).

8. FACILITATION OF GOODS TRAFFIC — FORMALITIES/INSPECTIONS

'Proposal for a Council Directive amending Council Directive 83/643/EEC on the facilitation of physical inspections and administrative formalities in respect of the carriage of goods between Member States' (COM(85) 436 final)

Gist of the Commission proposal

Directive 83/643/EEC adopted by the Council on 1 December 1983 on the facilitation of physical inspections and administrative formalities in respect of the carriage of goods between Member States is an important first step towards reducing obstacles to trade at the Community's internal frontiers, serving to strengthen the internal market and promote Community integration.

The aim of the present Commission proposal is to supplement the provisions of Directive 83/643/EEC on certain essential points, which would help accomplish the first stage mentioned by the Commission in its White Paper on completing the internal market. In this first stage, the intention is to shift inspections and formalities away from the internal frontiers wherever possible. The second stage designed to remove physical frontiers in the transport of goods between Member States would aim to coordinate policies and approximate legislation so that the internal frontier barriers and inspections are eliminated in their entirety by 1992.

The new measures proposed by the Commission include:

- the concentration of customs inspections and formalities preferably at the point of departure and/or destination of goods;
- the harmonization of operating hours of customs services on both sides of internal frontiers;

the lengthening of the minimum opening hours of the main customs offices in Member States;
longer operating hours for customs services at airports and increased flexibility in meeting traffic flow requirements;
improvements in the clearance system for goods and documents;
the introduction of a procedure for informing national and Community bodies of any problems encountered at frontier crossing-points;
authorization for the authorities responsible for certain checks to delegate tasks to other services;
the possibility of payment by cheque of any sums due upon completion of customs inspections and formalities;
the introduction of a basic data computer network for persons exchanging information between Member States;
setting up a committee to examine any issues arising from the application of the Directive.

Gist of the Committee Opinion¹

In its opinion adopted unanimously, the Committee endorses the Commission proposal inasmuch as it supplements the original Directive and contributes to the completion of the internal market. At the same time, it feels that the ultimate purpose of the proposed measures should be to ensure that goods can move freely between Member States.

Another reason for supporting the Commission's paper is that it contains proposals for improving the checks and formalities concerning the transport of goods by air.

The measures on air and rail transport do not go far enough, however.

A further critical comment should be made as regards the application of the proposed measures to traffic with non-Community countries. The Committee believes that negotiations should be held to this end with European countries not in the EEC, particularly those through whose territory goods pass in transit (e.g. Austria, Switzerland and Yugoslavia).

Finally, the Committee refers to the social implications of the proposed measures. Above all working conditions must not deteriorate.

This opinion was drawn up in the light of the paper produced by the Section for Transport and Communications, chaired by Mr Delourme (Belgium — Workers). The rapporteur was Mr Plank (Germany — Various interests).

¹ CES 228/86.

External relations

Visits by the Chairman

Mr Muhr, Chairman of the ESC, and Mr Louet, Secretary-General, held talks with Sir David Hannay, Permanent Representative for the United Kingdom, and Mr Rutten, Permanent Representative for the Netherlands and Chairman-in-Office of the Committee of Permanent Representatives (Coreper) in Brussels on 29 January 1986. On 25 February they held a meeting with Mr François Scheer, Permanent Representative of France in Brussels.

Mr Muhr attended the formal ceremony to mark the opening of the Single Act in Luxembourg on 17 February.

Mr Muhr and Mr Louet attended a dinner held by Mr Cuevas, President of the CEOE (Confederación Española de Organizaciones Empresariales).

Other activities

Mr Plank, member of the ESC, attended a road safety demonstration in Brussels on 21 January in conjunction with the Motor Exhibition. Mr Clinton Davis, Member of the European Commission, and Mr Anastassopoulos, Chairman of the European Parliament's Transport Committee, were also present.

Mr Margot and Mr Soulat, members of the ESC, took part in the ACP-EEC Joint Assembly at Mbanane (Swaziland) from 27 to 31 January.

Mr Louet, Secretary-General of the ESC, addressed the First European Conference of School Parents' Associations held in Strasbourg on 1 and 2 February. The President of the European Parliament was present.

Mr Varfis, member of the European Commission, who recently took over the consumer protection policy portfolio, gave a talk on current policy guidelines at the meeting held by the Committee's Section for Protection of the Environment, Public Health and Consumer Affairs in Brussels on 4 February.

Mr Ceyrac and Mr Rouzier, members of the ESC, and Mr Louet, Secretary-General, took part in the European Week organized by the Ecole Centrale in Paris from 4 to 7 February.

Mr Poeton, Mr Pearson, Mr Rouzier and Sir George Sharp, members of the ESC, and the Secretary-General, Mr Louet, attended a symposium on the internal market organized by the European Institute of Public Administration in Maastricht on 13 and 14 February.

New consultations

Since the last plenary session the Economic and Social Committee has been consulted on the following questions:

'Commission Memorandum to the Council on the employment of handicapped persons in the Community, draft Council recommendation' (COM(86) 9 final).

'Draft Regulation amending Regulation (EEC) No 1365/75 on creation of a European Foundation for the Improvement of Living and Working Conditions' (COM(86) 14 final).

'Draft Council Directive on the adoption of common technical specifications of the MAC/packet family of standards for direct satellite television broadcasting' (COM(86) 1 final).

'Communication from the Commission to the Council on a Community orientation to develop new and renewable energy sources; draft Council resolution on a Community orientation to develop new and renewable energy sources' (COM(86) 12 final).

'Draft Council Regulation amending Regulation (EEC) No 2358/71, Regulation (EEC) No 2727/75 and Regulation (EEC) No 950/68 on seeds' (COM(86) 28 final).

'Commission communication to the Council on Community action in the field of tourism' (COM(86) 32 final).

'Commission communication to the Council: Work programme for creating a common information market' (COM(85) 658 final).

Provisional future work programme

March 1986 Plenary Session

- Farm prices plus cereals and beef and veal
- Organisms harmful to plants or plant products
- Seeds

April 1986 Plenary Session

Opinions

- Dumping of waste at sea
- Dangerous substances
- Water quality objectives for chromium
- European Foundation for the Improvement of Living and Working Conditions
- Quality of surface fresh water
- Asbestos pollution
- Maritime transport
- Shipbuilding (additional opinion)
- Legal protection of semi-conductor topographies
- Meat products
- Employment of the handicapped
- Protection of workers from exposure to benzene
- Standards for direct TV transmission by satellite
- Erasmus programme
- Equal opportunities for women

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Personnel notices

Spanish ESC Members appointed

The Council of Ministers has appointed the 21 Spanish members of the European Communities' Economic and Social Committee. The 12 Portuguese members should be appointed shortly, which will bring the total number of members to 189.

The new Spanish members are:

Mr Elías Aparicio Bravo, Spanish Small Businesses Confederation (Cepyme);

Mr Enrique Calvet Chambón, General Workers' Union (UGT);

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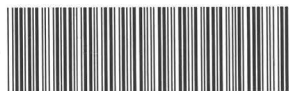
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