

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMITTEE  
OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES

# BULLETIN



**No. 11**

**Brussels - November 1979**



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SUMMARY

	<u>Pages</u>
I. <u>173rd PLENARY SESSION</u> .....	1
<u>EXTRACTS FROM CHAIRMAN'S SPEECH</u> .....	1
The ESC and Lomé II .....	1
<u>Adoption of Opinions</u> .....	4
1. 4th ERDF ANNUAL REPORT .....	4
2. ENERGY POLICY CONVERGENCE .....	7
3. AVIATION POLICY - CONSULTATION DECISION	10
4. AID TO SMALL BUSINESSES IN PORTUGAL .	11
5. RELIEF FROM CUSTOMS DUTY .....	12
6. CHLOROFLUOROCARBONS .....	15
7. SWINE FEVER .....	17
8. BRUCELLOSIS .....	19
9. TECHNICAL BARRIERS	
(Own-initiative Opinion).....	20
10. LONG-RANGE TRANSBOUNDARY AIR POLLUTION	22
II. <u>EXTERNAL RELATIONS</u> .....	24
CHAIRMAN'S STATEMENT ON COMMITTEE ACTIVITIES	24
- Meeting with Chairman of European People's	
Party .....	24
- Talks with Commissioner DAVIGNON .....	24
- Attendance at Lomé signing ceremony ..	25
- Meeting with Ambassadors of applicant	
countries .....	25
III. <u>NEW REQUESTS FOR OPINIONS</u> .....	26
IV. <u>PROVISIONAL PROGRAMME OF FUTURE WORK</u> ...	27
V. <u>MEMBERS' NEWS</u> .....	30
VI. <u>PRESS EXTRACTS</u> .....	31



173rd PLENARY SESSION

The 173rd Plenary Session of the Economic and Social Committee of the European Communities was held in Brussels on 21 November 1979 under the chairmanship of Mr Raffaele VANNI, the Committee's Chairman.

EXTRACTS FROM CHAIRMAN'S SPEECHThe ESC and Lomé II

"31 October 1979 was a milestone in the history of the Community. It marked the signature in Lomé of the second ACP-EEC Convention, a courageous and resolute step towards new relations between the industrialized and developing countries.

I accepted with great pleasure an invitation to attend the signing ceremony; this invitation showed the general appreciation of the work done by the Committee in the implementation of the first Convention. I also wish to thank the Togo authorities for their warm welcome.

The Committee has realized the importance and originality of the "Lomé policy", which is based on but transcends the Conventions. The Committee has repeatedly taken a stand on the most significant components of this policy.

In this connection I would refer to the general Opinions of 16 June 1974, 28 November 1975 and 18 July 1978. And also to the Opinions drawn up this year on specific aspects.

Generally speaking, the Committee has been constantly concerned to draw attention to the importance of a dialogue between the economic interests and social groups of the industrialized countries. The Committee is convinced that "sensitization" of these circles is consistent with our general belief in participation, but is also of fundamental practical importance, in that it will help turn the "Lomé policy" to full account.

A number of major steps have been taken in this connection. Acting under Article 80(5) of the first Lomé Convention, which authorizes it to set up consultative committees for specific fields, the Consultative ACP-EEC Assembly instructed the Joint Committee to make recommendations for consultation of organizations representing economic interests and social groups.

The first consultation was held in Luxembourg in June 1977, there was another consultation in 1978.

The consultations were useful, and it was decided to hold a broader discussion in Geneva last June.



In close collaboration with the Community-level organizations representing various interests, and under the aegis of the Joint Committee, the Economic and Social Committee worked hard on the preparation of the above-mentioned meetings. In anticipation of a follow-up to the Geneva meeting - a follow-up which was finally decided in October by the Consultative Assembly, whose proceedings I had the privilege of attending - a Committee delegation held two meetings in Brussels with Commission delegates in the ACP countries, who said they would provide the Committee with all the assistance needed to inform the economic interests and social groups of the ACP countries, and to further meetings with their Community opposite numbers.

The store which we set by reinforcing the role of the Community - with full respect for the powers of the Community Institutions - is obvious to you all. Our role must be reconfirmed in all fields of policy which would benefit by consultation with employers and labour and exchange of information between them.

In the months ahead we shall have to devote much energy to this preparation, get into direct touch with ACP countries and look carefully at the subjects on the agenda of the meeting scheduled for next year.

As regards these subjects, some general pointers have emerged from the discussions I have had to date. In particular the parties concerned attach importance to industrial cooperation and economic complementarity.

The continuing, excellent relations established with the Co-Chairmen of the Joint Committee, Mr BERSANI and Mr OUEDRAOGO - who I thank sincerely; continuing collaboration with the Community-level organizations representing individual interests; the scope for using previous experience, especially that of the members who have followed the matter closely and who I would like to associate closely with action; the efficiency and zeal of our secretariat. All these elements should be used to confirm once again the function of the Economic and Social Committee in this sensitive and fascinating area, and in other areas".

### Adoption of Opinions

#### 1. 4th ERDF ANNUAL REPORT

The European Regional Development Fund - 4th Annual Report (1978)

#### Gist of the Proposal

The Fourth Annual Report is concerned with the ERDFs activities in 1978, i.e. before the new rules on the quota free Section were introduced in February 1979.

Appropriations were thus distributed according to the arrangements adopted in 1975. The Fund's endowment for 1978 amounted to 581 million EUA. Appropriations committed for approved schemes totalled 556 million EUA and a total of 225 million EUA had been paid out by the end of 1978.

The Commission firstly refers to the economic situation in 1978 and outlines the prospects for 1979. It then lists the various types of Fund aid by sector and region, emphasizing the five priority areas. It gives details of payments and checks on the implementation of projects and their compatibility with the ERDF Regulation. 10% of assisted schemes are checked out.

The Commission stresses that the ERDF is only one of several regional development instruments and that coordination of all Community policies is essential. In an effort to strengthen action to this end, the Commission introduces "the assessment of regional impact concept" which will in future have to go hand-in-hand with the implementation of any Community policy. (Specific attention will be devoted to transport, energy and environment policies).

Stating that regional policy must be seen as a vigorous growth policy instrumental in reducing unemployment and that, in future, national regional policy programmes will provide the framework for ERDF activity, the Commission concludes that it is absolutely essential to expand and improve information on Fund aid.

The conclusions reiterate the above points, underscoring that ERDF funds must be used in conjunction with national aid and stressing the need to maintain the Fund's appropriations at an appropriate level.

## Gist of the Opinion

The Economic and Social Committee adopted its Opinion unanimously.

Commenting on the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) 1978 Report, the Committee stresses that in future regional policy must provide a real means of counteracting regional imbalances in the Community.

The Committee considers the Fund too small and the low percentage (5%) given over to the "quota-free" section quite inadequate. In view of these shortcomings the Committee considers the Fund incapable either of overcoming existing regional imbalances in the Community or of dealing with the new regional disparities which would result from the enlargement of the Community.

The Committee urges that :

- coordination of all national and Community policies having a bearing on regional development should at last become a reality, as advocated by the Commission;
- decision on "integrated operations" in the regions be taken quickly. These operations are intended as a means of coordinating the Community financial instruments in specific geographical areas so as to make an effective contribution to regional development.

On the Fund operations themselves, the Committee regrets that few applications were put forward to aid service industries, since such projects were very important especially for tourism.

It also deplores the delay in submitting statistics to the Commission for assessing the economic impact of the Fund.

This Opinion was based on material prepared by the Section for Regional Development under the chairmanship of Mr MILNE - United Kingdom - Workers. The Rapporteur was Mr PEARSON - Ireland - Employers.

## 2. ENERGY POLICY CONVERGENCE

Energy Objectives of the Community for 1990 and  
Convergence of Policies of Member States

### Gist of the Communication

The Commission's document follows up its Communication on Energy Objectives for 1990 (Doc. COM(78) 613 final). It answers a specific request by the Council on 27 March 1979 for a comparative study of national policies. The Community priorities, some of which are restated more closely in the light of recent events, are designed to keep energy imports in 1990 at the same level as that set for 1985 (i.e. 470 MTOE). They include :

- more intensive energy saving;
- more use of coal and nuclear energy so that these two primary energy sources together cover at least 70 to 75% of electricity production, which presupposes :
  - . the restoration of the nuclear programmes;
  - . creating new coal-fired capacities at least large enough to cover the shortfall in nuclear energy;
  - . regaining coal production at the 1973 level;
  - . a substantial increase in coal imports from non-Community countries;
- increasing hydrocarbon production to as high a level as possible;
- intensifying public information on energy problems.

#### Gist of the Opinion

The Economic and Social Committee adopted this Opinion by a large majority (4 votes against and 1 abstention).

Deeply concerned by the continuing instability of the oil market and the Community's dependence on imported energy, has expressed fears about Member States' failures to coordinate their energy policies.

To ensure acceptance of necessary sacrifices the public should be better informed about the implications of the energy crisis for living standards. The Committee feels that the Community should pursue the objectives proposed by the Commission, and in particular limit its energy imports to half its total consumption.

More especially, the Committee deplores the absence of a Council decision on incentives for coal production and sales and reiterates its call for Community action to protect workers and the public from nuclear hazards. This presupposes an effort to resolve the problem of radioactive waste and its storage. The public should be given objective information on these issues.

- The Member States are urged to make maximum use of their oil and gas resources, and to eliminate constraints on oil and gas prospecting. The Community must step up its drive to develop new energy sources.
- Further, the Committee welcomes the proposal for an overall coordinated approach of relations with the oil-producing countries, and calls for a genuine dialogue which will help restore the equilibrium of the world market.

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 MARGOT - Belgium - Various Interests.

### 3. AVIATION POLICY - CONSULTATION DECISION

Proposal for a Council Decision initiating a Consultation Procedure concerning International Action in the Field of Air Transport

#### Gist of the Commission's Proposal

In anticipation of world-wide developments in air transport and their consequences for the Community, the Commission considers it desirable to define problems of common concern in this area and the action to be taken by Community bodies within international organizations.

It is therefore important to facilitate exchanges of information and mutual consultations with a view to promoting a coherent approach by Member States in international organizations and vis-à-vis non-member countries.

#### Gist of the Opinion

In its Opinion, adopted unanimously, the Committee supports the Commission's proposal, since it thinks that a consultation procedure concerning international air transport would be advantageous to the Community. However, it considers it unnecessary to set up an advisory committee for this purpose. The exchange of views could take place within the framework of Council working parties.



The Commission should, as a matter of priority, give consideration to measures to promote air transport within the Community and free it of unnecessary constraints and burdens. To this end the Commission is asked to continue its activity on the basis of the memorandum on the development of air transport services, which the Committee intends to examine in detail in the near future.

This Opinion was based on work prepared by the Section for Transport and Communications under the chairmanship of Mrs WEBER - Germany - Workers. The Rapporteur was Mr ZUNKLER - Germany - Employers.

#### 4. AID TO SMALL BUSINESSES IN PORTUGAL

Proposal for a Council Decision introducing Special Aid for Small- and Medium-Sized Enterprises in Portugal

##### Gist of the Commission's proposal

In response to a programme submitted by the Portuguese Government, the Commission is proposing to allocate 47 million UA to the modernization and restructuring of Portuguese small- and medium-sized businesses. The programme covers training and restructuring activities and seeks to facilitate Portugal's entry into the Common Market by improving the competitiveness of Portuguese small businesses - currently their productivity and development is well below the Community average.

### Gist of the Opinion

The Committee adopted its Opinion by a large majority (4 votes against). It approves the Commission's initiative in that it considers that the proposed aid can prepare a large number of Portuguese small and medium-sized businesses to face the competition which will result from accession to the Community. Among its detailed comments, the Committee draws the Commission's attention particularly to the need to publicize the Community action sufficiently and in good time so as to avoid discrimination when implementing the Community-financed programme of training and restructuring for small and medium-sized businesses in Portugal.

This Opinion was based on work prepared by the Section for External Relations under the chairmanship of Mr de PRECIGOUT - France - Employers. The Rapporteur was Mr HEMMER - Luxembourg - Employers.

### 5. RELIEF FROM CUSTOMS DUTY

Proposal for a Council Regulation Setting up a Community System of Reliefs from Customs Duty

### Gist of the Proposal

The proposal sets out Community rules on relief from customs duty.

The effect of such relief is to waive application of import duties (Common Customs Tariff duties, agricultural levies, etc.) on goods consumed in the Community.

There is a need to define a) the various instances where, in view of the circumstances of a given import operation, no protection of the Community economy is necessary and b) the circumstances in which it is not necessary to apply export duties (agricultural levies, monetary compensatory amounts).

The proposal sets out the conditions under which relief from customs duty may be granted in each case and the scope of such relief. The adoption of the proposal will make it possible for everyone living in the Community to have the same facilities in this respect. The only reliefs not falling within its field of application are those based on agreements already concluded by Member States which, given their very specific aims, do not justify Community provisions) diplomatic or consular privileges, frontier agreements, etc.). At the same time the proposal represents a further significant step towards a truly uniform application, both of the Common Customs Tariff and of the various charges levied under the Common Agricultural Policy and the specific arrangements derived therefrom.

The proposal is based largely on the autonomous or conventional measures currently in force in the Member States.

To ensure that the provisions of this proposal for a regulation are applied with the greatest possible uniformity throughout the Community, provision has been made for the drawing up, where necessary, of implementing measures by a Committee on Duty Free Arrangements.

### Gist of the Opinion

In an Opinion, adopted unanimously, the Committee welcomes the Commission's proposal to set up a single Community system for relief from customs duties and to consolidate the provisions relating to such relief in one single text. This proposal is in line with the views expressed in previous Committee Opinions.

The Committee notes, however, that the proposal is still a complicated document and thinks that the preamble ought to have set out more clearly some of the general principles behind the Community's policy towards relief from customs duties. After all, the subject matter being dealt with affects the lives of private individuals and families and, furthermore, the conditions under which the goods granted relief are imported are such that these goods cannot really compete with similar goods of Community origin or have an adverse effect on States' tax revenue.

Above all, the Committee would have liked the provisions in various fields, to have gone further, if necessary by departing from the international provisions in force, which only constitute a bare minimum.

While supporting the proposal, the Committee also requests that the provisions by which it is applied should under no circumstances oblige Member States to grant less relief than at present.

It would, moreover, like tax relief to automatically accompany relief from customs duties and notes the Commission's statements to the effect that a text on this subject is in the pipeline.

Finally, the Committee points out that the layout of the text under review has forced it to make a good many detailed comments.

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

## 6. CHLOROFLUOROCARBONS

Proposal for a Council Decision concerning Chlorofluorocarbons in the Environment

### Gist of the Commission's Proposal

This proposal is a follow-up to the Council Resolution of 30 May 1978 aimed at ensuring that Community industry does not increase its chlorofluorocarbon production capacity and at intensifying research into alternative products.

It calls for a 30% reduction (in relation to 1976) in the use of chlorofluorocarbons in aerosols by 31 December 1981.

#### Gist of the Opinion

In an Opinion, adopted by a large majority (4 votes against and 9 abstentions) the Committee approves the Commission's proposed 30% reduction in the use of chlorofluorocarbons in aerosols for a transitional two-year period.

The proposal is justified because there is still a good deal of uncertainty in research circles about the theory that chlorofluorocarbons deplete the ozone layer around the earth.

The proposed action, which is essentially preventive in nature, is designed to protect the whole of mankind against certain grave, albeit conjectural risks.

With this in mind, the Committee would like the whole subject to be carefully studied during the transitional period covered by the Decision so that the Commission can thereafter, in full knowledge of the facts, propose new measures for either regulating or - if necessary - banning CFC's.

In addition, the Committee thinks that, on an industrial front, the Commission's proposal should induce firms to intensify their research into substitute products that are satisfactory in terms of both quality and price.

In this respect, it hopes that the appraisal of the situation in 1982 will include an analysis of the economic and social effects of substitute products which covers the question of employment in the various sectors affected as well as the problem of plants' locations.

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

#### 7. SWINE FEVER

Proposal for a Council Regulation laying down conditions designed to render and keep the territory of the Community free from classical swine fever

#### Gist of the Commission's proposal

Further to the proposal for a Council Regulation (EEC) Laying Down Community Measures to Combat Classical Swine Fever, submitted to the Council on 30 December 1978, the present Regulation seeks to organize the prevention of this disease by creating and maintaining throughout the Community a satisfactory and uniform situation with a view to freeing trade in the products concerned, without running the risk of spreading the disease.

This situation is to be reached by the gradual establishment, taking account of the differences among Member States in the incidence of the disease, of areas or parts of areas free of classical swine fever, by aligning inspections of farms and checks on movement of pigs. Maintaining areas or parts of areas which offer the same guarantees as to the absence of the disease will make it possible to abolish all health obstacles to trade, since such obstacles will have become unnecessary.

#### Gist of the Opinion

In a unanimous Opinion, the Committee supports the aim of the Commission's proposal namely to lay down the conditions for freeing the Community from swine fever and keeping it free from this disease.

The Committee regards the proposal as a further step towards improving intra-Community trade.

It does, however, point out that the Regulation would abolish protective laws covering swine fever in some Member States.

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



## 8. BRUCELLOSIS

Proposal for a Council Directive Amending Directive 64/432/EEC as Regards Tuberculosis and Brucellosis

### Gist of the Commission document

The proposals allow for a reduction in the amount of routine tuberculosis testing in those regions of the Community where the disease has virtually disappeared, thus reducing the cost and easing trade in bovine animals.

Derogations concerning bovine animals intended for meat production and which are under 30 months of age that were allowed for in the original Council Directive (64/432/EEC Art. 7.1.c), are prolonged for a further two years, that is until the completion of the Community accelerated anti-brucellosis campaign.

It is additionally proposed to suppress the requirement to test for brucellosis animals intended for meat production and which are under 30 days of age because the test below this age is insufficiently precise.

### Gist of the Opinion

In its Opinion, adopted by a large majority (1 abstention) the Committee approves the general thrust of the proposal since its aim is to harmonize and simplify veterinary procedures within the Community.

It would nevertheless point out that the language used in the proposal should also further this principle of simplification insofar as the subject-matter allows.

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

#### 9. TECHNICAL BARRIERS (own-initiative Opinion)

The Problems of Trade Barriers and the Alignment of Laws in this Area

##### Gist of the Opinion

The Economic and Social Committee adopted its Opinion unanimously.

It expressed its regret that after 20 years the Community had still not abolished all the obstacles to trade between the nine Member States. It called for faster and more efficient decision-making machinery.

The Committee feels that the elimination of barriers to trade will benefit everybody:

- From the consumer standpoint, it should help to broaden the range of products available and make products cheaper by stepping up competition;

- From the standpoint of business, the introduction of common standards would make it easier to export.

The alignment of standards to promote trade among the Member States must take into account the protection of workers and the environment. Trade-barrier alignment must be seen in conjunction with Community industrial, social, environmental, consumer affairs and commercial policies.

The Committee stresses the disadvantages of the present procedure. Because of the numerous meetings of experts and the requirement of Council unanimity, the average period between the start of the preparatory work and the final adoption of a proposal is about five years. The Council should give the Commission the authority to issue outline Directives for the alignment of standards.

But it is essential to keep up the process of consultation between the Commission and the various economic and social interest groups. The Committee itself should be consulted when the implementing Directives are being drafted.

The Committee feels that, in view of the present state of the Community and the prospect of its enlargement, the time has come to reassess the process of alignment and set up a body of truly Community legislation in this area.

This Opinion was based on work prepared by the Section for Industry, Commerce, Crafts and Services under the chairmanship of Mr van CAMPEN - Netherlands - Employers. The Rapporteur was Mr EVAIN - France - Employers.

#### 10. LONG-RANGE TRANSBOUNDARY AIR POLLUTION

Proposal for a Council Decision on the Conclusion of the Convention on Long-Range Transboundary Air Pollution

##### Gist of the Draft Decision

The Decision approves the Convention on Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution which was drawn up at the UN Conference on the Human Environment in Stockholm in 1972.

The Commission considers that it is necessary for the Community to be a party to this Convention in order to achieve one of the Community's aims with regard to the protection of the environment and the quality of life.

##### Gist of the Opinion

The Economic and Social Committee adopted its Opinion unanimously. It welcomes the Council decision to sign the Convention at the high-level meeting of the UN Economic Commission for Europe on 13 to 16 November 1979.

The decision is desirable on political and environmental grounds.

The Committee notes that although the Convention is not a key part of the Community's domestic policy, it can provide a useful incentive for domestic environmental measures.

This Opinion was based on work prepared by the Rapporteur-General, Mr HATRY - Belgium - Employers.

EXTERNAL RELATIONS

CHAIRMAN'S STATEMENT ON COMMITTEE ACTIVITIES

Since the last Plenary Session, the Committee's Chairman, Mr Raffaele VANNI, has attended the following meetings.

- Meeting with Chairman of European People's Party

Mr VANNI continued his contacts with the Chairman of European Parliament Groups by meeting Mr KLEPSCH, Chairman of the European People's Party Group.

As in the previous contacts, Mr VANNI stressed the importance which the Committee attaches to improving its links with the European Parliament.

- Talks with Commissioner DAVIGNON

Mr VANNI had talks with Commissioner DAVIGNON about the general issue of the common industrial policy. Special reference was made to the contribution which the Committee can make to a greater awareness of the problems of individual sectors, by following up and extending action taken in the past.

- Attendance at Lomé signing ceremony

Mr VANNI was invited to attend the ceremony in Lomé to mark the signature of the second ACP-EEC Convention. This invitation is a tribute to the Committee's work on the Lomé Convention. In the course of various talks in Lomé the Chairman reiterated the Committee's concern to familiarise economic and social interests in the signatory countries with openings provided by the Convention, so as to ensure that they are used to the full.

- Meeting with Ambassadors of applicant countries

Under the brief he had received from the Bureau, Mr VANNI had talks with the heads of the Greek, Portuguese and Spanish missions to the Communities. The main topic was the scope for arranging a meeting with representatives of economic and social interests of the applicant countries in connection with the Committee's Opinion on enlargement.

The three Ambassadors expressed great interest and promised to inform the Chairman promptly of their Government's reaction.

When attending the ICFTU Congress in Madrid, the Committee Chairman will raise the matter with Spanish Ministers and representatives of employers' associations, unions and chambers of commerce.

NEW REQUESTS FOR OPINIONS

During the month of November, the Council asked the Committee to deliver Opinions on the following subjects :

Proposal for a Council Directive amending Annex II(2) to Directive 72/276/EEC on the approximation of the laws of the Member States relating to certain methods for the quantitative analysis of binary textile fibre mixtures

Proposal for a Council Directive amending Directive 79/113/EEC on the approximation of the laws of the Member States relating to the determination of the noise emission of construction plant and equipment

Proposal for a Council Directive amending Directive 77/97/EEC on protective measures against the introduction into the Member States of harmful organisms of plants or plant products

The Council will shortly request the Committee's Opinion on the

Proposal for a Council Directive amending Directive 77/62/EEC coordinating Procedures for the Award of Public Supply Contracts



PROVISIONAL PROGRAMME OF FUTURE WORK

December 1979 Plenary Session

Opinions requested by the Institutions

- Cosmetics
- Simple pressure vessels
- Harmonization of export procedures
- Community transit
- Binary textile fibre mixtures
- Swine fever derogations
- Mercury in aquatic environment
- Dieldrin in aquatic environment
- Organisms harmful to plants
- 2nd Consumer Action Programme
- Processing of agricultural products
- Basic products
- Liqueur wines
- Quota-free projects (Article 13 ERDF)
- Own-account haulage
- Alcohol

Study

- Yugoslavia

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## January 1980 Plenary Session

### Opinions requested by the Institutions

- Consumer credit
- Colouring matters in food
- Colouring matters for medicinal products
- Right of residence
- Energy saving

### Own-initiative Opinions

- Intake of medicines

### Study

- R & D Management

## Later Plenary Sessions

### Opinions requested by the Institutions

- Powered industrial trucks
- Insurance contracts
- Legal protection
- Pursuit of direct insurance
- Noise emission of construction plant and equipment
- Major accident hazards in certain industrial activities
- Changes in working hours
- Weight of road vehicles

### Own-initiative Opinions

- Competition policy
- Regional development programme
- International standards for working conditions
- Investment guarantees in LDCs

### Studies

- Regional policy - Lorraine Integrated Operation
- Conjectural risks DNA
- Consistency in external policy

MEMBERS' NEWSResignation

Mr GUILLAUME and Mr MacGOUGAN have handed in their resignations as members of the Economic and Social Committee.

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Speech made by Mr ROSEINGRAVE before the American and -  
Common Market Club

In a speech made at the American and Common Market Club in Brussels on 22 November 1979, the Vice-Chairman of the Economic and Social Committee, Mr Tomas ROSEINGRAVE, described the Irish attitude to the European Community. He said that membership of the EEC was not seen in Ireland as a surrender of national sovereignty; it was rather looked on "as a desirable and effective sharing of sovereignty within the European Communities to achieve economic and social objectives within the limits set by the Treaty of Rome, which as individual States the countries of the EEC could not achieve".

THE GUARDIAN

5.12.79

# British plan to allow bigger lorries

By David Hencks  
Planning Correspondent

A British initiative to persuade the EEC to set up a European road repair fund in return for allowing 40-tonne lorries into Britain has been put forward in a study to the EEC Commission.

The initiative, taken by two British representatives on the Economic and Social Committee, comes before the Department of Transport's independent inquiry into lorry weights has even finished taking evidence.

Details are published in today's edition of *Municipal Engineering*, the paper for professional engineers in local government and water authorities.

"In Europe," Mr Doble said, "the Commission is generally in favour of even higher weights. The Italians do not understand why the British are opposed to any weight limit at all, and the French want heavier weights."

"In Britain the public is so hostile to heavier lorries that we felt that a compromise proposal, which already has the support of other European countries, would be the most suitable."

Both members want their proposals debated by the Association of County Councils and the Association of Metropolitan Authorities before the middle of January.

The proposal then goes to the EEC Transport Committee on January 16, and to the full Economic and Social Committee, which has 144 members, in early spring.

Les Echos 2.11.79



**EUROPE : approfondir la politique régionale communautaire**

Inquiet de ce qu'il appelle « les insuffisances de la politique régionale communautaire », le Comité économique et social (CES) des Communautés européennes réclame une plus grande participation des autorités régionales et locales dans l'élaboration et la mise en œuvre de cette politique.

Il lui paraît primordial que ces autorités régionales expriment elles-mêmes leur volonté de participer à la réalisation de la politique régionale communautaire. Cela étant, les Etats membres demeurent les interlocuteurs officiels de la Communauté, et, à ce titre, sont maîtres des demandes d'intervention faites auprès du Fonds européen de développement régional. Le CES leur demande de procéder systématiquement à une large consultation préalable des autorités locales et régionales, ainsi que des organisations socio-économiques représentant les forces vives des régions.

**LAVORIERE DELLA SERA**

20.11.79

## I manager CEE cercano una strategia unitaria

ROMA — L'obiettivo del nono congresso internazionale della Cio (confederazione nazionale dei cadres cui fanno capo i dirigenti di tutti i paesi della CEE) sarà quello di definire una strategia unitaria che concordi, a livello europeo e internazionale, gli istituti contrattuali ed in genere le tutele sindacali, previdenziali, assistenziali e di sicurezza sociale: lo ha detto ieri il presidente del Cida, la confederazione italiana dei dirigenti di azienda, Fausto D'Elia, presentando alla stampa il congresso sindacale dell'organizzazione che si svolgerà a Roma nei prossimi giorni. Il tema centrale del congresso — ha spiegato D'Elia — verterà sul ruolo e sulla funzione sociale della dirigenza europea degli anni 80. Nel Corso del convegno saranno esaminate anche le situazioni della collocazione della dirigenza nel contesto socio-economico dei vari paesi, dei rapporti con le altre forze sociali, nonché il pensiero dei dirigenti sullo sviluppo dei vari settori produttivi.

Il congresso affronterà anche alcuni problemi di carattere interno, tra cui l'elezione del nuovo presidente e la revisione dello statuto della Cio. In proposito — ha detto D'Elia — vi sono precise istanze della CIDA perché la confederazione internazionale « si muova sulle stesse linee direttrici del sindacato degli italiani, di ampia apertura verso le altre forze sociali, con la più spiccata presenza sindacale nei vari settori produttivi ».

D'Elia ha quindi denunciato « la grave discriminazione operata dai governi italiani ai danni della CIDA con il mancato inserimento della confederazione nel comitato consultivo sociale della CEE. La nostra presenza nel CNER e l'organismo nazionale corrispondente a quello della CEE — ha sottolineato D'Elia — ci dà pieno titolo a vedere esaudita la nostra richiesta, in occasione non quanto è avvenuto per la organizzazione nazionale dei dirigenti di altri paesi ».

Cork  
Examiner  
27.11.79

## Asbestos<sup>†</sup> limits proposed

By Val Dorgan.

Restrictions on the marketing and use of certain substances, including asbestos fibres, will be presented shortly by the European Commission to the E.E.C.'s Council of Ministers.

The Commission will also examine measures to be taken on problems raised by asbestos in relation to the environment in general.

Labour T.D. Dr. John O'Connell, asked the Commission if it intended to propose Community-wide restrictions, as recommended in the report on the dangers of asbestos, prepared by the Economic and Social Committee.



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