

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMITTEE
OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES

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CONTENTS

I — 178th PLENARY SESSION

Adoption of Opinions

1. REGIONAL PROGRAMMES (own-initiative Opinion)
Statement by Mr. GIOLITTI
2. DRUG CONSUMPTION (own-initiative Opinion)
3. FOOD AID
4. GENERALISED TARIFF PREFERENCES, 1981/1990
5. EC CERTIFICATION
6. STUDY : INTEGRATED OPERATIONS IN LOR-

RAINE

II — EXTERNAL RELATIONS

- ESC Bureau meeting in Venice
- Meetings with :
 - Mr. FOSCHI (Italian Minister)
 - Ambassador LUBBERS (Netherlands)
 - Ambassador BASSOLS (Spain)
 - Delegation of French National Employers' Council
 - Delegation of European Cooperative Movement
- Visit to the Caribbean
- Seminar in Trapani, Italy

III — NEW CONSULTATIONS

IV — PROVISIONAL PROGRAMME OF FUTURE WORK

V — PRESS SHOW

178th PLENARY SESSION

The Economic and Social Committee of the European Communities held its 178th Plenary Session at 2, rue Ravenstein, Brussels, on 29 and 30 April 1980. The Committee's Chairman, Mr VANNI, presided.

Mr GIOLITTI, a member of the Commission, took part in the Committee's debate on the Opinion on Regional Programmes.

Adoption of Opinions

1. REGIONAL PROGRAMMES (Own-initiative Opinion)

« Regional Development Programmes »

Background to the Opinion

Since the end of 1979, the Committee has dealt with the following :

Regional Development Programmes

These are based on the European Regional Development Fund Regulation as it stood before its revision in 1979, when it covered only measures subject to quotas (called « quota » measures). The programmes first sent to the Commission by each of the nine Member States were grouped together and summarised in Commission document COM(79) 290 final. It is on this document, consisting of a commentary and 13 recommendations from the Commission, that the ESC must give an Opinion today. The programmes provide the framework within which ERDF financing is provided for projects on the « quota measures » list proposed by the national governments.

The Quota-Free Section

This was created by the new ERDF Regulation of February 1979. It represents 5 % of the total ERDF budget to be used for financing measures which do not fulfil the criteria of the « quota » chapter and must fulfil one essential condition : their aim must be to offset the negative effects of certain Community sectoral policies.

They are not part of the programmes mentioned above, nor do they finance specific projects submitted by the Member States. They are defined by the Commission, subject to Council approval, and it is the Commission who initiates things and chooses the areas in which such measures are to be applied. The Commission then asks the Member States to submit an ad hoc programme containing regional policy measures being implemented — or planned — for the area in question.

For the moment, there are five candidates for « quota-free » action. The ESC gave an outline Opinion on these in December 1979, and the Section for Regional Development is currently working on an additional Opinion.

The basic document for these « quota-free » measures is Commission document COM(79) 540 final.

Integrated Operations

These are not covered by the ERDF Regulation or by any specific legislation, and not even referred to in the Commission's basic document.

Integrated operations are simply a new way of framing regional policy, and even the whole process of implementing Community policies. The procedure is an experimental one consisting of promoting the development of a given region through the concerted and programmed implementation of all the Community's financial instruments (ERDF, EAGGF, Social Fund, EIB, energy aid, ECSC aid).

For the time being, two urban areas in difficulty have been chosen as target areas : Naples and Belfast.

These are the only two integrated operations to have been really started. Lorraine, which was considered at one time and on which the ESC undertook a Study, has not been included in the first round of recipients. The next experiments are due to be conducted in rural areas.

Final Remark

Now that the three headings have been explained, it should be pointed out that in theory one region could at the same time be the object of « quota » measures, « quota-free » measures and an integrated operation.

Statement by Mr. GIOLITTI

In his speech, Mr GIOLITTI thanked the Committee for the work it had done and approved the line it had taken in its document.

He went on to say that regional policy was currently passing through a transitional phase owing to the fact that the old Regulation which had been in force during the policy's first three years in operation was in the process of being superseded by the new Regulation approved by the Council in 1979.

Regional policy's role was becoming increasingly important on account of the acute problems posed by convergence. The European

Monetary System provided a further stimulus in this context. The new approach adopted by the Commission in the programmes it had been asked to draw up sought to give regional policy a more incisive role and to relegate the Regional Fund to the position of a mere tool. It was a question of drawing up multiannual programmes in which priorities had to be respected in order to prevent the money available from being scattered over too wide an area.

It was urgently necessary to get the Member States' approval for the coordination of Community and national instruments. Precise guidelines had to be mapped out in order to ensure the coherence of the projects presented by the Commission. At the same time it was necessary to increase the Regional Fund's resources. In this connection, the Commission welcomed the innovatory quota-free aid.

Mr GIOLITTI thought that with the creation of this quota-free aid the Regional Fund could no longer be considered to be a mere transfer of resources. This new form of aid could be used to fund programmes which the Commission initiated, though with the Member States' cooperation.

The Commissioner closed by expressing the hope that this breakthrough was just a beginning.

Gist of the Opinion

In its Opinion (*), adopted unanimously, the Economic and Social Committee calls for radical reforms to the common regional policy. Regional imbalances must be reduced, the Committee says, if progress towards economic and monetary union is to be achieved, and the Community's regional policy is still inadequate. The following reforms are suggested :

Firstly, the common regional policy proper :

- the present system, whereby 95 % of the money doled out to the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) goes on national quotas, is ineffective and wasteful. This is particularly evident when one considers the flexibility of the « quota-free » part of the Fund (5 %) which is given directly by the EC Commission for projects of European interest.
- handouts from the ERDF must be concentrated in the most deprived regions, and the regional impact of other Community policies (e.g. social, agricultural, industrial) must be taken into account when these policies are being formulated.

(*) Opinion no. CES 470/80

- an effort must be made to cut out inefficient budgetary expenditure and waste caused through too much « sprinkling » of aid, as the ERDF finances are inadequate (945m EUA in 1979).

As the Community will shortly be exhausting its own resources the Community budget will have to be increased if the regional policy is to have a real redistributory effect.

— Coordination of national and Community regional policies is possible on the basis of the regional development programmes of the Member States only on condition that :

- regional development objectives are clearly defined and their effects evaluated;
- the regional impact of other national and Community policies (social, economic, industrial, etc.) can be measured;
- the Member States' future use of ERDF resources is set out in detail and a timetable for implementing programmes is drawn up.

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. HALL — United Kingdom — Various Interests.

2. DRUG CONSUMPTION (own-initiative Opinion)

« The Use of medicines and its effects on public health »

Gist of the Opinion

The Economic and Social Committee adopted its Opinion(*) by 61 votes in favour, 27 against and 10 abstentions. It considers that the public health and financial aspects of drug consumption must be viewed together, which at the same time calls for drugs to be effective, have the least possible harmful side-effects and cost as little as possible. It is aware of Governments' concern about the rise in the overall cost of health care and recommends a reduction in drug prices and a cut in their excessive consumption.

The existence of two different forms of drug consumption — namely consumption of drugs sold on prescription and self-medication — has induced the Committee to call for changes in both doctors' and patients' ways and habits.

Thus, it is known that doctors may over-prescribe in order to comply with the wishes of their patients or to cover the possibility of a

(*) Opinion n° CES 466/80

faulty diagnosis and that self-medication may also lead to drugs being misused, especially where advertising has an impact on the consumer.

The drug information received by doctors must also be improved and the advertising of drugs in the mass media must be regulated.

Drug manufacturers should distinguish between facts and publicity in the drug information they bring out for doctors. This information should tell the doctor about the value of each drug in relation to others and also mention the risks associated with its use. Gifts to doctors and health care institutions should also be banned so as not to have any influence on prescriptions.

When the authorities regulate and vet advertising, they should ensure that the information with which the patient is supplied about a drug enables him to use the drug properly and that scientific information comes from non-drug-manufacturing sources. The information provided by drug manufacturers about their products should perhaps be vetted by a medically qualified person.

The Committee, mindful of the need for consumers to be afforded protection, likewise makes a number of proposals to this end :

A Community-wide monitoring network should be set up to check the effectiveness and pharmaceutical quality of drugs, the information given on packaging and in instruction leaflets and the advertising aimed at doctors and consumers.

Preventive medicine should be developed by providing proper health education in the schools and later on in life.

The Community should study the vast differences in price between Member States for one and the same drug and endeavour to abolish the barriers hampering the development of certain types of pharmacies (i.e. pharmacies run by cooperatives, health insurance funds or social security schemes).

Finally, the Committee would like pharmacists to act as a source of information and advice for doctors and patients.

It also calls on the Community to collect comparable statistics on the consumption of drugs in the Member States in order to improve Community-wide harmonization in this sector.

This Opinion was based on material prepared by the Section for Environment, Public Health and Consumer Affairs under the chairmanship of Miss ROBERTS — United Kingdom — Various Interests. The rapporteur was Mr. DE GRAVE — Belgium — Workers.

3. FOOD AID

« Communication from the Commission to the Council concerning Food Aid Programmes for 1980 »

Gist of the Commission proposal

The Commission has just approved proposals to the Council on food aid in cereals, skimmed-milk powder and butteroil for 1980. At the moment, the proposed quantities are the same as for 1979. Under the budget procedure, the Commission had proposed a considerable increase in aid, and Parliament, in its amendments, had taken a similar line. However, in order to make a start on implementing the 1980 programme, without waiting for the 1980 budget to be adopted, the Commission is proposing an initial programme limited to the quantities approved by the Council under the draft budget. If the 1980 budget appropriations turn out to be larger, the Commission will put forward a supplementary programme. If not, it would mean that the level of Community aid would remain static for the fifth consecutive year despite the increase in requirements and requests.



From left to right : Mr. LOUET, Secretary-General, Mr. VANNI, Chairman, Mr. GIO-LITTI, member of the Commission, and Mr. RENAUD, Vice-Chairman of the Economic and Social Committee.

THE PROGRAMMES

The programmes provide for the following quantities :

- 720,500 t. of cereals
- 150,000 t. of skimmed-milk powder
- 45,000 t. of butteroil.

Requests received by the Community already exceed these amounts, totalling over 2.5 million t. of cereals, 300,000 t. of milk powder and 140,000 t of butteroil.

The estimated cost of the programme is :

- 135.2 million EUA for cereals
- 195.8 million EUA for milk powder
- 175.7 million EUA for butteroil
- 52.2 million EUA for transport

making a total of 558.9 million EUA.

HOW THE AID IS DISTRIBUTED

The proposed allocations are based on three criteria : nutritional requirements, per capita GNP, and external financial position.

CEREALS

170,000 t. is to go to international agencies (World Food Programme, UNRWA, UNHCR, etc.), and 78,500 t. is being held as a reserve making it possible inter alia to cope with the large number of requests for emergency aid. A further 470,000 t., or 65 % of the total, is allocated to countries directly.

The geographical spread is as follows :

Asia : 179,500 t. (of which Bangladesh : 105,000, Pakistan : 50,000, Sri Lanka : 20,000).

Africa : 158,000 t (of which Tanzania : 15,000, Ethiopia : 15,000, Somalia : 15,000).

Middle East : 125,000 t. (of which Egypt : 100,000);

Latin America : 7,500 t.

MILK POWDER

International agencies are getting 68,050 t., there is a reserve of 8,415 t., and 73,535 t. is going directly to countries. The main recipient is Asia with 37,000 t., 31,000 t. of which is going to India. Africa is getting 19,510 t., and 10,200 t. is going to countries in the Middle East.

butteroil

13,400 t. has been allocated to international agencies, 3,224 t. to the reserve, and 28,376 t. to individual countries. Asia is again the main recipient, with 17,000 t., including 12,000 t. going to India.

Gist of the Opinion

The Economic and Social Committee adopted its Opinion(*) by a large majority (13 abstentions). It maintains that in future it should be consulted on the Commission's annual proposals for food aid and that this should take place in the December prior to the calendar year in which the food aid should be allocated.

In addition, the Committee will as soon as possible undertake an indepth examination of the Community's general food aid policies, having regard in particular to the experience gained since they were last reviewed by the Committee in 1974 and to the reports of the Court of Auditors.

Although the Committee considers that the criteria for the allocation of food aid have proved reasonably satisfactory it does feel that a review is necessary, for example to ensure that the limited resources are concentrated on the most needy countries.

The Committee considers that if budgetary circumstances permit the cereal programme for 1980 should be increased to 1,020,500 tons.

This Opinion was based on material prepared by the Section for External Relations under the chairmanship of Mr. de PRECIGOUT — France — Employers. The Rapporteur was Mr. WILLIAMS — United Kingdom — Various Interests.

4. GENERALISED TARIFF PREFERENCES, 1981/1990

« Guidelines for the European Community's Schemes of Generalised Tariff Preferences for the post-1980 period ».

Gist of the Commission's Proposals

The Commission is proposing that the Community's GSP be continued for a period of 20 Years, subject to regular revision, that the administration of the scheme be simplified (re-grouping of product categories) and that LDCs be split into three groups : the most advanced, the least advanced and others.

The Commission does not rule out changing the rules of origin to take account of the regional origin of products.

(*) Opinion No. CES 467/80.

Gist of the Opinion

In its Opinion (*), adopted unanimously with 4 abstentions, the Economic and Social Committee says that the generalised scheme of tariff preferences (GSP), which allows products from the developing countries to have privileged access to the Community market, helps the development of international trade and North-South relations, and should therefore be continued beyond 1981.

The European Commission wants the new GSP to run for 20 years. But the Committee has come out in favour of a 10-year extension, during which the GSP would be revised regularly in the light of the rapid changes taking place in the world economy and after consulting economic and social interest groups.

In addition, the Committee feels that it is essential to exercise greater selectivity in the choice of beneficiary countries. Some less-developed countries have now reached a stage where they can face up to international competition without privileges. But most of them need the GSP to ensure they develop.

Although the Community should keep the GSP autonomous, i.e. not subject to negotiation, this does not mean that it should not seek some degree of reciprocity.

It is difficult, for example, to defend arrangements whereby shoes or textiles from the more advanced LDCs may enter the Community under privileged conditions while these same countries close their doors to Community imports. It also seems fair to let the GSP cover only products which are not made and sold under abnormal competitive conditions (export subsidies, restrictions on raw material exports, etc.).

The Committee points out that the GSP must be considered an integral part of the Community's development policy. Its aim therefore should not be to encourage the beneficiary countries to create industrial enclaves geared to exports and having no effect on the national standard of living. It must help LDCs to achieve economic independence by boosting food production and thus make self-sufficiency in food easier to attain.

Although the GSP has so far not caused any serious disruption of Community markets, the Committee feels that, to prevent any imbalances occurring in the future, the EEC's external policies (concerning trade, development co-operation, GSP) must be co-ordinated more closely with domestic policies (concerning the regions, social matters,

(*) Opinion No. CES 468/80.

industry, agriculture) to allow industries and regions affected by the GSP to adjust.

The Committee repeats its earlier call that all GSP beneficiaries abide by minimum standards for working conditions laid down by the International Labour Organization and recognize basic human rights.

This Opinion was based on material prepared by the Section for External Relations under the chairmanship of Mr. de PRECIGOUT — France — Employers. The Rapporteur was Mr. EVAIN — France — Employers.

5. EC CERTIFICATION

« Proposal for a Council Directive on a Special Community Certification Procedure for Products Originating in Third Countries »

Gist of the Draft Directive

The Community certification procedures provided for in the Directives for the elimination of technical barriers to trade consist essentially in the control and the certification, by a Member State, of the conformity of a product to the Community technical provisions set out in one or several Directives, this product then being able to be freely marketed throughout all the member states.

The problem of the access of products imported from third countries to Community certification procedures was raised as far back as 1977 in relation to Directives and proposals relating to EEC type-approval for motor vehicles. Since that date the adoption by the Council of a large number of proposed Directives concerning several industrial sectors has been blocked.

This problem mainly presents two aspects. One is of a technical nature and is principally concerned with the possibility of guaranteeing the quality and conformity of products.

The other aspect of the problem is of a political nature and concerns the commercial interests of the Community, not to mention those of the various Member States.

This proposal aims at the introduction of a specific procedure, the object of which is to check whether a request for certification for a product originating in a third country answers the two criteria mentioned above and to determine, on the basis of the conclusions of this verification, the access or not of the product to the Community certification procedure. This procedure, which complies with GATT rules, is thus a preliminary to the certification procedure, which it does not modify in any manner.

It is possible to derogate from the procedure provided for in this Directive when there is a special agreement on mutual recognition of controls between the Community and the third country concerned.

Gist of the Opinion

The Economic and Social Committee adopted its Opinion (*) unanimously, less 5 abstentions.

It approves this Draft Directive which follows up and is closely linked to the Council Decision of 15 January 1980 (concerning the implementation of the GATT « code of standards »).

The aim of this proposal is to lay down a preliminary procedure before access to Community certification for products originating in third countries; it is a separate instrument from the Council Decision mentioned above and is based on different Articles in the Treaty, although it is modelled on the Decision as regards several points.

The Committee feels that this situation will cause a certain degree of confusion among the professional interests concerned over the procedures they must follow to ensure that their products circulate freely in the Community. The Committee therefore wants all the provisions on the recognition of controls and the determination of imported products' conformity with national or Community technical rules, to be covered by a clearer presentation and set of rules, which are not likely to cause legal or administrative difficulties over interpretation and implementation.

In this connection it is regarded as unnecessary to set up a second committee for this Directive dealing with the same questions as the committee set up by the abovementioned Council Decision.

Finally, it is considered that the deadlines allowed when the position of the technical committee differs from that of the Commission (Article 5) should be extended.

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

(*) Opinion No. CES 469/80

6. STUDY : INTEGRATED OPERATIONS IN LORRAINE

« Lorraine, a possible case for an integrated operation »

Aim of the Study

The Commission recently took the initiative of introducing « Integrated Operations » whereby action is coordinated and planned in conjunction with national and regional authorities, the aim being to use the funds of the various EEC financial instruments to develop regions with specific problems.

When the Section for Regional Development first became interested in the question of integrated operations the Commission had not made its final choice of area and Lorraine still appeared to be one of the candidates.

The Section selected Lorraine, or rather the North Lorraine steel triangle — for study because the labour recycling and surplus steel capacity problems of the area seemed typical of socioeconomic problems today.

The aim of the Study was therefore to take the case of a region in difficulties and illustrate how problems had become more acute, how regional, national and even Community authorities had attempted to remedy them and how, finally, a so-called « integrated » operation could close the gaps or remedy the failings of Lorraine's recovery policy.

It ought to be pointed out that the Commission, in agreement with the national governments concerned, has in the meantime given priority to Naples and Belfast; Lorraine was not included in the initial list. It is nevertheless hoped that if these Integrated Operations are successful they will expand and one day become the rule rather than the exception. This at least is one of the hopes expressed by the Section in its Study.

Gist of the Study

The Economic and Social Committee adopted this study(*) unanimously. It considers that the recent Commission proposals aimed at coordinating national and Community aid to geographically limited areas are a positive step in helping to solve the problems of re-development in certain regions of the Community. The Committee is strongly in favour of the notion of integrated regional development implicit in such an approach. It discusses the concept of integrated regional development, taking as its example the steel belt of Lorraine.

(*) Study No. CES 440/80

On the basis of a large number of discussions with local leaders in the political, administrative and socio-economic fields, the Committee has come to the sad conclusion that measures taken so far have been too weak and too diffuse. The Committee urges that the steel belt of Lorraine be considered a suitable case for an « integrated development operation ».

If aid is to be as efficient and coherent as possible, different policies should be coordinated and national and European efforts should complement each other. To this end the Committee considers that priority should be given to the following :

The first thing to do is to ensure that interested parties are informed about, and can participate in, the framing and implementation of a regional development programme plus an « operational » plan based on an analysis of Lorraine's present and probable future needs and of the finances required to meet these needs.

On-the-spot discussions held by the Committee reveal that small businessmen, craftsmen, trade unionists and local authorities are unaware of the existence of Community aid. The Community's information service should therefore be strengthened and decentralized.

Working parties should be set up locally with the participation of regional authorities, the Government and the Commission.

Such structures would be able to give a boost to European regional policy, notably by publicizing the possibilities of Community aid. To be as efficient as possible, the working parties should only have to deal with one Community representative. This representative would, single-handedly, coordinate aid from a wide variety of funds (European Regional Development Fund, European Social Fund, EAGGF (Guidance Section), ECSC, EIB, Ortolí facility).

In order to diversify the activities of a given region (Lorraine in the present case, though action is already under way to help Naples and is envisaged for Belfast, Lozère, the South-East of Belgium and the Western Isles of Scotland was part of a rural development programme), a coherent regional development plan must not only ensure that the number of jobs lost are replaced (29,000 between 1977 and 1980 in Lorraine) but also that it is made easier for young people to enter the labour market.

To help Lorraine the Committee therefore proposes a diversified range of measures requiring coordinated financial aid from the Community; such measures will help to make national and European regional development policies complementary.

The Social Fund can help bolster and re-shape education and training by, for example, involving the university in permanent education, supporting female employment and creating of a national handicrafts institute, etc.

Thanks to ERDF subsidies and the loan-raising possibilities offered by the new Community instrument, it will be possible to improve road infrastructures (cross-frontier communications), build new industrial estates and bring former industrial sites back into use. Support should also be given to the development of tourism and watering places.

The Guidance Section of the EAGGF should concern itself with exploitation of the area's forestry potential and the local processing of cereals, fruit and vegetables (Metz is France's leading cereals port). Research can be carried out, and energy savings made, within the framework of specific Community aid in the field of energy.

Finally, the Community should part-finance a Social and Economic Study Centre called for by the unions.

The Committee considers that the concept of integrated operations should be gone into more closely. It urges that supplementary work be carried out on other regions of the Community, the aim being to make integrated operations a particularly effective instrument of regional economic development.

Through integrated operations a policy could arise that reflects the overall objectives of the European Community.

This Study was based on material prepared by the Section for Regional Development under the chairmanship of Mr. BLASIG — Germany — Employers. The Rapporteur was Mr. BORNARD — France — Workers.

II

EXTERNAL RELATIONS

Meeting of the ESC Bureau in Venice

The Bureau adopted a new establishment plan of the Secretariat and a number of other administrative measures.

It then considered the work of the group instructed to review the Dell report on possible changes in the machinery and procedures of Community institutions. The Bureau also prepared the 178th Session.

In the period between the 177th and 178th Plenary Sessions, the Committee Chairman met :

— **Mr. FOSCHI (Italian Minister) on 25 April**

the President of the Council of Ministers (social affairs) Mr. FOSCHI, Minister of Labour in the Italian Government.



Bureau meeting in Venice.

— **Ambassador LUBBERS on 23 April**

the Netherlands permanent representative at the Communities, Ambassador LUBBERS.

— **Ambassador BASSOLS on 14 and 23 April**

the Spanish Ambassador to the Communities, Mr. BASSOLS, in connection with the organisation of the planned conference on the accession of new Member States.

— **Delegation of the National Council of French Employers on 28 March**

a delegation from the National Council of French Employers (CNPF), headed by its President, François CEYRAC.

— **Delegation from the European Cooperative Movement on 22 April**

a delegation from the European Cooperative Movement, accompanied by ESC member, Mr. MORSELLI, who informed the Chairman about



Press conference in Venice.

steps which have been taken to set up a European centre for coordinating the various cooperative organisations which exist in the Member States.

— Visit to the Caribbean from 29 March to 11 April

In the course of the official visits to Barbados, Guyana and Jamaica (in preparation for the meeting in Geneva of representatives of economic and social groups from the Community and the ACP countries), the Committee delegation, headed by the Chairman and comprising Mr. SOULAT and Mr. STARATZKE met representatives of the Governments of the three countries visited and spokesmen of their chambers of commerce and of the various economic and social groups.

Seminar at Trapani in Italy

The Committee Chairman also took part in a seminar on the problems facing the wine market in the Community which was held in Trapani on 12 and 13 April 1980.

III

NEW REQUESTS FOR OPINIONS

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

« *Draft Council Regulation amending Regulation (EEC) No. 1308/70 laying down a common organisation of the markets in flax and hemp* ».

« *Proposal for a Council Regulation (EEC) promoting the use of flax fibre bundles in the 1980/81 and 1981/82 marketing year* ».

« *Proposal for a Council Regulation amending Regulation (EEC) no. 337/79 laying down common organisation of the wine market* ».

IV

PROVISIONAL PROGRAMME OF FUTURE WORK

May 1980 Plenary Session

Opinions requested

- Legal expenses insurance
- Radiation protection
- VAT on the stores of vessels, etc.
- Social situation in 1979
- Protective structures for construction plant
- Organisation of the market in oils and fats

Own-initiative Opinion

- Economic situation in mid-1980

July 1980 Plenary Session

Opinions requested

- Electrical equipment for use in mines susceptible to fire-damp;
- Protection of workers against lead;
- Textile names;
- Pesticide residues in cereals;
- Air transport (Additional Opinion);
- European Regional Development Fund quota-free aid (Additional Opinion);
- Biodegradability of non-ionic surfactants;
- Seat belts.

Own-initiative Opinions — International standards — working conditions

- Investment guarantees (Less-developed countries)
- human rights

September 1980 Plenary Session

Opinions requested

- Income tax provisions with respect to freedom of movement for workers;
- Transport infrastructure support
- Development of transport infrastructure
- Regional transport statistics
- Research and Development biomolecular engineering
- Performance of heat generators.

Subsequent Sessions

Opinions requested

- Saint-Geours Report (long-term energy consumption)
- Dangerous substances

Own-initiative Opinions

- Competition policy

Studies

- Conjectural risks genetic engineering (DNA)
- Consistency of external policies.

Irish Independent 15.3.80

EEC to probe drug company

'bribes' in Republic

By KEVIN MOORE,
Our Health Affairs Reporter
HIGH pressure sales techniques used by drug companies in the Republic — and in other E.E.C. countries — have come under fire from an influential community body, it was officially disclosed last night.

Mr. Roseingrave, consultant with Muintir na Tire, who has left the chairmanship of the Section to become vice-chairman of the Economic and Social Committee, told the Irish Independent that the opinion was due to come before a plenary session.

The findings recommend that gifts to doctors and health care institutions should be banned, as they already had been in some member states.

However, where there were no legal bans — and only codes of conduct, as in Ireland — these voluntary codes should be tightened up as an interim measure, pending legislation.

While voluntary codes marked a considerable step forward, they had two possible drawbacks — they lay down privately-made rules, whose observance is vetted by a voluntary panel, often composed of people from the world of advertising and when an advertisement is judged to have gone too far by a code-of-conduct panel, the offending advertisement has already appeared.

It is alleged that doctors are being "bribed" by representatives and salesmen with gifts, such as golfing equipment and payment in kind, in the form of expense account lunches.

The idea to investigate "The Use of Medicine and its Effects on Public Health" — and the related problems of sales and advertising techniques — originated with the E.E.C.'s Economic and Social Committee.

The committee's Section for the Protection of the Environment and Public Health, and Consumer Affairs, of which Mr. Tomas Roseingrave was chairman, has now published its initial findings.

Much of this is a heavy indictment of the drug companies and the type of promotion, advertising and other pressures brought to bear, not only on doctors, but on members of the public.

IL POPOLO

26.4.80

Bruxelles

Foschi vuole un piano Cee sul problema occupazione

BRUXELLES — La definizione del programma da realizzare nel settore sociale, a conclusione del semestre a presidenza italiana nella CEE, con particolare riguardo all'occupazione, è stata l'argomento di un incontro che si è svolto ieri nella capitale belga tra il ministro del Lavoro Foschi (presidente di turno del consiglio dei ministri del Lavoro) e i vice-presidenti della commissione CEE Ortoli e Vredeling, responsabili rispettivamente degli affari economici e di quelli sociali nell'organo esecutivo comunitario.

Foschi — a quanto si è appreso — vorrebbe realizzare entro tempi ragionevolmente brevi un incontro dei ministri del lavoro con i titolari dei dicasteri economici e sociali della comunità per un esame della situazione che consenta di adottare misure, sia sul piano economico sia su quello sociale, sia su quello infine delle politiche attive del lavoro. Sempre per questo scopo — da quanto si è appreso — Foschi si è incontrato con i dirigenti dell'Unice (organizzazione imprenditoriale a livello comunitario) della Cee (sindacati europei) e con Raffaele Vanni, presidente del comitato economico e socia-

BERLINGSKE TIDENDE KØBENHAVN

19.4.80

De europæiske Fællesskabers økonomiske og sociale Udvalg finder det vigtigt, at forbrugerne beskyttes og informeres, når de anvender forbrugsgoder, som frembyder en fare. Udvalget har derfor godkendt et informations-system mellem medlemslandene på området

Frankfurter Rundschau 6.5.80

Kontrolle der Arzneimittel-Werbung gefordert

Wirtschafts- und Sozialausschuß der EG beschäftigt sich mit zu hohem Medikamenten-Konsum

Von unserem Korrespondenten Erich Hauser

BRUSSEL, 5. Mai. Übertriebener Verbrauch von Arzneimitteln und übertriebene Preise für Medikamente sind ein Problem in allen Ländern der Europäischen Gemeinschaft. Der Wirtschafts- und Sozialausschuß der EG, in dem Vertreter von Wirtschaftsverbänden und Gewerkschaften beratende Stellungnahmen für den Ministerrat der Neun abgeben, griff das Problem jetzt auf.

Nach Ansicht des Ausschusses müßte eine Änderung der Haltung der Ärzte und der Patienten erreicht werden. Da die Ärzte zum Teil mehr als notwendig verschreiben, um den Erwartungen des Patienten zu entsprechen oder weil sie ihrer Diagnose unsicher seien, müßten die Medikamenten-Hersteller ihre Information für die Ärzte verbessern. Werbegeschenke an Ärzte oder Behandlungszentren sollten verboten werden.

Außerdem sollte die Werbung für Pharmazeutika überwacht werden, meint der Ausschuß.

Er schlägt vor, ein europäisches Kon-

Die Hilfe kam zu spät

KARLSTADT, 5. Mai (AP). Bei dem Versuch, in ein noch unerforschtes Labyrinth der Heidenhöhle bei Karlstadt im Spessart einzusteigen, ist am Samstag der 34-jährige Würzburger Höhlenforscher Helmut Plaisant von niederbrechendem Gestein erschlagen worden. Nach Mitteilung der Bayerischen Landespolizei vom Montag drang nach dem Feilschurz noch der Frankfurter Notarzt Theodor Bittroff von der Berufsgenossenschaftlichen Unfallklinik unter eigener Lebensgefahr zu dem Verunglückten vor, aber vergeblich.

trollsystem für die im Gemeinsamen Markt vertriebenen Medikamente hinsichtlich ihrer Wirksamkeit und des Aussagewertes der den Packungen beigegebenen Informationen zu schaffen. Außerdem müsse die Versorgungsdienstleistung mit einer Gesundheitslehre von Schulalter an ausgebaut werden. Die EG-Dienststellen müßten den Preisunterschieden für vergleichbare Medikamente zwischen den einzelnen EG-Staaten nachgehen. Außerdem könnte die Schaffung von Apotheken auf Genossenschaftsbasis erleichtert werden, um zur Senkung der Gesundheitskosten beizutragen.

Die Stellungnahme des Ausschusses wurde mit 11 gegen 27 Stimmen bei zehn Enthaltungen verabschiedet.

Il Fiorino

24.4.80

«Costruzioni navali»

126. La crisi mondiale delle costruzioni navali ha continuato a pesare sull'attività congiunturale in questo settore ed ha indotto numerosi Paesi industrializzati ad elaborare piani di ristrutturazione.

Sul piano comunitario, il Consiglio, basandosi sulle proposte transmesse dalla Commissione il 9 dicembre 1977, ha emesso il 19 settembre 1978, in seguito a parere del Parlamento e del Comitato Economico e Sociale, una risoluzione relativa al risanamento del settore. Questa risoluzione conferma la necessità di adeguare questo settore allo scopo di renderlo sano e competitivo, e di renderne compatibili le strutture ed il livello di attività con le prospettive a lungo termine del mercato, nonché con il volume degli scambi marittimi della Co-

munità ed i suoi interessi sociali e strategici. La risoluzione chiede quindi a tutti gli ambienti interessati, pubblici e privati, uno sforzo in questo senso, insistendo sulla necessità di proseguire la cooperazione internazionale, e sollecita la Commissione a seguire l'evoluzione del mercato, ad emettere il suo parere sull'adeguamento delle strutture e proporre tra l'altro provvedimenti nel settore sociale e, se del caso, nel settore della politica marittima.

Il Comitato Economico e Sociale, avvalendosi del suo diritto di iniziativa, sta concludendo l'elaborazione di una relazione sui problemi attuali della politica comunitaria in materia di trasporti marittimi e, in particolare, delle strutture di linea marittime.

Der Abend 19.3.80

«EG-Politiker bei Linder»

Der Präsident des Wirtschafts- und Sozialausschusses der Europäischen Gemeinschaften, Raffaele Vanni, hat gestern zu einem Informationsbesuch nach Berlin kam, wurde von Bürgermeister von Wirtschaftsförderer Linder empfangen. Vanni wird die wirtschaftliche Situation der West-Gebirgsregion

Advocate News Barbados 29.5.80

EEC group to visit Barbados

A six-man Economic and Social Committee delegation of the European Economic Community is due to visit Barbados from tomorrow.

The delegation led by Chairman, Mr. Raffaele Vanni, is on a fact-finding mission to several other ACP (African Caribbean and Pacific) countries.

Mr. Vanni will be accompanied by three members of the Committee - Mr. Stanislas (German group of Employers), Mr. Soubat (French group of workers) and Mr. Williams (United Kingdom group of various interests), his personal assistant, Mr. Queranghi, and Mr. Graziani, a staff member of the Committee.

The delegation also intends to visit Grenada, Guyana and Jamaica, and its objectives are to sound out the views of the authorities in these countries on matters of mutual interest. The tour in the Caribbean will end on April 11.

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