

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMITTEE  
OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES

# **BULLETIN**

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## 210th PLENARY SESSION

The Economic and Social Committee of the European Communities held its 210th Plenary Session at the Committee building in Brussels on 28 and 29 September 1983. The Committee's Chairman, Mr François Ceyrac, presided.

Commissioner Frans Andriessen attended the session and took part in the debate on the XIIth report on EC Competition Policy.

### ADOPTION OF OPINIONS

#### 1. ENVIRONMENTAL JOB-CREATING (own-initiative Opinion)

**“The implementation of environmental job-creating measures”**

#### **Gist of the Opinion<sup>(1)</sup>**

An urgent appeal to the Council and governments of Member States to link improvement of the environment with job-creation was made by the Economic and Social Committee. The Opinion, adopted by the Committee by 41 votes in favour, 2 against and 8 abstentions, proposes that the various Community policies and financial instruments should make a greater contribution to further this aim. Funds have already been earmarked in the Community budget to finance an Environmental Fund.

The Committee proposes that specific projects, intended both to improve the environment and to provide jobs, should be given financial support by the Community. A typical example of the Committee's recommendations for such projects is that forestry should receive greater attention and reforestation should be tackled on a European scale. The Community has a considerable trade deficit in this area,

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<sup>(1)</sup> Doc. CES 855/83

second only to that for oil products. Jobs could be created in both the forestry and the wood processing sectors.

The Committee also strongly encourages the development of a research policy to help combat pollution, to produce new "clean" technologies and to conserve natural resources. The support of technological innovations in the environmental industry, with a view to assisting larger exports of European technological systems, could help to create new jobs as well as to fight pollution. Management of natural resources should be rationalized, aiming at reducing waste and increasing the durability of goods. This would have a favourable effect on the level of imports and the trade deficit, conserve raw materials and provide employment in services and in the construction industry. The rehabilitation of derelict urban and industrial areas and the improvement of water distribution and purification systems are other such projects suggested by the Committee to improve the environment and to provide job opportunities. The Committee says that an information campaign should be encouraged, with the aim of making the general public and both local and international authorities more aware of the possibilities for employment in the environment sector. These projects, both in the short and long term, would help to remedy the serious problem of unemployment and would improve the quality of life.

*This Opinion was based on material prepared by the Section for the Protection of the Environment, Public Health and Consumer Affairs, under the chairmanship of Mrs Heuser (Germany - Various Interests). The Rapporteur was Mr De Grave (Belgium - Workers).*

## **2. 12th REPORT ON COMPETITION POLICY**

### **"The 12th Report of the Commission of the European Communities on competition policy"**

#### **Gist of the Report**

The recession is increasingly being used as an excuse to justify measures aimed at distorting free competition. But the Commission is still convinced that free competition is the key to a lasting economic recovery in Europe, and is determined strictly to control state aids, restrictive practices by firms and abuses of dominant positions. This, briefly, is the Commission's position in its twelfth annual Report on competition policy in the Community, which reviews state aids, future investigations into government assets in certain industries, exemptions from competition rules, etc.

The Report particularly notes a big rise in state aid in 1982, and spells out what rules are followed in deciding whether or not to approve such

aid. In 1982, the Commission had to give a ruling on 232 plans for state aid — an unprecedented figure. Of these, 104 were approved, but 128 became the target of Commission action. The Commission says that the Member States are increasingly trying to outbid each other in offers of state aid. Such aid may have an effect similar to that of protectionist measures and merely transfer economic difficulties from one Member State to another, instead of eliminating them as it is supposed to do in theory.

### **Speech by Mr Andriessen, Member of the Commission**

Mr Andriessen mentioned the difficulties faced by Community industry, and the heavy pressure for protectionist measures. Despite those pressures, the ESC Opinion endorsed the thrust of the Commission's approach. When considering Community industrial policy, allowance had to be made for competition policy and the international dimension. In the papers prepared by certain Member States for the European Council in Athens, Community industry and competition policy were mentioned together. Nevertheless, competition policy had its own special role. It was clear that there would be exemptions for R & D, e.g. for public grants. The Commission was taking its own steps to help industry, e.g. the ESPRIT programme, tele-communications, biotechnology.



*Mr Andriessen, Member of the Commission (on the right) with Mr Ceyrac, Chairman of the ESC, at the Plenary Session.*

Mr Andriessen said that the Commission shared the Committee's concern about the increase in public financial support and the "feather-bedding mentality". The Rome Treaty admittedly allowed such aid, but it was contrary to the spirit of the Treaty. The Commission should pursue a policy which made for the maximum of transparency and ensured that the Member States complied with the letter and spirit of the Treaty. Until the Common Market was completed, there would always be a tug of war between Treaty competition rules and the concern to protect certain industries. Greater alignment was a prerequisite for progress there. The Commission would do its utmost to pursue such a competition policy.

### **Gist of the Opinion<sup>(1)</sup>**

At a time of grave economic difficulties it is more than ever necessary to prevent distortions of competition. This is the crux of the Committee's Opinion which was adopted unanimously with 2 abstentions. In this Opinion the Committee voices concern over certain forms of state aid which breed "dependence" in the firms concerned.

On procedural rules, the ESC is in favour of exploring and encouraging all moves conducive to speeding up and streamlining procedures, and hence stimulating competition.

Speaking generally, the Committee feels that the Commission's Annual Report on Competition Policy should provide details of decisions taken by national courts in furtherance of Community legislation. The Commission should also take steps to publicize the national remedies available for individual plaintiffs where Community competition law is breached. If need be, the Commission should frame proposals to ensure effective and uniform implementation of Community competition legislation by all national courts.

The scale and size of state aid — which was originally justified as a short-term measure to deal with emergency situations — has increased sharply. It is disturbed by this trend, especially as experience shows that contingency aids all too frequently become long-term structural aids, breeding "dependence" in the firms concerned. The Commission's competition policy would be more effective if the criteria for authorizing or banning aid were the improvement of all-round Community competitiveness and promotion of the innovation and research potential of Community firms.

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(1) Doc. CES 852/83



In its review of the development of concentration, the ESC is pleased to see that the Commission's studies are now focussing on sectors, seen in relation to all Member States, rather than on the individual country's spheres of activity. This new approach should be warmly encouraged, though it is vital to compile as reliable statistics as possible in order to draw comparisons at Community level.

In scrutinizing pricing policy in business, the Committee regrets that attention is confined to book publishing and the motor vehicle industry. In future special emphasis should be placed on the insurance, pharmaceutical products, banking, energy and building materials sectors.

The present Opinion, by placing competition policy in a world economic context, follows on from the Committee's 1981 initiative Opinion on competition policy in the Community. It warns the Community authorities against:

- some national aids which are tantamount to dumping;
- the difficulty of overcoming the handicaps faced by the Community in the case of new high technology products supplied by the USA and Japan and labour-intensive manufactures such as textiles and footwear.

Under these circumstances the ESC calls for the implementation of a Community commercial policy with the potential to develop into a common industrial policy analogous to the CAP.

*This Opinion was based on material prepared by the Section for Industry, Commerce, Crafts and Services under the chairmanship of Mr De Wit (Netherlands - Employers). The Rapporteur was Mr Mourgues (France - Workers).*

### 3. MOTOR VEHICLE DISTRIBUTION AGREEMENTS

**“Draft Commission Regulation (EEC) on the application of Article 85(3) of the Treaty to certain categories of motor vehicle distribution and servicing agreements”**

#### **Gist of the Commission document**

Under Council Regulation No. 19/65/EEC the Commission is empowered to declare by means of a Regulation and in accordance with Article 85(3) of the Treaty that Article 85(1) (general ban on agreements which restrain free competition) shall not apply to certain categories of agreements to which only two undertakings are party and by which one party undertakes to supply the other alone with certain goods for resale within the Common Market.

The aim of the Draft Regulation, which is based on the experience which the Commission has acquired, is to define another category of agreement which can be accepted as normally satisfying the conditions laid down in Article 85(3). The agreements in question relate to distribution and service in the motor vehicle industry.

### **Gist of the Opinion<sup>(1)</sup>**

The Committee approves the Commission's proposal to exempt selective distribution in the motor vehicle sector from the general ban on any agreement which restricts free competition (Article 85(1) of the EEC Treaty). This, in essence, is the Opinion delivered by the ESC and adopted by 103 votes to 7 with 6 abstentions.

Nevertheless, the Committee does not regard a regulation laying down a standard contract governing relations between manufacturers and dealers as desirable. Under these circumstances it considers that the Draft Regulation must not go beyond the definition of some fundamental principles governing relations between manufacturers and dealers, and that sufficient scope should be left for the exercise of contractual freedom within a framework of genuine consultation.

Regarding the Draft Regulation's provisions on parallel imports, their implementation should not lead to acceptance of non-authorized sellers, otherwise the whole concept of selective distribution would be destroyed.

In addition, the Commission should make a more thorough study of the spare parts market. It is of vital importance to safeguard the interests of consumers, particularly in respect of spare-part availability, price, quality and guarantees. Until further notice, the Committee objects to the inclusion of sparepart deliveries in the Draft Regulation.

The ESC regards the provision whereby manufacturers must be prepared to supply all EEC dealers with the whole range of their models, as impracticable and not generally reflecting economic and commercial realities. Nevertheless, consumers should be able to order from anywhere in the Community a vehicle meeting the specifications legally required in the country of registration, provided that such a vehicle is supplied in that country.

*This Opinion was based on material prepared by the Section for Industry, Commerce, Crafts and Services under the chairmanship of Mr De Wit (Netherlands - Employers). The Rapporteur was Mr Eelsen (France - Employers).*

<sup>(1)</sup> Doc. C/ES 848/83

#### **4. INTEREST SUBSIDIES — EUROPEAN MONETARY SYSTEM LOANS**

**“Proposal for a Council Regulation (EEC) on interest subsidies for certain loans granted under the European Monetary System (EMS)”**

##### **Gist of the Commission’s proposal**

To underpin the efforts of the less prosperous Member States fully participating in the EMS, the European Council decided at its meeting on 4 and 5 December 1978 that the Community should provide European Investment Bank and NCI loans worth 1,000 million units of account a year for a period of five years starting in 1979. During this period the loans would carry a 3% interest subsidy worth 1,000 million units of account, divided into annual instalments of 200 million units of account. The beneficiaries would be Ireland and Italy.

The differences still existing between Member States’ levels of development, and the rapid growth in subsidized Community lending to the less prosperous Member States, are an indication of the usefulness of this form of financial cooperation. There is therefore a sound case for the further support of the Member States concerned.

The Commission is now proposing that interest rates subsidies be extended for a further two years (1984-1985) and granted in annual instalments of 200 million ECU per year. The beneficiaries would remain Ireland and Italy. The loans should continue to carry a 3% subsidy and should be mainly used to finance infrastructure projects, including energy projects. Investments should be used in particular to reduce regional imbalances, improve the employment situation and achieve the Community’s energy objectives.

##### **Gist of the Opinion<sup>(1)</sup>**

The Committee unanimously adopted its Opinion endorsing the proposal to grant interest rebates on Community loans for structural schemes in Ireland and Italy (400 million ECU over two years).

It stresses the special importance which it attaches to the proposal’s aim of improving the employment situation in the areas concerned, in addition to the contribution which it will make towards convergence between the Member States and to underpinning the Community’s energy policy.

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<sup>(1)</sup> Doc. CES 846/83

*This Opinion was based on material prepared by the Section for Economic and Financial Questions under the chairmanship of Mr Marvier (France - Various Interests). The Rapporteur was Mr Rouzier (France - Workers).*

## **5. FIRST ESPRIT PROGRAMME**

### **“Proposal for a Council Decision adopting the first European Strategic Programme for Research and Development in Information Technologies (ESPRIT)”**

#### **Gist of the Commission Proposal**

The fundamental aim of the ESPRIT programme (ESPRIT being the acronym for European Strategic Programme for Research and Development in Information Technology), set up after extensive consultations with industry, small and medium-sized companies, universities and Member States' administrations, is to mount a “technological drive” throughout the Community to achieve parity with, if not superiority over, American and Japanese competitors within the next 10 years. To do this, ESPRIT must establish a new technological base for the next generation of products and systems in the IT sector. Research activities will be achieved in the so-called “pre-competitive” phase.

A first 5-year phase, starting in 1984 should, in the Commission's view, be allocated a global financial support of ECU 1.5 billion, financed on a 50-50 basis by the Community budget and industry. This “catching up” strategy is designed to halt the decline in the European IT sector. Some facts: in 1975, the Community still had a trade surplus in IT products. By 1981 the trade deficit had reached US\$ 5 billion and the US \$ 10 billion mark was passed in 1982.

Eight out of ten personal computers sold in Europe are imported from the USA; nine out of ten videotape recorders sold in Europe come from Japan.

European-based integrated circuit manufacturers supply 30% of their own home market, and represent 13% of world production, half of which is manufactured in the USA by subsidiaries of European companies.

In the field of electronic data processing, office and factory automation, process control and telecommunications (these are the sectors broadly encompassed by the term “Information Technology”), compared to the limited number of “niches” in which Europe is performing fairly well, the list of areas in which Europe is struggling to catch up is lengthy.

By the end of the century every significant sector of the economy will be affected by IT. The whole economy is already significantly affected by IT although not always directly: all together nearly two-thirds of Community GNP is, in one way or another, influenced by IT.

It is already a major industry in its own right, comparable in size (US\$ 237 billion 1982 annual sales worldwide) and value added to the automobile and steel industries. As a manufacturing sector, IT has been one of the fastest growing industries worldwide in a decade which has otherwise seen general recession.

Growth is expected to continue at about 8% - 10% overall until 1990 by which date, with an overall turnover of some US \$ 500 billion (at 1980 prices), IT will be one of the world's largest manufacturing sectors.

Occupations concerned with information are becoming the single most important part of employment. IT manufacturing alone employs 5% of the total Community workforce, i.e. about 5 million persons.

The ESPRIT programme sets out three key areas for action:

- advanced micro-electronics;
- advanced information processing; and
- software technology.

These three technologies are central; their mastery is the key to making the strategy succeed.

Two other action areas are specific applications:

- office automation, and
- computer integrated manufacturing.

### **Gist of the Opinion<sup>(1)</sup>**

The European Community's plans to catch up the Americans and Japanese in information technology were given strong backing by the Committee which adopted an Opinion on the subject by a unanimous vote less 1 abstention. But the Committee warned that the sum of 1,500m ECU planned for the first phase of five years, 50% from the Community, should be considered a minimum, given the ambitious goals of ESPRIT, namely "the achievement of technological parity with, if not superiority over, international competitors logical within 10 years". However, if resources are concentrated on work of a very advanced

<sup>(1)</sup> Doc. CES 853/83

nature and a carefully selective approach is taken, this can provide an appreciable thrust in the right direction and help instil new self-confidence in the European information technology industry.

By the year 2000 the Information Technology Industry will be the largest single industrial sector in Europe. It will also become the largest single technical concept so that virtually all other sectors from the manufacturing of cars to the tobacco industry will depend for their development, growth and ability to employ people on having the latest technology available in this field.

There has been no shortage of national incentives to the industry in the past. But these have not had the hoped for results even though the support provided was comparable overall to that given to rivals in the US and Japan. It was not coordinated at European level and was frequently aimed at survival rather than long-term advance in R & D. Hence the conclusion that a true Community strategy rather than national programmes is what is needed.

The Committee views the coordination and stimulation of research as proposed in the ESPRIT programme — as a suitable first point of departure for Community promotion schemes, for the following reasons:

- individual firms and governments are incapable of raising the funds needed for the entire ESPRIT area of research and development; this can only be done jointly with the Community;
- it is in this sphere that the Community has the best prospects of catching up technologically with the USA and Japan in the longer term;
- in the present circumstances competition within the Community will not be adversely affected by such promotion schemes; this will benefit and encourage cooperation between the firms concerned;
- as a result, the development of a European standards system based on the Community's own technological research and development in this sphere will be stimulated.

Through the intended close cooperation, transcending national frontiers, between governments, industry, higher education institutes and other research establishments, the trade unions and interested members of the general public, ESPRIT can help to attain the political objective of greater interpenetration of the Member States' economies.

The Committee points out that only long-term funding — extending over at least 10 years — until the objectives of ESPRIT are attained will bring about the desired success and enable the financial risks for the firms and research institutions concerned to be assessed.

One possible threat to the objective of closing the technological gap with the USA and Japan is that through Community-based branch establishments of international corporations the results of research might find their way to competitors outside the European Community before the products are ready for marketing. The Community-based firms and scientific institutions involved in ESPRIT projects should be given priority when it comes to exploiting the research findings.

*This Opinion was based on material prepared by the Section for Industry, Commerce, Crafts and Services under the chairmanship of Mr De Wit (Netherlands - Employers). The Rapporteur was Mr Nierhaus (Germany - Workers).*

## 6. STRUCTURES AND PROCEDURES

**“Communication from the Commission to the Council on structures and procedures for the common policy in the field of science and technology”**

### **Gist of the Commission's Communication and Proposal**

This Communication and the attached proposals for Decisions must be seen in the context of the Community's new strategy for Scientific and Technical Research established for the 1980's (COM(81) 574 final of October 1981) and of the Framework Programme for Community Scientific and Technical Activities for the period 1984-1987 (COM(82) 865 final and COM(83) 260 final). The Committee adopted Opinions on the proposed Framework Programme at its May Session.

In putting forward its new approach to RD & D, to be found in the draft Framework Programme, the Commission has identified four distinct functions which have to be fulfilled for the policy to be implemented:

- identifying the Community S/T objectives and adopting the Framework Programme for Community RD & D activities;
- defining and choosing those RD & D activities, corresponding to the objectives of the Framework Programme which are to be implemented on the basis of specific decisions;
- implementing and managing RD & D activities,
- evaluating and utilizing the results of RD & D.

Implicit in the new proposals is the assumption that the existing institutional framework (structures and procedures) is inadequate if the Community-led research in the field of S/T is to be fully effective.

The proposals for new structures and procedures are based on the following principles:

- multiple and interdependent consultation,
- reconciling the political, scientific and technical, and financial examinations,
- streamlining procedures.

The proposals include the setting up of a Higher Policy Committee for Science and Technology (HCST). This would replace the Scientific and Technical Research Committee (CREST) and the specialized groups responsible to the Council. Each field of activity (industrial technology, information technology, raw and other materials, non-nuclear energy, health and safety, etc.), will be managed and coordinated by a Management and Coordination Consultative Committee (MCC's). In the process, some 40 ACPM's (Advisory Committees on Programme Management) will be wound up.

### **Gist of the Opinion<sup>(1)</sup>**

In an Opinion, adopted unanimously, the Committee supports the Commission in its various proposals to streamline the system for the management and coordination of R & D activities in the Community and, more importantly, the decision-making process regarding the political, scientific and technical aspects of research.

It favours the setting up of a Higher Policy Committee for Science and Technology and the establishment of CGC's (Management and Consultative Committees). It approves the dissolution of CREST as well as the sectoral committees sector and the horizontal committees listed in the draft Council decision.

*This Opinion was based on material prepared by the Section for Energy and Nuclear Questions under the chairmanship of Mr Romoli (Italy-Employers). The Rapporteur was Mr de Normann (United Kingdom - Employers).*

## **7. BIOMOLECULAR ENGINEERING**

**“Proposal for a Council Decision adopting the second stage (January 1984 - March 1986) of the multiannual research and training programme for the European Economic Community in the field of biomolecular engineering”**

<sup>(1)</sup> Doc. CES 856/83



### **Gist of the Commission Proposal**

The Commission proposes the second stage of a programme which began in April 1982 and for which the Council had requested an evaluation before the end of 1983. The main aim is to stimulate in the Community work on biotechnology in the fields in which Japan and the United States have gained a substantial lead.

The research proposed is fully compatible with the main orientations defined for biotechnology in the Framework Programme. Through research and specific training projects for European scientific personnel, the aim is to exploit basic discoveries in modern biology which are likely to increase the capacity of the Community to compete with the outside world in key areas related to the manufacture of improved agricultural and bio-industrial products.

National laboratories responded very favourably to the first stage and in the Commission's view this provides ample justification for continuing the programme. The second stage, like the first, will be carried out by means of shared-cost contracts concluded with public or private organizations in the Member States. The funds needed for the second stage are estimated at 7 million ECU, bringing the total appropriations to 15 million ECU. The financial means available for training is limited to 20% of the budget.

The only significant addition to the first stage of the programme concerns the extension to all industrial areas, in particular pharmaceuticals and fine chemicals, of what is known as enzyme engineering, i.e. the development of methods allowing cells and enzymes to be used for the large-scale production of special substances, generally very rare or difficult to extract, that are of vital importance to human life (for example vitamins, semi-synthetic penicillins and hormones). In the first stage such research was confined to agri-food production.

### **Gist of the Opinion<sup>(1)</sup>**

In an Opinion, which it adopted unanimously, the Committee endorses the approach adopted by the Commission which is to intensify work on projects which have already been launched, rather than to expand into new sectors of biomolecular engineering. However, such an approach is necessary because the funds available for this important programme are extremely limited. In view of the Community's budgetary difficulties, the question should be asked whether more resources should not be made available for biomolecular engineering by transferring away from other research programmes.

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<sup>(1)</sup> Doc. C.I.S 850/83

*This Opinion was based on material prepared by the Section for Energy and Nuclear Questions under the chairmanship of Mr Romoli (Italy - Employers). The Rapporteur was Mr Löw (Germany - Employers).*

## **8. NON-NUCLEAR ENERGY**

### **“Proposal for a Council Decision adopting a research and development programme in the field of non-nuclear energy (1983-1987)”**

#### **Gist of the Commission's Proposal**

This proposal for a Research Action Programme on non-nuclear energy R & D describes a complete set of constituent sub-programmes researching into renewable energy sources (solar, biomass, wind and geothermal energy) and into rational use of energy (energy conservation, use of solid fuels, new energy carriers and energy systems analysis).

The proposed research action programme aims to reduce the Communities' vulnerability to instabilities in the energy supply situation, to advance the state-of-the-art in energy-saving techniques, to contribute to the solution of regional problems and to contribute to the Communities' assistance to developing countries.

In its main features it is consistent with the Framework Programme. The work which is proposed will benefit not only the energy objective but also other objectives of the Framework Programme. The Commission estimate that ca. 70% of the work will contribute to improving the management of energy resources, 16% to promoting industrial competitiveness and the rest to other Framework Programme objectives.

The financial resources required for the research programme are 418 MECU (379 MECU for external actions plus 39 MECU for work at the JRC). 226 MECU will be allocated for the work on renewable energies and 192 MECU for rational use of energy. The proposed programme has a duration of 4 1/2 years from July 1983 to December 1987.

#### **Gist of the Opinion<sup>(1)</sup>**

In its Opinion, adopted unanimously with 2 abstentions, the Committee approves the proposal. It does, however, feel that the increased resources devoted to this area, make it essential that each item within each of the sub-programmes be closely scrutinized to ensure that it will make a significant contribution to Community energy objectives.

<sup>(1)</sup> Doc C.L.S 851/83

The Committee believes that a greater percentage of the solar energy budget could be allocated to photovoltaics. It would also like to see the research on wind energy concentrated on small and medium-sized machines. It regrets the absence of wave energy from the research action programme and recommends that its introduction should be considered when the programme is reviewed in the second half of 1985. On the subject of new energy carriers the Committee expresses some scepticism on new methods of liquefaction and gasification.

The Committee stresses the need to take account of legal, social and environmental factors if the full potential of the innovations is to be achieved.

*The Rapporteur-General for this Opinion was Mr Roseingrave (Ireland - Various Interests).*

## 9. CHAPTER VI EURATOM TREATY

**“Proposal for a Council Decision adopting new provisions relating to Chapter VI ‘Supplies’ of the Treaty establishing the European Atomic Energy Community”**

### Gist of the Commission’s Proposal

This proposal aims to alter the role of Community bodies to bring it in line with the actual situation prevailing as regards the supply of nuclear materials. It would in effect mean the abolition of the commercial monopoly of the Euratom Supply Agency (a monopoly which has only rarely been used in a manner entirely in accordance with the system provided for in Chapter VI of the Euratom Treaty).

When the Treaty was drawn up 25 years ago, the Supply Agency, which was under the control of the Commission, had a complete monopoly of purchase and sale of nuclear substances. The aim was to guarantee clients equal access to resources and to get a common supply policy off the ground.

Since then market conditions have completely changed and the Commission feels that the essential aims of the Euratom Treaty can be achieved without such a monopoly.

Its proposals, which involve a slight review of Chapter VI of the Treaty, centre round 5 main aspects, and aim to achieve a genuine solidarity between the “Ten”, in the form of:

- effective achievement of unity of the Common nuclear market,
- solidarity measures in the event of shortage of supply,
- definition of international jurisdiction of the Community,

- definition of role of supply agency,
- introduction of system of sanctions and a system specific control.

### **Gist of the Opinion<sup>(1)</sup>**

In debating the proposed changes to the Euratom Treaty dealing with the supply of nuclear materials, the Economic and Social Committee agreed with the aims of the exercise, namely to draw up special provisions for nuclear fuels, as compared with other fuels, only in cases where such provisions are absolutely necessary. Its Opinion on the subject was adopted by 63 votes to 5 with 12 abstentions.

The Committee, however, takes issue with the Commission on some of the additional powers which it would vest in the Supply Agency.

The most important issue is whether or not the Supply Agency be authorized under the provisions of the Euratom Treaty to distinguish between nuclear material intended for civil uses only, as opposed to material which may be used for civil and military purposes. Some members of the Committee believe this would introduce into Community law unwarranted discrimination against certain Member States. The Committee, however, generally regrets that for practical reasons, it has to go along with the Commission in its proposals on this tricky matter, since it does not see any possibility of resolving the problem by a different proposal.

*This Opinion was based on material prepared by the Section for Energy and Nuclear Questions under the chairmanship of Mr Romoli (Italy - Employers). The Rapporteur was Mr von der Decken (Germany - Various Interests).*

## **10. JOINT RESEARCH CENTRE IV**

**“Proposal for a Council Decision adopting a research programme to be implemented by the Joint Research Centre for the European Atomic Energy Community and for the European Economic Community (1984-87)”**

### **Gist of the Commission's Proposal**

At a time when the Community is embarking on a new research strategy, the Joint Research Centre's current programme is coming to an end and the Commission has therefore put forward a new programme for the period 1984-87.

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<sup>(1)</sup> Doc. CES 849/83

The Commission considers that the Joint Research Centre's activities must form an integral part of Community R & D policy as described in the Framework Programme for Community Scientific and Technical Activities. The Joint Research Centre is an instrument which should be used to realize specific objectives within the Community's overall research strategy. It should also play a role by which it "federates" certain projects being undertaken at national level or even acts as a catalyst for the development of new national activities.

The programme for the Joint Research Centre is based on two main themes:

- safety and protection of the environment
- standardization

A large part of the Joint Research Centre's current activity concerns nuclear safety. The Commission intends to gradually extend the Joint Research Centre's activities to the non-nuclear field, in particular to industrial hazards, as well as to consolidate the existing work on environmental protection.

On standardization, the emphasis will remain on the work carried out in the nuclear field by the Central Bureau for Nuclear Measurement and on reference materials. The latter will also include efforts towards standardizing measurements and the test methods in the field of renewable energy.

All the proposed projects are part of one of the following five Research Action Programmes: industrial technologies, fusion, fission, non-nuclear energy sources, environment.

In order to allow for flexibility in the Joint Research Centre's work it is proposed that a small proportion of the resources (5%) be available for research not provided for in the programme proposal. A Council of Administration would be set up whose principal task would be to supervise those projects intended to give flexibility to the Joint Research Centre.

The number of staff required to carry out the new programme (2,260) is the same as for the previous programme. However, the age profile of existing staff and their scientific and technical skills are not well adapted to the programme. The Commission therefore proposes that exceptional measures be taken with regard to both staff release and recruitment.

### **Gist of the Opinion<sup>(1)</sup>**

The Committee adopted its Opinion on this subject unanimously. It welcomes the integration of the work of the Joint Research Centre in the framework programme for Community R & D and the organization of work within research action programmes. It believes that as a result the JRC will be better equipped to act as a catalyst, coordinator and guide with regard to Community R & D policy.

The Committee approves the concentration of work on safety and protection of the environment, and standardization.

A number of research activities which had to be shelved because of the Super Sara project can now be restored. The Committee welcomes this development but regrets, however, that the switch in emphasis from fission to other activities has now come to a complete halt (fission still accounts for more than 50% of the JRC staff and funds).

Above all, the Committee regrets that JRC activities in the non-nuclear energy sector have been cut so savagely, even though the decision to end research into hydrogen production by thermochemical means may be correct. The JRC's activities in the field of environment protection should be expanded.

*This Opinion was based on material prepared by the Section for Energy and Nuclear Questions under the chairmanship of Mr Romoli (Italy - Employers). The Rapporteur was Mr von der Decken (Germany - Various Interests).*

## **11. UNITS OF MEASUREMENT**

### **“Proposal for a Council Directive 80/81/EEC on the approximation of the laws of the Member States relating to units of measurement”**

#### **Gist of the Commission Proposal**

Pursuant to the Council Directive of 20 December 1979 regarding units of measurement and in accordance with the recommendation (WHA 30.39) adopted by the 13th World Health Assembly on 18 May 1977 concerning the use in medicine of units of the international system (SI), the millimetre of mercury is only permitted to remain in use as a unit for the measurement of blood pressure until 31 December 1985. After that date the kilopascal unit is to be used in the Community.

<sup>(1)</sup> Doc. C I S 845/83

The above WHA recommendation has, however, been almost unanimously rejected by the medical profession. In a subsequent recommendation, adopted on 22 May 1981, the WHA therefore decided that at present there was no need to replace the millimetre of mercury by the kilopascal as unit of measurement.

### **Gist of the Opinion<sup>(1)</sup>**

In its Opinion, adopted unanimously, the Committee approved the Commission's proposal.

*This Opinion was based on material prepared by the Section for Industry, Commerce, Crafts and Services under the chairmanship of Mr De Wit (Netherlands - Employers). The Rapporteur was Mr Breitenstein (Denmark - Employers).*

## **12. PRODUCTS PROCESSED FROM FRUIT AND VEGETABLES**

**“Proposal for a Council Regulation (EEC) amending Regulation (EEC) No. 516/77 on the Common Organization of the Market in Products Processed from Fruit and Vegetables and Regulation (EEC) No. 950/68 on the Common Customs Tariff;**

**Proposal for a Council Regulation (EEC) fixing Guarantee Thresholds for Certain Products Processed from Fruit and Vegetables;**

**Proposal for a Council Regulation (EEC) adjusting Certain Rules in the 1979 Act of Accession in respect of Products Processed from Fruit and Vegetables; and**

**Proposal for a Council Regulation (EEC) amending Regulation (EEC) No. 516/77 on the Common Organization of the Market in Products Processed from Fruit and Vegetables.”**

### **Gist of the Commission's proposals**

**“Proposal for a Council Regulation (EEC) amending Regulation (EEC) No. 516/77 on the Common Organization of the Market in Products Processed from Fruit and Vegetables and Regulation (EEC) No. 950/68 on the Common Customs Tariff”**

<sup>(1)</sup> Doc. CES 842/83

The system of aid for certain products processed from fruit and vegetables has operated successfully in terms of the objectives it was designed to fulfil. The Commission therefore thinks it should be retained but adjusted in the light of experience gained in operating it and of changes in the markets for the products concerned. In particular, all the products which may be eligible for aid, including drip grapes and figs, should be made subject to a uniform system.

In view of the link between prices for products intended to be consumed fresh and prices for products intended for processing, the Commission feels that minimum producer prices should be derived from the basic price referred to in Council Regulation (EEC) No. 1035/72, bearing in mind the need to maintain a sufficient balance between the various uses for fresh products.

Provision should be made for a monthly increment of the minimum price for certain products intended for processing which can be stored.

In the case of products for which no basic price is fixed, the minimum producer price should be determined by reference to the increase for similar products for which it has been possible to determine a minimum price by reference to the basic price.

In the case of certain products in this sector of which the Community is a major importer, a minimum import price system should be introduced, combined with the lodging of a special security at the time an import licence is issued as a guarantee that the minimum price will be complied with in order to encourage greater market stability and to facilitate the proper operation of the aid system.

Experience has shown that difficulties have arisen with the factors used to calculate the amount of aid. Provision should therefore be made for a calculation which takes account in particular of changes in the minimum price and includes, where necessary, a flat-rate adjustment for other costs. The minimum import prices should be referred to for the purpose of calculating aid for products subject to such prices.

In the case of some products, and in particular those processed from tomatoes, it has been observed that the weight of the packaging can vary considerably in relation to the weight of the product. The granting of aid for packaged products may result in artificial distortions between different processors. Aid should therefore be calculated on the basis of the raw material processed.

In order to facilitate the marketing of the processed products in question and adjust their quality more closely to market requirements, provisions should be made for laying down Community quality standards.



The Commission also provides for the possibility of fixing refunds in advance and of making imported products subject to the presentation of import licences.

**“Proposal for a Council Regulation (EEC) fixing Guarantee Thresholds for Certain Products Processed from Fruit and Vegetables”**

Article 3 of Regulation (EEC) No. 516/77<sup>(1)</sup> introduced a system of production aid for certain products processed from fruit and vegetables. In the event of the situation provided for in paragraph 3 of the said article arising, the grant of production aid can be confined to a quantity determined on the basis of average Community production in the most recent years for which reliable figures are available.

As this situation is liable to arise for sultanas, a guarantee threshold should be fixed at this stage for the said product. Provision should be made for taking appropriate measures should the threshold be exceeded.

**“Proposal for a Council Regulation (EEC) adjusting certain Rules in the 1979 Act of Accession in respect of Products Processed from Fruit and Vegetables”**

Article 103(3) of the 1979 Act of Accession lays down rules for the calculation of Community aid granted in Greece in respect of certain products processed from fruit and vegetables.

In accordance with Article 72(2) of the Act of Accession, the Commission proposes making the changes necessary as a result of the amendments to Regulation (EEC) No. 516/77.

**“Proposal for a Council Regulation (EEC) amending Regulation (EEC) No. 516/77 on the Common Organization of the Market in Products Processed from Fruit and Vegetables”**

The Commission is proposing that when the quantities of dried grapes or dried figs bought by the storage agencies under Article 3 of Regulation (EEC) No. 2194/81<sup>(2)</sup> are at such a level at the end of the marketing year that there is a risk of the market becoming unbalanced during the following marketing year, a decision may be taken, in accordance with the procedure in Article 20, to allow the storage agencies to sell off stocks by tender or at prices fixed in advance to

<sup>(1)</sup> OJ No. L 73 of 21 March 1977, page 1

<sup>(2)</sup> OJ No. L 214 of 1 August 1981, page 1

distillers or to industries using them for purposes other than human consumption.

The conditions governing the sales to distillers must be such as to avoid disturbing the Community market in alcohol and spirituous beverages.

All buyers will be guaranteed equal treatment and equal access to goods.

Storage agencies will be paid financial compensation equal to the difference between the buying and selling prices of the quantities concerned.

### **Gist of the Opinion<sup>(1)</sup>**

The Committee adopted its Opinion by 88 votes to 15 with 3 abstentions. It thinks that the proposed changes will not completely remove the flaws which exist at present and has the impression that the proposals were heavily influenced by such considerations as financing.

Although the Commission's report acknowledges that the general aim of the scheme is to bolster the economy of the Mediterranean regions, only a few of its economic effects are examined.

The proposals are limited in scope and do not tackle the most important aspects of revising and amplifying the present measures.

The Committee is not insensitive to the need for a reform of the Common Agricultural Policy, having regard to the scope for reducing costs, within the framework of action to restore balance between the various regions of the Community and increase the effectiveness of aid.

It reserves the right to comment later on the concrete proposals which the Commission is to submit following the decisions taken at the Stuttgart summit.

*This Opinion was based on material prepared by the Section for Agriculture under the chairmanship of Mr Emo Capodilista (Italy - Various Interests). The Rapporteur was Mr Wick (Germany - Employers).*

## **13. TRACTORS — POWER TAKE-OFFS**

**“Proposal for a Council Directive on the approximation of the laws of the Member States relating to the power take-offs of wheeled agricultural and forestry tractors”**

<sup>(1)</sup> Doc. CLES 847/83

### **Gist of the proposed Directive**

The proposed Directive specifies the types of power-take-offs to be employed. It also lays down design and positioning requirements relating to p.t.o.'s and their protection with a view to minimizing the risk of accidents and achieving mutual recognition by the Member States of the tests conducted by each of them severally on the basis of common requirements.

### **Gist of the Opinion<sup>(1)</sup>**

The Committee adopted this Opinion unanimously. It is pleased to note that the Commission proposal stresses the need to apply the principles of accident prevention in the design and construction of agricultural plant and machinery. This meets the wish expressed by the Committee in its Opinion of 6 July 1983 on another draft Directive on the roll-over protection structures of "vineyard" tractors.

The Commission's attention is drawn to the need to lay down ad hoc rules for power-take-offs and their protective guards on certain types of tractor. This should be taken into account in the proposal.

The ESC would also like the Member States to be given 18 months in which to comply with the Directive, starting from the time the Directive is adopted by the Council.

*The Rapporteur-General for this Opinion was Mr Masprone (Italy - Employers).*

## **14. TRANSPORT INFRASTRUCTURE EXPERIMENTAL PROGRAMME**

### **"Communication from the Commission to the Council on a transport infrastructure experimental programme"**

### **Gist of the Commission Communication**

#### **Previous work**

On 30 June 1976 the Commission sent the Council a Communication on action in the field of transport infrastructure<sup>(2)</sup>. The Communication was accompanied by:

<sup>(1)</sup> Doc. C/ES 843/83

<sup>(2)</sup> COM(76) 336 final of 30 June 1976

- a Draft Council Decision instituting a consultation procedure and a transport infrastructure committee<sup>(1)</sup> and
- a Draft Council Regulation concerning financial support for transport infrastructure projects of Community interest<sup>(2)</sup>.

The first proposal was adopted by the Council on 20 February 1978 (Decision 78/174/EEC)<sup>(3)</sup>. The second, on the subject of aid, is still under consideration although the topic has been discussed at virtually every Council meeting since 1978:

- On 23 November 1978, the Council stressed its anxiety for work to be pushed ahead. Several delegations emphasized that it would be useful to pinpoint specific projects as soon as possible. Moreover, the Council urged the Commission to submit a report on bottlenecks before 1 January 1980 (the report was actually submitted on 19 June 1980);
- On 6 December 1979, the Council noted the Commission Memorandum on the role of the Community in the development of transport infrastructure<sup>(4)</sup>;
- On 24 June 1980, the Council instructed COREPER to continue work in the light of the Opinions to be issued by the EP and the ESC, and to draft a brief enabling the Council to take a decision at a forthcoming meeting;
- On 4 December 1980, the Council noted the report on bottlenecks;
- On 26 March 1981, it was still not in a position to take a decision;
- On 15 December 1981, the Council adopted a resolution on Community aid for transport infrastructure projects of Community interest, in which it noted the Commission report on criteria for appraising such projects<sup>(5)</sup>. The Council felt that this report should be studied in conjunction with the bottleneck report of 19 June 1980, and found that it would be possible to establish such criteria.

The Council asked the Commission to cooperate with the Transport Infrastructure Committee on a trial application, to a limited number of specific projects, of the Community interest evaluation methods for infrastructure projects advocated in the 1981 report on criteria for appraising projects of Community-wide interest. The Council urged the Commission to submit its findings before 1 October 1982

(1) OJ C 207 of 2 September 1976, page 7

(2) *Ibid.*, page 9

(3) OJ L 54 of 25 February 1978, page 16

(4) COM(79) 550 final of 14 November 1979

(5) COM(81) 507 final of 16 September 1981

- On 10 June 1982, the Council again debated at length the draft Council Regulation concerning financial support for transport infrastructure projects of Community interest. It concluded by calling on the Commission to submit, within three months, a balanced experimental programme comprising specific infrastructure projects spread over a period of three to five years;
- On 16 December 1982, the Council approved a proposal for a Regulation concerning limited action in the field of transport infrastructure, whereby the Community is to grant financial aid up to the ceiling of the 10 million ECU available from the 1982 budget (Domodossola marshalling yard, Evzoni-Volos road, cross-Channel link).

On 7 December 1982, the Commission sent the Council its report on Investments of Community interest in transport infrastructure — Application of the evaluation method<sup>(1)</sup>. On 10 December 1982, it presented the Council with its Transport Infrastructure Experimental Programme<sup>(2)</sup> on which the Committee was asked for an Opinion on 23 December 1982.

### **The experimental programme**

Selected projects should be justifiable on socio-economic grounds and be of benefit to the Community.

Projects should be capable of being completed or at least started between 1984 and 1988.

The experimental programme has been drawn up on the basis of contributions from Member States, although it is not merely the sum total of these.

The Commission feels it would be reasonable to set the following target figures for financial aid in the form of grants and interest subsidies over the period 1984-1987:

1984	— 100 million ECU
1985-1987	— 500 million ECU

The proposed projects are divided into two phases (1983/84 and 1985/87).

### **Gist of the Opinion<sup>(3)</sup>**

The Committee adopted its Opinion unanimously. At the outset it stresses that the launching of a common transport infrastructure policy

<sup>(1)</sup> COM(82) 807 final of 7 december 1982

<sup>(2)</sup> COM(82) 828 final of 10 dember 1982

<sup>(3)</sup> CES 844/83

in the Community is overdue. It urges the Member States and the responsible Community institutions to go beyond declarations of intent, studies and reports by taking practical measures in the field of transport infrastructure and by providing the necessary financial resources. The Commission's experimental programme is therefore to be welcomed since it does contain practical measures.

The Opinion concerns itself primarily with the criteria for the evaluation of infrastructure projects of Community interest. The Committee agrees with the Commission that infrastructure projects must have a socio-economic justification at the national level, and must also be of Community interest. It attaches importance to the contribution of projects to easing traffic congestion in conurbations or on the links between them and to improving the structure and level of development of less-developed regions.

The implementation of a transport infrastructure policy requires adequate, sustained Community financing. To this end, The Committee proposes that it should be possible for the Community to part-finance projects in various ways, e.g. by investment grants from the Community budget, by interest subsidies and repayment guarantees for funds raised on the capital market, or from a special Community fund.

*This Opinion was based on material prepared by the Section for Transport and Communications under the chairmanship of Mrs Weber (Germany - Workers). The Rapporteur was Mr Plank (Germany - Various Interests).*

## 15. FORMATION OF ROAD HAULAGE RATES

**“Proposal for a Council Regulation on the formation of rates for the carriage of goods by road between Member States”**

### **Gist of the Commission Proposal**

Council Regulation (EEC) No. 2831/77 of 12 December 1977 on the Fixing of Rates for the Carriage of Goods by Road between Member States<sup>(1)</sup>, which established a dual system of reference and compulsory tariffs, is due to expire on 31 December 1983 (Article 21 of the Regulation). The Council is required by this Regulation to reach a decision by the end of 1982 on a Commission proposal concerning the rates and conditions to be applied thereafter to road haulage between Member States.

<sup>(1)</sup> OJ No. L334 of 24 December 1977, page 22

The aim of the Commission proposal is to replace the dual system from 1 January 1984 with a single system of reference tariffs, supplemented, if necessary, by compulsory minimum tariffs. Before deciding on its new approach to rate of formation, the Commission consulted interested parties and the Road Haulage Tariff Committee set up in accordance with Article 16 of Regulation No. 2831/77. It also made use of scientific studies carried out by Professors Willeke, Baum and Hoener<sup>(1)</sup>.

In the course of the consultations, the representatives of users and freight forwarders stated that, subject to certain conditions, they could accept a system of reference tariffs from 1 January 1984. The representatives of five Member States took the same line, but the delegates from the five other Member States were in favour of continuing with the system of compulsory tariffs.

### **Gist of the Opinion<sup>(2)</sup>**

The Committee adopted its Opinion by 41 votes to 13 with 8 abstentions. Since it is necessary for road hauliers to compete with each other on the same terms, the Committee welcomes the Commission's aim of establishing a common framework for the formation of road haulage rates between Member States. Such a framework could be an important part of a common transport policy and a common transport market.

However, the Committee also notes that if the present situation is viewed realistically it is impossible to be optimistic about the chances of a common system for the formation of rates being introduced in the near future. Accordingly it considers that the bilateral fixing of tariffs is the least that we should aim for.

Hence the Committee does not entirely agree with the system proposed by the Commission and thinks that the solution lies somewhere between non-binding recommended rates and compulsory rates. This solution would involve setting a threshold and making it necessary for any rates which fall below this threshold to be notified either automatically or under certain conditions. The Committee proposes that the method of calculation be based on costs (having regard to the continuity of operations) and market conditions.

The fixing of the tariffs should be the responsibility of the governments concerned, acting on a proposal from hauliers and after consulting transport users and freight forwarders.

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<sup>(1)</sup> Reference Tariffs for Goods Transport (Studies Collection, Transport Series No. 6, Publication of the Commission of the European Communities)

<sup>(2)</sup> Doc. C1 S 854/83

*This Opinion was based on material prepared by the Section for Transport and Communications under the chairmanship of Mrs Weber (Germany - Workers). The Rapporteur was Mr Bos (Netherlands - Various Interests).*



## EXTERNAL RELATIONS

### **Chairman's engagements**

Mr Ceyrac, the Chairman of the ESC, had meetings with the following personalities:

- Mr Robert van Schendel, Vice-President of the European Movement, on 7 September;
- Mr Moreau, member of the European Parliament, on 14 September;
- Mr Natali, Vice-President of the Commission, on 20 September;
- Mr Pisani, Member of the Commission, on 27 September;
- Mr Dankert, President of the European Parliament, on 28 September;
- Mr Petrilli, President of the European Movement, on 29 September.

He also travelled to Geneva to attend the seventh meeting between representatives of socio-economic interest groups from the ACP States and the EEC.

### **Meeting of the Economic and Social Councils in London**

The National Economic Development Office of the UK hosted a meeting of representatives of Economic and Social Councils of EEC countries on Friday, 23 September in London. The meeting was attended by the Chairmen and Secretaries-General of nine Councils and was chaired by NEDO's Director-General, John Cassels. The Economic and Social Committee of the European Communities was represented by its Vice-President, Alois Pfeiffer and its Secretary-General, Roger Louet.



## NEW CONSULTATIONS

In the course of July, August and September, the Council requested the Committee for Opinions on the following subjects:

*“Proposal for a Regulation establishing the Integrated Mediterranean Programmes” (COM(83) 495 final)*

*“Proposal from the Commission to the Council fixing the Community's Generalized Tariff Preferences Scheme for 1984” (COM(83) 441 final)*

*“Proposal for a Council Regulation (EEC) establishing a Community scheme to provide forests in the Community with increased protection against fire and acid rain” (COM(83) 375 final)*

*“Proposal for a Council Regulation (EEC) concerning financial support of the Community in favour of industries producing solid fuels” (COM(83) 447 final)*

*“Proposal for a Council Directive on fuel rationing for commercial transport between the Member States” (COM(83) 405 final)*

*“Proposal for a Council Recommendation to the national railway companies of the Member States on strengthening their cooperation in the commercial management of international passenger and goods transport by rail” (COM(83) 404 final)*

*“Proposal for a Council Directive amending the first Council Directive on the establishment of common rules for certain types of carriage of goods by road between Member States” (COM(83) 395 final)*

*“Proposal for a Council Directive amending Directive 70/157/EEC on the approximation of the laws of the Member States relating to the permissible sound level and the exhaust system of motor vehicles” (COM(83) 392 final)*

*“Proposal for a Council Regulation (EEC) on special measures in favour of Greece in the social field” (COM(83) 477 final)*

*“Proposal for a Council Decision adopting a concerted action research project of the European Economic Community on the effects of processing and distribution on the quality and nutritive value of food” (COM(83) 446 final)*

***“Proposal for a Council Regulation (EEC) on financial support for a multi-annual transport infrastructure programme” (COM(83) 474 final)***

***“Proposal for a Council Directive on limit values and quality objectives for discharges of hexachlorocyclohexane, and in particular lindane” (COM(83) 422 final)***

***“Proposal for a Regulation amending Regulation No. 136/66/EEC establishing a common organization of the market in oils and fats and Regulation (EEC) No. 2958/82 laying down special measures for the 1982/83 marketing year as regards olive oil producers’ organizations” (COM(83) 480 final)***

***“Proposal for a Council Regulation Extending the Common Measure provided for in Regulation (EEC) No. 1975/82 on the Acceleration of Agricultural Development in Certain Regions of Greece” (COM(83) 468 final)***

***“Recommendation for a Council Regulation (EEC) concluding the International Convention on the Harmonization of Frontier Controls of Goods of 21 October 1982” (COM(83) 374 final)***

***“Proposal for a Council Directive on Air Quality Standards for Nitrogen Dioxide” (COM(83) 498 final)***

***“Communication from the Commission to the Council concerning the Community’s role as regards the safety of nuclear installations and the protection of public health”***

***“Proposal for a Council Recommendation to the national railway undertakings on technical matters concerning operation and internal barriers to the crossing of frontiers affecting the international carriage of goods” (COM(83) 490 final)***

***“Annual Report on the Economic Situation in 1983”***

The Commission will shortly consult the Committee on a

***“Communication from the Commission to the Council and the European Parliament on promotion of the use of the findings of Community-financed R & D” (COM(83) 18 final)***

# PROVISIONAL FUTURE WORK PROGRAMME

## 206 OCTOBER 1983 PLENARY SESSION

### Opinions of consultation

- noise at workplace
- policy on tourism
- 6th and 7th Directives on exemption from import taxes in international passenger traffic
- financing of innovation
- basic R & D technology
- Community road haulage quota
- coking coal
- solid fuels
- generalized tariff preferences
- financial support for transport infrastructure
- development aid memorandum
- future financing of the Community
- equal treatment/social security
- 12th VAT Directive
- titanium dioxide discharges
- direct insurance agreement with Switzerland
- motor vehicle sound level
- frontier checks on goods
- sparkling wines

### Own-initiative Opinions

- fats and oils

## SUBSEQUENT PLENARY SESSIONS

### Opinions on consultation

- 83-84 annual economic report
- financial support for Greece in the social field
- air pollution
- piggyback transport
- hired vehicles
- container and piggyback techniques
- common rules — buffer state
- nuclear fission R & D programme
- decommissioning of nuclear installations
- reactor safety
- five-year energy research action programme
- radiation protection
- food processing
- promotion of the use of R & D findings
- plant safety and public protection
- development of certain agricultural regions in Greece
- oils and fats/olive oil
- protection of dialysis patients
- standard exchange arrangements
- outward processing
- commercial management of rail passenger traffic
- fuel rationing
- development of endogenous research facilities in developing countries
- integrated Mediterranean programmes
- toy safety
- acid rain
- limit values for lindane discharges
- transfrontier radiation problems
- comparability of vocational training qualifications
- recommendation on the re-organization of working time

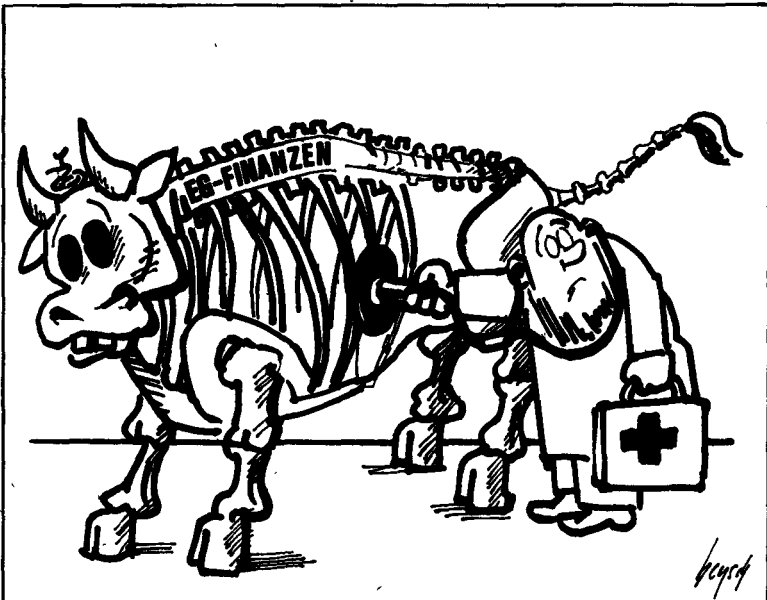
**Own-initiative Opinions**

- enlargement
- producer/consumer dialogue
- migrant workers
- social Security
- 8th Annual European Regional Development Fund report

**INFORMATION REPORTS**

- problems of frontier regions in Ireland
- national regional development aid.

*Cartoon of the German financial newspaper "Das Handelsblatt"  
EEC finances  
Diagnosis: galloping consumption*







## MEMBERS' NEWS

### **Appointments**

The Council of Ministers has appointed Mr Paul Flum (Germany), Head of Department at the Executive Committee of the metalworkers' trade union (IG Metall), and Mr Michael Swift (United Kingdom), former Secretary-General of the British Bankers' Association, as members of the Economic and Social Committee to replace Messrs K.H. Friedrichs and W.J.N. Miller respectively.

### **Resignation**

Mr K.H. Friedrichs (Germany) has resigned his membership of the Economic and Social Committee.



# PUBLICATIONS OBTAINABLE FROM THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMITTEE

## Periodical

- Bulletin (monthly publication)

## General Documentation

- The Economic and Social Committee (leaflet) (January 1980)
- The Economic and Social Committee (December 1982) (A descriptive brochure) 16 p.
- The Other European Assembly (May 1983) (ESC 83-007)
- Twenty-fifth anniversary celebrations (September 1983) (ESC-83-012)

## Opinions and Studies

- The Economic and Social Situation in the Community (2 Opinions) (July 1983) (ESC-83-013)
- Youth Employment (Opinion) (June 1983) (ESC-83-011)
- Transport policy in the 1980s (Opinion) (March 1983) 99 p. (ESC 83-003)
- Inaugural Conference — 1983: The European Year of SME (February 1983) 27 p. (ESC 83-002)
- Guidelines for Mediterranean Agriculture (4 Opinions) (September 1982) 64 p. (ESC 82-010)
- The Economic and Social Situation of the Community (2 Opinions) (July 1982) 57 p. (ESC 82-008)
- The Promotion of Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (Opinion) (June 1982) 70 p. (ESC 82-007)
- Aims and Priorities of a Common Research and Development Policy (Study) (January 1982) 59 p. (ESC 82-001)
- Agricultural Aspects of Spain's Entry into the E.C. (Opinion) (February 1982) 107 p. (ESC 81-017)
- The EEC's External Relations — Stocktaking and Consistency of Action (Study) (January 1982) 139 p.
- Genetic Engineering (Colloquy) (October 1981) 120 p. (ESC 81-014)
- Economic Pointers for 1982 (Opinion) (August 1981) 32 P. (ESC 81-010)
- Problems of the Handicapped (Opinion) (September 1981) ± 46 p. (ESC 81-013)
- Present situation in the Community's Building Sector (Opinion) (September 1981) ± 24 p. (ESC 81-011)
- Community Competition Policy (Opinion) (ESC-81-008)
- Development Policy and Working Conditions (September 1980) (Opinion) 61 p. (ESC 80-012)
- The Organisation and Management of Community R & D (February 1980) (Study) 168 p. (ESC 80-001)
- Agricultural Structures Policy (November 1979) (Opinion) 90 p. (ESC 79-003)
- Enlargement of the European Community Greece-Spain-Portugal (September 1979) (Study) 75 p. (ESC 79-002)
- The Community's Relations with Spain (June 1979) (Study) 112 p. (ESC 79-001)
- Community Shipping Policy Flags of Convenience (April 1979) (Opinion) 170 p.
- Youth Unemployment — Education and Training (November 1978) (5 Opinions) 97 p.
- The Stage reached in aligning labour legislation in the European Community (June 1978) (Documentation) 60 p.
- Employment in Agriculture (June 1978) (Study) 135 p.
- Monetary Disorder (June 1978) (Opinion) 98 p.
- Industrial Change and Employment (November 1977) (Opinion) 98 p.
- EEC's Transport Problems with East European Countries (December 1977) (Opinion) 164 p.
- Research and Development (November 1976) (Study) 35 p.
- Systems of education and vocational training (August 1976) (Study) 114 p.
- Regional Policy (March 1976) (Opinion) 11 p.
- European Union (July 1975) (Opinion) 33 p.
- The Situation of Small and Medium-sized Undertakings in the European Community (March 1975) (Study) 69 p.



**Obtainable from GOWER Publishing Co. Ltd., 1 Westmead, Farnborough, Hants GU 147RU:**

- Community Advisory Committee for the Representation of Socio-Economic Interests (£8.50)
- European Interest Groups and their relationship to the Economic and Social Committee (£25)

**Obtainable from EDITIONS DELTA, 92-94 Square Plasky, 1040 Brussels:**

- Action by the European Community through its financial instruments (Brussels 1979) (425 BF)
- The Economic and Social Interest Groups of Greece (350 BF)
- The Right of Initiative of the ESC (400 BF)

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