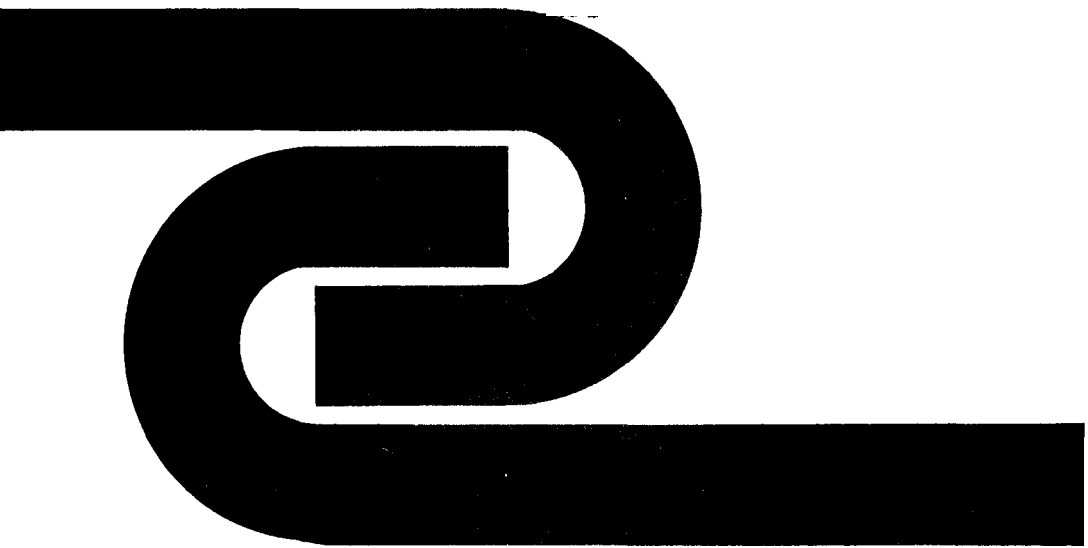


ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMITTEE
OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES

BULLETIN



Brussels - No. 12/1981

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I

193rd PLENARY SESSION

The 193rd Plenary Session of the Economic and Social Committee was held in Brussels, at the headquarters of the Committee, on 15 and 16 December. The Session was presided by Mr Tomás Roseingrave, Committee Chairman.

SUMMARY OF PRESIDENT'S SPEECH

In a statement to the Session, the Chairman voiced his concern about violations of human rights within and outside the Community.

In particular, he stated: "besides economic living standards, we are concerned in this Committee with the quality of life which can intimately test everything that is associated for us with Christmas — truth, justice and peace above all. Many times over the past year, we have discussed in this room matters relating to the quality of life, matters aimed at the protection of life and — especially in our Opinion on Human Rights — the safeguarding of the bodily integrity of the human person. And, it is almost in despair that we see every essential element in the quality of life threatened and outraged by the rising tide of violence in all our countries — whether it is the assassination of statesmen and politicians in Germany or Italy, the bombing, killing and maiming of innocent people in the streets of British cities, or the violence of the gun-man in Northern Ireland where, after twelve years of terror, more than 2,000 people have been killed, over 100,000 maimed and injured for life and millions of pounds of property destroyed. And, this has happened, and is happening within this European Community. And, then there is the ultimate in violence — the threatened use of nuclear weapons by major powers, which demand the allocation of colossal financial resources which must be diverted away from the alleviation of disease and hunger among those whose daily lot it is to suffer and be in want.

These are matters which I, as President of this Committee, cannot ignore at Christmas for they contradict everything that Christmas means. All life — social and economic — is touched by the evil of violence — basically it is a moral problem. As well as the violence of the

physical order, there is the other violence — more insidious, that we discussed in our Opinion on Human Rights — the violence to the spirit, in the denial of human rights, civil rights and the right of association to all men — employers and trade unions alike. In many parts of the world these rights are being stamped out. Today in Nicaragua, for example, employers are imprisoned without trial and here, I wish to say, that I condemn this injustice to men who have been arrested because they expressed publicly their opposition to the economic and social policy of the Government. As President of this forum of employers and trade unions, I add my voice to the many others who ask the Nicaragua authorities to release those men and to respect the freedom of association.

Support for Polish trade union organization, “Solidarity”

And then, within the past few days, we have received the ominous news from Poland — a country that has surely suffered and endured far too much already. A state of emergency has been declared, martial law has been installed, civil rights have been suspended, armed troops have entered the streets and all trade-union activity has been banned according to the reports which have succeeded in reaching us out of Poland. It would not be my wish, nor yours, to say anything inappropriate to the seriousness of the situation. The problem must be resolved by Poland and by the Poles and we hope and pray that it will be resolved without physical violence and that the process towards democracy will be able to continue in Poland. But, human rights are a moral power, valid everywhere, whose infringement anywhere must affect us all. Solidarity, the Polish trade union group with over 10 million members, must receive the expression of our support and hope that the basic human right of association will soon be restored to its members in the context of the Christmas message of justice and peace. For, violence in any form — physical or otherwise — in any country has no lawful place in a civilized society”.

ADOPTION OF OPINIONS

1. ECONOMIC POLICY

“Fifth Medium-Term Economic Policy Programme”

Gist of the Commission’s proposal

The Commission approved the draft 5th Medium-Term Economic Policy Programme on 22 July 1981. The document consists of the

Programme itself, drawn up by the Economic Policy Committee (EPC), and a lengthy Foreword. The Commission seemingly decided to preface the draft Programme with this lengthy Foreword since it did not share with the EPC all of that Committee's conclusions.

The Commission wished to bring out the role of the Community in the overall strategy proposed.

The Commission's Foreword is a development of certain of the ideas set out by the Commission in the Report drawn up on 24 June 1981 in accordance with the Mandate of 30 May 1980. The first part of that Report outlined the general framework within which Community policies and priorities have their place; the Commission Foreword to the draft 5th Medium-Term Economic Policy Programme describes the economic strategy which must be implemented by Member States and by the Community respectively in order to restore the economic situation and to guarantee better employment prospects.

The Programme drafted by the EPC, and left unchanged by the Commission, identifies the central economic problems, outlines the overall strategy and then deals in greater detail with monetary stabilization, structural change, ways of improving employment prospects and, finally, the Community's role.

The Commission's Foreword, represents at the same time a political statement on how the Community intends to implement the 5th Medium-Term Economic Policy Programme and on how to apply the principles laid down in its Report on the 30 May 1980 Mandate.

The Commission plays down the apparent doctrinal dispute between those giving priority to anti-inflationary policies and those urging that demand be stimulated to ensure higher economic growth. In some countries there is no longer room for manoeuvre. This situation must be rectified by rigorous cutbacks in public spending. In other countries selective action to boost demand is possible.

The Commission lays down a realistic approach for more incisive capital recycling. If the surplus oil revenue is fed back into the system effectively, it will enable the Community to help the Third World better.

Before the end of the year decisions must be taken in relation to the EMS to ensure better concertation of national monetary policies (notably as regards harmonization of interest rate policies), to encourage the use of the ECU for Community borrowing, to strengthen co-operation with third countries and to take up again with the UK and Greece the question of their full participation in the EMS.

The Commission indicated how it would encourage greater investment, particularly in the energy sector and emphasizes again the

pressing need to complete the common market (see Commission Communication to the Council on the State of the Internal Market — doc. COM(81) 313 final of 17 June 1981). The Commission's Foreword concludes with proposals to abolish tax barriers and to generate a more active employment policy. On the latter question, it aims to improve the dialogue between European bodies and the two sides of industry; to introduce definite and binding targets concerning youth employment; to establish definite provisions concerning work-sharing and the reduction of working time (covering not only weekly working hours, but also part-time work, overtime, flexitime and early retirement), considering that these areas could be worked into a Community framework.

No majority for draft Opinion

The Committee was unable to reach a majority on this subject, the Opinion tabled by the Section for Economic and Financial Questions obtaining only 43 votes in favour, 46 against and 32 abstentions. The reason why no majority could be reached becomes clear from the proceedings.

Thus, the Workers' Group (Group II) proposed that the Section's Opinion be replaced by an amendment which considered the draft medium-term economic policy programme to be totally inadequate to cope with the current widespread unemployment. This amendment was defeated by 67 votes to 53 with 5 abstentions.

The Employers' Group (Group I), in turn, proposed that the Section's Opinion be replaced by an amendment which was fairly favourably disposed towards the Commission's draft in its entirety. This amendment however, was, also defeated, the vote this time being 48 votes for, 65 votes against and 10 abstentions.

The defeat of these two amendments led in the end to the negative vote on the Opinion as a whole.

The draft Opinion was based on material prepared by the Section for Economic and Financial Questions under the chairmanship of Mr Rollinger (Luxembourg - Various Interests). The Rapporteur was Mr Margot (Belgium - Various Interests).

2. ERDF ANNUAL REPORT (own-initiative Opinion)

"The European Regional Development Fund — Sixth Annual Report (1980)"

Background to the Commission document

Every year, before 1 October, since the creation of the European Regional Development Fund the Commission has submitted to the

Council, European Parliament and Economic and Social Committee a Report on the application of the Fund Regulation during the preceding year.

Gist of the Committee Opinion⁽¹⁾

The Committee's Opinion, which was adopted unanimously, stresses the role which the Community must play in coordinating national policies and the instruments and financial resources for regional development.

In its specific comments the Committee expresses regret that the Community has still not achieved a better balance between aid for infrastructure and aid for industrial projects which will provide jobs rapidly.

The Opinion also points out the shortcomings arising from the fact that Community funds are not actually used to supplement national aid. To remedy this situation it proposes that the decision-making process be made more transparent and that appropriate amendments be made to the rules.

The Committee notes that in 1980 France continued to refuse to comply with the rules on checks.

As in its previous Opinions, the Committee stressed the need to involve the representatives of the regional and local authorities and economic and social interest groups in the implementation of the Community's regional policy.

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 Zoli (Italy - Various Interests).

3. DNA (own-initiative Opinion)

"Draft Council Recommendation concerning the registration of recombinant DNA (Desoxyribonucleic Acid) work"

Background

The Committee adopted its original Opinion on 10 December 1980 (Doc. CES 1351/80). One of the main questions was whether the Community should have a recommendation or a directive. The

⁽¹⁾ CES 1287/81.

Committee, having regard to the current state of scientific knowledge, expressed its preference for a directive, but at the same time wished to await the outcome of a hearing "before adopting a final position".

The hearing was organized in the form of a colloquy which took place in Brussels on 14 and 15 May 1981. The proceedings were published on 23 October 1981 (Doc. ESC — 81 — 014).

The aim of the additional Opinion is to allow the Committee to adopt a "final position" in the light of the colloquy.

Gist of the Opinion⁽¹⁾

As the culmination of lengthy preparatory work, the Economic and Social Committee adopted a final position on recombinant DNA work by a vote of 101 in favour, 14 against and 7 abstentions.

At the colloquy of 14 and 15 May it became clear that the risks associated with recombinant DNA work are now generally regarded as being small. But the Committee still considers the following points to be essential:

- Continued priority to be given to risk assessment studies;
- Training in microbiological safety;
- Maintenance of safety standards geared to the safety needs of the general public;
- Harmonization of national provisions in order to ensure fair competition and equal safety in all Member States.

The Committee has concluded that for genetic research it is necessary to have a Community legal instrument in the form of a Directive covering all the above points.

In line with the views expressed by the national experts at the colloquy, the Committee considers that guidelines should be laid down for work with pathogens (micro-organisms which cause disease), and calls for an international initiative on the ethical aspects of genetic engineering research in view of certain fears among the public about genetic research which goes beyond the recombination of DNA.

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 Miss Roberts (United Kingdom - Various Interests). The Rapporteur was Mrs Heuser (Germany - Various Interests).

⁽¹⁾ CES 1282/81.

4. MEDICAL RESEARCH

“Proposal for a Council Decision adopting a sectoral research and development programme of the European Economic Community in the field of medical and public health research — concerted action — (1982-1986)”

Gist of the proposal

In 1978, the Council adopted a first Medical Research Programme. A second programme was adopted in 1980. It is now proposed to consolidate and extend these activities in a new Sectoral Research Programme of concerted actions costing a total of 20 million ECU on the Community budget over a five-year period.

The seven original concerted actions of the first and second programmes are to be superseded by a total of thirty-three projects grouped into eight research areas and three sub-programmes.

Gist of the Opinion⁽¹⁾

In its Opinion, adopted unanimously, the Committee welcomes and endorses the proposal.

The Committee would have liked more detail on project selection. Evaluation of work to date and cost-benefit analysis of projected activities should be undertaken specifically in the light of the Community's economic and social objectives.

Particular emphasis is placed on the provision of comparable statistics on health and medicine. While welcoming the rationalization of the Advisory Committees, the Committee calls for adequate and balanced representation of all interested groupings.

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 Miss Roberts (United Kingdom - Various Interests). The Rapporteur was Mrs Heuser (Germany - Various Interests).

5. AIR POLLUTION

“Proposal for a Council Decision establishing a reciprocal exchange of information and data from networks and individual stations measuring air pollution within the Member States”

⁽¹⁾ CES 1281/81.

Gist of the Proposal

This proposal comes under the Environmental Action Programme and is a follow-up to the Council's 1975 decision relating to the exchange of information about atmospheric pollution caused by certain sulphur compounds and suspended particles.

Whereas the 1975 decision covered only two pollutants, the new proposal embraces a total of four — lead, nitrogen oxides, carbon monoxide and ozone.

Networks and individual stations which measure these pollutants' presence in the atmosphere are to exchange information and data about the results obtained over a sufficiently representative period.

Gist of the Opinion⁽¹⁾

The Committee is pleased to note that the Commission Proposal seeks to introduce inter-comparison programmes, in conjunction with the Member States concerned. The importance and urgency of these programmes has been implicitly stressed in an earlier Committee Opinion.

Furthermore, the Committee believes that in addition to inter-comparison of programmes, the exchange of information should encourage harmonization of the various methods of measurement, so that proper checks can be kept on air quality standards.

Although the Committee understands the Commission's reasons for excluding hydrocarbons and asbestos from the exchange of information, it insists that the Commission should speed up the research being carried out, as the supervision and monitoring of levels of these substances in the atmosphere is of prime importance for public health protection.

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 Miss Roberts (United Kingdom - Various Interests). The Rapporteur was Mr Bernaert (Belgium - Employers).

6. R & D — RAW MATERIALS

“Proposal for a Council Decision adopting a research and development programme (1982-1985) in the raw materials sector”

⁽¹⁾ CES 1278/81.

Gist of the proposal

The proposal concerns a research programme covering seven sub-programmes in the area of raw materials. Three of these are extensions of existing programmes (Metals and Mineral Substances (formerly Primary Raw Materials), Uranium Exploration and Extraction, Recycling of Urban and Industrial Waste), three are new programmes (Wood as a Renewable Raw Material, Recycling of Non Ferrous Metals, and Substitution) while the remaining sub-programme (Ceramics) was the subject of an Opinion by the Committee in 1979 but has not yet been approved by the Council.

The proposal should be seen in the light of the Community's dependence on certain raw materials and the need to use these raw materials more efficiently, developing alternative sources, substitution technologies, etc.

Gist of the Opinion⁽¹⁾

The Committee unanimously approves the programme. The grouping of individual programmes into a general programme was recommended by the Committee in its Study on the Organization and Management of Community R & D. However, the Committee stresses the need for development and demonstration as well as research, and argues for more cost-benefit analysis of research projects. It also points to the weakness of splitting up research funds among a large number of R & D organizations, supports the flexible funding system proposed and urges that Advisory Committees on Programme Management should be less weighted towards academic and government interests.

This Opinion was based on material prepared by the Section for Energy and Nuclear Questions, under the chairmanship of Mr Hatry (Belgium - Employers). The Rapporteur was Mr Mills (United Kingdom - Employers).

7. PHYSICAL PROPERTIES OF FOODSTUFFS

“Proposal for a Council Decision adopting a concerted action project of the European Economic Community on the effect of processing on the physical properties of foodstuffs (COST Project 90 bis)”

Gist of the proposal for a decision

This proposal constitutes a continuation and extension of the first concerted-action project on the subject (COST Project 90), which was

⁽¹⁾ CES 1274/81.

adopted by the Council on 20 February 1978. The Committee adopted an Opinion on the first project on 15 December 1977.

The processing of agricultural products into foodstuffs brings about a large number of transformations in these products. Experience and research have demonstrated that it is necessary, in order to ensure that food production is consistently of a high quality, to be able to monitor these transformations during the industrial process, in particular by measuring physical properties. This proposal should lead to an optimization of the technologies currently applied (energy saving, for example).

Three physical properties, namely water activity and rheological and thermal properties, were the subject of the COST Project 90. In this new concerted-action project, it is envisaged to take advantage of the experience acquired in the field and extend the range of coordination to cover mechanical diffusion and electrical properties.

Gist of the Opinion⁽¹⁾

In its Opinion, adopted unanimously, the Committee approves the aims of the proposal for a decision.

It stresses that the Commission's responsibility in the present concerted-action project is confined to the coordination of research, just as it was in previous projects. This explains the relatively small financial contribution of the Community.

The Committee would like to see the Commission play a more active role — at least at the following two stages:

- firstly, when research topics are being allocated between Member States and laboratories (there should be greater publicity in order to give laboratories a better chance of being able to participate in projects).
- secondly, dissemination of research findings (these should be disseminated without reservation).

This Opinion was based on material prepared by the Section for Industry, Commerce, Crafts and Services, under the chairmanship of Mr van Campen (Netherlands - Employers). The Rapporteur was Mr Chabrol (France - Various Interests).

8. VETERINARY MATTERS — HEALTH PROBLEMS

“Proposal for a Council Directive on health problems affecting intra-Community trade in fresh meat”

⁽¹⁾ CES 1275/81.

Gist of the draft Directive

The Draft Directive sets out Community rules on the conditions for the approval of stores with a view to ensuring that fresh meat is stored hygienically. The Commission also sets out provisions regarding the inspection and handling of meat on such premises. It further stipulates Community measures pertaining to: the administering to animals for slaughter of substances liable to make the consumption of the fresh meat harmful to human health; the addition of foreign substances to fresh meat and the contamination of fresh meat.

Gist of the Opinion⁽¹⁾

In an Opinion, adopted by 68 votes to 5 with 2 abstentions, the Committee approves the draft Directive which supplements Directive N° 64/433/EEC, thereby facilitating intra-Community trade in fresh meat.

It reiterates that such EC provisions must always be in line with the latest developments in medical and technical science so that consideration may be given in the provisions to the interests of producers, the protection of persons working with animals, and the rights of consumers. It stresses the need to avoid carrying out more than the necessary amount of checks on the implementation of the provisions, given the cost involved. In its specific comments the Committee calls for application of the Directive also to fresh meat in small pieces and chopped fresh meat and for fresh meat from boars to be excluded from trade until such time as reliable methods of examination are available for testing whether sexual odours are present in the meat of boars, hermaphrodite pigs and cryptorchid pigs. The Committee asks for an appropriate extension of the proposed transitional period.

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).

9. VETERINARY MATTERS — IMPORTATION OF ANIMALS

“Draft Council Directive amending Council Directive 72/462/EEC on health and veterinary inspection problems upon importation of bovine animals and swine and fresh meat from third countries”

(1) CES 1297/81.

Gist of the draft Directive

The purpose of the Commission's proposal is to bring the Directive into line with scientific and technical progress in order to enable the most effective measures to be taken in respect of the hygienic production and sanitary inspection of fresh meat. It is also designed to update the rules governing imports from non-EC countries, with a view to ensuring that these countries offer at least the same guarantees as those applicable in intra-Community trade.

Gist of the Opinion⁽¹⁾

The Committee unanimously welcomes the Commission's proposed Regulation but considers that the differing legal status of the information provided by the customs authorities in the individual Member States results in unequal treatment and this is incompatible with a customs union.

It also has doubts about whether it is right to make the tariff information binding only in the Member State in which it is provided. It considers that binding information should be valid throughout the Community. The Committee further regrets that the rules governing information provided by customs administration do not cover all areas of customs law.

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

10. RAW TOBACCO

"Proposal for a Council Regulation (EEC) providing for special aid for raw tobacco following the earthquake in Italy in November 1980 and derogating from Article 12a of Regulation (EEC) No. 727/70"

Gist of the Commission proposal

Following the earthquake which occurred in the Campania region in Italy in November 1980, the Commission has made the following proposal in respect of the raw tobacco sector:

- special aid is to be granted to individual or associated growers whose tobacco-handling facilities were officially recorded by the Italian authorities as having been damaged. The aid is to comprise

⁽¹⁾ CES 1280/81.

an amount for every kilogram of leaf tobacco harvested in 1980 for which a premium certificate was issued. The amount of aid is to be 1 ECU/kg in the case of growers whose facilities were destroyed and 0.70/kg ECU in other cases;

- special aid is to be granted to firms engaged in the first processing and market preparation of tobacco located in the region affected by the earthquake. The aid is to amount to 0.30 ECU for every kilogram of leaf tobacco for which a premium certificate was issued.

The Italian authorities are to be responsible for paying this aid.

Gist of the Opinion⁽¹⁾

The Committee approved this proposal by a unanimous vote.

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 Rainero (Italy - Various Interests).

11. CUSTOMS NOMENCLATURE

“Proposal for a Council Regulation on the information provided by the customs authorities of the Member States concerning the classification of goods in the customs nomenclature”

Gist of the proposed Regulation

It is important for businessmen to know exactly if, and to what extent, the position adopted by a customs authority when a request is made for information on the interpretation or practical application of customs regulations is merely an expression of opinion which does not bind the authority in any way or if it does commit the authority and, if so, under what circumstances.

The rules in force in the Member States differ considerably. The Commission has not tried to cover all areas where such information may be requested, but has concentrated on the classification of goods in the customs nomenclature, which is the subject businessmen most ask questions about.

The proposed Regulation covers three main topics:

- the procedure to be followed to obtain information which commits an authority;

⁽¹⁾ CES 1279/81.

- the particulars to be provided by the authority; and
- the legal scope of such information.

Gist of the Opinion⁽¹⁾

By a unanimous vote the Committee welcomes the Commission's proposed Regulation but considers that the differing legal status of the information provided by the customs authorities in the individual Member States results in unequal treatment and this is incompatible with a customs union.

It also doubts about whether it is right to make the tariff information binding only in the Member State in which it is provided. It considers that binding information should be valid throughout the Community. The Committee further regrets that the rules governing information provided by customs administration do not cover all areas of customs law.

This Opinion was based on material prepared by the Section for Industry, Commerce, Crafts and Services under the chairmanship of Mr van Campen (Netherlands - Employers). The Rapporteur was Mr Broicher (Germany - Employers).

12. NOISE EMITTED BY EARTH-MOVING MACHINES

"Amended proposal for a Council Directive on the limitation of noise emitted by hydraulic and rope-operated excavators, and by dozers, loaders and excavator-loaders"

Gist of the amended proposal for a Directive

The amended proposal for a Directive aims to extend the field of application of the proposal for a Directive on excavators, dozers and loaders to include combined excavator-loaders.

After being officially notified by the Government of the French Republic of its intention to bring excavator-loaders under the regulations, the Commission has decided to submit, under the second paragraph of Article 149 of the Treaty, a proposal amending the original proposal for a Directive on which the Committee recently issued an Opinion (CES 779/81 of 1 July 1981).

The proposal for an amendment affects mainly Article 1 (scope) and Article 2 (definition of an excavator-loader) and contains the necessary

⁽¹⁾ CES 1277/81.

additions to Annex I for the application of the method of measurement to excavator-loaders.

Gist of the Opinion⁽¹⁾

The Committee unanimously adopted its Opinion approving the amended proposal.

This Opinion was based on material prepared by the Section for Industry, Commerce, Crafts and Services under the chairmanship of Mr van Campen (Netherlands - Employers). The Rapporteur was Mr Marvier (France - Various Interests).

13. BRUCELLOSIS

“Proposal for a Council Directive amending Directive 64/432/EEC as regards the period of validity of the derogations relating to brucellosis guarantees in trade in certain bovine animals as provided for in Article 7(1) (E) thereof”

Gist of the Opinion⁽²⁾

Subject to a number of comments, the Economic and Social Committee approved the proposed Directive extending for a further two-year period the facultative derogations relating to brucellosis guarantees in trade in certain bovine animals intended for meat production that are under 42 days of age or were castrated before the age of four months. These derogations run out at the end of this year.

This Opinion was adopted unanimously.

The Rapporteur General for this Opinion was Mr Wick (Germany - Employers).

⁽¹⁾ CES 1276/81.

⁽²⁾ CES 1285/81.

II

NEW CONSULTATIONS

Since the last Plenary Session the Council has consulted the Committee on the following points:

“Proposal for a Council Directive amending Directive 76/768/EEC on the Approximation of the Laws of the Member States relating to Cosmetic Products” (COM(81) 653 final)

“Communication from the Commission to the Council on Medium-Term Projections for Social Expenditure and its Financing” (COM(81) 661 final)

“Proposal for a Council Regulation (EEC) Instituting a Specific Action on behalf of Housing in Northern Ireland within the Framework of an Integrated Operation in Belfast” (COM(81) 707 final)

“Proposal for a Council Regulation (EEC) amending Regulation (EEC) No. 1119/78 Laying Down Special Measures for Peas and Field Beans used in the Feeding of Animals” (COM(81) 683 final)

“Proposal for a Council Regulation (EEC) on the Organization of a Survey on the Structure of Agricultural Holdings for 1983” (COM(81) 648 final)

“Proposal for a Council Decision concluding the Agreement on the International Carriage of Passengers by Road by means of Occasional Coach and Bus Services (ASOR)” (COM(81) 617 final)

“Proposal for a Council Directive amending for the Seventeenth Time Directive 64/54/EEC on the Approximation of the Laws of the Member States concerning the Preservatives Authorized for Use in Foodstuffs intended for Human Consumption” (COM(81) 712 final).

III

PROVISIONAL FUTURE WORK PROGRAMME

JANUARY 1982 PLENARY SESSION

Referrals

- Information and consultation of workers in transnationals
- Scientific and technical R & D programme
- Citrus fruit
- Fruit and vegetables

Own-initiative Opinion

- Textiles/clothing

Studies

- Community R & D policies' aims and priorities
- Consistency of external policies

FEBRUARY 1982 PLENARY SESSION

Referrals

- Microbiological criteria for foodstuffs
- Noise emissions from helicopters
- Dangerous substances seventh amendment
- Housing aid for Northern Ireland
- Annual accounts of banks

Own-initiative Opinion

- Coordination of employment policy instruments

SUBSEQUENT SESSIONS

Referrals

- Social expenditure and its financing

- Environmental action programme
- Amendment European Regional Development Fund Regulation
- 10th competition policy report
- Supervision of credit institutions
- Cosmetics
- Air transport (competition)
- Maritime transport (competition)
- Air transport tariffs
- Oils and fats
- Wine market
- Health inspectors
- Notification of animal disease
- Antibiotic residues
- Fresh poultrymeat
- Eradication of brucellosis
- Farm prices
- Special measures for peas and field beans used in the feeding of animals
- Survey on the structure of agricultural holdings

Own-initiative Opinions

- Role of small and medium-sized enterprises
- Common transport policy
- Annual report of the European Development Fund
- New regional policy guidelines (additional Opinion)

Studies

- Regional policy integrated operations
- Turkey

Information report

- Environment and employment

IV

MEMBERS' NEWS

Appointment

The Council of Ministers has appointed Mr. Bent Nielsen, Secretary of the Danish national Trade Union Federation (LO) a member of the Economic and Social Committee. He replaces Mr. Christensen who resigned.

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 (April 1981) (A descriptive brochure) 16 p.
- Annual Report (1981) ... (Ex-30-80)
- Directory — List of Members (January 1981) (ESC-81-001)
- The Right of initiative of the Economic and Social Committee (October 1977) 124 p.

Opinions and Studies

- Genetic Engineering (Colloquy) (October 1981) 120 p. (ESC 81-014)
- Prospects for the '80s (Opinion) (Dec. 1981) (ESC 81-018)
- 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)
- Prevention of Marine Pollution (2 Opinions) (ESC-81-004)
- Working Conditions (September 1980) (Opinion) 61 p. (ESC-80-012)
- Conference on the Enlargement of the European Community — 26 and 27 June 1980 (September 1980) (Extracts) ± 150 p. (ESC-80-009)
- 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.
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Catalogue Number ESC-81-021-EN