

EUROPEAN ECONOMIC COMMUNITY

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PRESS RELEASE

Heads of statistical offices meet in Luxembourg

On January 26-27 the Conference of the Heads of the Statistical Offices of the six countries met in Luxembourg. Opening the meeting, M. Coppé, Vice-President of the European Coal and Steel Community, welcomed the new President of the Federal German Statistical Office, M. Patrick Schmidt.

An item of particular interest on a heavy agenda was the long-term work to be undertaken by the Statistical Office of the European Communities. The Heads of the statistical offices had for some time been discussing this matter among themselves and with the Directors-General in the three Executives; the long-term programme was approved.

Discussing the work programme of the Statistical Office of the European Communities for 1966, the meeting also considered major surveys to be carried out in the immediate future, notably the wage-structure survey, which is to yield the first reliable figures on the relationship between men's and women's pay, and the farm-structure survey, which will elicit basic information urgently needed to fill in the technical background of the common agricultural policy.

Sir Harry Campion, Director of the United Kingdom Central Statistical Office, attended the closing dinner and visited various SOEC directorates in Luxembourg and Brussels. This marks the beginning of an exchange of experience in the field of statistical methods which is to be built up on a systematic basis in the future.

The Conference meeting was followed by a meeting of the Board of the Governors of the European Centre for training economic statisticians from the developing countries.
