



BULLETIN
OF THE

EUROPEAN
COMMUNITIES

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FEBRUARY 1968

VOLUME 1

No. 2

2-1968

BULLETIN

of the European Communities

SECRETARIAT OF THE COMMISSION

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I. Statement by M. Jean Rey

President of the Commission of the European Communities
in the political debate in the European Parliament¹

(Strasbourg, 23 January 1968)

Mr. President, Ladies and Gentlemen: Our Member States are again faced with a crisis in the Council of Ministers of the Community. Although there is no point in exaggerating this happening — for it is not the first and it will certainly not be the last in our Community's life — it would not be at all wise, either, to minimize an event of this nature which, if our Governments do not reach an agreement or a compromise in the Council fairly rapidly, will be bound to have a regrettable effect on the whole of our Community work.

While deploring this crisis, I should like to say — at the beginning of my statement, which will be a short one — how regrettable that it should have occurred at the end of what had been an excellent year from the Community point of view.

I should like to recall, if only very briefly, that 1967 was one of the great years in the building of our Communities.

In February 1967, our Council adopted the principles of the harmonization of indirect taxes; in April, it adopted the medium-term economic policy programme; in May, the Community successfully concluded the Kennedy Round in Geneva; in July, the Treaty on the merger of the Communities, at least at the level of the Executives, entered into force; in October, the first Community decision in the field of research and technology was taken in Luxembourg; in November, the Community's solidarity was demonstrated in a remarkable way in the monetary field, in conformity with the decisions taken by the Council in 1964; and in December the Council of Ministers took an excellent decision on transport.

Indeed, had it not been for that unfortunate decision of 19 December, we would have been able to say that 1967 was an excellent year in every respect.

I do not wish to dwell on the way the crisis developed. It is in everyone's mind. We have just heard the statements made by the representatives of the different political groups in our Parliament, following the general report presented by the Chairman of the Political Affairs Committee.

I shall simply remind you of the part that our Commission played in these events.

I shall not of course comment at length on our report of 29 September, in which we set out three ideas:

First, that the enlargement of the Community was in itself a great undertaking that had to be brought to a successful conclusion, provided it could be reconciled with the pursuit and strengthening of our Community policies;

¹ An account of this debate will be given in Bulletin n° 3/68.

Secondly, that the economic and monetary problems raised by the entry of the United Kingdom were serious and complicated ones, and ought therefore to be examined in more detail than in 1961-1963.

Thirdly, that this examination could only be carried out by negotiating with the British Government and the other Governments concerned.

During the Council's deliberations on 18 and 19 December — not to mention the previous sessions — we particularly stressed two ideas:

The first was that negotiations must take place. We repeated to our Ministers the reasons why we unanimously thought that the time had come to negotiate with the United Kingdom, precisely in order to explore the possibility of solving with it the problems of its entry into the Community, and we hoped that this particular view held by our Commission would figure in the Council's final resolution on 19 December, as indeed it did.

We added that, since our Community had negotiated with all those who had approached it hitherto — the Greeks, the Turks, the Moroccans, the Tunisians, the Algerians, the Spaniards, the Austrians — sometimes with a positive result and sometimes without any result so far — we saw no reason not to enter into talks with the British and condemn them without a hearing. This was the first idea that we developed.

The second was this: we recommended our Governments, with all the force at our command, to see a compromise solution.

Our Governments, our national delegations, the members of the Council of Ministers, have every right to hold different opinions on the solutions that they have to adopt, on the decisions that the Council must take, and on the question as to whether or not the time has come to enlarge the Community.

But we nevertheless told our Ministers that, if they did not reach agreement on a compromise solution, there would be a crisis in the Community, and that it would then be necessary to see conciliatory solutions and make compromises so that the Community's work could resume its normal course.

If this prospect was obvious — one need only listen to what everyone is saying today to be convinced of it — it would have been wiser, on the part of our Council, to spare itself the crisis and see, before 19 December or even on that very day, the compromise solutions that will now have to be reached in February, March or April.

This was what we said at the time, and we think it still. The day after that meeting and that ill-fated decision, our Commission published a declaration. As this was very short and is still to the point, I hope you will allow me to read out its four paragraphs. The declaration that we made on 20 December ran as follows:

“1. The Commission deeply regrets the Council's failure to reach agreement on what steps should be taken to deal with the applications for membership of the Communities made by a number of European countries, in particular the United Kingdom.

2. Whatever difficulties of substance may have arisen, the Commission still believes that the countries concerned must be given a hearing and that the Communities should negotiate with them in order to ascertain whether solutions acceptable to all can be found.

3. The Commission, faithful to the letter and the spirit of its report to the Council, has spared no effort to convince all the Member States that a solution should be sought which will reconcile the various views advanced.

4. This being so, the Commission appeals to all concerned — and I wish to repeat this appeal from this platform in the name of our unanimous Commission — “to keep the consequences of the present disagreement within the narrowest possible limits. More than ever before, efforts in the field of European integration will have to be pursued tenaciously, and opportunities must be sought of resuming the course, temporarily abandoned, of expanding the Communities. The Commission will do its utmost to help towards the attainment of these objectives.”

Ladies and Gentlemen, I could have let my statement rest there, had there not been some reactions within the Community which call for a few additional explanations on my part.

First of all, our Commission is opposed to two sorts of reaction, with all the means available to it and all the authority it may have in Europe.

The first is a reaction that would lead to a brake being put on the Community's development, and I thank the speakers we have heard this morning, all of whom showed that they felt the same on this point. It would be of no use, and help no one, to slow down the development of the Communities.

Obviously, if a reasonable compromise acceptable to all is not found in the next few months, the disagreements between our Ministers might well impede their deliberations and make these less easy.

Nevertheless, to slow down the development of the Community would serve no purpose. As a Professor of the European Institute of Saarbrücken said recently: What is it that the British are wanting to join? They do not want to join the Federal Republic, or France, or any other Member State. They want to join the Community. The Community must therefore be alive and develop. That is obvious.

It is our Communities that remain, and will remain, the nucleus for the integration of the European continent. Nobody could have any reason to want to slow down their development or allow it to be slowed down. Let us remember the 1963 crisis: soon after that, and after its reverberations which each one of us still remembers, the Communities resumed their advance towards full development, and experience has proved that the four — nearly five — years since the 1963 crisis have not in any way prevented neighbouring States from rallying to us. On the contrary, our progress has only made them the more eager to apply for membership of our Communities.

Secondly, our Commission is opposed to any lateral movements that might occur outside the Communities and through which it might be imagined that solutions to the present crisis could be found, whether these movements come from within or whether — as has been pointed out — they come from outside the Communities. In either case, our Commission considers that this is not the way we must try to solve these problems.

In the first place, our reason for thinking this is that we are completely sceptical about the concrete possibility of putting a genuine content into proposals of this kind; we are very much struck by the fact that the only way to give them a definite content is to restrict what is really the substance of our Communities, which, politically, is completely paradoxical.

I even hear people saying that, since technology does not figure in the Treaty of Rome, a technological agreement should be reached outside the Community of the Six.

On 31 October 1967, within the Council at Luxembourg, we welcomed our Member States' affirmation that, if certain technological questions interest Member States more particularly, technology was in itself already a Community matter. How can one separate technology from industry, and industry from its market?

We really cannot see that it would be any use embarking upon courses that might restrict the activities and competence of the Communities, whereas the important thing is, on the contrary, to extend them.

I would add that attempts of this kind would be bound to increase the tension within the Communities, at the very time when our effort should, of course, be devoted to easing them.

For this reason, we do not believe that these solutions are good ones. I wish to make it clear that our Commission has decided not to have any part in them.

The Commission does not want to have anything to do with movements of this kind. Our Commission exists exclusively to serve the Communities, and we therefore have no intension of getting involved in activities that would concern five plus one, five plus two, five plus four, or nine. It is not in our interest to pursue a policy of this kind, and it will get no help from us.

I come now to a third comment on the present situation. Certain Member States are reacting and putting forward highly imaginative proposals. We have already had cognizance, at least verbally if not in writing, of the results of the initial thinking of the Government of the Federal Republic. On Friday evening, we officially received the memorandum from the three Benelux States.

Our Commission is still to discuss it this week. I am not therefore yet in a position to tell you what conclusion it will come to.

But a first impression can, I think, be discerned. We will regard sympathetically any imaginative efforts made by the Member States to resolve the present crisis, provided — I repeat — that these are Community efforts.

Ladies and Gentlemen, I shall close by mentioning what must be done and how our Commission looks at this whole situation. I shall thus be echoing the concern expressed this morning.

I do not see any difference between what the spokesmen of the various political groups have said and what we are now saying, except perhaps where the reasons are concerned. I do not wish to open a new debate on the reasons for the disagreements. Turning towards the future, we think that, however legitimate non-member countries' interest in the solution of the present problems may be, the Community crisis is having effects within the Community and must therefore be resolved there. It is among ourselves that we shall have to bring our views nearer together, in order to make together, next spring, the effort that we did not succeed in making last autumn to devise solutions acceptable to us all.

It is not surprising that, in January, it should be difficult to present a complete plan and definitive solutions. We must take time to reflect. As you know, "time does not spare what has been done without it". It is therefore wise to reflect a little more. The important thing is to know in which direction we should move. That is why this exchange of views between the Parliament, which has just been heard, and

our Commission is an essential factor that will help to guide our thinking in the next few weeks.

We should work out a general agreement in two parts, one covering internal and the other external matters. The internal part would deal with the question of the policies that the Community is going to continue to develop.

I said a moment ago that we cannot accept or consider wise the slightest touch on the brakes. It has been decided that the common organizations of markets in milk products and beef and veal will come into force on 1 April. At this very moment, the Council of Ministers of Agriculture is meeting in Brussels to discuss this. This is why my colleague and friend, M. Mansholt, is not sitting here with the Commission, but he will be joining us tonight.

Before 1 July, the decision envisaged in the field of transport will have to be taken. All this work, whether on the European company or on other matters to be dealt with in this House, must be continued as energetically and as rapidly as possible.

New policies must also be launched. As you no doubt remember, I alluded to these a few moments ago. We have agreed with the President of the Parliament that on a date still to be fixed — possibly in the second quarter of this year — we shall introduce a general debate before the Parliament on the new policies — energy policy, industrial and regional policy. Work on these is now in progress, although it has, I admit, been delayed a little because of the internal administrative problems that are now being dealt with, and whose gravity should certainly not be exaggerated. These problems will no doubt be settled in the next few weeks.

I therefore think that, in the second quarter of this year, we shall already be able to explain our position to the Parliament on all these new questions and on certain others that will have to be rethought and given a greater impetus.

I hope that on the same occasion we shall also be able to talk about the merger of the Treaties. President Illerhaus was right to remind us that the merger of the Treaties is a very great problem still on the agenda, and that our attempts to solve it must not be slowed down.

Secondly, any overall agreement will of course also include an external part, firstly because the problem of enlargement is still with us and the Council of Ministers has not settled it. On 19 December, no decision was taken on this matter.

The problems are there and we must therefore try to solve them; the unification of the European continent remains the aim of our work in this House, and is, moreover, the objective that our three Treaties have set before us.

Furthermore, if the Member States are to be brought together for a common solution, everybody will have to be prepared to take the views of the others into account. A vote is a vote, not a rapprochement! We must now try to do something constructive.

No solution can be seriously worked out that does not also take into account the hope, which is so widely shared in our Community and within the Council, of finding approaches that will make it possible to set procedures in motion and get things moving — by stages perhaps — and I do not wish at the moment to set any time-limit for a policy of enlarging the Community.

In this field, as you know, many ideas are at present being canvassed. Some say that better machinery should be devised for consultations with our British partners. The Benelux countries have made a suggestion that has already received some support outside. They envisage extending the association agreement between the European Coal and Steel Community and the United Kingdom, to cover all Community problems. This is a very interesting idea and will be worth considering in detail.

Another idea is that our Commission should continue to examine with the British Government the problems to which no solutions have so far been found. We have thought about this and, provided that a decision to this effect can be taken within an overall framework acceptable to all, we are quite ready to agree to it. We said so clearly on 29 September and we have not changed our opinion; we can only make unilateral studies, and we must negotiate with our British partners if we want to arrive at solutions acceptable to them as well as to the Community.

Thirdly, why not try to join with the British now in a number of joint projects — some examples have been suggested, and this is a good idea, provided of course that it is the Community as such and not just part of it that joins with our partners in these endeavours.

There are the lines on which we have been thinking and now we react to these events.

Since there is this disagreement within one of the Community's great institutions, it is all the more important that the others should be united, that your Parliament should be as united as possible about the necessary solutions and that our Commission should be equally united about the policies that it can propose and defend before the Council, the Parliament and European opinion.

We have remained completely united throughout all these events, not by pure chance or by divine grace but because we have reflected a great deal, discussed a great deal, thought a great deal, about what the real interests of European integration are. Our Commission, which is a political institution endowed with political responsibilities, will now devote as much careful effort and political imagination as possible to carrying out the task I have just described.

II. The economic situation in the Community in 1967 and the outlook for 1968

Statement by M. Raymond Barre, Vice-President of the Commission of the European Communities, before the European Parliament

(23 January 1968)

Introduction

Mr President, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Today, for the first time, I have the honour of speaking in this House. I should like to say, on this occasion, that it is my earnest wish, during the period in which I shall be carrying out the duties entrusted to me within the Commission of the European Communities, to work with you in a spirit of sincere and, I hope, mutually confident co-operation.

Economically, 1967 will have been a year of grey skies for the European Economic Community. Just as the slowdown in economic activity which had affected the greater part of the year was giving way to a gradual recovery, the serious events which occurred in November and December last in the international monetary field and the adoption by Great Britain and the United States of stringent programmes to restore their payments balances have created a climate of uncertainty and even of disquiet at the dawn of this new year. It therefore seems right that, after I have reviewed recent economic developments and sketched the outlook for 1968, we should consider the lines which we feel should guide economic policy in the Community and examine the problems with which those responsible for this policy are faced because of the international monetary situation.

I. Economic developments in the Community in 1967 and outlook for 1968

In 1967 the growth rate of the Community's gross product was the lowest since the Treaty of Rome came into force. In 1958, with the world economic situation slack, the rate had been 3.2%; in 1967 it was down to 2.5%.

The slowdown in economic activity made itself felt in most Member States. The Federal Republic of Germany experienced a decline in absolute terms of about 0.5% in its gross national product at constant prices; industrial production fell by 2.5%. In France the rate of growth of the national product declined from 4.9% in 1966 to 4.2%; industrial production increased by only 2.7%. Overall, the rate of growth in Belgium fell slightly (from 2.8 to some 2.5%); industrial production continued to stagnate. The situation was brighter in the Netherlands and Italy. The overall increase in the national products of the Netherlands rose from 2.8% in 1966 to 5%, reflecting essentially the incidence of the favourable weather conditions of winter and summer 1967, which made it possible for construction and agricultural production to advance sharply; industrial production was up by more than 4%. In Italy, expansion maintained a rapid pace: as in 1966, real gross national product increased by 5.5% in real terms, while industrial production went up 9% in eleven months.

Finally, the greater buoyancy of world demand for steel products led to a slight acceleration in the growth of Luxembourg's total domestic product, but at 2% this was still modest.

If we examine the economic trend in 1967, we are struck by the contrast between the first half of the year and the second.

During the first six months of 1967 the slacker trend in economic activity which had emerged in 1966 persisted — indeed, it may have slackened further. This was in part due to developments in the economic situation throughout the world; but the decisive factors are to be found in the Community itself. The recession in Germany played a preponderant part, especially by acting as a brake on intra-Community trade and thus on the level of activity elsewhere in the other Community, particularly in the Benelux countries. Moreover, influences peculiar to these countries had a deleterious effect on the general business climate, discouraged investment schemes, prompted consumers to be cautious, provoked an easier situation on the labour market and led to greater unemployment. Only in Italy did domestic activity expand at a rapid pace. Imports from non-member countries tended slightly downwards, while the Community's surplus on trade continued to increase.

However, the slowdown of economic activity had a beneficial effect on the trend of prices and unit costs. Consumer prices remained more or less stable in the Federal Republic of Germany; in the other Community countries the price rise would have been moderate had it not been for increases stemming from measures which the authorities took to adapt certain charges to the increase in costs and so make it possible to improve the operational accounts of public enterprises.

The latest information confirms the indications that economically mid-1967 was a turning point for the Community. The signs of a revival in activity are becoming more and more numerous and, in certain cases, vigorous.

True, the Community's exports to non-member countries tended to fall slightly in the third quarter of 1967; but when one remembers how long it takes for any revival elsewhere to be reflected in our exports and considers the influence exerted by fortuitous factors such as the closing of the Suez canal, there is no contradiction between this tendency and the signs of a revival in economic expansion observed in some important non-member countries. Moreover, the incomplete information available for the last quarter shows that the tide is turning.

The recovery in domestic demand, on the other hand, is quite clear, even if it is not the same categories of goods and services which are benefiting in all Community countries and even if certain conflicting tendencies are still to be found.

The recovery is particularly noticeable in the Federal Republic of Germany. Purchases of capital goods by enterprises, which had declined considerably in the first half of 1967, are again moving upward. Under the two programmes designed to stimulate the economy, there has been increased activity in public works. The reduction in investments by the Länder and communes, still apparent in the first half of 1967, has now come to an end; the steps taken by the public authorities and the fall in interest rates have led to a revival in residential building. There is a fairly general move to replenish stocks; the special measures taken by the Federal Government have discouraged the tendency to run down stocks caused by the approaching changeover to the added-value tax system on 1 January 1968. Finally, the improvement in employment and in the business climate has encouraged a distinct increase in household consumption since the third quarter of 1967.

In the other Community countries, the signs of a recovery are less numerous. Stocks of raw materials and of semi-finished products have been replenished, and this has given a definite impetus to production. In France, household expenditure on consumption went up in the third quarter, and a similar trend has been apparent in the Netherlands, largely as a result of the reduction in direct taxes which took effect from the middle of the year. In the latter country, purchases of capital goods also went up slightly in the autumn, but in France the tendency for actual expenditure on investment by private concerns to slow down seems to have persisted, although the flow of new orders reaching the capital goods industries improved towards the end of the year. In Italy, overall domestic demand continued to stimulate output; only in Belgium and Luxembourg did the rather hesitant tone already noted in the first half of 1967 persist.

The revival in demand exerted a strong influence on the trend of production. Industrial output in the Community as a whole remained, after adjustment for seasonal and fortuitous changes, almost stationary during the first six months of the year, but in the third quarter it increased by 1.5%, and probably 2% in the fourth. This satisfactory advance occurred in all countries except the Belgo-Luxembourg Economic Union; in Italy, the slowdown in industrial production which had occurred in the third quarter, as a result of a drop in exports to non-member countries when the Suez canal was closed, proved to be only temporary.

The increase in industrial production contributed to an improvement in the employment situation. In the Federal Republic of Germany, unemployment dropped and the number of vacancies tended to rise very appreciably. In the Netherlands, the number of unemployed levelled off. In Belgium, where expansion was weaker than in the other Community countries, unemployment continued to rise, but at a reduced pace. In France, however, the resumption of an upward trend in production does not appear to have been sufficient to check the rise in unemployment. The latest figures are, however, somewhat difficult to interpret, for the recent changes made in the arrangements for the placement of workers have induced more people to register as seeking employment. For the Community as a whole, the decline in the actual number of hours worked has been halted, while the number of persons in paid employment has started to go up again.

The recovery in production produced, from the summer of 1967 onwards, a slight improvement in the curve for goods imported by the Community from non-member countries. In view of the weakness of exports, this movement was reflected in a deterioration of the Community's trade balance; but in November the extent of the deterioration was being reduced.

In contrast to the trend recorded in 1966, the increase in unit production costs, particularly wages and salaries, continued to lose momentum in most member countries. In Germany, it would even seem that unit wage costs in industry have dropped by about 2%. In this, however, Italy was an exception.

The calmer state of consumer prices that prevailed in the first half of 1967 would have persisted had special factors not intervened. The gradual disappearance of the effects of the summer's good weather on agricultural prices was followed by adjustments in the rates charged for certain public services. The increase in retail prices from November 1966 to November 1967 will have been below 1% in the Federal Republic of Germany, over 3% in the other Community countries.

If, as it seems reasonable to hope, the recent trends in domestic demand should be maintained in the next few months, the economic development of the Community in 1968 would be satisfactory.

In the Federal Republic of Germany, the recovery that took place in the second half of 1967 is not due exclusively to the effects of the programmes to stimulate economic activity; spontaneous factors also seem to have played a decisive part and it is hardly likely that these will cease to operate in the near future. Everything suggests that increased business activity in Germany will, by its influence on intra-Community trade, provide a substantial boost for the economies of the other Community countries. This factor, coupled with stimulus offered by domestic demand, will help to ensure that expansion is maintained in Italy; in the Netherlands, the recovery should gain momentum, although economic expansion is unlikely to become as rapid there as in Italy.

France and the Belgo-Luxembourg Economic Union, where the tendencies are less clear-out, will undoubtedly benefit from the economic expansion taking place in Germany. In France, however, certain events whose repercussions are difficult to measure, could have an adverse effect on the trend in household consumption, at least on its volume; most important of these events are the increase in consumer prices that may follow the extension to retail trade of the added-value tax, and the additional social security contributions that households will have to pay. In Belgium, the latest trend in the investment plans of enterprises is unclear, while private consumption remains very moderate.

The prospects for the Community's exports are, moreover, as good as in 1967, subject to there being no unfavourable repercussions from the measures which the United Kingdom and the United States are taking to improve their balance-of-payments position.

There is therefore good reason to think that in the Community as a whole total output might this year be about 4.5% higher than in 1967. The employment situation would benefit from this. In most member countries, unemployment might be lower than last year; in France and Belgium, it should at least rise no further. The acceleration of economic expansion in the Community should of course lead to an appreciable rise in imports, in contrast to the near-stagnation of 1967, and to a decrease in the surplus on current payments.

From the point of view of costs and prices, any acceleration of economic activity obviously involves certain risks. These appear limited, however, in view of the advances in productivity that can be expected and the existence of unused reserves of manpower and technical capacity. One cannot however rule out the possibility that in Italy a particularly lively rise in domestic demand may pose equilibrium problems, as in this country the economic upswing has been going on for several years; similar problems could arise even in the Federal Republic of Germany, where manpower reserves are, after all, fairly limited.

Can such forecasts be maintained without modification when we consider the possible impact of the devaluation of the pound and of the programme of which the Americans propose to reduce their balance-of-payments deficit?

As the Commission has had occasion to point out, the practical effects that devaluation of the pound has on the Community will largely depend on the economic policy that the British Government pursues in 1968. It is unlikely that devaluation will have its full effect this year. Most experts seem to think that the improvement in the United Kingdom's current payments account and, consequently, the corresponding deterioration in the balances of other countries will not become apparent before the second half of 1968.

The effect on capital movements may well be more rapid if capital which left the United Kingdom at the time of speculation against the pound is repatriated or if the higher discount rate and related monetary measures attract fresh money. As far as can be judged from the indications available on what is happening in the Community—these are, however, difficult to interpret—there have not so far been any large-scale outflows of this kind, but here the trend could change in the next few months.

In the longer term, the overall incidence of devaluation of the pound and the measures that will have to accompany it to ensure its success, will doubtless be appreciable. The average of the widely varying estimates made in various quarters puts the improvement in the UK's current balance of payments at about \$1 500 to \$2 000 million. Now, while exports of goods and services to the United Kingdom represent a fairly small share of the Community's total exports, it must be remembered that an increase in the share of the world market held by British exports will be achieved largely at the expense of the Community. The deterioration in the Community's current account, seen over a period of several years, will therefore not be negligible.

The measures taken by the US Administration to improve its balance of payments might also have a restrictive effect on the Community's economic development in 1968. It is still too early to calculate this effect with precision. The moratorium applied to net transfers of American capital to European countries in the form of direct investment will affect certain Community countries in particular, although American subsidiaries set up there already make large calls on European capital. The limitations placed on outgoing short-term capital will tend to provoke strains on the Eurodollar market. The measures that will govern current operations are to be the subject of legislative procedures and international consultation, so that their effects will not be evident for some time yet.

It can reasonably be assumed that the incidence of the British and American measures on the Community's balance of payments and its level of economic activity will depend mainly on the speed and effectiveness with which these measures are implemented and will in any case, probably not be felt before the second half of 1968.

II. A policy of balanced growth

The indicators and other information at present available suggest that during the next few months expansion will be maintained in the Community as a whole against a background of relatively stable prices and costs, though there may be some adjustments to short-term economic policy in certain member countries. The outlook is less clear for the autumn of 1968 and early 1969 because of the possible effects of the measures recently taken by the United Kingdom and the United States.

There is still, however, a measure of doubt concerning the scale of economic expansion in the Community during the next few months. It is not certain that the economic upswing of some member countries will in the first half of the year be such that these countries would approach a situation of full utilization of technical capacity and reach the limit beyond which the labour market would be exposed to strain and that the braking effect produced by developments abroad would then constitute a limitation of the risk of overheating rather than an actual threat. There is therefore much to be said for treating balanced expansion as the major economic policy objective of the Community countries in 1968.

Expansion is not merely desirable, it is necessary. It is essential for economic reasons, because in most of our countries the satisfaction of individual and collective needs requires that production should grow at as fast a rate as can be achieved economically, and because the structural changes occurring in most industries will thereby be rendered easier. Expansion is also necessary for social reasons, for the employment difficulties experienced in 1967 must be reduced. Lastly, it is necessary for international reasons: in a world economic situation where deflationary forces are in evidence, the Community, which has sufficient resources and possibilities to constitute an independent centre of economic activity, can contribute by the satisfactory pace of its growth to the development of international trade and the world's economic progress.

For all these reasons we must examine with care anything which might endanger expansion in the Community during 1968. First, there is a risk that the growth of exports of goods and services from Community countries to non-member countries could be much slower than of the Community's imports. However, this is not very likely.

The most serious danger, as I see it, would come from an increase in interest rates, as this would have an adverse effect on investment by enterprises. Since mid-1967 there has been a marked tendency for interest rates to rise outside the Community, and now the British monetary measures, particularly the raising of bank rate to the unprecedented level of 8%, have reinforced the trend; the programme for improving the United States balance of payments will obviously give a further upward thrust to interest rates. If the Community allowed itself to be caught up in a process of escalation, investment would suffer. Moreover, the European subsidiaries of American companies may be forced to call more than they do already on local sources of finance to carry out their investment projects. With financial flows in Europe not always fully adapted to needs, this would put an extra strain on the capital markets of the member countries.

The monetary policy to be adopted by the Community countries in the next few months will therefore be of great importance. Interest rates ought to be maintained at their present level so that the upswing of investments should not be jeopardized. This may involve outflows of capital, and these would have to be accepted by the Community; if they became particularly heavy, interest rates in the Community would have to be in some measure adjusted to those obtaining elsewhere but, for internal and external reasons, they should not be aligned completely. No one should of course imagine that this moderation in the matter of interest rates will of itself facilitate the restoration of equilibrium in international payments; the trend of domestic demand would have at the same time to be put under strict control in the United Kingdom and the United States.

Should further expansion at a satisfactory rate be threatened at any time in 1968, appropriate measures would have to be adopted. It would be necessary to stimulate public and private investment, because in the last few years both have fallen behind the medium-term forecasts made in most Community countries. The expansion of investment is still the first need; but should the spontaneous forces of expansion prove to be weak in certain member countries, some encouragement for consumption ought not to be excluded if it appeared that it could make an indirect contribution to the promotion of industrial investment.

Support of expansion, in any case, should not be of massive proportions; the methods used should be subtle and elastic. In periods of recession there is sometimes talk in our countries of the policy applied in the United States since 1962, which has permitted a remarkable expansion of production and a reduction of unemployment

with near-stability of prices. It must be remembered in this connection that in no Community country has there recently been, or is there at present, the same amount of unused productive capacity or so much unemployment as in the United States in 1960-61. The use of massive, unselective budgetary instruments could all too easily provoke inflationary pressures, especially as the Community countries do not enjoy the extraordinary mobility of labour and resources which is a feature of the United States' economy.

If, then, support for expansion should prove necessary, it should be given by means of suitably chosen measures, which should not reduce to excessively low levels the savings of the public authorities or jeopardize, by causing internal or external imbalance, the possibilities of further growth. Between caution, which often leads to an attitude of wait-and-see, and boldness, which can lead to the adoption of simplistic solutions, there is room for moderate and selective action, the success of which will depend above all on timing and the choice of instruments to be used.

Care will also have to be taken that an over-rapid growth of incomes does not compromise the chances for our economies to develop in the face of keener international competition. Excessive pay rises would lead sooner or later to restrictive policies, the first victims of which would be the workers.

It remains for me to examine how much we can expand without excessive deterioration of the Community's external payments position. In this respect the present situation is relatively reassuring. The 1967 surplus on the Community's current account may be estimated at some \$4 000 million. Forecasts for 1968 made before devaluation of the pound showed, after making allowance for the pick-up of economic activity, a reduction in this surplus of the order of \$1 000 million. It is unlikely that the effects of the British and American measures, which would be in addition to the deterioration I have just referred to, could be so pronounced that the Community's balance of payments showed a deficit for 1968. In fact it may be expected that a sufficient surplus will remain to offset much of the outflow of capital, the amount of which naturally cannot be assessed.

The situation and outlook are not, of course, the same in all member countries. The present payments positions of the Federal Republic of Germany and Italy are more favourable than those of France and the Netherlands, and will remain so. The gold and foreign exchange reserves at the disposal even of these countries, however, are large enough for a reduction to be acceptable if this were necessary to maintain a satisfactory rate of economic growth.

This is the normal role of foreign exchange reserves as long as a country's economic trend does not show a serious imbalance. Nevertheless, while the accumulation of reserves is not an end in itself and cannot always take precedence over other aims, there is no reason for thinking that reserves can be used without thought for the morrow. In the past there has been an unprofitable debate between those who supported expansion and those who sought to defend the currency; the facts have settled the argument by showing that inflation sooner or later put an end to expansion. A debate of the same kind seems to be arising today between those who support expansion and those who seek to defend the reserves; let us hope that it will not be settled by experience as cruel as that which closed the other discussion. It is all a question of balance.

We are well aware that it is difficult for an economy to achieve what has been called the magic triangle, that is, to obtain simultaneously full employment of productive resources, stability of prices, and equilibrium in the balance of payments. In the short term, and according to the circumstances, one objective must be

attained or safeguarded, while the others are only partly achieved. What is important is that the variations in the main components of economic activity should be economically and socially tolerable, that danger points are not passed, and that in the medium term the growth of economic activity is obtained in conditions which do not upset the fundamental equilibrium of the economy. It is in this spirit that economic policy, in particular the policy of balanced expansion, of which I have outlined the aims, conditions and limits, should be conceived and implemented in the Community during 1968.

III. The Community and the problems connected with the international monetary system

On several occasions I have pointed out that the economic situation in the Community has been developing against a background dominated by the problems connected with the international monetary system. The shocks which the pound and the dollar have suffered in the last few months have given rise to a great deal of uncertainty as to the future of this system. On this matter the Community must take up a reasonable and constructive attitude.

I want to say at once that no country stands to benefit from the collapse of the international monetary system: this would lead to considerable difficulties throughout the world, and much of the effort that has gone into building up international economic co-operation in the last 20 years would be lost. We must therefore hope that the crisis which has beset the reserve currencies for some years can be overcome: the extent to which monetary reform — which is indispensable — can be carried out in orderly fashion will depend on how far confidence in sterling and the dollar is restored.

Confidence depends first and foremost on the policies pursued by the reserve-currency countries; these must be sufficiently credible to discourage specialization. It is therefore to be welcomed that steps in this direction have recently been taken by the United Kingdom and United States.

The devaluation of sterling offers Great Britain a great opportunity to re-establish a healthy balance of payments, provided that the Government pursues with tenacity the efforts it has been making since 1966 to place the whole of the United Kingdom's economy on a sound footing. The latest measures, designed to supplement those adopted at the time of devaluation, will enhance the prospects of success in the monetary sphere, as will the hard budget foreshadowed by the Chancellor of the Exchequer. Success will also depend on the effectiveness of the incomes policy that will be applied. The United Kingdom, then, may hope to attain within a reasonable period its balance-of-payments objective, i.e. a surplus enabling it to redeem the heavy debts it was obliged to contract during its recent difficulties.

The restoration of payments equilibrium will, however, not suffice to eliminate the burden and the risk which the sterling balances (which are bound up with the reserve-currency role of sterling) represent for the British economy. In its Opinion on the United Kingdom's application for membership, the Commission analysed the problem which the existence of these balances might pose for an enlarged Community. In the oral statement made to the Council after devaluation of the pound, the Commission's conclusions were maintained. If the Commission drew attention to this question in its Opinion, this is because it was then looking ahead — as it still is — to the possibility of enlarging the Community in conditions which would

safeguard its objectives and its cohesion. The problem is none the less still with us, for it concerns the working of the international monetary system. Our countries, which as part of the international financial community are making, directly or indirectly, a substantial contribution to the maintenance of sterling, should not therefore let slip any opportunity to find a satisfactory solution to this problem.

Soon after the devaluation of sterling, the dollar came under heavy pressure. It is true that the monetary situation in the United States is not comparable with that of Great Britain. The dollar is a powerful currency, the importance of which depends less on the United States' stock of gold than on its immense productive resources and the efficiency of its economy. A heavy payments deficit was justified after the Second World War by the need to redistribute international reserves, but this has for ten years no longer been the case. The persistence of this deficit and the growing accumulation of dollars by the rest of the world to which it has led have aroused concern, and it was this which underlay the run on gold in December 1967.

The United States authorities have decided to adopt a number of restrictive measures designed to strengthen the dollar and reduce the payments deficit. The measures, which affect both capital operations and some current operations, do not treat all America's trading partners alike. They call for a number of comments.

Direct controls have been chosen not only because of the nature of the factors which have led to payments disequilibrium, but also because the Administration is anxious to avoid domestic measures, which would impair the tempo of economic activity. It is true that a major deflation in the United States would have serious implications for the world economy. But direct controls could well prove inadequate unless fiscal policy and monetary policy are tightened up. Only this would prove beyond doubt that the doctrine of absolute priority for international objectives has made way in the United States for a philosophy under which elimination of the payments deficit stands among the foremost objectives of United States economic policy. This objective is not out of range; it demands no unacceptable measures for the United States.

In order to improve the trade balance, the American authorities have talked of instituting an import charge and an export rebate, which are presented as devices to offset the impact, in certain European countries, of the tax on value added. As no details have so far been made available by the Administration on this point, it is difficult to assess the validity and the implications of such measures. It would in any case be for the appropriate GATT authorities to rule on their legality. For the moment we need do no more than observe that if the United States were to adopt this line, it might well, for the sake of a limited economic advantage, arouse in the majority of countries reactions that could inhibit the freedom of international trade and international economic co-operation, two principles which the United States authorities have constantly invoked since the end of the Second World War and of which the Kennedy Round last year has been the most remarkable expression.

The American authorities have also argued on a number of occasions that the US deficit is no more than a reflection of the surpluses of the European countries, particularly of the EEC countries; they have suggested that these countries might contribute to the restoration of equilibrium in United States payments by the adoption of policies designed to eliminate the surpluses. There are major objections to this argument. It is true that in a system of international payments surpluses in some countries correspond to deficits in others, and it is hard to see how this could be otherwise. We should be more interested in finding out what causes the surpluses and the deficits. No one could argue that the European Economic Community owes surpluses to a deliberately deflationary economic policy. On the other

hand it is conceivable that inflationary pressures may partly account for the US deficit. It is true that certain European countries have in recent years regularly accumulated heavy surpluses, which have been insufficiently offset by capital exports, but this does not mean that the EEC countries should adopt policies which would inevitably entail internal and external disequilibria. The Community's imports ought to expand in regular and balanced fashion, and the Community ought to play its full part in the international movements of capital; but an increase in Community imports based on unbalanced growth would not be acceptable. Our countries have been too long familiar with inflation at home and deficits abroad to welcome their return; moreover, it can hardly be argued that the burden of adjusting the American balance of payments should be borne solely by the countries enjoying surpluses, with the United States making no contribution through an appropriate domestic policy.

The re-establishment of equilibrium in the payments balances of the United Kingdom and the United States would definitely create a climate of confidence from which efforts to reform the international monetary system, a task which everybody agrees is urgent, would be bound to benefit.

The main feature of the working of this system in the last ten years has been that certain countries have been able to avoid the process of adjustment required by their payments deficits.

The Bretton Woods Agreements, rightly discarding the gold standard doctrine, which made the internal equilibrium of a country dependent on the stability of the exchange rate and on the requirements of external equilibrium, provided that a country running a payments deficit would not be freed from the requirement to settle its debts, but that it could draw from the International Monetary Fund medium-term loans enabling it to regain equilibrium while it avoided any excessive contraction of its domestic economic activity. These loans were subject to conditions determined by the Fund, which was entrusted with the task of ensuring that the deficit country adopted an appropriate domestic economic policy. Where a "fundamental" disequilibrium was diagnosed, the country concerned might be authorized to modify its exchange rate. For twenty years this arrangement has been applied strictly to all the member countries of the Fund except the United States and — until recently — the United Kingdom. The authorities of these two countries have long been able to neglect what has been a far greater constraint for the governments of other countries — that they should act promptly to restore payments equilibrium.

They have been able to do this because they have enjoyed special privileges taking many different forms: for example, the right to settle debts in their own currencies at times of their own choosing, and the right to use arrangements placing at their disposal considerable foreign-currency resources, such as medium-term bonds or short-term swap arrangements concluded with various central banks and regularly renewed.

To take a case in point, the United States has concluded swap arrangements which have made available to it lines of credit now totalling \$7 000 million, that is to say ten times more than in 1962, the year when this technique was first used systematically. At the same time, it has made only very moderate use of its IMF quota, remaining within the loan margin beyond which supplementary appeals to the Fund can be met only after examination of the economic policy pursued by the borrowing country.

By such procedures it is possible to cover up a difficult situation; but if private transactors become aware of the scale of the commitments subscribed to by the debtor countries and compare them with the actual funds freely available to these countries, some chance event can suffice to trigger off violent speculation, not only against the

key currencies, but possibly against others as well, mainly through heavy purchases of gold. This is what we experienced in November and December last year.

In addition to all this, delays in adjusting the balance of payments cause so sharp a deterioration that when a country is forced to act under the constraint of necessity, the severity of the measures required is liable to disrupt the economy and to damage the harmony of international economic relations. We have just had a taste of this too.

In the last analysis, the central problem of the working of the international monetary system is not so much that of establishing whether debit balances are cleared in gold, in foreign currencies or by other means of payment, but whether these balances would be cleared at all and whether every country which belongs to the system has to comply with the same rules in respect of equilibrium in their balances of payments and with the international arrangements made in this connection.

If, as is the Commission's earnest hope, the United Kingdom and the United States payments situations recover, the international monetary system will be free to function in more satisfactory conditions. But a new problem, masked so far by the deficits of the reserve currency countries, might emerge, that of a lack of international liquidity with which to finance international trade. To cope with this problem, the countries of the Group of Ten, within which our six countries have acted together in close solidarity, have worked out a system of special drawing rights, which will constitute new facilities alongside the credits granted by the International Monetary Fund. The details of the scheme, which was approved in September 1967 at the annual meeting of the International Monetary Fund in Rio de Janeiro, are to be finalized by 30 March of this year.

The conclusion of the agreement on special drawing rights constitutes an important event in international monetary history. This agreement means that in future an increase in international liquidity will no longer depend on the deficits of the reserve-currency countries, nor on the somewhat erratic fluctuations in the supply of gold: the creation of additional liquidity will hinge on a concerted assessment of the need for finance generated by the healthy expansion of international transactions. True, it will never be possible to determine with absolute accuracy the amount of liquidity needed; but there is no reason to believe that this method will be less efficient than the relatively hit-or-miss methods of creating liquidity that have been used so far.

Since the creation of international liquidity under the system of the special drawing rights is to be concerted, it is of great importance that the basic rules should include the principle that major decisions can only be taken by a qualified majority of 85%. In this way the Member States of the Community can, by standing together, influence the working of the international monetary system to an extent corresponding more nearly to the scale of the responsibilities that will be theirs under the scheme and of the contributions they will be making.

These States have agreed to request that the same qualified majority should apply in respect of the clauses relating to the existing credit operations of the International Monetary Fund, the rules and practices of which are, in accordance with a resolution adopted in Rio de Janeiro, to be subjected to certain reforms. This request is in no way exorbitant: in recent years, the Member States of the Community have financed the bulk of the drawings made by their partners on the International Monetary Fund. Here again the aim is to establish a balance between rights and responsibilities.

The reforms contemplated will be effective only if equilibrium is restored in the United States balance of payments: it is not in the interests of the United States to drown — as an eminent American monetary specialist has put it — the balances of payments in the ocean of international liquidity. If, in particular, the special drawing rights were brought into force before a substantial reduction is made in the American deficit, the system might well be discredited before it had even begun to bear fruit; it would then appear to be nothing more than an additional device for procuring funds with which the United States could finance its deficits. The opportunity to improve the working of the international monetary system would thus have been lost. The heavy responsibilities borne by the United States in the world economy, far from justifying the payments deficits, mean that it is this country's duty to find ways of eliminating them.

Conclusion

My discussion of international monetary problems leads me to recall that within the last two years the Member States of the Community have worked out and maintained a common approach to these problems with particularly happy results. What has been done in this field can be looked upon as an example of all else that remains to be done in the Community by way of concerting and co-ordinating the economic and financial policies of the Member States.

True, we can be pleased with the impressive results achieved by our Community since 1958, results to be seen in the figures for the sum of our national products, for total EEC foreign trade, for the aggregate monetary reserves of the Six; but we must not be mesmerised by totals. These express something that could be, but they will mean something in terms of action and efficiency only if the Member States are united on the objectives to be pursued and the means by which they can be achieved.

In the coming months, the problems liable to arise within and outside the Community can be properly tackled and dealt with only if the economic, monetary and financial policies of the Member States can be co-ordinated more fully and if the development of our capital markets can be stimulated. Who would deny, for example, that progress in international monetary arrangements at this difficult time, when we already have *de facto* solidarity between our countries, would be of great significance and value?

The Commission will contribute to this progress with the discretion which the nature of these questions requires, but with patience and tenacity. It is not unaware that in those fields where the governments bear major responsibilities and the Treaty does no more than lay down general principles, the efficacy of its work will depend on its success in establishing common guidelines and in showing, through useful and sober proposals, the advantages which the member countries can gain from their solidarity. The Commission will neglect none of the opportunities made available by the Treaty and by the decisions which the Community has taken in recent years. It will endeavour to conciliate and to persuade, perhaps the most important of its tasks. This is not the time for hasty action or for illusions. But to see things as they are is not despair; I would even say that it bids us hope.

III. Introduction to the First General Report on the activities of the Communities in 1967

I. Seven months after taking office on 6 July 1967, the Commission of the European Communities is called upon to submit its first General Report to the Parliament. Though this is too short a time for a proper assessment of the action taken, the Commission has used the opportunity offered by the parliamentary debates of September 1967 and January 1968 to describe the course being followed. There is none the less much to be said for giving a complete review of the progress made during the period covered by this Report and outlining the difficulties now being faced by the Community, primarily as a result of the disagreement that arose in December 1967 over enlargement of the Community.

This first General Report, which is a transitional one, describes not only the activities of the single Commission but, in addition, the work done by the High Authority and by the EEC and Euratom Commissions between the time when their last General Reports were prepared¹ and the beginning of July 1967.

II. The most important events which occurred in Community life before the merger Treaty of 8 April 1965 became effective are recorded below.

In the European Economic Community, two events of great political significance should be mentioned, as their effects will be felt for a long time to come. The first of these was the decision, reached at the Council of Ministers in February 1967, to harmonize indirect taxes in the Community and to adopt the principle of the added-value tax system. The second was the adoption by the Council, on the same date, of the first medium-term economic policy programme — a real milestone on the road to defining and fixing the aims of the Community's economic policy for the years ahead.

III. The successful conclusion of the Kennedy Round in May 1967 was an international achievement of great significance, in which the European Communities (EEC and ECSC) played a considerable part. Everyone has recognized the importance of their role, which provided striking confirmation of their willingness to contribute "to the harmonious development of world trade, the progressive abolition of restrictions on international trade and the lowering of customs barriers", as stipulated in Article 110 of the EEC Treaty.

The tariff cuts agreed upon in Geneva are far larger than any achieved in previous rounds of tariff negotiations. Moreover, the Kennedy Round has led to some degree of harmonization among the customs tariffs of the principal trading powers and has made it possible to start dismantling non-tariff barriers in several fields, such as chemicals, where they are paralysing trade. The Kennedy Round also represents the first overall attempt to organize world markets in agricultural products, even if the results obtained, although noteworthy, are not entirely commensurate with the efforts made.

¹ End January, end February and end March 1967

For the Community these negotiations had a further significance. It was the first time that the Community took part as one entity in international negotiations of such importance, with the Commission representing it. In this respect, the Kennedy Round was a test of the smooth working and efficiency of the Community system in external relations. The Commission must therefore stress the political and institutional importance of the success achieved at Geneva.

IV. Another event of significance before the single Commission took office was the achievement on 1 July 1967 of the single market stage for cereals, certain animal products (pigmeat, poultry, eggs) and oil-seeds. Occurring simultaneously with another general reduction in intra-Community customs duties, this represented a further advance towards the full customs union and the single market in agricultural produce, due to be completed on 1 July 1968.

V. The date of 1 July 1967 also marked the beginning of a new phase in the organization of the Communities, as the treaty merging their institutions then came into force. The ECSC High Authority, which had carried out its duties for fifteen years, and the EEC and Euratom Commissions, which had been in existence for ten years, were replaced by a single Commission, which has assumed all the powers conferred on the earlier bodies by the three Treaties.

This is the first major change in the institutional field since the Treaties of Rome entered into force. In view of the number, variety and in many cases the scale of the responsibilities placed on the Executives since 1952, and of the powers given them by the Council in pursuance of the Treaties, the merger is much more than a simple matter of administrative concentration. It increases both the political authority and the efficiency of the single Commission.

The single Commission, which is heir to the three institutions that preceded it, acknowledges with gratitude the substantial results achieved by its predecessors over a period of fifteen years and pays tribute to the men who devoted themselves to this work and whose names are linked with it.

VI. The first task for the new Commission was to organize its work, define the tasks of its members, begin to merge its staffs organically and rationally, and establish the new, unified administration. This is an extremely arduous task, complicated by the fact that the Commission, while responsible for the organization of its services, does not have the budgetary authority that would enable it to complete the work quickly; it is complicated, too, by the many intricate problems that inevitably accompany any attempt to merge and to rationalize.

This difficult task has not yet been completed, but the Commission intends to bring it to a satisfactory conclusion even ahead of the time-limit fixed by the merger Treaty.

VII. In the internal field the Commission wishes that, while Community policies are pursued in the normal way, especially in the agricultural sector, particular attention should be paid to the points which follow.

One of the first concerns of the Community must be to end the doubts about Euratom's future. When the single Commission took office, the budget for the current financial year, 1967, had not yet been adopted. The Commission successfully urged the Council to take an immediate decision. As Euratom's second five-year

programme was to expire at the end of 1967 and the Council had given no further consideration to any new plan such as the one suggested by the Euratom Commission, the single Commission had no alternative but to submit to the Council a tide-over programme for 1968. The Commission deplores the restrictive attitude adopted by the Member States with regard to this programme and notes with satisfaction that its views have been in large measure shared by the Euratom Parliament.

Even more important, in the Commission's opinion, is the task of deciding upon Euratom's future activities; it feels bound to stress the importance of the tasks incumbent on and of the means available to this institution, which it sees as one of the Community's first major moves in the field of research and technology. It would be paradoxical to jeopardize what is being done here just when the need for Europe to redouble its efforts in this field is universally recognized.

VIII. The Community's activities with regard to general research and technology are in fact a further point about which the Commission is concerned. If the economic union is to be established and if Europe's position in the world is to be enhanced, there must be a Community drive to expand research and development. The Council's discussion of this subject on 31 October 1967 was a welcome result of the efforts that the three former Executives had long been making. The Council's first resolution in this field could do no more than express a political will and give some general indications; it is the Commission's intention to translate these intentions into a coherent programme that will include co-ordinated or joint activities.

IX. The precise and effective way in which the solidarity of the Six showed itself in monetary matters last November is worthy of note. On this occasion the sterling crisis did not find the Member States unprepared, and the Community machinery devised and adopted by the Council in 1964 worked in an entirely satisfactory manner, both in the conference of Ministers of Finance and in the Monetary Committee.

X. The Commission and the Council have been able to get the common transport policy moving again, on the basis of a limited but concrete programme which the Commission will endeavour to have implemented in full before 1 July 1968, so that entry into force of the customs union may be accompanied by real progress in this sector too.

XI. For some months past the internal and external politics of the Community have been dominated by the problem of its enlargement. The Commission has clearly stated its support for enlargement without, however, concealing the difficulties that would have to be overcome or avoiding reference to the conditions that would have to be fulfilled. The Opinion adopted on 29 September 1967, after describing both the advantages and the obstacles, suggests a course that could be followed; this course might have provided the basis of an understanding among the Six had they devoted more effort to reaching agreement than to recording their differences.

It was and is the Commission's view that in order to remove the uncertainties which still persist, particularly on certain fundamental points, there should be negotiations, by the most appropriate procedures, with those States which have applied for membership; this would enable those concerned to make the necessary study of the problems highlighted in the Commission's Opinion and to see whether solutions can be found which would satisfy the conditions that must be fulfilled if the cohesion and dynamism essential in an enlarged Community are to be assured. To hear the countries concerned and to negotiate with them in order to examine the chances of arriving

at solutions acceptable to all seemed, and still seems, to the Commission to be the line that should have been adopted.

XII. Following the Council session of 18 and 19 December 1967, the Commission declared that opportunities must be sought for resuming the movement towards enlargement of the Community which had been temporarily interrupted. While it is deeply sceptical about the usefulness, or even the possibility, of isolated action by some Governments with the countries that have applied for membership, and could take no part in any such moves, the Commission is convinced that there are real possibilities for action by the Six and the Community. It is for the Community to explore them, to agree about the steps to be taken, and to make suggestions to the United Kingdom and the other countries concerned. Action of this kind must not be a substitute for membership, nor prejudice subsequent negotiations; it must of course be taken within the Community framework and by Community methods.

XIII. Being convinced that the Member States will reach a reasonable solution to the problems posed by the enlargement of the Communities, and resolved to contribute to this result, the Commission would not wish to end this introductory statement without a glance at the future.

A general report is not an action programme. There can therefore be no question, in this introduction, of describing in detail the policies the Commission intends to pursue in the various sectors. All that can be indicated here is the general line to be followed.

Now that we are on the point of achieving full customs union, it is more and more necessary to press forward the establishment of economic union. The Commission has inherited the rich legacy left by its predecessors. The regrouping of forces and powers that the merger has permitted should enable more effective action to be taken in several sectors, whilst tariff disarmament and the elimination of frontiers increasingly underline the need for common policies.

Implementation of a common policy is becoming unavoidable now that customs frontiers are disappearing, to be followed soon by technical and fiscal frontiers. Co-ordination by the Member States of their short-term economic policies and elaboration by the Community of a medium-term economic policy are the first results to be seen. For the Community institutions themselves, the fact that common policies are being developed in certain fields (starting with agriculture) makes it essential to adopt an overall policy such that the steps taken in individual sectors may be coherent and fully effective.

In agriculture, particularly, the Community has in recent years given priority to gradual establishment of the single market; it is now the fundamental problems of structure that will have to be tackled. Economic and financial needs will have to be reconciled with the fundamental requirements of social progress, which include narrowing the difference in living standards which divides many of those who work on the land from the rest of the population.

Elaboration of this general policy is a matter to which the Commission intends to devote more attention each year.

XIV. The merger of the institutions will help to intensify the Community's action in the social field.

Thanks to the legal and material means at the disposal of the High Authority, the ECSC has gained, in those sectors for which it is competent, experience which will provide a useful model for activities of wider scope.

Moreover, as economic integration is achieved and the common market established, and as very far-reaching changes occur in the structure of production and the size of enterprises, the effort made in the social sector will have to be increased in order to keep social progress abreast of economic progress and to assist the levelling upward of living and working conditions which is one of the fundamental aims of the Treaty of Rome.

The Commission will spare no effort to achieve these aims, in the conviction that it is thereby helping to gain the support and participation of the working people of the Community for the task of building Europe.

XV. The Commission is also determined to exploit to the full the other possibilities opened up by the merger, particularly in regional policy, industrial policy, research policy and energy policy. Its internal organization and the structure of its unified administration have been devised in the light of this objective. The experience gained by and the means available to the ECSC make it possible to give a new dimension to the work being done on regional policy and industrial policy. Where energy policy is concerned, the merger gives the single Commission the overall view and the control of all Community means needed for elaborating a common policy and having it accepted by the Governments and by the Community.

In addition, the great events that have recently affected international policy in the financial and monetary field — the devaluation of sterling and the American plan of 1 January 1968 — have been and must continue to be an opportunity for tightening the links between Community countries; the demonstration of solidarity given both before and after the devaluation of sterling has shown the importance of the Community in the international monetary field and how great its influence will be once monetary union has been established.

XVI. While our Communities have had to live through a succession of crises — the ECSC crisis, the Euratom crisis, the EEC crisis of 1963, 1965 and 1967 — great progress has been made from year to year: customs union will have been established faster than originally envisaged, common policies have been developed, and the Community has continued to do all that is possible within the framework of its association with certain African countries and Madagascar and, on a broader plane, for the developing countries generally.

The role of the Commission is to stimulate and accelerate these developments. The Commission does not consider that it can act in opposition to the Member States but, on the contrary, that it should work in constant collaboration with them on a basis of mutual trust, under the permanent supervision of the European Parliament. Nor does it consider that its role is to act in opposition to non-member countries but, on the contrary, to co-operate with them increasingly. To complete the common policies, to merge the treaties, to enlarge the Community, to increase the part it plays in the world — these are the objectives that the Commission has set itself in order to help forward the building of a united, independent Europe that will be a force for peace and progress in the world.

IV. Council decision of 14 December 1967 on transport

At the close of a two-day session (13 and 14 December 1967) which it devoted to the study of the Commission memorandum of 10 February 1967 on "the common transport policy following the Council resolution of 20 October 1966",¹ the Council took a decision which marks an important step towards the implementation of the common transport policy. This decision of 14 December 1967 is quoted in full below.

As the Commission had proposed in its above-mentioned memorandum, the Council considered it indispensable to give effect, before 1 July 1968, to a balanced body of measures to remove certain obstacles which could hamper the working of the common market in the transport field.

The Council accepted the idea put forward by the Italian delegation which, in a memorandum of 21 September 1967, had proposed concentrating, in the initial stage, on road haulage of goods between the Member States.

The Council undertook to introduce the following measures before 1 July 1968:

- i) Harmonization of working conditions in road transport;
- ii) Application of competition rules to transport;
- iii) Rules on aids in the transport field;
- iv) Abolition of double taxation on motor vehicles operating international transport and duty-free entry of fuel in the tanks of such vehicles;
- v) Establishment of a Community quota and introduction of a rate-bracket system for the road haulage of goods between Member States.

On the basis of the Commission's proposals, the Council will also examine initial measures to introduce a system of fixing rates for the use of infrastructures and to put the economy and finances of the railways on a sound basis as soon as possible.

By adopting the decision summarized above, the Council has manifested the political will to go beyond the preparatory stage of discussions and studies and to get down to action. This decision gives a new start to the common transport policy and leads to its effective application within reasonable time-limits.

The following is the unabridged text of the decision.

"The Council of the European Communities,

Having regard to the Commission memorandum of 10 February 1967 on the common transport policy following the Council resolution of 20 October 1966,

Having regard to the Italian Government's memorandum of 21 September 1967 advocating a fresh start to the negotiations on the common transport policy,

¹ See Bulletin No. 4-67, Ch. II, sec. 32 and Supplement to Bulletin No. 3-67.

Considering that, in the transport field, it is important to take with all possible speed certain measures connected with the entry into force of the customs union while continuing to draw up measures on a longer term basis;

Considering that the purpose of these initial measures must be both to harmonize the conditions of competition within the setting of the Council decision of 13 May 1965 on the harmonization of certain provisions affecting competition in rail, road and inland waterway transport,¹ the methods of application of which must be put into effect at the earliest opportunity, and to approximate cost structures;

Considering that provisions for the Community organization of the market in goods transport by road as well as a programme of measures to ensure further progress with the common transport policy should be decided on before 1 July 1968;

1. Agrees, on the basis of the Commission's proposals:

i) to draw up at its next session on transport affairs, and at the latest within six months, the text of Community rules on the harmonization of certain social provisions in the road transport field;

ii) to adopt the following measures before 1 July 1968:

a) application of competition rules to transport;

b) rules on aids in the transport field;

c) implementation of the provisions of Article 1 sub (a) and (b) and of the aforesaid Council decision of 13 May 1965;

d) establishment of a Community quota of 1 200 licences for three years in respect of goods transport by road;

e) introduction of a rate-bracket system for the road haulage of goods between the Member States;

f) setting up of specialized committees to discharge the duties (especially market supervision) devolving upon them in pursuance of the foregoing measures;

2. a) Takes note of the declaration of the Commission according to which the latter will put forward:

aa) before 1 February 1968, amendments to the proposed regulation of 18 March 1964 concerning the abolition of double taxation on motor vehicles in the international transport field and to the proposed directive of 20 July 1966 regarding the standardization of provisions relating to the duty-free import of fuel in the tanks of commercial vehicles. The objects of these amendments will be:

i) with regard to double taxation, to adopt a provisional solution based on the principle that the vehicles are subject to the taxes payable in the Member State in which they ply, in proportion to the period they remain on its territory;

ii) with regard to the duty free import of fuel, to allow 50 litres, to be increased as the Council decides whenever a substantial approximation of the domestic taxes on diesel oil is effected.

¹ Official gazette No. 88, 24 May 1965, p. 1500/65.

bb) before 1 July 1968, proposals concerning the first measures to be taken to introduce a rate system for the use of infrastructures and comprising in particular:

- i) the harmonization of the structures of taxes on commercial vehicles, taking into account the provisions of Article 2 of the above-mentioned Council decision of 13 May 1965 in such a way as to reflect the individual shares of the various categories of vehicles in the costs occasioned for the countries by use of the infrastructures;
- ii) the establishment of permanent, standard accounting of expenses relating to infrastructures in respect of each of the modes of transport in every Member State.

cc) before 1 January 1971, proposals concerning the adaptation of the bilateral quotas for the road haulage of goods between Member States, taking into account the results obtained through the measures listed under *aa)* and *bb)* above;

b) Approves the time-table and the general line of approach laid down under *a)* above;

c) Takes cognizance of the Commission's declaration that before 1 July 1968 it will put forward proposals relating to the gradual approximation of domestic taxes on diesel oil.

3. Emphasizes, with due regard to the conclusions of the seminars on railway problems, the need to put without delay the economy and finances of the railways on a sound basis and consequently to adopt before 1 January 1969;

i) a regulation concerning action by Member States with regard to obligations inherent in the concept of public service, based on the Commission's proposal of 26 May 1967;

ii) a regulation concerning the standardization of railway accounts on which the Commission will submit a proposal to it before 1 March 1968.

4. Instructs the Committee of Permanent Representatives to prepare the implementation of point 1 of the present decision. The Committee is invited to make an interim report to the Council in readiness for its coming session on transport problems and to annex thereto the drafts of instruments to be enacted in this field.

Done at Brussels on 14 December 1967

By the Council

G. LEBER

President

V. Internal activities

ESTABLISHMENT AND OPERATION OF THE SINGLE MARKET

Free movement of goods

Customs matters

Harmonization of customs legislation

1. Three proposed directives and one draft regulation¹ concerning harmonization of customs legislation were submitted to the Council. These measures are briefly described below.

2. *Proposed directive on the harmonization of laws, regulations and administrative rules on: (1) Customs inspection of goods arriving in the Community customs territory; (2) The arrangements for temporary warehousing of these goods.* The proposal deals in turn with the conditions to be observed by the Member States, on the one hand when the goods come into the Community customs territory, and on the other hand when they are temporarily warehoused, under customs supervision, while waiting to be placed under a specific customs procedure.

Goods subject to the Treaties establishing the European Coal and Steel Community and the European Atomic Energy Community are also covered by the directive.

Scope of application: The directive, like the rules adopted in the Member States, applies to all goods arriving in the customs territory.

Customs routing: The proposal stipulates in principle that goods entering the customs territory must immediately undergo customs inspection, and it also determines the inspection conditions.

The primary effect of the directive is to oblige the Member States to take all relevant steps to ensure that the carrier routes the goods as indicated by the competent national authorities either to the customs office or to some other place appointed by those authorities and subject to customs supervision. These two alternatives derive from the fact that special procedures are being increasingly established for adapting administrative requirements to changes in trade, in particular to facilitate transport without breaking bulk as far as the warehouses of the consignees, where the merchandise is cleared directly.

The second effect of the directive is to harmonize the conditions under which goods arriving on the customs territory without being placed under a specific customs procedure are taken over by the customs authorities. The regulations of each Member State already lay down such conditions, but the time required for customs routing varies from one Member State to another and the content of the declaration required is not always the same. The directive therefore gives a list of the minimum information which must be given in the summary declaration made by the person responsible for the goods.

¹ See Bulletin 1-68, Ch. IV, sec. I.

In the interest, again, of speeding up transport operations, it is considered that the Member States could authorize the use as summary declaration of a commercial or administrative document containing this information (e.g. way bill, manifest, bill of lading).

In conclusion, since goods must be taken in charge by the customs as rapidly and as conveniently as possible, each Member State must ensure that this declaration is handed in not later than 24 hours after the arrival of the goods, since they cannot be unloaded before customs authorization is given and, moreover, only on premises under customs control.

Temporary storage: After customs routing as above, the goods can remain in store for a certain time before being placed under a customs procedure.

In order that importers may be offered similar facilities throughout the Community, the varying provisions in the different Member States need to be harmonized. To this end the following principles should be observed by the Member States:

a) The goods should remain under customs control in public or private premises designated by the competent authorities. The only handling they may receive there should be what is necessary to keep them in good condition.

b) Goods thus deposited should be placed under a customs procedure or be re-exported within a period fixed by the competent authorities which should not exceed ten weeks if they arrived by sea and 15 days if they arrived by other means.

This last provision has been based on the fact that the ports are redistribution centres and that a fairly long period of time may pass before a specific destination can be given to the unloaded merchandise. Ten weeks would apparently be sufficient to assign a customs procedure to goods arriving by sea or to re-export them. This length of time should moreover, other things being equal, promote the business of Community ports.

On the other hand, it does not seem that more than 15 days should be allowed for goods imported otherwise than by sea, because these can more easily be directed if necessary, without inconvenience to carriers, to a bonded warehouse where they can stay longer. However, allowance should be made for extending the period when the need to ascertain the precise composition of the merchandise calls for such an extension.

c) At the end of the specified period, if the goods deposited have not been assigned a customs procedure or been re-exported, the competent national authorities must take all necessary steps to place them under a customs procedure as quickly as possible, if necessary compulsorily.

3. *Proposed directive on the harmonization of laws, regulations and administrative rules concerning deferment of payment of customs duties, charges with equivalent effect, and agricultural levies.* Provisions exist in the six Member States whereby importers need not pay customs duties, charges with equivalent effect, or agricultural levies at the time when these are fixed by the customs administration. These deferred payment facilities are of two kinds. The first requires no payment of interest by the debtors. It consists in the granting of a period for payment which may be very short (not more than 10 days in the Benelux countries), short (15 to 30 days in France, 10 to 25 days in certain cases in Italy), longer (1 1/2 to 2 1/2 months in Germany). These facilities are supplemented by those of the second category, which may be additional to those of the first category and directly or indirectly involve payment of the prevailing rate of interest.

Such provisions have a direct or indirect effect on the burden borne by importers owing to the intervention of the customs administration and, if not harmonized, might lead to deflections of trade and customs receipts, which, as the Council of Ministers noted in its Resolution of 11 May 1966, would jeopardize the proper establishment of the Customs Union that is one of the objectives of the Community.

The proposed directive provides for the rapid implementation of common rules on the subject by the six Member States. To this end, after a transitional period necessary to enable the Member States to adapt themselves to the new provisions without detriment to their legitimate interests, from 1 July 1968 an average period for payment of 30 days may be granted to importers free of interest, under various technical arrangements at the option of the Member States.

As regards the supplementary facilities, provision has been made for the expenses incurred by the debtors, in particular interest, to be fixed by the competent national authorities so that their amount is equivalent to what would be charged under the same head in the capital market of the Member State concerned.

4. *Proposed directive on the harmonization of laws, regulations and administrative rules concerning the system of bonded warehouses.* — There are at present in the Member States public and private bonded warehouses where imported goods are stored. While in these warehouses, the goods are considered as being outside the customs territory and may therefore be re-exported, cleared for home use or placed under another customs procedure. Customs duties, charges with equivalent effect and agricultural levies are consequently collected only when the goods are cleared for home use.

The rules of operation of warehouses have been laid down by the authorities of each Member State, and vary from one Member State to another. In the Community, these differences entail the risk that persons wishing to benefit from the bonded warehouse procedure will direct goods towards those which are subject to the most liberal rules.

The directive submitted lays down the rules which the legislation of the Member States must embody. The scope of application of the directive having been determined, the rules apply mainly to the effects of the warehouse procedure, the conditions under which these establishments may be set up, and the obligations of bonders and warehousemen. They also lay down principles according to which all imported goods may be kept in a bonded warehouse for a maximum of five years and be sold there before another customs procedure is assigned to them or they are re-exported. With regard to the tariff treatment of goods cleared for home use after warehousing, the directive's provisions ensure uniform application of the common customs tariff by obliging the Member States to establish the basis of taxation in accordance with common rules and to apply the customs duties, charges with equivalent effect and agricultural levies in force at the date the goods are taken out of bond.

Tariff quotas

5. On 1 December 1967 the Commission, acting under Protocol No. XIV to List G, increased the tariff quota at 1.5% duty granted to Germany for crude magnesium (CCT 77.01 A) for 1967 from 9 450 to 12 980 tons.

6. On 6 December 1967 the Commission, acting under Protocol No. XI to List G, increased the tariff quotas for ferro-silico-manganese (CCT heading 73.02 D) granted for 1967 at zero duty to Germany from 21 390 to 39 300 tons, and to the Netherlands

from 110 to 300 tons. It also increased the tariff quotas for ferrosilicon (CCT heading 73.02 C) granted at zero duty for 1967 to the Netherlands from 3 270 to 4 500 tons and to the Belgo-Luxembourg Economic Union from 9 330 to 15 200 tons.

7. On 12 December 1967, acting under Article 25(1) and (4), the Council increased the tariff quota at 2% duty granted to the Netherlands for 1967 for hydrogenized, polymerized and dimerized rosins, ex CCT heading 38.08 C, from 3 200 to 4 270 tons.

8. On 14 December 1967, acting under Protocol No. IX to List G, the Commission granted Germany for 1968 the following tariff quotas for imports from non-member countries for use on German territory:

CCT heading	Description	Quantity (m.t.)	Duty
ex 50.04	Silk yarn, other than yarn of noil or other waste silk, not put up for retail sale	30	3.5%
ex 50.05	Yarn spun from silk waste other than noil, not put up for retail sale and intended for the manufacture of sewing thread entirely of silk waste other than noil	110	2%

9. On 19 December 1967 the Commission, acting under Article 25(3), granted Italy for 1968 a tariff quota of 5 000 head at 4% duty for imports from non-member countries of bulls, cows and heifers of the Schwyz, Simmental and Fribourg breeds, other than those intended for slaughtering, ex CCT heading 01.02 A II.

10. On 21 December 1967 the Commission, acting under Article 25(3) and (4), granted Italy an additional tariff quota of 350 metric tons at 6% duty for imports from non-member countries of sugarbeet seed of the varieties Maribo, Buszczinsky, Janaz and Saroz, ex CCT heading 12.03 A, for the period from 1 November 1966 to 31 October 1967.

11. On 21 December 1967 the Council, acting under Article 28, opened a Community tariff quota for 1968 at zero duty for 17 615 tons of raw or unmanufactured tobacco or tobacco refuse, CCT heading 24.01, originating in and arriving from Turkey, and to split it into two parts.

The first part, 14 975 metric tons, was allocated among the Member States as follows:

	(metric tons)
Germany	11 081
France	1 198
Italy	450
Netherlands	1 048
B.L.E.U.	1 198

The second part, 2 640 metric tons, is held in reserve to cover the Member States' import needs after their initial share is exhausted.

Competition policy

Cartels

Application of ECSC Treaty competition rules

12. *N.V. Kempense Steenkolenmijnen joins Cobechar* — After authorizing the joint foundation of N.V. Kempense Steenkolenmijnen (KS)¹ the Commission, in its decision No. 37/67 of 19 December 1967 under Article 65(2) of the Treaty of Paris, authorized the agreement concluded on 28 November 1967 permitting this new enterprise to take part in joint marketing through the Comptoir Belge des Charbons (Cobechar).

The authorization was necessary because one of the founder enterprises of KS was not a member of the Comptoir. Cobechar's position in the market is only very slightly altered by KS's accession.

13. *Falck-Redaelli specialization agreement* — The Italian steelworks Acciaierie e Ferrerie Lombarde Falck S.p.A. and Giuseppe & Fratello Redaelli S.p.A., both of Milan, have concluded agreements concerning specialization and joint buying and selling which meet the conditions specified in Article 65(2). The Commission authorized these agreements in its decision No. 38/67 of 21 December 1967.

Application of Articles 85 and 86 of the EEC Treaty to specific cases

14. The Advisory Committee on Cartels and Monopolies set up under Article 10(3) of Regulation No. 17/62/CEE held its 18th meeting on 12 and 13 December 1967, when it rendered its opinion on two preliminary draft decisions of the Commission in favour of two agreements concerning a joint sales agency for fertilizers, concluded between enterprises in a Member State.

Concentration

Authorization for concentrations (Article 66 of the ECSC Treaty)

15. *N.V. Kempense Steenkolenmijnen* — On 19 December 1967 the Commission authorized the joint foundation, by the five Belgian Campine coal mines and the Belgian State, of the N.V. Kempense Steenkolenmijnen, and the handing over to this company of all the installation and activities of these five mines. An authorization was necessary because of the numerous links between these coal mines and many other coal- and steel-producing enterprises in the Common Market.

The Commission concluded that, despite these links, the concentration cannot directly or indirectly bring about any of the effects which might create an obstacle to the granting of the authorization. The purpose of the concentration is basically to facilitate the orderly regression of Belgian coal production while taking into account the need to ensure security of supplies.

16. *Other cases* — During December 1967 the Commission also authorized certain concentrations which, because of their insignificant effect on the competition situation in the markets concerned, are listed below without further comment:

¹ See sec. 15.

a) Braunschweigische Steinkohlenbergwerke AG, Helmstedt/Braunschweigische Kohlenhandelsgesellschaft Ring & Co., Hamburg

Authorized on 21 December 1967.

b) Joint foundation of Howaldtswerke-Deutsche Werft Hamburg-Kiel AG by Salzgitter AG and Deutsche Werft AG

Authorized on 22 December 1967.

c) Controlling interest of the Société Métallurgique Hainaut-Sambre, of Couillet, in the joint stock company Etablissements Carlos Leduc, of Liège

Authorized on 22 December 1967.

Fiscal policy

17. On 6 December 1967 the Italian Government notified the Commission of a proposed law amending the refunds of turnover tax on exports and the countervailing charge on turnover for imports of certain iron and steel products. This law, which was published in the Italian official gazette on 12 December 1967, came into force on 13 December 1967.

The measures concerned are being studied.

ESTABLISHMENT OF THE ECONOMIC UNION

Short-term economic policy

Short-term Economic Policy Committee

18. The Committee held its 31st meeting on 6 December 1967 with M. Martens de Wilmars, Vice-Chairman, presiding. The Committee carried out an initial examination of short-term economic policy matters in the light of the devaluation of the pound sterling and other currencies.

Panel of Experts on Economic Budgets

19. The Panel of Experts on Economic Budgets met on 5 December 1967 to study the economic consequences for 1968 of the recent change in exchange rates of several currencies.

The Panel started by carrying out a general survey of the quantitative effects of the devaluation of the pound sterling in the United Kingdom. It studied the model used to make estimates and then analysed the results — more particularly the probable development of exports and imports. The experts then examined the repercussions of the devaluations on the economies of the EEC, with special regard to development of the balance of payments and to the gross national product.

Panel of Experts on Economic Indicators

20. The Panel of Experts on Economic Indicators met on 8 December 1967. It finished a report on the first results of the year's work, and submitted it to the Short-term Economic Policy Committee and the Monetary Committee.

Medium-term economic policy

Medium-term Economic Policy Committee

21. The Medium-term Economic Policy Committee held its 25th meeting on 14 and 15 December 1967. It continued to prepare the preliminary draft of the second medium-term economic policy programme.

Study Group on Medium-term Forecasts

22. The Sub-group on Projections of the Study Group on Medium-term Forecasts met on 28 November and 15 December 1967, with M. P. de Wolff in the chair.

The experts continued to examine work on the value projections for 1970 in the Community countries. It held a first discussion on the next projections (for the third programme) and on the time-table of the work concerned.

The Group's next meeting was fixed for 26 and 27 February 1968.

The Study Group on Medium-term Economic Projections met on 29 November 1967, with M. de Wolff in the chair.

The Group surveyed the work on structural development in the past and value projections. It also discussed the time-table of the next projections and the period covered by them (1973-1975).

Social policy

Council meeting on social affairs

23. On 21 December 1967, the Council met to discuss social affairs, under the chairmanship of M. Hans Katzer, the Federal German Minister of Labour and Social Affairs.

The various questions on the agenda were discussed, but no decisions could be taken because the Belgian and Dutch delegations at the meeting were present only as "observers".

M. Levi-Sandri, Vice-President of the Commission, presented a report on the Community's social policy during the past ten years and the tasks for the future. He said that tangible results had been achieved in the social field where the special provisions of the Treaty fixed a precise objective and gave the institutions the necessary powers.

Speaking of the future, M. Levi-Sandri pointed out that important structural changes in the Community's economy were to be expected in the next few years. Social measures to be taken in the future would have to fit into the general framework of the

medium-term economic policy programmes, the importance of which had already been emphasized by the Commission.

In addition, M. Levi-Sandri said that the programme of work to implement Article 118 of the Treaty, which had been drawn up on the basis of a memorandum from the President of the Council, would enable the Commission to carry out a number of studies in collaboration with the national authorities and, in certain cases, with the two sides of industry.

The Vice-President of the Commission also expressed the latter's interest in a draft resolution presented by the German delegation concerning the Community's future tasks in the social policy field; this draft could probably be adopted later on, when the Dutch Government's "political" reservations had been overcome. M. Levi-Sandri thanked M. Kratzer for his initiative and said that the Commission was willing to prepare the report mentioned in the draft resolution.

The Council then considered the following questions:

i) *The Commission's report on manpower problems in the Community in 1967.* The discussion was opened by M. Levi-Sandri, who described the changes caused by recent economic developments. In particular, he pointed to the time-lag in certain member countries between the revival of economic activity and an improvement in the employment situation. He also mentioned the current employment problems peculiar to certain sectors such as steel and coalmining.

ii) *Relations with the two sides of industry.* The President of the Council said that, on 20 December 1967, he had met representatives of management and labour who had then expressed the hope that a "tripartite" conference (bringing together the Ministers of Labour of the six Member States and representatives of the Commission and of the two sides of industry) might be organized as soon as possible to discuss the present employment situation and future prospects. Among other things, they stressed the need to expand vocational training and increase the professional mobility of workers. Suggestions were also made with regard to the free movement of workers and reform of the European Social Fund.

iii) *European Social Fund.* After recalling that the Commission's 1965 proposals to the Council were still pending, M. Levi-Sandri was nevertheless pleased that a beginning had been made with examining possible measures to adapt the Social Fund to the Community's development. He pointed out that several suggestions which figured in the Commission's proposals had been accepted in the initial stages of this examination.

Although the Council expressed general support for the idea of extending the Social Fund, it did not say when the reforms could be adopted (before or after the transition period).

iv) *Vocational training.* The Council took note of the report presented by the Commission representative and of the statements by the delegations. Further consideration will be given to this question (progressive alignment of levels of vocational training) in the appropriate organs of the Council.

v) *Difficulties experienced by EEC Member States in ratifying certain conventions concluded in other international organizations.* The Commission representative said that the Commission was proposing to submit a report dealing with ratification difficulties and with developments in this field in the Member States.

vi) *Equal pay for men and women.* M. Levi-Sandri drew the Council's attention to the complexity of this problem and recalled, in particular, the European Parliament's wish to be informed annually about the development of the situation in the Member States.

Free movement of workers

24. The government experts from the Member States met in Brussels on 14 December 1967 to examine the preliminary draft report on "the free movement of workers and labour markets in the EEC — 1967". The following points emerged from the discussions:

a) During 1967, recourse by Member States to the safeguard clause in Article 2 of Regulation No. 38/64 on the free movement of workers within the Community had generally been kept within narrow limits, despite the considerable increase in unemployment in most Member States;

b) On the other hand, the development of the economic situation had substantially affected Member States' calls on foreign manpower in 1967, and the number of foreign workers entering the Community as a whole had decreased by more than half since the previous year (figures for the first nine months: 1966: 482 914; 1967: 214 501), and by almost two thirds since 1965, when 560 800 initial work permits were issued during the first nine months of the year;

c) In most Member States, the number of workers from non-member countries had fallen more than those from other Member States, the extent of this difference varying from country to country.

The preliminary draft report, amended in the light of additional information, will be examined by the representatives of the Governments in January 1968.

European Social Fund

25. On 22 December 1967, the Commission adopted 18 decisions granting aid from the European Social Fund to the Federal Republic of Germany, France and Italy, for workers' retraining and resettlement schemes.

The total amount of aid granted under these decisions is 8 967 636.26 u.a., and 27 726 workers have found new jobs as a result of these schemes.

Grants from the Fund were as follows:

Country	Retraining		Resettlement	
	Amount (in u.a.)	Number of workers	Amount (in u.a.)	Number of workers
Germany	4 968 093.12	6 939	76 495.56	6 858
France	977 580.82	493		
Italy	2 933 364.01	13 336	12 102.75	100
EEC	8 879 037.95	20 768	88 598.31	6 958

These decisions bring the total amount of aid granted by the Fund in 1967 to 13 964 239.64 u.a., for schemes involving 46 026 workers.

The sums paid out in 1967 were distributed among the beneficiary countries as follows:

Country	Amount (in u.a.)	Number of workers
Belgium	663 745.70	920
France	1 757 396.36	1 625
Germany	5 077 584.38	13 859
Italy	5 373 616.65	28 511
Luxembourg	4 065.46	4
Netherlands	1 087 831.09	1 107
EEC	13 964 239.64	46 026

Taking into account both the repayments made to Member States and their contributions to the Fund, the latter's operations in the 1967 financial year have resulted in 2 580 768.72 u.a. being transferred to Italy, 609 027.70 u.a. to Germany, and 110 334.31 u.a. to the Netherlands, from France (2 711 160.32 u.a.), Belgium (565 107.39 u.a.) and Luxembourg (23 863.02 u.a.).

Between September 1960, when it began operations, and 31 December 1967, the Fund has reimbursed a total of over 54 million u.a. The schemes thus financed have enabled about 554 000 workers to find new jobs.

Readaptation operations (Article 56 of the ECSC Treaty)

26. The Commission on 29 November 1967 decided to grant readaptation assistance under the ECSC Treaty in respect of some 5 000 ECSC workers rendered redundant by the radical changes in progress in the coal, steel and iron-ore markets. In all the operations approved, the Governments of the countries in which the discharges are taking place will contribute the same amount as the Commission is providing.

a) *Robert Muser colliery and coking-plant*, owned by Harpener Bergbau AG., Dortmund

The number of workers to be aided with Community funds is 3 672. The sum of DM 4 050 000 has been allocated to cover the payment of tide-over allowances, wage-loss differentials, travel and removal costs, vocational retraining expenses and so on, as provided for by the agreement between the German Government and the former High Authority of ECSC.

b) *Friedrich der Grosse colliery*, Herme, Ruhr, owned by Ilseder Hütte

695 miners and salaried staff are to be laid off in consequence of the closure of part of the workings. The Commission's contribution to the readaptation expenses is fixed at DM 1 million.

c) *Saint Armand plant, Nord, and Puy-Guillaume plant, Puy-de-Dôme*, owned by the French Société Métallurgique de l'Escaut

The company is having to lay off 409 workers in all by 31 December 1968. This figure does not include 33 workers aged over 60, who are not to be discharged but retired ahead of time. The Commission's contribution is FF 529 000.

d) *Buelten-Adenstedt and Deernten iron-ore mines*, owned by Ilseder Hütte

The Commission allocated DM 100 000 for the readaptation of 176 workers who are to lose their jobs following production cutbacks at the two mines.

e) *Kahlenberg iron-ore mine, Ringsheim, Baden*, owned by Barbara Erzbergbau GmbH.

The Commission is to furnish DM 25 000 for the readaptation of 30 workers.

Mines Safety and Health Commission

27. The Mines Safety and Health Commission met in Luxembourg in plenary session on 15 December 1967.

This being its first meeting since the merger of the Executives, the Chairman, M. Coppé, formally handed over to M. Levi-Sandri, Vice-President of the Commission of the European Communities and Commissioner for Social Affairs.

Following this ceremony, which took place in the presence of the Press, the MSHC:

- (1) Considered and adopted its Fourth Report (1966);
- (2) Took cognizance of a report by a sub-committee of ventilation experts on the stabilization of ventilation in the event of fire, and decided that this document should be duly circulated in the appropriate quarters;
- (3) Considered a supplementary report on the explosion at Unser Fritz colliery, Germany;
- (4) Instructed its Working Party on Winding Ropes and Shaft Guides to have an investigation made at the Tremonia experimental pit into the facilities available for measuring the effects of dynamics on shaft guides.

The other matter on the agenda, various final and interim reports by working parties and sub-committees, had to be held over for attention on a later occasion.

Social security for migrant workers

28. At its 34th meeting on 6 December 1967, the Audit Committee attached to the Administrative Committee for the social security of migrant workers examined and approved the average costs of sickness and maternity insurance benefits in kind in Italy and Luxembourg for the 1966 financial year.

A draft recommendation on the claims between social security institutions for the financial years 1959-1962 has been proposed, to close the accounts for the years in question.

Another draft recommendation, which will also be submitted to the Administrative Committee for its approval, would allow advances to be granted automatically if repayment of the expenditure of one institution by another cannot be effected within the normal time-limits.

Industrial health and safety

29. Following the agreement in the Council on 5 June 1967 with regard to co-operation on the standardization and testing of individual safety devices, the Commission organized a meeting of experts on 4 December 1967.

At this meeting, the delegations gave a general outline of the situation in this field in their respective countries. They will submit a list of existing provisions to the Commission, specifying their legal status. The delegations considered that the following individual safety devices should be dealt with as a matter of priority: respiratory apparatus (including filters), protective clothing (particularly overalls and footwear) and fall-prevention devices (particularly safety belts). Work on these matters will start at the beginning of 1968.

Manpower problems

Third study session on vocational guidance

30. A study session on vocational guidance was held in Dortmund on 5, 6 and 7 December 1967, with the agreement of the Federal German Government, for the benefit of officials of the six Member States' national administrations, particularly the Ministries of Education, Labour or Social Affairs.

This joint training session forms part of the programme for co-operation in this field and follows up Article 37 of Regulation No. 38/64/CEE on the free movement of workers within the Community. It is also in line with the Commission recommendation of 18 July 1966 for the development of vocational guidance.

The participants were able to get information on the spot concerning the present and foreseeable development of vocational guidance in the Federal Republic, and to exchange views on the lessons to be learnt from this development and the problems connected with it.

The three-day programme included the presentation of a number of reports, followed by discussion, on the organization, working methods and results of vocational guidance activities, and visits to a vocational guidance office, an apprentice-training centre and a vocational training centre for the physically handicapped.

Creation of a Joint Advisory Committee on social matters in inland water transport

31. The Commission has decided to set up a Joint Advisory Committee on social matters in inland water transport.

Through this Committee the Commission will be able, whenever it thinks fit, to consult the professional organization concerned on special problems connected with inland water transport.

The Committee will consist of equal numbers of representatives of carriers and workers engaged in inland water transport, from the Committee of ITF Unions in the EEC, the European Transport Committee, and the International Union for Inland Navigation.

The chair will be taken alternately by representatives of carriers and workers. The Committee's Secretariat will be provided by the Commission.

It will be remembered that, by decision of 5 July 1965, the Commission had already set up a Joint Advisory Committee on social matters in road transport.

Euratom's health and safety activities

32. As part of its policy to standardize methods of measuring radioactive contamination of the environment and of individuals, the Commission organized a meeting of technical experts in Berlin on 13-14 December 1967, to discuss the results of a Community programme of comparative measurements using whole-body counters¹ that had been carried out in collaboration with the Bundesgesundheitsamt, Berlin.

Under this programme, which was performed during July and September 1967, gamma counts were taken on five men and women of different weight and size who visited twenty installations in the Community countries. On the whole, the results were found to agree satisfactorily. The points of difference and measuring errors were analysed and discussed during the meeting.

Those present at the meeting agreed that the Community's comparative whole-body measurement programme, now completed, has helped to improve the effective comparability of counts, and that the work done is therefore a major step towards the standardization of measuring techniques in the health and safety field.

33. A report (EUR 3602) containing the ambient radioactivity value recorded in the Community countries in 1966 — air, fall-out, water — was prepared and has recently been distributed to the Community circles concerned. This document is the eighth of the annual reports published by the Euratom Directorate for Health and Safety on the basis of the data collected at the stations responsible for the general monitoring of ambient radioactivity in the Member States.

The monitoring is done by a network of stations that sample and measure the radioactivity in the air, fall-out and water throughout Community territory.

The findings given in this report are for the year 1966; they are extracted from the data sent to the Commission under Article 36 of the Euratom Treaty and are grouped into three main sections:

- i) Radioactive contamination of the air at ground level;
- ii) Radioactivity deposits on ground from the air (radioactive fall-out);
- iii) Radioactive contamination of water.

34. Another new publication is the Official Proceedings of the International Symposium on Accidental Irradiation at Place of Work, which Euratom organized at Nice from 26 to 29 April 1966.

The principal subjects on the agenda of this Symposium — attended by over 250 participants from sixteen countries and from international organizations — were a review of the chief irradiation accidents and the lessons they provided from the medical, physics, dosimetry, legal, psychological, social and administrative standpoints.

Social aspects of nuclear development

35. A "Report on the social aspects of the use of nuclear energy to generate electricity" has been prepared at the request of the Chairman of the Economic and

¹ Whole-body counters are used in nuclear installations to monitor and measure the routine or accidental internal contamination of workers. In addition, certain hospitals and clinics that use radionuclides for purposes of diagnosis or treatment also employ these devices.

Social Committee. This report is to be submitted to the Committee to serve as the social section of the first target programme for power generation by nuclear reactors. The job estimates, calculated on the basis of the turnover created by the construction and supplying of a nuclear electric capacity which is to reach 60 000 MWe in 1980, indicate that a labour force of some 240 000 will be needed for the predicted nuclear expansion.

On 15 November 1967 a contract was signed with the Società per la Matematica e l'Economia Applicate (SOMEA), for research on the industrial, economic and social factors involved in Italy's nuclear activities. The social aspects, particularly as regards the qualifications demanded of employees, will receive special attention.

The problems of selecting and training staff to operate the nuclear power plants were the subject of a thorough comparative survey which covered the organization charts of seven Community power plants. This report is in the course of publication.

ECSC Study Grants

36. On 14 December 1967 the Board of Governors of the Paul Finet Foundation met at Luxembourg, under the chairmanship of M. Levi-Sandri, to award study grants to deserving orphans whose fathers had died in one of the ECSC Treaty industries in consequence of an industrial accident or occupational disease.

After examining the seventy files, the Board decided to award forty-one grants totalling Bfrs. 352 500.

Policy for nuclear and general research, technology, education and training — Dissemination of information

Council session of 8 December 1967 on Euratom

37. The main items on the Council's agenda were the interim research programme and budget for 1968 and Euratom's future activities.

The Council adopted an interim research and education programme for one year from 1 January 1968, covering the continuation of work in progress in the Joint Research Centre establishments and in the central departments of the Commission, but no new activities.

The draft budget appropriations for this interim programme are 40 695 million u.a.

The draft budget has been referred to the European Parliament for its opinion.

With regard to Euratom's future activities, the Council decided that they should comprise:

a) A joint programme which must be as all-embracing as possible, to be financed by all the Member States by means of a budget based on a fixed scale of contributions.

In accordance with Article 7 of the Euratom Treaty, the activities under the joint programme will be carried out by one or more implementing programmes extending over several years.

b) Supplementary programmes in which only interested Member States will participate after special agreement, in cases where unanimity cannot be obtained.

Further and more detailed information on this important session of the Council has already been given in Bulletin 1-1968, Chapter II.

Activities of the Joint Nuclear Research Centre (JRC)

The Ispra Establishment

- General description

38. Ispra is the chief of the JRC's four establishments. It was originally an Italian centre (officially opened on 13 April 1957), which was placed at the disposal of the European Community on 1 March 1961 for a term of 99 years. Actually, teams of Euratom scientists had been on the site since September 1960.

With a useful area of .130 hectares, Ispra has, in addition to the usual scientific and technical facilities, a nuclear centre (used for work in physics, physical chemistry, chemistry, metallurgy, engineering, biology, and ancillary departments), three reactors, namely, ISPR-1 (research reactor), ECO (critical assembly) and ESSOR (special test reactor) — the last two constructed under the Orgel programme, a data-processing centre equipped with IBM 360/65, 360/30 and 7090 computers, and the nuclear computer programme library set up under the aegis of OECD.

On 1 October 1967, the personnel at the Ispra establishment numbered 1 170 officials, 443 establishment employees and 184 local employees.

- Research and training work

39. Ispra, a general-purpose establishment, has many and various activities. It would be impossible to review all of them every time, so an attempt will be made to pick out one or another of these activities in turn, depending chiefly on its topical interest.

- Orgel Programme

40. Ispra's predominant activity is the study of an advanced type of heavy-water-moderated converter reactor — the Orgel programme (Org = cooled by organic liquid; El = eau lourde, or heavy water). ECO (Orgel critical experiment) is a reactor of very low power (1 kW), which went critical on 11 December 1965 and can be used for all heavy-water reactor physics studies, irrespective of the coolant employed. Essor (Essais Orgel or Orgel tests) is a special test reactor which can be used for thorough full-scale studies of the main components of an Orgel heavy-water power reactor, i.e., one in which each element is in a pressure tube channel (as against the system where all the elements are assembled in a pressure vessel). This reactor went critical on 19 March 1967.

The following are the current experiments and results:

— ECO: between 18 September to 15 November, work was continued on the programme concerning burn-up measurements on uranium metal and uranium carbide fuel elements to determine the fast fission factor and spectrum indices. Alongside this, Laplacian measurements were effected on uranium carbide elements (seven pins) with various cooling liquids. For the next month, a run of Laplacian measurements was performed on the Cirene lattice; for this heavy-water reactor family, cooled by boiling light water, which was developed under an Euratom/CNEN contract of association, a 35 MWe prototype is to be built at Latina.

— *Blast welding*: in a pressure tube reactor (like Orgel) the joint between the tube, which is of zirconium, and the steel primary circuit is a tricky problem. The technology department found a promising answer the viability of which has been confirmed by experience. The weldment is made by a carefully confined explosion and possesses high mechanical strength. This method, which uses a plastic explosive (pentrite) is cheap and simple.

- Ispra-1

41. Ispra-1 is a thermal and cold neutron beam research reactor, equipped with facilities for technological studies. It is moderated and cooled by heavy water, and is fuelled with 90%-enriched uranium.

After various maintenance operations which took up a good part of August, Ispra-1 was started up again on 5 September 1967 as scheduled. It is operating at its rated power of 5 MW. An automatic start-up system has been added to the instrumentation.

Current experiments: in the beam outlet channels (which carry the reactor radiation outwards): seven channels utilized for materials studies, of which four are run by the Reactor Physics Department and three by the CNEN. For each study a special apparatus is placed in front of a beam channel: e.g. double chopper, cold neutron spectrometer, rotating crystal spectrometer, etc.

In core: three organic liquid loops (Dirce, Ciro, Kid) for fuel element and corrosion studies in an organic medium; one thimble for the Dico converter used for direct conversion experiments; three experimental devices to be used for testing new neutron detectors, for neutron and gamma radiation measurements, and for thermocouple irradiations respectively.

In the graphite thermal column: two converters including Euracos (see below), and one foil-type neutron calibration device.

In the reflector: fourteen channels for radioisotope production, five channels used for various metallography, chemistry, physical chemistry and physics studies.

Euracos: the introduction of this device into Ispra-1 will give new life to shielding studies. When placed in a slow neutron flux, it produces fast neutrons. Basically it consists of a 5.5 kg circular plate of 90%-enriched uranium (diameter 80 cm, thickness 20 mm) and a system by which the whole device can be manipulated with ease. The circular plate is placed inside an aluminium shell in which air circulates to remove the heat given off by the power of the installation (2 kW). In operation, the device is attached to the thermal column of the reactor. The slow neutrons from the thermal column strike the circular plate and cause fissions, whereby fast neutrons are emitted. Two factors, its design and the use of highly enriched uranium, give the Euraco a neutron flux 500-1000 times greater than that of ordinary converters and it is very easy to handle. The Euracos fast neutrons are used in designing the shielding used to screen personnel from nuclear radiation, and for research on certain aspects of the neutron physics of fast breeder reactors. The Euracos calculations and drawings were done by the Ispra departments (reactor theory and calculation, general design office) and the device was constructed by Montecatini (Italy); the fuel elements for the circular plate were supplied by Nukem (Germany).

- Work on Fast Reactors

42. In the course of work on sodium-cooled fast reactors for the Euratom/GfK (Karlsruhe) and Euratom/CEA (Cadarache) associations, the heat exchange department

studied certain aspects of the accidents that might occur with boiling sodium. Boiling sodium is difficult to study, because owing to the high temperatures required (not less than 950°C) it is hard to find materials that will withstand the very hot sodium under a pressure of two atmospheres.

For the first time it has been possible to mount and operate a rig — a forced convection loop — with boiling sodium. Sodium boiling temperatures (950°C) were reached, corresponding to wall temperatures of 1000°-1300°C in the test section. The results were reported at the International Conference on Fast Neutron Reactor Safety (Aix-en-Provence, 12-22 September 1967). At that conference an international working group on metal boiling was set up, the chairman and secretariat of which are provided by Ispra scientists.

- New methods of reprocessing irradiated fuels

43. The High Temperature Chemistry Department has been searching for new ways of reprocessing irradiated fuel elements. Reprocessing, a costly industrial process, is necessary where it is desired either to purify the fuel elements for re-use or to recover the fissionable substances (Pu^{239} or U^{233}) or fission products that have formed. The High Temperature Chemistry Department has been working on two lines:

i) Improvement of the preparatory stages of present methods (aqueous route). An initial experiment has cut down the volume of materials to be processed. By using a pyrometallurgical process to settle the molten metals, the volume can be reduced to one-twentieth in the case of the MTR fuel elements used in research reactors, with substantial savings in transportation and final reprocessing costs. A plant constructed at Ispra has demonstrated the validity of the process, on which the Eurex works at Saluggia are collaborating (Euratom/CNEN agreement). The second experiment is aimed at selective separation of the fuel cladding in a liquid metal bath. This technique, which is still in the laboratory stage, would be very useful for the fuel elements (uranium oxide + plutonium with stainless steel cladding) used in fast breeders because it would enable large savings to be made;

ii) New reprocessing methods. Whereas the proven methods of aqueous reprocessing have certain drawbacks (large-scale installations, large quantities of liquid radioactive waste), there are other, simpler methods which require less bulky equipment and produce little waste, and that in solid form. In this field the High Temperature Chemistry Department has developed a method that uses molten salts to separate the fissionable from the fertile material. This method is particularly suitable for fuel elements of the "thorium U^{233} " cycle employed in high-temperature reactors. It is equally applicable to Orgel fuel (uranium carbide, natural or slightly enriched) for extraction of the plutonium.

- Vocational training of technical staff

44. The vocational training programmes started again at the beginning of the academic year. Their purpose is twofold: (1) to increase the staff's skill in performing the tasks assigned to them; (2) to improve employees' career chances by increasing their technical knowledge.

To increase occupational skill, a School of Reactor Operation has been set up, comprising an introductory and a complementary course. The introductory course (60 hours) provides a description of the phenomena that occur during reactor operation and of the laws governing them. It is open to employees who have received a secondary technical education. The complementary course (130 hours) deals with the practical aspects

and operation of plants, and is for employees who have received a higher education or have passed the introductory course. It provides the theoretical training expected of a shift leader.

Established in 1965 at Ispra, the School of Reactor Operation is now running its third introductory course (35 certificates awarded) and its second complementary course (11 certificates awarded). In addition, there have been three courses on computer programming and utilization.

Those interested in improving their knowledge can follow classes given outside working hours. Started in 1963, these classes comprise basic lessons in mathematics and physics (100 hours), followed by special lessons (50 hours) in various fields (e.g., nuclear physics, electronics, etc.). A total of 219 diplomas have been awarded. In view of the interest shown by the pupils, the classes have now been put on a footing comparable with that of the higher education establishments.

The Petten Establishment

- HFR Reactor

45. The Petten HFR completed its fourteenth cycle, from 21 November to 11 December 1967, without incident. The last cycle for 1967 started on 15 December. A new graphite-irradiating experiment is to be conducted on behalf of the Dragon project. This experiment is expected to stay in the reactor for about six cycles.

Members of Euratom and of the Reactor Centrum Nederland continued to meet to discuss the operation and optimum configuration of the HFR. It was decided that the fuel elements, consisting of 19 plates of 180 grammes of U^{235} , should be replaced by others with 23 plates of 200 grammes of U^{235} . The improvement in fuel distribution and hydraulic conditions will make it possible to raise the maximum power density. The new elements will gradually replace the old, the two systems working side by side during the transitional period without harm to the reactor. The next order for fuel elements will be in line with this decision.

At the same time the fuel content of the control rods will be increased. The number of plates will rise from 15 to 18 or 19 during the period required to adjust the new device. The cooling of the outer plates will also be slightly improved.

- Graphite

46. Euratom and United Kingdom Atomic Energy Authority officials held their fourth meeting on graphite on 30 November 1967. A report by the Petten establishment described the sampling system that can be used equally to select specimens for irradiation experiments and to determine the characteristics of industrial products. After this report, discussion turned to experimental methods of determining elasticity and rupture strength coefficients; it was agreed that the research and development work already done was enough for common standards to be drawn up. The specifications are now being prepared for publication and it is hoped that certain of them will also be adopted in the United States.

The meeting was also informed of the results of experiments conducted at Petten on the oxidation behaviour of isotropic nuclear graphites. A comparison was made of the damage caused to these materials after irradiation in the HFR and in the Dounreay Fast Reactor.

The next meeting of the group will be held next spring.

- Buildings

47. The electrochemistry group, formerly established at Ispra, has moved into the new research building recently completed at Petten.

A new block, managed by the Reactor Centrum Nederland and the Petten establishment, was officially opened on 14 December 1967. This block includes the new canteen, an auditorium equipped for simultaneous interpreting, and a lecture room. The new auditorium was used for the first time on 7 and 8 December, for a symposium organized by Euratom to publicize the irradiation programme opportunities offered by Petten. Apart from numerous members of the Petten establishment and the Reactor Centrum Nederland, the symposium was attended by some fifty scientists and engineers — materials experts — from national and international research laboratories, universities, government agencies and industry. Two of the UKAEA establishments were also represented.

Several officials of Euratom and the Reactor Centrum Nederland spoke about the reactor, its characteristics and the materials studies that can be performed in it. In addition, comparative data on the Mol Centre's BR-2 reactor were provided by representatives from Mol, who described its characteristics and the irradiations that can be carried out in the big materials test loops. It was shown that the Community's two high flux materials testing reactors can be regarded as complementary in the services they offer.

The efficacy of the neutron fluxes in the different research reactors was likewise discussed. It was remarked that the quality of the neutron spectrum in the HFR renders this reactor peculiarly suitable for graphite irradiations, as compared with the other high flux materials testing reactors in Europe.

Another point discussed was the need, and the means, for continuous measurement of the properties of materials during the actual irradiation.

A five-language brochure (doc. EUR/3650) was published on the occasion of this symposium, containing general information on the HFR for the benefit of potential users.

Activities of projects

High temperature gas reactors

- Dragon Programme

48. *Report on Dragon reactor operation, 2-30 December 1967.* The Dragon reactor is still operating at a power of 18 MWt and has run up a total power of 3300 MWd. The various types of fuel are still at the same temperature. The fuel for the high temperature experiment is at 1750°C, the one proposed for power reactors is at 1330°C, and the remainder of the second charge has maintained an average of 1300°C. The average helium outlet temperature is 860°C, the impurities amounting to less than 1 ppm. The primary circuit activity continues around 2 curies.

It is intended to shut down the reactor towards mid-March 1968 in order to put in the third fuel load and to install six new heat exchangers.

49. *Irradiation test at Studsvik (Sweden).* — As scheduled, the Studsvik 15 test, which started on 16 August 1967, was terminated on 4 December 1967, thus completing 7.4 cycles, corresponding to 2 160 hours' irradiation.

- THTR Association (Thorium Hochtemperatur Reaktor, Jülich)

50. *Research and Development Work.* — The THTR Association is continuing its work, the aim being to get out a complete reactor file and design, with costs, for spring 1968.

The work still calls for numerous tests on the graphite and fuel behaviour under irradiation, the development of burn-up measuring techniques, and reactor components tests.

Community manufacture of make-up fuel for the AVR reactor has been very successful; the results will shortly be discussed with the USAEC authorities in order to obtain their agreement to the use of this fuel in the AVR in 1968.

The Kernforschungsanlage Jülich is to hold an international symposium on 6-7 March 1968 "Problems inherent in heaped pebble elements and heaped granular materials". The results obtained under the THTR Association will be presented at this symposium, more especially the research done on the mechanics of pebble beds with a view to their use on the THTR reactor core. Papers relating to other disciplines are also to be included in this symposium.

51. *AVR Reactor Operation (Arbeitsgemeinschaft Versuchsreaktor, Jülich).* — The reactor was filled with helium at the end of August 1967 and the first part of the power run-up programme was started.

The power was held at 500 kW with a temperature of 210°C to remove all the primary circuit water, and then was raised to 4.5 MW. At this level temperature coefficient measurements will enable the rest of the programme to be established.

The helium leakage rate is about 0.15% day by volume, a value closely comparable to the rates for the other high temperature reactors.

On 18 December 1967 the AVR pebble-bed reactor was placed on the grid of the Rheinisch-Westfälisches Elektrizitätswerk AG. The power delivered is now 6 MWe. It is the first time that electricity has been produced in Germany from nuclear superheated steam (at 350°C and 70 atm).

Dissemination of information in the nuclear field

52. In December 1967 the Commission's Directorate for Dissemination of Information sent out twenty scientific or technical reports.

Particular mention should be made of the four-language report on standards for protection against radiation.

During the same period, No. 12/1967 of the periodical *Euratom Information* was distributed.

In addition, thirty-eight "Communications" — scientific or technical documents reporting information of direct industrial value — were circulated confidentially to the Member States, persons or enterprises of the Community.

The memory store in which the Centre for Information and Documentation carries out the document retrievals requested of the automatic nuclear documentation system has grown by 4 200 documents.

The system has enabled 66 customers to be supplied with some 2 200 abstracts on the subjects of interest to them.

Nuclear investment and implementation of Articles 41-43 of the Euratom Treaty

53. The fourth edition of the Directory of Nuclear Installations in the countries of the European Atomic Energy Community, giving the position as at 1 July 1967, has just appeared (reference number EUR 3568 f).

54. The following investment projects were declared to the Commission, in accordance with Article 41 of the Euratom Treaty, in recent months:

- a) Extension of CERCA's ("Compagnie pour l'étude de la réalisation de combustibles atomiques") fuel-element fabrication installations, in France;
- b) Preussenelektra nuclear power-station at Würgassen and Nordwestdeutsche Kraftwerke nuclear power-station at Stade, in Germany;
- c) Ugine-Kuhlmann zirconium preparation plant, in France.

The Commission is to "communicate its views" as required by Article 43 of the Treaty.

The Commission is also preparing to examine in detail projects already declared concerning two Belgian nuclear power plants at Tihange and Doel and the MMN (Métallurgie et Mécanique Nucléaire) fuel-element fabrication plant in Belgium.

Technical research: steel and iron ore

55. Under Article 55 of the ECSC Treaty, the Commission, as the High Authority's successor, is required to promote technical research concerning, *inter alia*, iron and steel, and is empowered, after hearing the Consultative Committee and securing the consent of the Council of Ministers, to furnish research grants from the proceeds of the levy.

The Consultative Committee at its meeting on 14 December 1967 pronounced in favour of a number of projects, both of pure and of applied research, put forward by the Commission. These relate to

- (1) Sinter structure.
- (2) Straight pelletizing (two projects concerned with possible further improvements in blast-furnace burden preparation).
- (3) Methods of ensuring better-quality castings.
- (4) Non-destructive gammagraphic testing of semi-finished products.
- (5) Analysis of the gases occurring in steels (three projects aimed at closer quality control of the metal and hence quality improvement).
- (6) Pilot-scale development of a new steelmaking process, representing an improvement on the current oxygen-blown techniques.
- (7) Fabrication of certain products by thermo-mechanical treatment (the project to consist in the practical application of findings from research already in progress).

These are all aspects of production; on the consumption side the research planned comprises

- (1) Investigation of the metallurgical properties of certain items produced by high-speed cold forming, with the aim of encouraging the consumer industries to make more extensive use of these.

(2) A very large-scale programme of joint and co-ordinated studies on the service properties of steels, planned as a follow-up to research currently in hand. The main subjects to be dealt with are the techniques involved in the assembly of high-strength steels (more especially welding); corrosion-proofing; machinability; stamping capacity of sheet.

All these are regarded as avenues particularly worth exploring under the High Authority's medium-term action programme.

The aggregate cost of the research activity thus envisaged works out at 5 239 700 units of account: on the proposed percentage contribution basis, and allowing for related expenses, this would require ECSC to furnish 3 025 259 units of account, representing between 66 and 80% of the funds earmarked for research on steel and iron ore for the financial year 1967-68.

The projects are now before the Council for endorsement.

Ergonomic research

56. On 21 November 1967, the Commission expressed its approval of a research project submitted by the German firm "Stahl- und Röhrenwerk Reisholz GmbH" jointly with the "Verein Deutscher Eisenhüttenleute", the aim of which is the study of safeguards against the noise caused by arc furnaces.

This research, which is expected to last two years and 50% of which will be covered by the Commission up to a total cost of DM 200 000, comes under the programme of research on psychology and industrial psychology drawn up by the High Authority in 1964, for which an overall credit of 3.2 million EMA u.a. was envisaged.

Industrial policy

Coal and steel investment projects declared in the second half of 1967

57. In implementation of Articles 47 and 54 of the ECSC Treaty, the High Authority on 20 July 1955 issued Decision No. 27/55 (subsequently amended by Decision No. 26/56 of 11 July 1956) requiring all enterprises in the coalmining and iron and steel industries to declare to it, not less than three months prior to the commencement of operations, investment projects involving an estimated expenditure of over 500 000 units of account in the case of replacements and conversions.

A number of additional provisions in this connection came into force on 1 July 1967, under High Authority Decision No. 22/66 of 16 November 1966: these do not, however, affect the existing arrangements regarding compulsory declaration of new investment.

The following particulars concern new investment only. An account will be published later dealing with the other requirements of Decision No. 22/66, including in particular declaration of plans to close or to take plant or workings out of commission.

The total estimated expenditure involved by the capital schemes declared during the second half of 1967, adjusted to allow for alterations in projects declared earlier, works out at 487m. units of account.¹

¹ Developments in the first half of 1967 were described in ECSC Bulletin No. 71, 12th year, No. 7.

The accompanying table shows the figures for this period as compared with those for the first half-year and the half-yearly averages for the preceding years.

Estimated cost of new investment projects declared (under High Authority Decision No. 22/66)

(in million u.a.)

Sector	2nd half-year	1st half-year	Half-yearly averages					
	1967	1967	1967	1966	1965	1962/64	1959/61	1958/58
Coal industry	3	52	27	56	61	34	81	105
Iron-ore industry	—	—	—	—	—	—	4	8
Iron and steel industry	484	213	349	168	294	197	610	216
Total	487	265	376	224	355	231	695	329

a) Only one new scheme was declared in the coal industry during the six months. It concerns concentration of coal-winning on one level and various operational improvements, and is expected to cost approximately 3m. units of account. This is far below any of the previous half-yearly figures.

b) No declarations were received from the iron-ore industry.

c) The iron and steel industry's intended capital spending on the other hand jumped to something like 484m. units of account, a near-record only exceeded in the boom years 1960-61. However, this does not indicate an all-round revival in coming investment activity, as one single project, or the extension of a coastal steel plant, accounts for a substantial portion of the total.

The breakdown by countries is: Italy 283m. (58%), Germany 119 m. (25%), France 42m. (9%) and Benelux 40m. (8%).

Estimated Community expenditure on pig-iron production (coking-plants, burden preparation and blast-furnaces) totals approximately 149m. units of account, or about 31% of the whole. The bulk of this is accounted for by projects for installing two coke-oven batteries, two sinter plants in coastal areas, and one new large-hearth blast-furnace; several other projects have also been declared for the replacement or renovation of blast-furnaces, with considerably enlarged hearth diameters.

110m. units of account, or about 23% of the total, is to go to the crude-steel sector, practically all of it on the installation of oxygen steelworks. This will mean a further substantial increase in oxygen steelmaking capacity as more large oxygen-blown converters are installed to replace the basic Bessemer converters and open-hearth furnaces. From the enterprises' figures, the Community's steelmaking potential must be expected to rise by another 1 900 000 tons, the net result of increases of 6 400 000 for L/D and 100 000 for electric-furnace steels and decreases of 3 100 000 for basic Bessemer and 1 500 000 for open-hearth.

Actually, most of the open-hearth capacity which is supposed to be going to be scrapped will still be usable given the amounts of pig-iron which will be available. Consequently we should reckon that steelmaking potential will be 1m. tons higher still, and the total increase more than 2 900 000 tons.

Expenditure on the rolling-mills is put at about 145m. units of account, or 30%, flat products to take easily the largest share. Special mention may be made of plans for a new cold wide-strip mill and a reversing four-high mill which is to replace an older plate mill. Several smaller projects are designed to ensure more efficient operation of existing mills, more particularly by installing control apparatus and doing away with present bottlenecks.

The remainder of the expenditure, amounting to some 82m. units of account (26% of the industry's total expenditure), is to go on energy projects and infrastructure improvements.

A general picture of the position in 1967 and in earlier years may be obtained from the following breakdown by industries and selected sectors.

Overall cost of projects declared

(in million E.M.A. units of account)

Annual average or year	Coal industry	Iron-ore industry	Iron and steel industry				Grand total
			Total	of which : Pig-iron production plant ¹	Steelworks proper	Rolling-mills	
1956/58	211	17	433	174	70	133	661
1959/61	162	8	1 219	217	180	677	1 389
1962/64	67	—	395	69	68	204	463
1965	121	—	589	116	86	293	710
1966	112	1	337	56	18	261	450
1967	55	—	697	216	131	252	752

¹ Coking-plants, burden-preparation installations, blast-furnaces.

Even though there is already a considerable supply/demand imbalance in the world steel market, production potential is thus set to increase still further, especially in the crude-steel sector, in consequence of the investment activity decided upon during the period under review.

This is because a number of enterprises are anxious to work up their actual overall capacity into line with that which they already have at particular points along the production chain. It is, it must be repeated, extremely difficult to modernize a plant and eliminate bottlenecks without pushing up potential to often quite excessive levels, unless this trend is to some extent counteracted at Community level.

Steel

Iron-ore supplies

58. The Commission has completed a study on the position of the Community iron-ore industry and the medium-term outlook as to ore availabilities and requirements.

The upshot of the study is that supply and demand should remain in balance in the medium term. The Commission considers that security of supply is no problem, but that Community steelmakers would do well to work up their connections with their sources in order to be sure of obtaining their ore on the best possible basis.

The study has been discussed by the ECSC Consultative Committee and its Sub-Committee on Markets and Prices. The Committee expressed the view that with regard to procurement of imported ores no change was called for in the steel enterprises' present policy, but a careful eye should be kept on developments. The steel producers' representatives said they would keep the Commission regularly informed of what they observed to be going on in this connection.

Concerning the position of the Community iron-ore mines, the Committee drew attention to the disadvantage suffered by indigenous ore in some cases from disparate transport costs. The Commission intends to continue the efforts it is already making to reduce this handicap.

Ad hoc Committee on Steel Problems

59. At the Consultative Committee's meeting on 14 December 1967, the Commission gave an account of the work to date of the Council's *ad hoc* Committee on Steel Problems.¹

This body, it was recalled, had been set up in November 1966, at the proposal of the High Authority, to go thoroughly into the state of the steel market and the steel industry, list steps which could be taken, and recommend those it considered the most suitable. It had submitted a preliminary report in April 1967, and the Council, having approved this, had in June instructed it

a) To examine how the structural adjustment of the steel industry was proceeding (making for this purpose a comparative tabulation of the relevant measures and programmes in the different countries);

b) To examine how the market could be brought back into balance.

The *ad hoc* Committee met once on these matters in July, and was due to meet again early in 1968.

The Consultative Committee will be discussing the details given it by the Commission at one of its next meetings.

Agricultural policy

Common organization of markets

Cereals and rice

60. On 19 December 1967 the Commission adopted a regulation amending Regulation No. 473/67/CEE on import and export licences in the cereals and rice sectors.² Its

¹ See also p. 81, sec. 78.

² Official gazette No. 310, 20 December 1967.

main purpose is to extend the present arrangements concerning licences for exports of certain cereals and flours to state-trading countries, to countries in which measures decided upon by the authorities make it impossible to observe the time-limits laid down in Article 3(1), first sub-paragraph, of Regulation No. 473/67/CEE. This regulation is also designed to supplement Regulation No. 473/67/CEE by laying down provisions concerning the time-tables for acceptance of import and export licences. On the same date, the Council adopted two regulations:

- i) A regulation supplementing Regulation No. 365/67/CEE concerning the advance fixing of the levies on rice and broken;¹
- ii) A regulation supplementing Regulation No. 366/67/CEE laying down, for rice, the general rules relating to the granting of export refunds and to the criteria for fixing their amounts.¹

These two regulations specify that when levies and refunds applicable to rice are fixed in advance the conversion rates for the various stages of rice processing must be taken into account in adjusting these levies and refunds in the light of the threshold price obtaining for the month in which the goods are exported.

On 22 December 1967 the Commission adopted a regulation fixing, for the 1967/68 marketing year, the amounts to be taken into consideration when adjusting the import levies and export refunds fixed in advance for paddy, milled rice with long kernels and undermilled rice.²

In addition, on 13 December 1967, the Commission adopted a decision amending its decision of 9 November 1967 authorizing France to take special intervention measures in respect of wheat other than durum.³ The aim of this decision is to extend to the *Nord département* the special intervention measures already provided for by the decision of 9 November 1967.

Pigmeat

61. On 15 December 1967 the Commission adopted a regulation¹ amending the supplementary amounts to be added to the levies on certain pigmeat products from non-member countries. The alternatives are as follows:

- i) The supplementary amount for products from Denmark and Finland will be reduced; it will therefore be equal to that for imports from the United Kingdom, Ireland, Austria, Norway, Poland and Yugoslavia, that is: 8 u.a. per 100 kg instead of 12.5 u.a. for carcasses or half-carcasses with or without the head, trotters or fat, and 10 u.a. per 100 kg instead of 15 u.a. for hams and pieces of hams, shoulders and pieces of shoulders, and loins and pieces of loins;
- ii) The supplementary amount for imports from other non-member countries will be increased from 15 u.a. per 100 kg to 17.5 u.a. (DM 70) for hams, shoulders and loins or pieces of the same, and from 20.25 u.a. per 100 kg to 23.24 u.a. (DM 92.95) for other types of pigmeat.

¹ Official gazette No. 311, 21 December 1967.

² *Ibid.* No. 315, 28 December 1967.

³ *Ibid.* No. 317, 28 December 1967.

Beef and veal

62. On 11 December 1967, the Commission adopted a regulation amending Regulation No. 63/64/CEE concerning the determination of the prices to be used in calculating the levy on beef and veal imported from non-member countries.¹ Commission Regulation No. 63/64/CEE provides that the import price shall be determined on the basis of the prices recorded on the most representative markets of certain non-member countries. Should these non-member countries be obliged, particularly for reasons of health protection, to take measures that affect the prices on their markets, the Commission may now either not take these prices into account or use the latest prices recorded in the non-member country or countries in question before these measures were applied.

In addition, on 15 December 1967, the Commission adopted a regulation laying down the criteria for fixing a special import price in the beef and veal sector.²

Article 1 of Council Regulation No. 631/67/CEE lays down that the criteria to be used in fixing the special import price for beef and veal shall be determined by the Commission, after hearing the Management Committee. The new regulation accordingly fixes these criteria.

On 21 December 1967, the Commission adopted a decision fixing the prices to be used in calculating the levy on beef and veal imported from non-member countries.³

Lastly, on 19 December 1967, the Commission adopted a decision granting Italy a tariff quota for 5 000 bulls, cows and heifers of the Schwyz, Simmental and Fribourg breeds, not intended for slaughter⁴. As in previous years, the whole of the Community tariff quota of 5 000 head, bound in GATT at a duty of 4%, has been granted to Italy for the year 1968, under Article 25(3) of the Treaty.

Milk and milk products

63. In connection with the special measures taken by the Council and Commission to increase butter consumption and make it easier to dispose of surplus quantities, the Commission, on 4 December 1967, adopted a decision concerning the sale of butter from private stocks in Belgium.⁵ Belgium is authorized to grant aids for the blending of 4 000 tons of butter produced during the 1967/68 milk year. In addition, on 6 December 1967, the Commission adopted a regulation on the sale of butter from public stocks to the processing industries at a reduced price.⁶

In view of the changes made in the turnover tax system, which will alter the tax burden on milk products in Germany and France from 1 January 1968, certain threshold prices applicable in these Member States had to be amended in order to allow for the incidence of the new taxes. On 21 December 1967, the Council therefore adopted a regulation amending the threshold prices applicable to certain milk products in Germany for the 1967/68 milk year,⁷ and a regulation amending the threshold prices applicable to certain milk products in France for the 1967/68 milk year.⁷

For the same reason, it was necessary to amend certain Commission regulations. On 22 December 1967, the Commission adopted a regulation amending Regulations

¹ Official gazette No. 301, 12 December 1967.

² *Ibid.* No. 306, 16 December 1967.

³ *Ibid.* No. 332, 30 December 1967.

⁴ *Ibid.* L 18, 22 January 1968.

⁵ *Ibid.* No. 305, 15 December 1967.

⁶ *Ibid.* No. 297, 7 December 1967.

⁷ *Ibid.* No. 314, 23 December 1967.

Nos. 137/64/CEE and 158/64/CEE in order to allow for the incidence, on the prices of certain milk products, of the changes made in the tax system in Germany, France and the Netherlands.¹

Since the Member States' markets are being considerably disturbed by imports from non-member countries of certain cheeses whose fat content is appreciably higher than that of products normally marketed there, the Council, on 21 December 1967, adopted a regulation amending Regulations Nos. 111/64/CEE and 68/67/CEE as regards the calculation of the levies applicable to certain cheeses, in order to allow for these differences in fat content.²

In addition, on 19 December 1967, the Council adopted a regulation supplementing Regulation No. 13/64/CEE with regard to the refund to be granted in respect of the milk products contained in lactoalbumin exported to non-member countries.³

Sugar

64. On 18 December 1967, the Council formally adopted the regulation on the common organization of the market in sugar,⁴ and on 21 December 1967, a regulation concerning the fixing of basic quotas for sugar.⁵

On 15 December 1967, the Commission adopted a regulation extending the period of application of Regulation No. 838/67/CEE authorizing the Member States to suspend the levy on sugar beet imported from Member States for purposes of seed selection.⁶ Under this regulation, the provisions of Regulation No. 838/67/CEE are also applicable to sugar beet imported between 15 September 1967 and the date when the regulation entered into force.

In addition, on 21 December 1967, the Commission adopted a regulation adjusting the production quantities for sugar in the 1967/68 marketing year.⁵ By this regulation, the quantities for each Member State, as mentioned in Article 7(1) of Regulation No. 44/67/CEE, are amended as follows: for France, the quantity is reduced by 165 987 tons; for the Belgo-Luxembourg Economic Union, it is increased by 21 694 tons; for Germany, it is increased by 37 684 tons; for Italy, by 64 401 tons, and for the Netherlands, by 5 876 tons.

On 22 December 1967, the Commission laid down implementing provisions for fixing the basic quotas in the sugar sector.⁷

By two decisions of 12 December 1967, the Commission authorized Germany and Belgium to reduce the levy on certain quantities of dried sugar-beet chips imported from non-member countries.⁸

Oils and fats

65. On 19 December 1967, the Council adopted a regulation fixing the monthly increases in the market target price, the intervention price and the threshold price of olive oil for the 1967/68 marketing year.³ The amount of the monthly increases

¹ Official gazette, No. 315, 28 December 1967.

² *Ibid.* No. 314, 23 December 1967.

³ *Ibid.* No. 311, 21 December 1967.

⁴ *Ibid.* No. 308, 18 December 1967.

⁵ *Ibid.* No. 313, 22 December 1967.

⁶ *Ibid.* No. 306, 16 December 1967.

⁷ *Ibid.* No. 314, 23 December 1967.

⁸ *Ibid.* No. 317, 28 December 1967.

referred to in Article 9 of Regulation No. 136/66/CEE and applicable from 1 January 1968 is fixed at 0.64 u.a. per 100 kg.

On 22 December 1967, the Commission adopted a regulation laying down implementing provisions for the production refund for olive oil used in the manufacture of certain preserves.¹

Lastly, on 28 December 1967, the Commission fixed the production refund for olive oil used in the manufacture of fish and vegetable preserves.² The refund for January and February 1968 is fixed at 10.182 u.a. per 100 kg.

Eggs and poultry

66. In addition to amending several supplementary amounts, the Commission adopted, on 12 December 1967, a regulation amending Regulation No. 769/67/CEE fixing export refunds in the poultrymeat sector.³ The aim of this regulation is to help reduce the heavy pressure on market prices within the EEC by enabling poultrymeat exporters to consider exporting certain parts of poultry to non-member countries.

In addition, on 20 December 1967, the Commission adopted a regulation fixing the refund for shell eggs exported in the form of goods not listed in Annex II of the Treaty.⁴

Fruit and vegetables

67. On 14 December 1967, the Commission adopted a regulation on licences for processed products with a basis of fruit and vegetables, for the sugar content of which levies or refunds may be fixed in advance.⁵

Furthermore, the Council adopted, on 21 December 1967, a regulation amending Regulations Nos. 23 and 158/66/CEE concerning the common organization of the market in fruit and vegetable.⁶ In view of the time needed to adjust the arrangements for the marketing, and in particular the packaging, of products so as to conform to the common quality standards, the date of 1 January 1968 laid down in Regulation No. 158/66/CEE had to be changed to 1 July 1968.

Import arrangements for fruit and vegetables. At the end of December, the Commission submitted to the Council two proposals for regulations — one for the co-ordination and standardization of arrangements for imports of fruit and vegetables from non-member countries, the other relating to reference prices.

The first of the proposed regulations is designed to ease the transition from the import systems currently in force — particularly in France and Belgium — to the liberalization arrangements suggested. Liberalization of the products concerned is to be phased over three stages, the common commercial policy for a number of sensitive products not taking effect until 1 January 1970. Up to the three deadlines specified, member countries are authorized to retain the arrangements they currently apply. The sensitive products are lettuce, endives, beans, melons, dessert grapes, tomatoes, artichokes and apricots.

¹ Official gazette, No. 315, 22 December 1967.

² *Ibid.* No. 318, 29 December 1967.

³ *Ibid.* No. 302, 13 December 1967.

⁴ *Ibid.* No. 311, 21 December 1967.

⁵ *Ibid.* No. 304, 15 December 1967.

⁶ *Ibid.* No. 314, 23 December 1967.

The second proposal is to amend the current provisions concerning reference prices (Article 11(2) of Regulation No. 23), as follows:

- i) Entry prices will be calculated for specific countries of origin in order to exempt from the countervailing charge those countries whose entry prices are above the reference price;
- ii) A single charge will be levied on imports from all countries with entry prices below the reference price, though it will be possible to guard against imports from certain countries at abnormally low prices by specifying a higher charge;
- iii) Between meetings of the Management Committee, the Commission will itself be entitled to introduce, alter or dispense with the charge; at the following meeting of the Committee, proposals would then be made for whatever measures were needed to confront the market situation on the date of the meeting.

Commercial relations with state-trading countries

68. On 19 December 1967, the Council adopted a regulation extending Regulation No. 3/63/CEE on commercial relations with state-trading countries where certain agricultural products are concerned.¹ The new regulation extends Regulation No 3/63/CEE until 30 June 1968, pending conclusion of the work now being done to institute a special import system for certain products originating in some non-member countries.

Export refunds for products subject to a single price system

69. On 21 December 1967, the Commission adopted a regulation laying down implementing provisions for export refunds for products subject to a single price system.² The aim of this regulation is twofold: to harmonize the conditions governing the calculation and payment of refunds in the Member States, and to prevent or punish frauds in this connection.

Financing the common agricultural policy

70. At its 20th meeting, the Fund Committee was consulted on the provisional statement of accounts for the 1967/68 period to be included in the 1968 budget. These figures will, however, have to be revised upwards.

On this occasion, the Committee agreed on the procedure for taking into account the levies charged when calculating the scale of the Member States' contributions to the Guarantee Section of the European Agricultural Guidance and Guarantee Fund (EAGGF).

EAGGF — Guarantee Section

71. On 20 December 1967, the Commission decided on the payments to be made on account from the Guarantee Section of the EAGGF for the Member States entitled to

¹ Official gazette No. 313, 22 December 1967.

² *Ibid.* No. 314, 23 December 1967.

reimbursement for the 1965/66 accounting period; under the "acceleration" regulations adopted by the Council last autumn, an advance equal to 75% of the expenditure forecast included in the budget can be decided upon by the Commission. The table below shows payments to be made on account, as thus decided.

The debtor Member States must pay these amounts by 15 January 1968, and the Commission must pay the creditor Member States the amounts due to them by 15 February 1968.

These figures do not of course give a complete picture of the Fund's financing, since the payments made by the Guarantee Section constitute only one part of the EAGGF's operations.

(in u.a.)

Member States	1967 budget forecast of expenditure for 1965/1966	Payment on account decided upon (at 75 %)	Member States' contribution for payments on account		Balances	
			in u.a.	in %	Debtors (c-b)	Creditors (b-c)
			a	b	c	d
Belgium	10 558 874	7 917 650	14 317 095	7.95	6 399 445	—
Germany	16 230 000	12 172 500	57 034 266	31.67	44 861 766	—
France	143 991 000	107 993 250	58 673 078	32.58	—	49 320 172
Italy	4 822 000	3 616 500	32 416 065	18.—	28 799 565	—
Luxembourg	80 126	60 100	396 196	0.22	336 096	—
Netherlands	64 439 000	48 329 250	17 252 550	9.58	—	31 076 700
	240 119 000	180 089 250	180 089 250	100	80 396 872	80 396 872

Conditions of competition in agriculture

72. During December 1967, the Commission, acting under Article 93(3) of the Treaty, expressed its opinion on aids notified by the Italian Government for the storage of must and grapes and for the storage of honey and carobs; while having no comments to make under Article 93(3), the Commission nevertheless regretted that the aid in question had not been notified before being put into effect.

Transport policy

Application of the consultation procedure of 21 March 1962

73 Using the procedure of prior examination and consultation for laws and regulations contemplated by Member States in the transport field introduced by the EEC Council decision of 21 March 1962, the Commission has rendered its opinion in the following two cases:

Grand Ducal Regulation of 18 September 1967 amending and supplementing the Grand Ducal Decree of 23 November 1955 to promote safety on all public highways

In its memorandum of 21 December 1967 to the Government of Luxembourg, the Commission appreciated the factors that compelled the latter to take vigorous measures to increase road safety.

Nevertheless, the Commission drew the Government's attention to the obstacle which might arise for intra-Community transport from the introduction of a system of specific and obligatory individual permits laying down the itineraries which must be utilized, whereas the routes authorized for vehicles travelling to destinations in all parts of Luxembourg territory comprise the whole of the public highway network.

The Commission considered that the system of specific individual permits for vehicles routed to destinations on Luxembourg territory could meanwhile be abolished without inconvenience.

As far as through traffic is concerned, the publication of a list of authorized routes could probably be substituted with advantage for the system of individual permits.

The system of permits would be maintained solely for cases where through traffic was obliged to deviate from the routes on the above-mentioned list.

Netherlands Government bill concerning temporary financial aid for "NV Nederlandse Spoorwegen" (Netherlands Railway Co.) (two projects)

On 20 December 1967 the Commission rendered the following opinion:

"The Commission notes that the objects of the bills in question are:

a) The grant to the "NV Nederlandse Spoorwegen", in connection with compensation for expenses extraneous to operating costs, of a subsidy of Fl 70 million itemized on the Ministry of Transport and Public Works' draft budget for 1968.

b) The grant of temporary financial aid to the "NV Nederlandse Spoorwegen" to provide the necessary guarantees for the reimbursement of the loans contracted between 1967 and 1969 inclusive and payment of the interest thereon, pending the results of the study of extraneous expenses, infrastructure costs and the future role of the Netherlands Railways.

The contemplated measures constitute aids from the State to the "NV Nederlandse Spoorwegen". In accordance with Article 93 of the EEC Treaty and Article 9(2) of Council Decision No. 65/271/CEE of 13 May 1965 on the harmonization of certain provisions affecting competition in rail, road and inland waterway transport,¹ such aids must be examined by the Commission.

The Commission notes that the measure referred to under a) is similar to the one already taken for 1967 by the Netherlands Government to grant a subsidy of Fl 35 million to the "NV Nederlandse Spoorwegen" and for which the examination procedure provided for by Article 93 of the EEC Treaty has been initiated.

The Commission considers that by the communication from the Netherlands Government the Commission is informed as provided for under Article 93(3) of the EEC Treaty and it reserves the right to examine these aids, using the procedure laid down by these provisions.

¹ Official gazette No. 88, 24 May 1965, p. 1500/65.

Furthermore, and without prejudice to the Commission's conclusions from the examination referred to in point 4 above, it already appears that the measures in question do not conflict with the Commission's views on the common transport policy, particularly as regards the implementation of Decision No. 65/271/CEE."

These opinions have been communicated to the other Member States.

Council meeting of 13 and 14 December 1967

74. In view of the importance of this meeting, at which commitments were assumed by the six Governments its work is described at the beginning of the Bulletin in Chapter IV.

Rail transport of iron ore

Renewal of the approval of the French State Railways/Usinor rate-agreement

75. The Commission was requested by the French Government to extend the approval, first granted by the High Authority in 1963 and prolonged on two subsequent occasions, concerning the application of a rate-agreement to the carriage of iron ore by complete train-loads to the Union Sidérurgique du Nord de la France (USINOR).

The Commission concluded that the reasons for the High Authority's original authorization still applied, that, in particular, apart from the benefit which the application of the agreement gave to the carriers, it had not in fact altered the USINOR'S competitive position in the common market for coal and steel nor distorted competitive conditions among iron ore producers of the European Coal and Steel Community as regards deliveries to the said Company, and was therefore not contrary to the Treaty of Paris.

By decision No. 36/67 of 22 December 1967,¹ the Commission accordingly authorized the continuance of the arrangements for an unlimited period but reserved the right to amend or withdraw this authorization should the circumstances in which it was given cease to obtain.

¹ Official gazette No. 318, 29 December 1967.

VI. External activities

ENLARGEMENT OF THE COMMUNITY

76. At its sessions of 11 and 12 and of 18 and 19 December 1967, the Council examined the applications by the United Kingdom and other countries for membership of the Community. The examination was made in the light of a speech by M. Rey, President of the Commission, on the conversations he had with members of the British Government when he visited London on 4 December 1967 with M. Barre and M. Martino, and in the light of a Commission statement presented by M. Barre on the consequences of measures taken by the British Government in the monetary field, chiefly the devaluation of the pound, and in the economic policy field.

The Council's deliberations of 19 December 1967 ended in the publication of a seven-point statement recording the impossibility of reaching agreement on the opening of negotiations with the countries applying for membership of the Community.

All these events have already been reported in Bulletin No. 1/68, Chapter I. The reader will also find there the full text of the Council statement of 19 December, the Commission's statement to the Council, and other statements.

THE COMMUNITY'S COMMERCIAL POLICY

Anti-dumping measures

77. On 4 December 1967 the Commission decided to adapt its proposed anti-dumping regulation to the principles of the Code established in this field by the chief parties to the Kennedy round negotiations. This adaptation was necessary because, although the Geneva Code corresponds in its broad lines to the Commission's initial proposal, it nevertheless contains a large number of new provisions on the interpretation and working-out of the traditional GATT rules which were not yet to be found in the Commission document, at least not in such detailed form.

The changes or additions to the old Commission proposal may be summed up as follows:

- i) A more precise definition of the conception of dumping, in particular of indirect or concealed dumping;
- ii) Establishment of precise rules for determining the extent of damage and in particular the causal link between imports dumped and deterioration of the Community's production situation;
- iii) A new definition of the term "production", from the angle both of products and of producers;
- iv) Establishment of a system of regional protection within the Community subject to certain limitations justified on economic grounds;

v) Procedure: the Commission must inform the interested parties of the essential factual data and give them an opportunity of meeting parties with contrary interest when the latter are not opposed to such a meeting and the confidential nature of the information is assured;

vi) Details of the procedure to be followed when exporters voluntarily undertake to revise their prices in such a way as to eliminate the dumping margin;

vii) Restriction of the defence measures to products declared for consumption in the Community after their entry into force;

viii) Establishment of a procedure for the partial or total refund of duties, when the importer can prove that the products introduced into the Community were not dumped or that the dumping margin applied was lower than that on which the decision to introduce the duty is based;

ix) Separation of the provisions concerning dumping from those concerning bonuses and subsidies to which the provisions of the anti-dumping Code are not applicable.

The Commission proposes that the Community regulation should apply from 1 July 1968, the date on which the Community and, of course, all the other signatories to the anti-dumping agreement are obliged to bring their legislation into line with the rules of the Geneva Code. On the internal plane another reason for appointing this date was that it coincides with the completion of the Customs Union, which makes the adoption of a Community anti-dumping system particularly urgent.

Arrangements for exports of certain products to non-member countries

78. The Commission sent to the Member States two recommendations concerning arrangements for exports to non-member countries for certain categories of raw hides and skins and certain non-ferrous metal scrap and ash in 1968.

Peripheral tariff measures for steel

79. A number of decisions on peripheral tariff measures for iron and steel were taken by the Commission in December 1967. Like the Member States, the Commission considered that Recommendation No. 1/64 of the High Authority raising the duties of other member countries to the level of the Italian customs duties as regards steel products imported from non-member countries should be maintained, and decided to renew for one year the derogations to this recommendation already in force.

By Decision No. 33/67 of 21 December 1967¹ the Commission authorized the import of some 350 000 tons of certain iron and steel products from non-member countries under reduced-rate tariff quota arrangements.

In addition, the representatives of the Member States meeting in the Council on 18 December 1967 renewed, subject to a few adjustments, the six-monthly measures concerning the import of certain quantities of steel under duty-free or reduced duty quotas. By Decision No. 32/67 of 21 December 1967,¹ the Commission authorized these derogation from Recommendation No. 1/64.

By Recommendation No. 2/64 of the High Authority, a special duty of \$7.00 per ton had been introduced for the import of foundry pig iron. This was cut to \$5.00

¹ Official gazette No. 318, 29 December 1967.

at the end of 1966 with effect until the end of 1968. By decision No. 34/67,¹ the Commission renewed the quota for pig iron with low manganese content which could be imported in 1968 without payment of the specific \$5.00 duty, but at a rate of 4.6%. The application of this rate as from 1 January 1968 anticipates the reduction in duties which is to take place as from 1 July 1968 in accordance with the Kennedy round commitments.

Prohibition against alignment of prices on offers of iron and steel products from state-trading countries

80. Since 1963, the Member States, acting on a proposal from the High Authority, have had a system of quantitative restriction of iron and steel imports from state-trading countries. However, in view of the price rules under the Treaty of Paris, and in particular the facility for Community producers to align themselves on offers from non-member countries, the quantitative restriction alone is not sufficient to prevent the low prices offered by the Eastern European countries in the Common Market from harming the Community industry. To prevent these prices from snow-balling in the Community, Decision No. 1/64 of the High Authority prohibited the iron and steel industry in the Six from aligning its prices on offers from state-trading countries.

Having obtained the approval of the Advisory Committee, and with the unanimous agreement of the Council, the Commission by Decision No. 35/67 extended Decision No. 1/64 concerning this prohibition until 31 December 1968.

Exports of scrap to non-member countries

81. At the request of the representatives of the member Governments, the Commission was invited to make a study of the scrap market situation in the Community with special reference to the foreseeable medium-term balance between requirements and supplies.

On the basis of this study, and by agreement with the Commission, the representatives of the member Governments meeting in the Council:

- a) agreed unanimously that in present circumstances it would not be appropriate to abrogate or suspend the prohibition on exporting scrap to non-member countries;
- b) considered, however, that to make allowance for any special cases, Member States should be free to submit applications to export scrap which would be examined individually in the Group on ECSC matters. Any export licences would have to be granted unanimously.

To this end, the representatives of the member Governments also approved unanimously certain applications submitted by various Governments.

GATT

Group on dairy products

82. The Community participated in the meeting of the Group in Geneva on 14 and 15 December 1967. The Group was set up, following the discussions at the XXIVth

¹ Official gazette No. 318, 29 December 1967.

session of the Contracting Parties, at the request of countries exporting dairy products for the purpose of consultations on urgent problems of international trade in these products in accordance with GATT Article XXII(2).

At this meeting a number of suggestions were put forward which are currently being examined by the Governments of the countries represented on the Group and by the competent EEC institutions.

The Group is to meet again on 18 January 1968.

BILATERAL RELATIONS

Israel

83. At its session of 11 and 12 December 1967 the Council reviewed relations with Israel and instructed the Committee of Permanent Representatives to complete the studies of this subject, in particular as regards the industrial sector.

The Council agreed to resume the discussion of this matter at its first ordinary session in 1968.

Representation of Associated States (December 1967)

84. On 12 December 1967 the President of the Council, M. Fritz Neef, and the President of the Commission, M. Jean Rey, in turn received H.E. Ambassador Joseph Nzabi for his official presentation as new representative of Congo (Kinshasa) to the EEC.

Missions of non-member countries (December 1967)

Opening of diplomatic relations

85. The competent institutions of the European Communities have approved the request of the following Governments for the opening of diplomatic relations:

- a) Uruguay: with Euratom and the ECSC¹
- b) Malta: with Euratom and the ECSC²

Approval of Heads of Missions

86. The competent institutions of the European Communities have given their *agrément* to the appointment of the following Heads of Missions:

- a) Uruguay: H.E. Ambassador Jorge Barreiro as Head of the Uruguayan Mission to the three European Communities;

¹ Uruguay: Diplomatic relations with the EEC have existed since 1963.

² Malta: Agreement to the opening of diplomatic relations with the EEC was given in November 1967.

- b) Malta: H.E. Ambassador G.T. Curmi as Head of the Maltese Mission to the three European Communities;
- c) Iceland: H.E. Ambassador N.P. Sigurdsson as Head of the Icelandic Mission to the EEC;
- d) Tanzania: H.E. Ambassador Daniel Owino as Head of the Tanzanian Mission to the EEC;
- e) Uganda: H.E. Ambassador Daniel Owino as Head of the Uganda Mission to the EEC.

Presentation of letters of credence

87. On 12 December 1967 the President of the Council, M. Fritz Neef, and the President of the Commission, M. Jean Rey, in turn received for the submission of their letters of credence:

- a) H.E. Ambassador Herbert Hütt, new Head of the Costa Rican Mission to the EEC;
- b) H.E. Ambassador Ziya Müezzinoğlu, new Head of the Turkish Mission to Euratom. On this occasion, H.E. Ambassador Müezzinoğlu also presented to the President of the Commission his letters of credence as new Head of the Turkish Mission to the ECSC,

and on 19 December 1967:

- c) H.E. Ambassador Hernán Gonzales-Vale, new Head of the Venezuelan Mission to the EEC and Euratom. On this occasion, H.E. Ambassador Gonzales-Vale also presented to the President of the Commission his letters of credence as new Head of the Venezuelan Mission to the ECSC.

UK-ECSC Council of Association

88. The 17th meeting of the Council of Association took place on 15 December 1967 in London. It was the first since the merger of the three Executives of the European Communities into a single Commission.

The Commission was represented by M. Martino, the member with special responsibility for external relations, M. Colonna di Paliano, specially responsible for industrial matters, and M. Wellenstein, Secretary General entrusted with ECSC affairs.

Mr Richard Marsh, Minister of Power, led the British delegation and took the chair. The UK was also represented by Lord Brown, Minister of State, Board of Trade, Lord Robens, Chairman of the National Coal Board and Lord Melchett, Chairman of the British Steel Corporation.

The Council examined and approved the reports submitted by the Standing Committees on coal, steel and external relations on their work since the last meeting of the Council in Luxembourg in January 1967.

The meeting thought that the world steel market would continue to be marked in the near future by a surplus of capacity and intense competition. Technical innovations, rationalization measures and an increase in production units would be necessary to help overcome the present difficulties.

In examining the report of the Committee on steel, the Council also recorded the progress made since its last meeting in discussions between senior officials with a view to solving the problems of the world steel situation. Because of their importance the Council considered that these discussions should continue as a matter of urgency.

The Council recognized that the recent developments in the coal sector again confirmed the similarity of the economic and social problems in the Community and the United Kingdom.

The meeting was of the opinion that the work of the Council and its Committees, which was to discuss and compare the policies of the Community and the United Kingdom in the coal and steel sectors, continued to be of great value.

Both parties reaffirmed the importance they attached to the continuity of a contractual link between the United Kingdom and the Community and the value of this link to both sides.

It was agreed that the Council would hold its next meeting in Brussels during 1968, at a date to be determined later by mutual agreement and in accordance with the usual procedure.

RELATIONS WITH INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

Western European Union (WEU)

89. The WEU Assembly held its 13th session (2nd part) from 4 to 7 December 1967 under the chairmanship of M. Badini Confalonieri.

Considerable concern for the future of Europe was expressed in the debates in view of the technological lead of the United States and the Soviet Union.

There was a consensus in favour of an early opening of negotiations with the United Kingdom with a view to extending the Communities. A number of speakers expressed the fear that the continuing disagreement among the Six on this matter might endanger the functioning and even the existence of the Communities.

The Assembly adopted a recommendation inviting the Council: "to request the six member Governments of the European Communities

a) to accept the immediate opening of negotiations with the British Government on the matter of United Kingdom accession to the Communities;

b) to concentrate these negotiations on the essential choices to be made by the respective Governments;

and to request the Governments concerned to do all in their power to ensure the success of these negotiations."

European Free Trade Association (EFTA)

90. A meeting between officials of the EFTA Secretariat and officials of the Commission took place in Brussels on 12 December 1967.

The following technical matters were discussed:

- i) Hallmarking of precious metals
- ii) Measures for stimulating investments
- iii) Co-ordination of inspection measures and alignment of legislation in the pharmaceutical products sector
- iv) Establishment of commercial agencies
- v) Institutional aspects of a multilateral double-taxation agreement
- vi) Company law in Europe
- vii) Problems posed by the generalization in the Communities and in certain EFTA countries of the tax on value added.

ECE Committee on the Development of Trade (UN)

91. The Commission was represented at the 16th session of the Committee on the Development of Trade held in Geneva from 27 November to 1 December 1967.

The Committee reviewed the trend of east-west trade and certain eastern countries voiced criticism of the Community's agricultural policy. On the efforts made to abolish obstacles to east-west trade, the Committee noted the impasse reached in the work of a group of government experts which met last September to elaborate practical proposals and if possible draft recommendations on the matter.

United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)

92. On the initiative of UNESCO, the implementation of the international agreements of Florence and Beirut on the duty-free import of educational, scientific and cultural materials was examined by a meeting of experts of the signatory Governments held in Geneva from 20 to 29 November 1967.

The Member States of the Community, which had all signed the Florence Agreement, were represented, and the Commission was invited to take part in the meeting.

Work concerned the difficulties arising in the implementation of the agreements and the measures to encourage new states to join. A great deal of attention was devoted to matters concerning the arrangements applicable to audio-visual material, in particular films, and to research instruments and apparatus. On the last point, it was found necessary to recommend that the concept of pure scientific research figuring in the Florence Agreement should be interpreted liberally as "non-applied scientific research" and that fundamental research should not be hindered by too narrow an interpretation.

The reports and draft recommendations prepared by the experts will be submitted to the next General Conference of UNESCO in November 1968.

VII. The Community and the Associated States

EUROPEAN STATES

Turkey

93. The EEC-Turkey Council of Association held its 7th meeting at ambassadorial level on 1 December 1967 in Brussels with M. H.G. Sachs, German Permanent Representative to the EEC and leader of the Community delegation, in the chair. The Commission was represented by M. Sigrist, Assistant Executive Secretary. H.E. Ambassador Müezzinoğlu led the Turkish delegation.

The main item on the agenda was an examination of the Turkish requests introduced under Article 6 of the Provisional Protocol annexed to the Ankara Agreement for further outlets for certain products.

These facilities were granted by Decision No. 1/67 adopted by the Council of Association at the conclusion of its meeting.

They mainly concern the following:

i) The opening by the Member States of annual tariff quotas in favour of Turkey, as below:

- | | |
|--|----------|
| a) ex 03.01 B I a — Mackerel | 300 tons |
| b) ex 03.01 B I c — Other salt-water fish (except anchovies) | 900 tons |

The customs duties on these two groups of products are equal, within the quota limits, to half the CCT duties.

- | | |
|--|------------|
| c) ex 03.01 B I b — Tunny, including "pelamides", "toriks" and "orkinos" | 1 650 tons |
| d) 03.03 A I — Lobsters and crayfish | 750 tons |
| e) 03.03 A II — Crabs, shrimps and prawns | 850 tons |
| f) ex 03.03 B III b — Cuttle-fish and squids | 50 tons |

The tariff duties on these four groups of products are equal, within their quotas, to the intra-Community duties.

The arrangements for all these salt-water products will be valid until the common fishery policy comes into force.

- | | |
|----------------------------|----------|
| ex 22.05 B — Quality wines | 6 000 hl |
|----------------------------|----------|

The tariff duties on this product are equal, within the quota, to half the CCT duties.

The arrangements will be applicable until the common policy for vine products comes into force.

- | | |
|---|----------|
| a) 55.08 — Terry towelling and similar terry fabrics, of cotton | 75 tons |
| b) 55.09 — Other woven fabrics of cotton | 105 tons |

- | | |
|--|---------|
| c) 60.05 — Outer garments and other articles, knitted or crocheted,
not elastic or rubberized | 30 tons |
| d) 62.02 — Bed linen, table linen, toilet linen and kitchen linen;
curtains and other furnishing articles | 30 tons |

Within the limits of these four groups of quotas, the administration procedure for which after 1 July 1968 will be determined later, the duties on these products are equal to half the CCT duties.

ii) The granting of a linear tariff cut:

a) of 50% of the CCT from 18 June to 17 July each year for table grapes of heading 08.04A;

b) of 20% of the CCT for fresh oranges (ex 08.02 A), fresh mandarins, tangerines and clementines (ex 08.02 B) and fresh lemons (ex 08.02 C), provided that the entry prices of these products imported from Turkey are not lower than a certain minimum to which the preference is subject.

iii) the introduction, in one operation on 1 December 1967, for "handmade" Turkish carpets, of the following tariff reductions provided for at the end of the Kennedy round:

- | | |
|--|-------|
| a) ex 58.01 A — Carpets of wool or of fine animal hair, handmade | 24% |
| with a maximum charge of 4 u.a./m ² | |
| b) ex 58.01 B — Carpets of silk, handmade | 20% |
| c) ex 58.01 C — Carpets of other textile materials, handmade | 12% |
| d) ex 58.02 A — Other handmate carpets | 20% |
| e) ex 58.02 B — Handmade "Kelim" rugs | 10.5% |

These advantages will continue in force until the changeover to the transitional stage of the association system. They are additional to the quotas already laid down in the Ankara Agreement for Turkey's four principal exports (tobacco, dried grapes, dried figs and hazel-nuts).

In conclusion, the Council of Association, referring to the recommendation adopted at its last meeting, confirmed the importance which it attached to the preliminary studies for the changeover from the current preparatory stage to the transitional stage of the Ankara Agreement.

AFRICAN STATES AND MADAGASCAR AND OVERSEAS COUNTRIES AND TERRITORIES

Yaoundé Convention

Parliamentary Conference of the Association

94. The Parliamentary Conference of the Association held its fourth session in Strasbourg from 4 to 7 December 1967. It elected M. Poher, President of the European Parliament, as its chairman; L. Lamine Gueye, President of the Senegal

National Assembly, the outgoing President, was appointed first Vice-President, in accordance with custom.

M. Neef, German State Secretary representing the EEC Council, M. Patasse, Minister of Development of the Central African Republic, representing the Council of Association, and M. Rochereau, representing the Commission of the European Communities, were present at the session.

The discussions were concentrated on the examination of M. Armengaud's report on ways and means of promoting the marketing in the Community at stable and profitable prices of products of the Associated States and M. Troclet's report on the third annual report of activities of the Council of Association.

Three resolutions were adopted, two on the above items¹ and one on the administrative accounts of the Parliamentary Conference of the Association for 1966 and on its estimates for 1968 (report by M. Ngo'o Mebe).

M. Armengaud's report gave rise to a lengthy discussion, but none of the speakers committed himself on the detail of the measures recommended by the rapporteur, either to approve or to contest them. Most of the European speakers treated M. Armengaud's suggestions with great caution.

After noting the Commission's agreement with M. Armengaud's description of the present state of affairs, M. Rochereau expressed certain reservations on his suggestions concerning the creation and functioning of a stabilization fund; similarly the solutions recommended for certain products did not appear to him to be feasible in the immediate future; M. Armengaud's suggestions did however constitute an important contribution to the studies which are to precede the negotiations for renewing the Yaoundé Convention.

M. Troclet's report on the third annual report of activities of the Council of Association produced a less lively discussion than in previous years, as the trade matters had been dealt with in M. Armengaud's report and the other points did not supply material for a wide-ranging discussion.

At the end of the debate M. Rochereau stated the Commission's point of view. He expressed satisfaction that M. Troclet's report made a positive assessment of the Executive's work and considered that there was a clearly expressed will to maintain the Association. The Algiers Conference, the recent meeting in the OECD and the negotiations for an agreement on cocoa clearly demonstrated that the Association did not lack supporters. In conclusion M. Rochereau hoped that the next Convention would confirm the Yaoundé provisions and would go further in the pursuit of a general development policy.

M. Neef, German State Secretary, on behalf of the Council, gave a general account of the situation and wound up the debate by replying to the various speakers.

The Joint Committee of the Association Conference met during the session. It appointed M. Rakoto Zafimahery (Madagascar) as rapporteur on budgetary matters and M. Ebagbitchie (Ivory Coast) as rapporteur on the fourth report of activities of the Council of Association.

The Joint Committee agreed to hold its next meetings in May 1968 in Brussels and October 1968 in Kinshasa. The annual session of the Conference will be in December 1968 at Tananarive.

¹ See extracts annexed.

VIII. Institutions and organs

COUNCIL

15th session (8 December 1967) — Scientific and technological research¹

On the basis of the proposals submitted by the Commission, the Council adopted an interim programme and a draft research budget for Euratom for the 1968 financial year.

It also adopted a decision on Euratom's future activities.

The Council agreed to extend for one year the present systems for covering civil liability in the establishments of the Joint Nuclear Research Centre, on the understanding that this provisional solution does not prejudice the solution to be provided for the general problem of the Community's policy in the insurance field.

16th session (11 and 12 December 1967)

At the opening of this session the Council paid tribute to the memory of M. Léon Hammes, former President of the Court of Justice of the European Communities, who died on 9 December 1967.

Budget questions: The Council unanimously adopted a supplementary draft budget for 1967 on the basis of the preliminary draft referred to it by the Commission. With regard to establishment of the budget of the European Communities for 1968, the Council agreed to apply the system of provisional twelfths provided for under Article 204 of the EEC Treaty, Article 178 of the EAEC Treaty and Article 78 of the ECSC Treaty.

Applications for membership The Council then heard an account by the President of the Commission of the conversations he had with members of the British Government during his visit to London with M. Barre and M. Martino on 4 December 1967.²

External relations: The Council continued its study of the Community's relations with Israel. The Council directed the Committee of Permanent Representatives to reformulate the draft instructions for negotiations with Yugoslavia. However, the Council did not reach agreement concerning the additional instructions to be given to the Commission for the resumption of negotiations with the East African countries.

Matters discussed included the common commercial policy, implementation of the general programmes on freedom of establishment and freedom to supply services, and harmonization of customs and tax laws.

17th session (13 and 14 December 1967) — Common transport policy

A broad exchange of views took place on the development of the common transport policy, following which the Council took a decision expressing its intention to adopt

¹ For details of the decisions at this session see Bulletin No. 1-68, Ch. II.

² Bulletin 1-68, Ch. I.

before 30 June 1968 various measures regarding, in particular, the application of competition rules to transport, the regulation of aids in this sector, a bracket-rate system and the harmonization of social provisions in road transport.¹

18th session (18 and 19 December 1967)

Applications for membership: The Council continued its work on the applications for membership and published a seven-point statement on this matter.²

Kennedy round: It also expressed its agreement with a list of products for which the concessions negotiated during the Kennedy round will be implemented on 1 July 1968 integrally and without phasing, in the interests of the developing countries which export the products in question.

State-trading countries: The Council and the representatives of the Governments of the Member States, meeting in the Council, took decisions or rendered opinions on commercial relations with the state-trading countries, particularly as regards certain agricultural and iron and steel products.

The representatives of the Member States' Governments, meeting in the Council, also exchanged views and took certain decisions relating, in particular, to exports of scrap iron to non-member countries, the renewal of half-yearly tariff measures for vanadium and titanium pig iron and for used rails, and the granting of an import quota at reduced or zero duty for certain special types of pig iron or iron and steel products.

18th session (18 and 19 December 1967) — Agriculture³

The Council adopted the regulation instituting the common organization of the markets in the sugar sector.

It continued to examine the proposed regulation to establish a common organization in the plants, flowers and bulbs sector and the proposed regulation on marketing standards for eggs.

20th session (21 December 1967) — Mainly social matters

The Council heard a statement from the Commission on the Community's social policy over the past ten years and on the tasks which lie ahead.⁴

It then examined the Commission's report on labour problems in the Community during 1966/1967 and considered relations with the two sides of industry, the European Social Fund, vocational training, the difficulties encountered by the EEC Member States in ratifying certain conventions adopted in other international organizations, and the problem of implementing the principle of equal pay for men and women.

¹ Ch. IV above.

² Bulletin 1-68, Ch. I.

³ See Ch. V, Agricultural Policy.

⁴ See Ch. V, sec. 23.

Furthermore, in the field of agriculture the Council adopted several regulations concerning, in particular, the establishment of basic quotas for sugar, the common organization of the market in fruit and vegetables, and the threshold prices applicable in Germany and France to certain milk products for the 1967/1968 marketing year.

In the tariffs field, the Council extended for 18 months the decisions suspending duties on tea, maté, tropical woods, certain spices and certain sports articles.

As regards the Association between the EEC and Turkey, the Council adopted a decision to aggregate the tariff quotas opened by the Community for certain agricultural products. In the context of the Association between the EEC and Greece, it also adopted a regulation extending the period of validity of the regulations on goods obtained from processing agricultural products.

COURT OF JUSTICE

Cases pending

Case 34/67 — Gebrüder Lüc, Köln-Braunsfel v. Hauptzollamt, Köln-Rheinau.

The Finanzgericht in Düsseldorf has requested the Court of Justice for a preliminary ruling concerning the interpretation of Article 95 of the EEC Treaty in the light of Article 97, especially with regard to the countervailing charge levied on imports of certain fruits and vegetables from Italy.

Judgments

Case 11/67 — Office national des pensions pour ouvriers v. M. Marcel Couture, referred to the Court by the Belgian Council of State.

Case 12/67 — M. Jules Guissart v. the Belgian State, referred to the Court by the Belgian Council of State.

Case 14/67 — Landesversicherungsanstalt Rheinland-Pfalz v. M. Josef Welchner, submitted to the Court by the Bundessozialgericht, Kassel.

These were three requests for preliminary rulings on the interpretation of Council Regulations Nos. 3 and 4, relating to social security for migrant workers.

The Court of Justice handed down its judgments on these cases on 12, 13 and 5 December 1967 respectively.

Case 17/67 — Max Neumann v. Hauptzollamt, Hof/Saale.

The Bundesfinanzhof, Munich, had requested a preliminary ruling on the validity of Council Regulation No. 22 of 4 April 1962, gradually establishing a common organization of the markets in the meat and poultry sector, and of Commission Regulation No. 135 of 7 November 1962, fixing an additional amount of levy on imports of slaughtered hens and chickens from non-member countries.

In its judgment of 13 December 1967, the Court rejected all the arguments put forward to challenge the validity of these Regulations. It stated in particular that the EEC Treaty has conferred on the EEC institutions the right to establish systems of levies directly applicable in the Member States, and therefore the validity of Regulation No. 22 could not be affected by the nature of the levy thus introduced, whether customs or fiscal.

Case 19 / 67 — Sociale Verzekeringsbank v. M. van der Vecht.

On 5 December 1967 the Court of Justice handed down its judgment in response to a request from the Centrale Raad van Beroep, Utrecht, for a preliminary ruling on the interpretation of Council Regulation No. 3, concerning social security for migrant workers.

Case 23 / 67 — Brasserie de Haecht v. M. Wilkin and Mme Janssen.

The Liège Commercial Tribunal had requested a preliminary ruling on the interpretation of Article 85 of the EEC Treaty in respect of an exclusive dealing agreement (brewery contract).

In the judgment which it handed down on 12 December 1967 the Court held that, in the case in point, agreements by which an enterprise undertakes to procure its supplies from one enterprise only, to the exclusion of all others, do not *ipso facto* fulfil the conditions — as set out in Article 85(1) of the Treaty — of incompatibility with the common market; however, in certain circumstances such agreements may fulfil these conditions, either in isolation or simultaneously with others.

ECSC Consultative Committee

The 117th session of the ECSC Consultative Committee was held in Luxembourg on 14 December 1967 with M. Jean Martin as Chairman; there was an exceptionally large number of items on the agenda.

M. Levi-Sandri, Vice-President of the Commission of the European Communities, described to the members of the Consultative Committee the main activities of the Commission regarding coal and steel during the second half of 1967.

The Committee then resumed the discussion, which started at the session of November 1967, of the memorandum on Community measure relating to readaptation and reconversion. In this connection M. Karl van Berk (coal workers, Germany) presented the draft opinion prepared by the "Employment Problems" standing committee of the Consultative Committee. In this draft opinion the Commission of the European Communities is requested to continue the High Authority's policy of readaptation and reconversion in co-operation with all the parties concerned. The Commission is also requested to take steps to eliminate, in the short term, the unwarranted disadvantages suffered by those frontier workers who, after the closure of the enterprise employing them, are deprived of the benefit of readaptation measures if they remain in their country of origin. In the long term the Commission should strive to promote general adoption of the system of readaptation applied within the framework of the ECSC.

The many speakers referred to such matters as the financing of readaptation and reconversion measures; the application of these measures parallel with the closing-down of enterprises and the discharge of workers; the finding of alternative posts for

managerial staff; the harmonization of national taxes; and particular steps to be contemplated with regard to the various categories of workers, especially handicapped workers.

In his replies to the speeches, M. Levi-Sandri dwelt mainly on the problem of financing. He thought that a Community policy and real Community measures will only be possible when the Commission has financial resources of its own.

Finally, the Consultative Committee decided to endorse in principle the report presented on behalf of the "Employment Problems" standing committee by M. van Berk, together with the remarks made during the session, and to submit this amplified opinion to the Commission.

The coal "programme with forecasts" for the first quarter of 1968 and the steel "programme with forecasts" were presented respectively by M. Haferkamp and M. Colonna di Paliano, members of the Commission.

It was requested that the steel "programme with forecasts" should include forecasts in the employment field.

The Consultative Committee approved nine iron and steel technical research projects on which it was consulted under Article 55 of the ECSC Treaty.

The Committee was consulted, under Article 95 of the ECSC Treaty, concerning a fresh extension until 31 December 1968 of the High Authority's Decision No. 1-64 banning alignment of prices on quotations for pig iron and steel products from countries or territories with State-controlled trading systems. The Committee gave its approval for this extension.

Following M. De la Vallée-Poussin's statement on the results of the examination, by the Consultative Committee's "Market and Prices" standing committee, of the study on the supply of iron ore to the Community's iron and steel industry, some members of the Committee emphasized the pressing need for the Commission to solve the problem of the excessive transport costs for Community iron ore compared with those for imported iron ore; as well as the necessity for the Commission to revise this study periodically and to discuss the fresh matters which might arise from this revision with the members of the Committee. The institution of programming for replacing Community iron ore by imported iron ore was also requested, and the question of security of supply of iron ore was also touched upon.

M. Colonna di Paliano answered the various questions which had been raised and spoke in favour of sending the study on the supply of iron ore to the enterprises concerned.

M. Colonna di Paliano then gave the account, provided for on the agenda, of the state of the steel market. He described the situation, prospects and structural tendencies of the Community's iron and steel industry and reminded his audience of the formation of the *ad hoc* iron and steel industry committee, its discussions, and the measures which have been proposed in order to cope with the industry's difficulties.

This speech aroused great interest; it was agreed that the text should be made available to the members of the Consultative Committee for perusal, and that it should be discussed at one of the coming sessions of the Committee.

MONETARY COMMITTEE

The Monetary Committee held its 101st session on 12 and 13 December 1967 in Brussels, with M. van Lennep in the chair. The Committee continued its work on the reform of the international monetary system, and adopted a report which was submitted to the Finance Ministers of the EEC countries at their conference on 14 and 15 December 1967 at Champs-sur-Marne.

In addition, the Committee examined the monetary and financial situation of Italy, on the basis of material prepared on 4 December 1967 in Rome by a working party under the chairmanship of M. van den Bosch.

The Committee concluded by submitting a report to the Council and the Commission.

IX. European Investment Bank

Loans granted

Federal Republic of Germany

The European Investment Bank concluded a loan contract with Hoesch AG, Dortmund, on 19 December 1967, for an equivalent of 30 million DM (7.5 million units of account). This loan, which is for a term of 12 years, at the annual rate of interest of 6.5 %, is intended for the partial financing of a factory for the production of welded steel tubes at Hamm (Westphalia).

The Hoesch tube works will attain a final annual capacity of over 250 000 t of tubes in 1969, with three-shift operation. It is to replace the production of the Hiltrup and Hagen works, which were closed down in 1966/67.

The installation investments of the project will total 180 million DM (45 million units of account).

The tube works belong to Hoesch AG, which since the recent merger with Dortmund-Hörder Hüttenunion AG, is the second largest German steel producer.

In 1966, Hoesch AG concluded an outline agreement with the Koninklijke Nederlandsche Hoogovens en Staalfabrieken NV (KNHS), IJmuiden, the biggest steel enterprise in the Netherlands, providing for co-operation between KNHS and Hoesch, especially with regard to long-term planning, harmonization of investments, production and sales, as well as research.

Furthermore, this co-ordination makes possible a better adjustment of the production capacities of both partners to the future sales possibilities; the tube works represent an extension of the steel manufacturing activities.

The establishment of the Hoesch tube works is therefore to be seen against the background of co-operation between two enterprises from two member countries of the Community, with the long-term aim of creating a homogeneous group or at least achieving a permanent co-ordination. It thus corresponds to the general targets for the steel industry until 1970 laid down by the High Authority of the ECSC.

Lastly, the tube works contribute towards a conversion within the Hoesch organization, which will make its effects felt mainly in the Hamm area, where the unemployment figure is at present above the average for the Federal Republic, owing to the continuing pit closures. The share of former miners in the personnel of the tube works, totalling over 1 200 workers, amounts initially to 25 %, but later on this share will gradually be stepped up, according as the conversion of the mining industry proceeds. The granting of the loan takes into account the efforts of the Federal Government to ensure the employment elsewhere of labour released from the mining industry.

France

The European Investment Bank concluded on 21 December 1967, a loan contract for an equivalent of 40 million FF (8.1 million units of account) and with a term of 18 years, at the annual rate of interest of 7 %, for a group of investments aimed

at reinforcing the telephone system of South-Western France (Midi-Pyrénées, Aquitaine, Poitou-Charentes regions), with a view essentially to improving the flow of long- and medium-distance traffic.

The project will be carried out by the French Postal and Telecommunications Department (PTT), which is in charge of the postal, telecommunications and various financial services.

The situation of France in respect of the equipment of its telephone system is characterized by a low density (on 1 January 1966, 12.4 telephones per 100 inhabitants), an inadequate level of automation and a very considerable volume of outstanding applications from new subscribers.

In the South-West, the inadequacy of the equipment is especially pronounced, as is also the gradual obstruction of the long-distance lines owing to the regular increase in traffic. If the resulting problems in dealing with calls were not corrected, they would render industrial and commercial activities more difficult, at the very time when their decentralization in favour of these regions is being aimed at by the authorities.

Within the framework of the Fifth Plan, the Postal and Telecommunications Department has embarked on a considerable programme to reinforce the telephone service in the South-West, to be carried out from 1967 to 1970.

The investments financed with the co-operation of the Bank include the creation of a new long-distance transmission line, the installation and reinforcement of transmission equipment and three automatic transit centres, as well as the extension and modernization of the telephone exchanges and the local networks of three terminal towns: Toulouse, Bordeaux and La Rochelle.

The total cost of the project is approximately 144 million FF (29.2 million units of account).

The Bank's loan is granted to the "Caisse Nationale des Télécommunications", which will relend the funds to the Postal and Telecommunications Department.

The loan is guaranteed by the French Republic.

Turkey

The European Investment Bank concluded on 22 December 1967, with the Republic of Turkey a loan contract for an equivalent of 50.8 million Turkish pounds (5.6 million units of account) for the construction of a chemical fertilizer plant near Samsun, on the Black Sea.

The promoter of the project is the Turkish limited company Azot Sanayii T.A.S. which, by virtue of a law already before the Turkish Parliament, is to be converted into a State economic enterprise. In this capacity, Azot Sanayii T.A.S. will be able to create an autonomous establishment (Müessesese) in order to build and operate the factory. In the meantime, it will itself go ahead with the construction. Instead of creating the "Müessesese", Azot Sanayii T.A.S., will also have the possibility of incorporating a company with joint capital.

The new factory will have a nominal production capacity of 220 000 t/year of triple superphosphate or 140 000 t/year of ammonia phosphate and will employ, at the normal rate of operation, nearly 200 people.

The execution of the project will contribute towards giving a strong impetus to the development of Turkish agriculture and improving the country's balance of payments, by replacing imports — the volume of which is bound to increase — by local production.

The fixed investments of the project are estimated to be T£138.3 million (15.23 million units of account).

The contract is concluded for a term of 30 years at the rate of interest of 4.5 % per annum. The funds will be lent to the beneficiary for a period of 12 years, at the rate of 7 %. By the terms of the General Agreement concluded with the European Investment Bank, the Turkish government has the possibility of re-using the funds for the execution of other projects before repaying them to the Bank.

The European Investment Bank is performing this operation within the framework of its Special Section for the account of Member States by virtue of the mandate they conferred upon it with a view to the application of the Financial Protocol appended to the Association Agreement between the European Economic Community and Turkey.

Miscellaneous

Professor Walter Hallstein elected President of the European Movement

On 20 January 1968 Professor Walter Hallstein, former President of the EEC Commission, was elected President of the European Movement in succession to M. Maurice Faure at the Movement's Congress in Rome.

He delivered an important speech, underlining both the continuing achievements of the Communities and the dangers to which they are exposed. Prominent among these dangers, he said, were the present nationalist infection; a so-called realism requiring that attention should be confined to the interests of the moment, as if the whole purpose of politics were to deal smartly with such interests; and a third internal source of danger due to the fact that Europe's political unity is still limited to economic and social policy, excluding foreign and defence policy. Further dangers threaten the Communities from outside, arising from the disquieting international situation, from relations between countries and the conflicts going on in the world.

President Hallstein emphasized that, through the Communities, Europe has shown for the first time that she is able to act as a single unit, and the primary task now is to preserve and develop what has been attained. But a Community policy should not be simply a policy for six States: the Communities are the vanguard of a greater Europe, and their progress is a gain for the whole of Europe.

The new President of the European Movement listed the tasks which, in his view, should be carried out first in building the Community edifice and on the institutional level, and he also outlined defence and security aims. In conclusion he declared that there was no time to be lost since "the world does not stand still: the super-powers will grow faster than we do, if we do not act quickly."

Visits to the Commission

Visit of a Danish Minister

In the context of the many visits which the Danish Ministers of Foreign Affairs have paid to the Commission for several years now, M. Ivar Nørgaard, Danish Minister of Economic Affairs and European Market Affairs, accompanied by M. Jens Christensen, Under-Secretary of State for Economic Affairs at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, met the President and several members of the Commission on 16 November 1967. H.E. Ambassador M. Finn Gundelach, Head of the Danish Mission to the European Communities, also took part in the talks, which mainly concerned problems relating to the enlargement of the Community and the position of Danish agricultural exports to the Community, especially in the beef and veal sector.

Visits of Ministers of the Associated States

On 30 November and 1 December 1967 the senior officials of the European Development Fund received a Malagasy delegation led by M. Natai, Minister of Agriculture. The object of this visit was to put the finishing touches to the investment projects planned within the framework of aid to diversification.

On 7 December 1967 M. Issaka Conton, Dahomey Minister of Rural Economy, had talks with the senior officials of the EDF concerning the scheme for agricultural development in the Department of Atakora.

Visit of the Secretary-General of the OECD

On 14 December 1967, M. Thorhill Kristenson, Secretary-General of the OECD, paid an official visit to the Commission.

He was received by President Rey and M. Martino. A working meeting was then held under the chairmanship of M. Rey, assisted by M. Hellwig, Vice-President, and M. Martino and M. Deniau, Members of the Commission. The Commission also gave a luncheon in honour of M. Kristenson.

The matters discussed at the meeting were aid in the form of food and general economic problems.

M. Kristenson was accompanied by M. Benson E.L. Timons III, Assistant Secretary-General, and other collaborators.

Study visit to Luxembourg by the participants in the first ECSC seminar at the Turin International Centre for Further Professional and Technical Training

On 30 October 1967 the participants in the first ECSC seminar at the Turin International Centre for Further Professional and Technical Training visited the Commission of the European Communities in Luxembourg.

The programme of their visit embraced the general aspects of the European Communities and of the ECSC in particular, the problems of the steel market and the supply of iron ore, and the social policy of the ECSC. After the participants had listened to accounts of these matters, their questions were answered in detail during a long and interesting discussion.

After this the group set out on a fortnight's tour round Community mining and iron and steel enterprises in Lorraine, Belgium and the Ruhr, for the purpose of studying vocational training establishments and manufacturing installations.

Competition for increasing safety in coalmines

On 15 December 1967 the winners of the competition organized by the former High Authority of the ECSC for the improvement of security equipment in coalmines were presented with their prizes at the Bâtiment du Cercle, Luxembourg, by M. Levi-Sandri, Vice-President of the Commission of the European Communities, acting in his new capacity as Chairman of the Mines Safety Commission.

Meeting between the Commission and trade union organizations

On 11 December 1967 a meeting took place in Brussels between the Commission of the European Communities and a delegation of the International Confederation of Free Trade Unions and International Federation of Christian Trade Unions.

Those participating on the Commission side were: M. Rey, President, M. Levi-Sandri and M. Barre, Vice-Presidents; M. Bodson, M. Coppé, M. Deniau and M. Haferkamp, members. The trade union delegation was headed by M. Cool, President of the European Organization of IFCTU and M. Storti, President of the ICFTU and Vice-President of the Executive Committee of the ICFTU European Secretariat.

The meeting took place in an atmosphere of cordiality and mutual understanding, and a broad exchange of views was held on the chief problems at present facing the Community.

The trade union delegation stressed that the merger of the Executives and the merger of the Treaties should be the occasion for new advances on the road to economic and political integration. In the social field, in particular, the new consolidated treaty should fill the gaps in the Rome Treaty. The trade union organizations also confirmed that they favoured the accession of new members to the Community provided the applicant countries accepted the letter and the spirit of the existing treaties and their democratic inspiration.

The Commission and the trade union delegation agreed that it would be useful to meet again periodically.

European meeting organized in Rotterdam by the transport unions

The Committee of ITF Unions in the EEC, covering the ICFTU transport unions in the six countries, held its third Seminar on Transport in Europe on 30 November 1967 in Rotterdam.

M. Seibert, President of the German Railwaymen's Union and of the Committee of ITF Unions in the EEC, presided over this important meeting, in which about 400 persons participated including many delegates from the transport unions of the EEC and EFTA countries and representatives of the employers' organizations, the government departments of the Member States and the Community institutions.

The order of the speakers was as follows: M. Keyzer, Netherlands Secretary of State for Transport and Public Works, M. Seibert, President of the Committee of ITF Unions in the EEC, M. Leber, German Minister of Transport and President in office of the Council of transport ministers of the six countries, and M. Bodson, member of the Commission with special responsibility for transport matters. The speakers gave their opinions on the difficulties involved in practical implementation of the common transport policy.

The resolution adopted at the end of the seminar affirmed that the prerequisites for a true common market in the transport field were: rules to co-ordinate investments; strict control of access to the market; and measures to harmonize working conditions in the various modes of transport. The trade unions considered that control of capacity should not apply only to transport for hire or reward but also to transport on own account and pipelines.

Furthermore, the resolution drew attention to the unions' great anxiety concerning the considerable delay in the EEC's work on social policy in the transport field. An urgent appeal was made to the Community authorities to increase their co-operation with the trade union circles concerned and to take the necessary steps towards the social harmonization which is essential in the various modes of transport.

Inauguration of the Upper Volta National School of Administration

On 10 December 1967 the buildings of the National School of Administration at Ouagadougou in the Republic of Upper Volta were officially opened in the presence of the Head of State, General Sangoulé Lamizana, his Ministers and the diplomatic corps accredited to Upper Volta, including the ambassadors of the six member countries of the European Communities.

This school was financed from the first European Development Fund, to a total amount of 1 155 000 units of account. It can train 600 students at a time for the country's civil service. During the ceremony the Head of State expressed his deep satisfaction that the project had been completed and his feelings of gratitude towards the European Economic Community.

Inauguration of a college of general education in Congo (Brazzaville)

On 15 December 1967, M. Levy Makany, Minister of Education of the Congo Republic (Brazzaville), inaugurated the Dolisie College of General Education. The college consists of a block of 6 classrooms and an administrative building, and can take 250 pupils. This is the twelfth such school financed by the EDF to be opened this year in Congo (Brazzaville).

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Règlement n° 969/67/CEE de la Commission, du 8 décembre 1967, portant fixation du montant de l'aide dans le secteur des graines oléagineuses (Commission Regulation No. 969/67/CEE of 8 December 1967 fixing the amount of aid in the oilseeds sector)	No. 300,	9.12.67
Règlement n° 970/67/CEE de la Commission, du 8 décembre 1967, modifiant le montant supplémentaire pour certains produits du secteur des œufs (Commission Regulation No. 970/67/CEE of 8 December 1967 amending the supplementary amount for certain products in the eggs sector)	No. 300,	9.12.67
Règlement n° 971/67/CEE de la Commission, du 8 décembre 1967, modifiant le montant supplémentaire pour certains œufs en coquille (Commission Regulation No. 971/67/CEE of 8 December 1967 amending the supplementary amount for certain eggs in shell)	No. 300,	9.12.67
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- Règlement n° 974/67/CEE de la Commission, du 11 décembre 1967, fixant les prélèvements applicables aux céréales et aux farines, gruaux et semoules de blé ou de seigle (Commission Regulation No. 974/67/CEE of 11 December 1967 fixing the levies on cereals and on wheat or rye flour, groats and meal) No. 301, 12.12.67
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- Règlement n° 976/67/CEE de la Commission, du 11 décembre 1967, portant modification du correctif applicable à la restitution pour les céréales (Commission Regulation No. 976/67/CEE of 11 December 1967 amending the corrective factor applicable to the refund on cereals) No. 301, 12.12.67
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Règlement n° 991/67/CEE de la Commission, du 14 décembre 1967, portant fixation du correctif applicable à la restitution pour les céréales (Commission Regulation No. 991/67/CEE of 14 December 1967 fixing the corrective factor applicable to the refund on cereals)	No. 304, 15.12.67
Règlement n° 992/67/CEE de la Commission, du 14 décembre 1967, fixant les restitutions pour les céréales et pour certaines catégories de farines, gruaux et semoules de blé ou de seigle (Commission Regulation No. 992/67/CEE of 14 December 1967 fixing the refunds on cereals and on certain categories of wheat or rye flour, groats and meal)	No. 304, 15.12.67
Règlement n° 993/67/CEE de la Commission, du 14 décembre 1967, fixant les prélèvements applicables au riz et aux brisures (Commission Regulation No. 993/67/CEE of 14 December 1967 fixing the levies on rice and broken rice)	No. 304, 15.12.67
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Règlement n° 995/67/CEE de la Commission, du 14 décembre 1967, portant fixation des restitutions pour le riz et les brisures (Commission Regulation No. 995/67/CEE of 14 December 1967 fixing the refunds on rice and broken rice)	No. 304, 15.12.67
Règlement n° 996/67/CEE de la Commission, du 14 décembre 1967, fixant le correctif applicable à la restitution pour le riz et les brisures (Commission Regulation No. 996/67/CEE of 14 December 1967 fixing the corrective factor applicable to the refund on rice and broken rice)	No. 304, 15.12.67
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Règlement n° 1005/67/CEE de la Commission, du 15 décembre 1967, portant modification du correctif applicable à la restitution pour les céréales (Commission Regulation No. 1005/67/CEE of 15 December 1967 amending the corrective factor applicable to the refund on cereals)	No. 306, 16.12.67
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Règlement n° 1013/67/CEE de la Commission, du 19 décembre 1967, fixant les prélèvements applicables aux céréales et aux farines, gruaux et semoules de blé ou de seigle (Commission Regulation No. 1013/67/CEE of 19 December 1967 fixing the levies on cereals and on wheat or rye flour, groats and meal)	No. 310, 20.12.67
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- Règlement n° 1041/67/CEE de la Commission, du 21 décembre 1967, portant modalités d'application des restitutions à l'exportation dans le secteur des produits soumis à un régime de prix unique (Commission Regulation No. 1041/67/CEE of 21 December 1967 establishing implementing procedures for export refunds for products subject to a single price system) No. 314, 23.12.67
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No. 309, 19.12.67

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