

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL CONSULTATIVE ASSEMBLY

# BULLETIN

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## 235th Plenary Session

The 235th Plenary Session of the Economic and Social Committee was an extraordinary session. It was held at the Committee's headquarters in Brussels on 13 and 14 March and was presided over by the ESC Chairman, Mr Gerd Muhr.

On 13 March this extraordinary session was devoted to the installation in office of the new Spanish members. It began with a formal session opened by the Chairman. This was followed on 14 March by a working session on farm prices.

### **Extracts from speeches on the occasion of the installation of new Spanish members**

#### **Mr Muhr, Chairman of the Economic and Social Committee**

Mr Gerd Muhr welcomed the new members as follows:

'I would like to go into the historical significance of enlargement only insofar as it concerns us. We share the view that the Iberian countries are returning to the Western European family of nations to which they have always belonged. Who would want to assert anything else here, where once Charles V reigned? What is more important, however, is that this enlargement will help to stabilize democracy, one of the inalienable bases of the Community.

By deciding to become part of the community of Western European nations, the two countries acknowledge the principles and ideals of democracy. But the step they have taken also places an obligation upon us all. Naturally the hopes aroused by such an important decision are correspondingly high. Even if it is not possible to fulfil these expectations in all respects, they must not be disappointed in the essentials. The medium- and long-term difficulties which this entails for the Community need not be spelled out. Historical decisions have their price, but this is more than justified when crowned ultimately by success. Perhaps this is the best way of summarizing the tenor of our Opinions.

Besides free political parties, democracy also requires freedom of association. Hence since the opening of the accession negotiations we have tried to maintain as close as possible contacts with our opposite

numbers in Spain and Portugal. These contacts have taken various forms, such as visits by the Chairman and Vice-Chairmen of the ESC, bilateral relations and also a noteworthy conference which we held in 1980 with the interest groups of all the applicant countries. The ESC's basic position was extremely clear: from the outset it has been virtually unanimous in advocating, without reservation, the rapid completion of the enlargement process. At that time, i.e. more than seven years ago, this was by no means self-evident. All the greater therefore our satisfaction today at the successful conclusion of this lengthy process.'

### **Mrs Cassanmagnago-Cerretti**

As official representative of the President of the European Parliament, Mrs Cassanmagnago-Cerretti spoke about the excellent relations between the two institutions.

Among other things, she said:

'There is one area where from now on we must count even more on your support and on the support of those terribly important opinion-makers, the social and economic organizations represented here — and that area is the pursuit of European Union. The Milan Summit of June last year gave rise to great hopes. But, alas, the autumn and winter have failed to fulfil the promises of the previous summer and the European Council of Luxembourg has achieved but a very minor reform of the Treaty of Rome.'

She hoped that the Parliament could count on the Committee's support in mobilizing public opinion so that together the representatives of the economic and social interest groups and the elected representatives of the people could prepare a prosperous, stable and united future for the Community.

### **Mr Rutten**

In his speech, Mr Rutten, Permanent Representative of the Netherlands and Chairman of Coreper, stressed the fact that the accession of Spain and Portugal to the Community was one of the key events of 1986.

Besides the enlargement of the Community, one of the major events of recent times which they were celebrating today was the consolidation of the Community, as embodied in the Special European Act. The enlarged and strengthened Community was turning with renewed vigour to its goals of integration and a single market and to the other European factors which were the precondition and guarantee for progress.

The Committee would be consulted regularly by the Commission and, drawing on their wealth of experience, its members could influence the formulation and development of policies.

### **Mr Matutes**

Mr Abel Matutes, the Spanish EEC Commissioner for investment, credit and small firms' policy, welcomed the 21 Spanish members to the Economic and Social Committee.

Stressing that the two main aims of Commission policy were growth and employment, he went on to say that:

'One of the remits given me by the Commission is the implementation of coherent, dynamic action to support small and medium-sized firms. The importance of these firms in the industrial fabric of the Community makes them the main source of new jobs and a major factor in growth, progress and technological innovation.

This is not the moment for a detailed exposition of this policy, but I can assure you that the Committee will soon have the opportunity to be directly involved in its development. Dialogue with the social partners is the cornerstone of overall Commission strategy and must guide all Community decision-making, providing close contact with the situations of the various economic and social sectors in the countries and regions of the Community.

Present circumstances mean that now more than ever the Economic and Social Committee must play its part as a forum for concerted action and consensus, providing a meeting-point for ideas whose special worth is the authenticity conferred on them by their origins in the grass roots of our society.

It is the responsibility of the Committee to provide a sounding-board for Community decision-making.'

### **Mr Crespo**

Mr Segismundo Crespo Valera, Under-Secretary at the Ministry of Labour and Social Security, noted the importance which the Spanish Government accorded to the participation of Spanish representatives in the Community institutions. He went on to say:

'I firmly believe that Spanish participation in the work of the Economic and Social Committee will be a further step in this direction, and will bolster the desire to continue along the path of consultation and social consensus; the representatives of the two sides of Spanish industry here today have already made considerable progress along this path.



*Mr Segismundo Crespo, Under-Secretary at the Spanish Ministry of Labour, addressing the Committee on the occasion of the installation of the new Spanish members. On the left is Mr Abel Matutes, one of the Spanish members of the European Commission.*





*Some of the new Spanish members during their installation at the special session. From left to right: Mr Velasco Mancebo, Mr Zufiaur Narvaiza and Mr Laka Martin.*



*Mr Quevedo Rojo, Mr Muniz Guardado and Mr Lopez de la Puerta.*

Spain and its people have made a clear, historic choice: full integration with Europe and all that this involves. The voice of our people, the defence of their interests, and the European ideal all call for an unswerving commitment from those of you who speak on their behalf at bodies such as the ESC. And in this task, and in this commitment, you will receive the wholehearted support of the Spanish Government.'

**Mr Federico Riera Marsa**

As the senior member of the Spanish delegation, Mr Federico Riera Marsa (Economic and Social Committee member — Employers' Group) took the floor. His statement included the following words:

'We recognize the major importance of the work of the Economic and Social Committee, its valuable contribution to European integration, the growth in its importance since its inception, and its consolidation as an essential forum in which representatives of the various economic and social groupings can meet and debate.'

Mr Marsa concluded:

'And our firm hope is that this continual vigorous process of European integration will strengthen the Community's institutions, within which the role of the Economic and Social Committee is of key importance.'

**Bureau**

The Committee appointed the following Spanish members to its Bureau:

Group I (Employers) : Mr Aparicio Bravo  
Group II (Workers) : Mr Zufiaur  
Group III (Various Interests): Mr Margalev Marsia.

The Bureau now therefore has 27 members.

## Sections

The Committee appointed the following Spanish members to the various Sections:

|                                  | Employers' Groups                    | Workers' Groups                          | Various Interests' Groups  |
|----------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--|--|
| Agriculture                      | Martín Almendro<br>Riera Marsà       | Gómez<br>Zufiaur                         | López de la Puerta<br>Margalef Masia<br>Muñiz Guardado<br>Quevedo Rojo |
| Economic and financial questions | Corell Ayora<br>Termes Carrero       | Velasco<br>Calvet Chambón                |  |
| Energy                           | Cuenca Valdivia<br>Martín Almendro   | Velasco<br>Santillán                     |  |
| Environment                      | Riera Marsà<br>Cuenca Valdivia       | Gómez<br>Calvet Chambón<br>Laka Martín   | Ceballo<br>Landáburu<br>Margalef Masia                                 |
| External relations               | Corell Ayora<br>Machado V. Tschusi   | Vallejo<br>Santillán                     | Landáburu  |
| Industry                         | Aparicio Bravo<br>Riera Marsà        | Vallejo<br>Calvet Chambón<br>Laka Martín | Ceballo<br>Landáburu<br>Larrañaga                                      |
| Regional development             | Aparicio Bravo<br>Machado V. Tschusi | Vallejo<br>Zufiaur<br>Laka Martín        | López de la Puerta<br>Margalef Masia<br>Muñiz<br>Quevedo Rojo          |
| Social questions                 | Aparicio Bravo<br>Cuenca Valdivia    | Gómez<br>Zufiaur                         | López de la Puerta<br>Muñiz  |
| Transport                        | Martín Almendro<br>Corell Ayora      | Velasco<br>Santillán                     |  |

## *OPINIONS ADOPTED*

### 1. AGRICULTURAL PRICES 1986/87

‘Commission proposals on the fixing of prices for agricultural products and related measures (1986/87)’

#### Gist of the Commission proposals

For most products the Commission is proposing that the common prices applied during the 1985/86 farm year be retained. For a limited number of products, however, a change in prices is required in order to keep pace with market trends.

| Cereals  | %      |
|--|--------|
| Common wheat, barley, sorghum, maize:              |        |
| Intervention price                                 | 0      |
| Rye:   |        |
| Intervention price                                 | - 1    |
| Durum wheat:                                       |        |
| Intervention price                                 | - 4,4  |
| Aid for production                                 | + 6,8  |
| Rice:  |        |
| Price for paddy rice                               | 0      |
| Sugar:   |        |
| Basic price for sugarbeet                          | 0      |
| Olive oil:   |        |
| Target price                                       | 0      |
| Intervention price                                 | - 5    |
| Aid for production                                 | 0      |
| Oilseeds:  |        |
| Rape   | 0      |
| Sunflower  | 0      |
| Textile fibres:                                    |        |
| Flax and hemp                                      | 0      |
| Cotton   | 0      |
| Silkworms  | 0      |
| Protein plants:                                    |        |
| Peas, field beans and sweet lupins (minimum price) | + 1    |
| Soya   | 0      |
| Dried fodder                                       | 0      |
| Wines:   |        |
| Guide price  | 0      |
| Tobacco:   |        |
| Guide prices and premiums for                      | - 2,   |
| four groups of                                     | - 4,   |
| varieties  | - 6    |
| Fresh fruit and vegetables:                        |        |
| Basic prices and marketing                         | from 0 |

|            |                                     |    |   |             |   |
|------------|-------------------------------------|----|---|-------------|---|
|            | premiums for the different products | to | + | 1           | % |
| Milk:      | Target price                        |    |   | 0           |   |
|            | Intervention price                  |    |   |             |   |
|            | — butter                            |    | — | 4           |   |
|            | — skimmed-milk powder               |    | + | 3,5         |   |
|            | — cheese                            |    | + | 0,7 / + 0,8 |   |
| Beef/veal: | Guide price                         |    |   | 0           |   |
| Sheepmeat: | Basic price                         |    |   | 0           |   |
| Pigmeat    | Basic price                         |    |   | 0           |   |

For Portugal and Spain, the situation is as follows:

- (i) The joint declaration concerning agricultural products which are subject to the general transitional arrangements, annexed to the Act of Accession, provide that the prices and aids recorded in the acts of the Conference are to be updated on 1 March 1986. Such prices and aids are to be fixed in ECU and will apply during the period from 1 March 1986 to the end of the 1985/86 marketing year for each product.

This updating has shown that the increase in Spanish prices and, in some cases, a fall in the common prices has resulted in the Spanish prices for cotton and peas and field beans exceeding the common prices. The common prices for those products will, therefore, apply from 1 March 1986. For the same reasons, this will also apply, in Portugal, to soya beans, rapeseed, linseed, sweet lupins, dehydrated fodder, peas and field beans, peaches in syrup and dried figs.

The Commission also notes that, in the case of dried figs in Spain and cherries in syrup and sugarbeet in Portugal, the discrepancies between the common prices and Spanish and Portuguese prices are currently less than 3%. The Commission, therefore, proposed that, pursuant to Article 69 of the Act of Accession, the common price be applied as from 1 March 1986.

For the period after the end of the 1985/86 marketing year, provided that the prices for the products referred to in these proposals have not been aligned with the common prices, the move towards alignment will be made, from 1986/87, in accordance with the principles and procedures laid down in the Act of Accession.

- (ii) In the case of certain products:

- (a) In the case of pigmeat, the basic prices and buying-in prices will apply in Spain from 1 March 1986.
- (b) The prices and premiums for the market organizations for sheepmeat and tobacco will be fixed, in respect of Portugal and Spain, as from 1 March 1986.

(iii) The common prices for fresh fruit and vegetables, in the case of Spain, and for agricultural products which are subject to transition by stages, in the case of Portugal, will not apply immediately but the Portuguese and Spanish authorities are asked to exercise considerable price restraint. The Commission will forward a separate communication concerning these products.

#### **Related measures**

Along with its price proposals, the Commission is submitting proposals for related measures. These measures are set out in Part B of COM(86) 20 final, in document COM(86) 30 on changes in the cereals market organization and in document COM(86) 31 on changes in the beef/veal market organization.

The Commission notes that the system of guarantee thresholds introduced for rape and sunflower has not worked as efficiently as expected. Accordingly, it proposes the replacement of this system by one of maximum quantities with guaranteed prices, similar to the arrangements in force for cotton, along with a system of payments on account making it possible to pass on, in the course of the marketing year, the effects of exceeding the maximum quantities.

#### **Agrimonetary proposals**

With regard to the positive MCAs, Article 5(1) of Council Regulation (EEC) No 855/84 stipulates that 'The positive monetary compensatory amounts for the Federal Republic of Germany and the Netherlands remaining after 1 January 1985 shall be abolished by the beginning of the 1987/88 marketing year at the latest for each product by means of a modification of the representative rates.' The Commission takes the view that the objective of dismantling the positive MCAs at latest by the beginning of the 1987/88 marketing year must be retained. Nonetheless, the general situation is as yet not conducive to action along these lines in this marketing year.

With regard to the negative MCAs (Italy, France and Greece), the Commission is proposing certain adjustments. For Italy, the Commission is proposing a 2.5 point dismantlement of the applied MCAs. For France, the Commission is proposing, in accordance with the Council's undertaking given on 23 May 1985, that the 1.5 point neutral margin still applied for all products (except pigmeat, sheepmeat, wine and milk and milk products, for which the neutral margin has already been discontinued) should now be abolished. For Greece, the Commission is proposing that the applied MCAs be dismantled in accordance with the general economic guidelines introduced by the Greek Government and approved by the Commission when the drachma was

devalued on 14 October. On the basis of the MCAs applicable on 3 February 1986, this would mean a dismantlement of 14.4 points. As regards the United Kingdom, fluctuations in the value of sterling on the exchanges are such that the MCAs are sometimes positive and sometimes negative; the Commission therefore reserves the right to submit a proposal at a later stage in this connection, in the light of developments with regard to this currency.

In accordance with the decisions adopted in connection with the 1984/85 prices, the Commission will lay before the Council before 31 December 1986 a report on the application of the new agrimonetary system introduced since 31 March 1984, and will make proposals in the light of the economic and monetary situation of the Community, developments with regard to farm incomes and experience gained.

Given the current outlook for Community agriculture and the general economic trend, the Section could endorse measures which bring about a general freeze of the situation, provided the structural measures foreshadowed by the Commission's Green Paper are adopted at the same time. However, the current proposals do not meet the first requirement, and are not accompanied by structural measures.

### **Gist of the Committee's Opinion<sup>1</sup>**

The Economic and Social Committee adopted its Opinion on this matter by 84 votes for, 10 votes against and 15 abstentions.

In the light of the above, the Committee could approve the farm price proposals for 1986/87 which would in effect mean a general freeze of the present situation, provided the structural measures envisaged in the Green Paper were adopted simultaneously. However, the price proposals formulated by the Commission do not meet these dual requirements.

The expectations raised by the Commission's Green Paper that the Common Agricultural Policy was to be thoroughly reformed are unfortunately not sufficiently borne out by the Commission's farm-price proposals for 1986/87 and the related measures. For this reason the Committee would expressly refer once again to its Opinion of October 1985 on the Commission's Green Paper. To this extent it is deeply disappointed. The Committee is well aware that in the past the Council has lacked the political courage to initiate effective reform of the CAP.

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<sup>1</sup> CES 298/86.

If radical changes are made, considerable effects on the income and employment situation of the working population engaged in agriculture are to be expected. A solution to the agricultural problems can be found only if an approach is adopted embracing all policies ranging from economic and monetary policy, regional, social and employment policy, to agricultural policy. For every measure account must be taken of the short, medium and long-term effects:

- on the incomes of farmers and their families and on the expenditure of consumers and taxpayers;

- on the employment situation in general and in the individual sectors and regions in particular;

- on public budgets including expenditure on the unemployed;
- and,

- on the incomes of employed persons, particularly in those regions where the average income is below that of the individual Member States and in particular below the average for the Community.

Such a strategy must be aimed at using CAP funds in such a way that the objectives of Article 39 are achieved better than hitherto, stocks are reduced, the volume of production is geared to outlets and the incomes of the working population engaged in agriculture are improved in line with upward trends in other sectors.

These objectives will be attainable only gradually and after a fairly long transitional period. These measures should be discussed in depth and in this connection the Committee regrets that it has only a short period at its disposal to consider them. In particular the Committee considers that the back-up social structural programme that the Commission has announced but not yet submitted is a key component of the long-term strategy. The Committee accordingly expects that the Commission will submit as soon as possible its structural proposals, which — according to reports — are to deal in particular with related measures of a social nature.

With regard to products in structural surplus the strategy for establishing market equilibrium must be designed to:

- permit full exploitation of existing sales outlets on world and internal markets;

- ensure a switch of production to items not in structural surplus;

- provide incentives for producing less.

If these measures prove ineffective or insufficiently effective, additional measures must be introduced to bring about the voluntary reduction of production capacity.



The situation on the agricultural markets must be made predictable. This means *inter alia* that the Community should agree on multi-annual production targets with an indication of suitable instruments and take an unequivocal stand in favour of an improvement in the quality of agricultural products.

The Committee considers that the Community's external trade instruments can be made more effective through greater cooperation of producers' organizations and traders. A prime aim of the Community's agricultural external policy should be to strengthen the EC's position on the world markets. The Community bodies must for their part do their utmost to make world trade in agricultural products predictable through negotiations with major competitors and major customer countries on the world market.

A policy aimed at putting the agricultural markets on a sound footing will also meet more easily with understanding from all Community citizens if the compelling reasons for this action by the Community institutions are presented objectively and the CAP gives rise to headlines that are as favourable as possible. Even though it may be more expensive, a scheme for supplying butter to the less well-off and hospitals, etc. — to give but one example — would boost acceptance of the CAP. The stepping-up of measures to prevent subsidy frauds would also make it clear that the Community is doing something effective to ensure responsible use of the taxpayer's money.

Here the Committee would reiterate its repeated call for a common economic and monetary policy to eliminate the constant currency fluctuations and improve the employment situation in the Community.

*This Opinion was drawn up in the light of the work produced by the Section for Agriculture, chaired by Mr de Caffarelli (France — Various interests). The Rapporteur was Mr Flum (Germany — Workers).*

## 2. CAP CEREALS PROSPECTS

**'Commission Memorandum on the Adjustment of the Market Organization for Cereals'**

**'Proposal for a Council Regulation (EEC) amending the Common Organization of the Market in Cereals'**

### **Gist of the Commission proposal**

The Commission proposes giving concrete form to three of the measures it had suggested in its Memorandum on the Adjustment of the Market Organization for Cereals (COM(85) 700) (COM(85) 700 final): financial co-responsibility for farmers, quality policy, and adjustment

of intervention mechanisms. Co-responsibility seeks to ensure that farmers contribute to the cost of disposing of surplus production. This can be done by changing a levy on the quantities marketed or sent to intervention by the farmer, over and above the first 25 tonnes. The long-term aim is for the income from the levy to cover the cost of EAGGF expenditure on intervention on quantities exceeding a certain reference level. Quality policy involves discouraging the production of fodder wheat and tightening up the scale of reductions based on the specific weight of barley, and the use of a penalty scale. The price ratio of durum wheat: common wheat is also to be improved. Lastly, intervention is to be limited to a certain period of the marketing year.

### **Gist of the Committee's Opinion<sup>1</sup>**

In its Opinion, adopted by 43 votes for, seven votes against and four abstentions, the Committee reiterates its support for a cautious price policy and approves the specific cereals price proposals of the Commission. It notes, however, that the proposals for a co-responsibility levy, for stiffer quality standards and for the restrictions of intervention will for many farmers lead to a reduction in prices which could in some cases be severe.

The Committee believes that it is right that farmers should be brought more closely into contact with the market. Co-responsibility is one way of achieving this, especially if any levy is adjusted automatically in accordance with market conditions.

It therefore urges upon the Commission the rapid investigation of the possibility of a system of set-aside, and the limitation of the use of nitrogenous fertilizer.

The Committee has long been in favour of stricter quality standards. But it is important that those stricter standards should reflect the requirements of the market.

The Committee can accept a limitation of intervention to the period 1 December to 30 April provided that there are adequate export restitutions in the period before 1 December, that payment is within 30 days and that help is given to enable the farmer to increase his storage facilities on the farm. The Committee welcomes the idea of storing in the offeror's facilities provided he receives an appropriate payment.

The Committee accepts that the gap between the durum intervention price and that for common wheat is considerably wider in the EC than

<sup>1</sup> CES 300/86.

in Spain and in the world market and this leads both to some substitution of durum wheat by common wheat and to a spread of durum wheat outside its traditional areas.

The circumstances of durum wheat are sufficiently special to justify a separate co-responsibility system which would bring the durum wheat grower more closely into contact with the market for his own products than a general levy could do.

In view of the renewed importance which is being given to price as a means of balancing supply and demand, there is an urgent need for the Commission to bring forward at the earliest possible date its proposals for meeting the social aims of the Community, particularly the protection of incomes of the poorer farmers and those in disadvantaged regions.

*The Rapporteur-General for this Opinion was Mr Zinkin (United Kingdom — Employers). His Co-Rapporteurs were Mr Ognibene (Italy — Various interests) and Mr Rouzier (France — Workers).*

### 3. CAP PROSPECTS — BEEF/VEAL

**'Commission Memorandum on adjustments of the market organization for Beef/Veal'**

**'Proposal for a Council Regulation on adjustments of the market organization for Beef/Veal'**

#### **The economic context of the Commission proposals**

There is at present a major imbalance in the beef market despite record exports. Stocks at slaughter weight at the end of January 1986 were 704,000 tonnes, equivalent to over a year's exports. This is, to a significant extent, the result of the slaughtering of dairy cows because of milk quotas. These slaughterings will continue for the next two years if the Commission's proposals on the buying-up of quotas are approved and even after that if milk yields per cow continue to increase. The position is also made worse by the Community's commitment under various international agreements to import some 370,000 tonnes of beef per year.

Increases in stocks are particularly damaging because beef put into stock loses a considerable part of its value straightaway. At the end of a certain period it may fetch only a fraction of the cost of buying and stocking it as in the case of the recent sale of old meat to the Soviet Union.

Moreover the present system of intervention is often used as a first rather than as a last resort, and sometimes benefits speculators rather than the producers themselves.

To meet this situation the Commission proposes to phase out the present system of intervention and to give premiums on a more extensive scale.

Over the period between now and the end of 1987 it proposes to limit intervention to forequarters and hindquarters of only a few categories. From the end of 1987 onwards, it proposes to intervene only in circumstances of exceptional disturbance to the market and the cost of such intervention will be a major consideration. As partial compensation, it proposes the introduction of premiums of 20 ECU per head for the first 50 animals over six months' old and of 20 ECU per suckler cow. In addition Member States will be allowed to give up to a further 25 ECU per suckler cow. These premiums will be confined to specialized beef producers. The UK variable premium and the calf premium would be discontinued.

A special effort will be made over the next two years to bring stocks down to normal levels.

### **Gist of the Committee's Opinion<sup>1</sup>**

In its opinion, adopted by 52 votes for and 10 abstentions, the Committee accepts that there is a need for changes in the present system over a reasonable period of time. It believes that a lower price to the consumer combined with adequate premiums to the producer would bring about a healthier market and would extend consumption.

It considers that there must be an adequate system of intervention until the disturbances caused to the market by the buying-up of milk quotas and by the disposal of existing stocks have ended.

The Committee accepts that there is a justification for giving more assistance to the family farm than to the very large producer, but it believes that the limitation to 50 animals over six months old is too low.

The Committee recommends to the Commission that instead of the premium for animals over six months old it should institute a system of variable slaughter premiums, i.e. deficiency payments, subject to a maximum and with a contribution from the Member States modulated according to their level of prosperity and the importance of agriculture to them. This would give a measure of protection to the farmer's

<sup>1</sup> CES 299/86.

income, would discourage sales into intervention and would reduce prices to the consumer.

The Committee considers that one of the objectives of the Community in the forthcoming GATT negotiations should be to reduce its commitments to import beef, except from the ACP countries.

Finally, the Committee is disturbed that the Commission has still not put forward the social proposals which were to ease the effects of its measures on the poorest farmers.

*The Rapporteur-General for this Opinion was Mr Zinkin (United Kingdom — Employers). His Co-Rapporteurs were Mr Ognibene (Italy — Various interests) and Mr Rouzier (France — Workers).*

#### 4. PROMOTION OF AGRICULTURE — FRANCE/ITALY/SCOTLAND

**'Proposal for a Council Regulation (EEC) establishing a common measure for the acceleration of agricultural development in certain less-favoured areas of France where beef cattle are reared; the**

**Proposal for a Council Regulation (EEC) establishing a common action for the promotion of agriculture in certain less-favoured areas of Northern Italy; and the**

**Proposal for a Council Regulation (EEC) establishing a common action for the promotion of agriculture in the Scottish islands off the Northern and Western coasts with the exception of the Western Isles'**

#### **Gist of the Commission proposals**

Article 18 of Council Regulation (EEC) No 797/85 of 12 March 1985 on Improving the Efficiency of Agricultural Structures states that in order to help remove the structural or infrastructural handicaps suffered by agriculture in certain areas, specific measures may be adopted to encourage agriculture as a whole in the region concerned. Such measures must be consistent with any development schemes simultaneously undertaken in non-agricultural sectors and with the needs of environmental protection.

The present proposals tackle particularly difficult situations where the problems are already well-known, but where Community action has so far been unable to provide a solution.

Regulation (EEC) No 797/85 cannot be effective in these areas until their fundamental handicaps are eliminated or sharply reduced.

The proposals deal with:

- the promotion of agriculture by the improvement of suckling cattle rearing in certain less-favoured areas of France,
- the promotion of agriculture in certain less-favoured areas in the Alpine areas of Northern Italy,
- the promotion of agriculture in the Scottish Islands with the exception of the Western Isles (Outer Hebrides).

The first proposal seeks to promote agriculture by improving suckling cattle production in certain less-favoured areas of France where beef cattle are reared and whose survival is threatened by extremely poor-quality land due to a preponderance of very wet soils, the inadequate genetic quality of the cattle, the small fields making rationalization difficult, an increasing net outward migration, and various handicaps linked to winter isolation.

The proposed actions include joint land-development measures, the improvement of rearing conditions for beef cattle, an improvement in their genetic quality, forestry measures, and improvement of infrastructure.

The proposal for the promotion of agriculture in the North of Italy covers the mountain areas of Friuli-Venezia-Giulia, Veneto, Trentino-Alto-Adige, Lombardia, Valle d'Aosta and Piemonte.

This proposal aims to alleviate these areas' structural and infrastructural deficiencies. These deficiencies are well known to national and Community authorities but can only be resolved by an operational apparatus adapted to the particular local problems.

These mainly concern erosion, severe hydrogeological imbalances, fire risks, land fragmentation, and agricultural and rural infrastructure.

The measures eligible for aid include improvement of rural infrastructure, forestry improvement, land consolidation, protection against erosion, and encouragement of rural tourism.

Finally, the proposal on the promotion of agriculture in the Scottish Islands with the exception of the Western Isles seeks to eliminate or reduce deficiencies due to small farm size, very difficult soil and climatic conditions, rigid patterns of ownership and very poor living conditions.

The series of measures proposed should improve the situation of this peripheral group of islands.

### **Gist of the Committee's Opinion<sup>1</sup>**

In its Opinion, adopted by 26 votes for, six votes against and two abstentions, the Committee agrees with the Commission that the areas covered by the draft Regulations have structural and/or infrastructural disadvantages which impede satisfactory application of across-the-board measures to improve agricultural structures.

The Committee therefore agrees with the Commission that the Community should act to promote agricultural development in these areas.

However, the Committee radically disagrees with the method and means proposed by the Commission, and urges it to review its proposals.

*The Rapporteur-General for this Opinion was Mr Zinkin (United Kingdom — Employers). His Co-Rapporteurs were Mr Ognibene (Italy — Various interests) and Mr Rouzier (France — Workers).*

<sup>1</sup> CES 301/86.





## 236th Plenary Session

The 236th Plenary Session of the Economic and Social Committee of the European Communities was held in Brussels on 23 and 24 April 1986, with the Chairman, Mr Gerd Muhr, in the chair.

### **Declaration by Mr Gerd Muhr on terrorism**

'Before the report on our activities I feel it incumbent on me to say a few words about recent events. Almost exactly a year ago we were ourselves victims of a terrorist attack, and thus we know what we are talking about. At the time I stressed — and it is equally true today — that the aim of terrorism is to destabilize democracy and democratic institutions. We cannot allow this to happen. Democracy means the ordered resolution of conflict through institutions legitimized by the people. Violence can have no place in it. Democracy means pluralism, with free political parties and free associations. As representatives of such associations we must reject and thwart any attempt to undermine the democratic process.

To this end, it is essential for all the governments of Community Member States to stick together and act as one. We therefore regret that they have not yet reached sufficient consensus to combat and eliminate terrorism and impose sanctions on those who support it. However, we are sure that the recent decisions in Luxembourg by the Council of Ministers are a step in the right direction.

What applies to the social dealings of individuals applies also to relations between peoples. Violence can never be a means of resolving conflicts. Thus, in the present conflict in the Mediterranean, Europe has the urgent task of working for reconciliation and, as a direct neighbour, of taking all the necessary initiatives to encourage the peace process in the Middle East and the Mediterranean, since the conflicts in that region could have uncontrollable effects on peace and security.'

## *OPINIONS ADOPTED*

### 1. EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES FOR WOMEN

**'Equal opportunities for women — Medium Term Community programme — 1986-90' (COM(85) 801 final)**

#### **Gist of the Commission proposal**

The Medium Term (1986-90) Community Programme on Equal Opportunities for Women is part and parcel of the plan to build a People's Europe. In proposing it, the Commission's concern is to highlight ways of achieving equal opportunities in economic, social and cultural life. The programme defines the role of the various parties concerned (Community, national and regional authorities, social and occupational groups) and stresses the need for greater concertation between the latter at Community level on actions and policies to promote equal opportunities for women.

The improved application of existing provisions remains one of the Commission's main concerns. There are still a number of shortcomings as regards the incorporation into national law of Community directives; there are also problems of interpretation. Knowledge of legislation leaves a great deal to be desired. There is still a low rate of recourse to the courts by potential claimants, which is further aggravated by a fear of dismissal. Information and action is needed here.

The Commission will propose a Community legal instrument reversing the burden of proof in respect of all equal opportunities measures. In the social dialogue at Community level, it will stress the principle of equal pay, particularly in connection with occupational classifications and the notion of work of equal value.

Education and training are fundamental: they must be adapted to economic and social change. The Commission will announce a number of measures in this area. Among other things, it is planning to propose Community guidelines on vocational training for women.

The Commission seeks to intensify, diversify and render coherent the actions taken to improve the position of women as regards employment. Both general and specific measures are needed to promote women's employment and achieve a more even mix in employment. The Commission calls on the Member States, as employers, to set a good example and to involve women in decision making and in the introduction and extension of new technologies. Technological change constitutes an opportunity for women, but there is also a danger that it could give rise to increased segregation on the labour market to their

disadvantage. For this reason, the Commission is recommending special efforts to place women on an equal footing with men in the face of the new technologies.

Guidelines for Community actions relating to certain categories with special problems will be proposed:

- single parent families and single women;
- immigrant women;
- women wishing to return to the labour market after a career break;
- physically and mentally handicapped women;
- women in self-employed occupations, including agriculture: the proposal for a directive relating to them will provide an initial legislative response to their problems.

The Commission is deeply concerned about the fact that budgetary constraints have led countries to restrict or limit benefits, sometimes in a manner contrary to the principle of equality, for example by favouring 'heads of families' or 'heads of household'. This may give rise to indirect discrimination against women and could lead to incorrect application of the Directive on equal treatment in social security matters. Certain areas are moreover excluded from its field of application (for example, survivor's pensions) and Member States are allowed to exclude others (e.g. retirement age). It is therefore important to include them in Community legislation on equal opportunities.

Existing provisions and practices relating to the protection of maternity do not always guarantee adequate protection or job security; special effort is needed here too.

*A sine qua non* for the promotion of true equality at work is the sharing of family and occupational responsibilities. The Commission is therefore giving priority to the development of adequate child-minding facilities and of the social infrastructure in general. The development of parental leave and leave for family reasons and the reorganization of working time also call for an open and positive approach.

Finally, the development of more systematic action to increase awareness in order to encourage a change of attitude, is vital if the promotion of equal opportunities is not to be limited to the adoption of legislation, the actual implementation of which is often limited, or to policy declarations which have no practical impact.

The positive aspects of the value of equality at work and in society should be highlighted, and this calls for large-scale action targeted at various sectors of the public; equal opportunities concern society as a whole.

Coordination between the activities of the Commission and Member States' activities should be improved: information on Community action is still inadequate.

### **Gist of the Committee's Opinion<sup>1</sup>**

The fundamental principle of equal rights and the associated question of equal opportunities for women in the world of work concern society as a whole and cannot be postponed until the economic climate improves. This is why the European Communities' Economic and Social Committee supports the European Commission's Action Programme in its unanimously adopted Opinion. Three draft directives — on occupational social-security schemes, parental leave and leave for family reasons and self-employed women — make up the basic points in the Commission's programme. The Committee notes that these three drafts, which it has already endorsed, are still being blocked by the EC Council of Ministers. The Council should have the political will to pass the drafts and show more conviction on the issue. The position of women on the labour market could then gradually improve.

The Committee is extremely concerned about unemployment among women, which is clearly worse than that among men. This situation is due partly to the poor integration of women into the world of work but also partly to discrimination practised with regard to recruitment, further training, careers, dismissals, etc. The Committee is proposing a series of measures to enable women to obtain the same rights as their male colleagues on the labour market. These include encouraging the official promotion of European guidelines for good recruitment practice by, for example, giving priority, when awarding public-works contracts, to firms which, whilst being competitive, try to promote equal opportunities.

Women often run into sexual discrimination at work. The Committee urges that moves be made towards reversing the burden of proof in cases involving the principle of equal opportunities. This would mean that if a dismissed female employee disputed the decision on grounds of sexual discrimination, the employer would have to provide evidence that this was not the case.

Experience could show that such a method would help redress the continuing infringement of equal rights, and improve the balance between the number of legitimate cases brought before the law and the (actual) disproportionately higher number of cases of discrimination

<sup>1</sup> CES 402/86.

which take place. Reversing the burden of proof would also encourage and stimulate good employment practices and modern personnel techniques, both of which are in the interests of forward-looking management.

Finally, the Committee stresses the need to set up independent central, regional and local institutions to ensure equal opportunities; these bodies would, among other things, have to work with workers' and employers' representatives at plant level.

*This Opinion was drawn up in the light of the work produced by the Section for Social Questions, chaired by Mr Kirschen (Italy — Workers). The Rapporteur was Mrs Engelen-Kefer (Germany — Workers).*

## 2. EMPLOYMENT OF DISABLED PEOPLE

**'Draft Council Recommendation on the employment of disabled people in the European Community' (COM(86)9 final)**

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

The Commission is convinced that Community action in this area is essential in view of the seriousness and urgency of the problems facing disabled job seekers. This category is more severely affected than other workers by unemployment (it includes about 27 million, 10% of the population). Although absolutely reliable statistics are lacking, the data the Commission has collected confirm that disabled people are more affected than the rest of the population and unfairly bear the brunt of the economic crisis.

The Commission is particularly concerned by the likelihood that disabled people will be left on the sidelines as the economic recovery gathers momentum. If the employment rate of disabled people is allowed to go on sinking it will have long-term effects and the Member States' current policies to promote the gradual social integration of disabled people will come to nothing.

At the national level, significant efforts have been made by the Member States to introduce the necessary services to implement these policies. There are, however, considerable differences between social legislation, and the political, administrative and occupational structures in the Member States. The Commission does not believe this is the right time to propose full harmonization in this field, but advocates a Community approach based on existing similarities.

The Commission proposal provides for the elimination of negative discrimination, and positive action to help disabled people. For example, it proposes the inclusion in regulations on unjustified dismissals of specific proposals protecting workers against dismissal on account of a handicap. Disabled people should be able to invoke the principle of equal opportunities in the courts or other component bodies.

Public or private undertakings with a workforce of 20 or more should fix a percentage for the employment of disabled people. In every Member State a code of good practice for the employment of disabled people — for which the Commission has drawn up a model — should be adopted and widely disseminated and applied. The draft recommendation also contains a provision requiring the employer to cooperate with rehabilitation services in the resettlement, with the same employer as far as possible, of an employee who becomes disabled as a result of an accident whether at work or not.

The Commission proposes to set up a system for the exchange of information and experience on the rehabilitation and employment of disabled people between national authorities and other agencies in this field.

### **Gist of the Committee's Opinion<sup>1</sup>**

Despite much talk about solidarity, the number of social, economic and cultural outcasts is constantly increasing at a time when 'progress' should be reducing it. This was a sad finding of the Economic and Social Committee in its unanimously adopted Opinion.

In the light of this situation, the Committee takes the view that the concerted implementation of an overall economic and social policy aiming at more qualitative growth and fuller employment is the precondition for the adoption of measures capable of improving disabled people's employment prospects in practice and in depth.

The Committee would stress that any solution to the problem of employment of disabled people depends on better knowledge of the nature and scale of the problem, particularly in statistical terms. It would therefore ask the Commission to encourage research in this field, taking its inspiration particularly from the work carried out by local authorities in some Member States.

The Committee also takes the view that the wording of the Recommendation should be made much stronger in some places, to show the

<sup>1</sup> CES 397/86.

desire of the European Institutions to make the fight against disabilities and the integration of disabled people one of the priorities of their action. This is the underlying message of the Opinion which the Economic and Social Committee issued in 1981 on disabled people.

The Committee reiterates that everyone should have an equal right to work, and shares the Commission's view that disabled people have the same right as all other workers to equal opportunity in training and employment. The aim is to bring the disabled person to the maximum level of physical and intellectual capacity he or she can reach in order to enable him/her to integrate with non-disabled people. The Committee would count, *inter alia*, on firms and the new technologies for realizing this objective.

Whilst not calling into question the principle of quotas for recruitment policy, as they encourage solidarity with the most vulnerable and help protect their right to equal opportunity of employment, the Committee urges that incentives be provided for firms which provide conditions suitable for employment of the disabled. One form of incentive might be either to reimburse companies the costs incurred in adapting premises and equipment for everyday use by the disabled, or to grant them tax concessions. Increased specific aid should be provided for firms taking on more severely disabled people.

The ESC believes the new technologies should make it easier to employ the disabled. Facilities could be made available to the disabled through work at home (e.g. using a computer terminal).

In connection with the integration of disabled people, the structure, programmes and methods of general and vocational education and continuing training need to be adapted to reflect the right of disabled people to education and training.

Finally, the Committee hopes that the Community's funds — particularly in the context of their future restructuring — will be orientated to take account of priority measures in favour of the disabled, and especially for their vocational and social integration.

*This Opinion was drawn up in the light of the work produced by the Section for Social Questions, chaired by Mr Kirschen (Italy — Workers). The Rapporteur was Mr Burnel (France — Various interests).<sup>1</sup>*

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<sup>1</sup> Mr Burnel is president of the French National Union of Family Associations, UNAF.

### 3. ERASMUS

**'Proposal for a Council Decision adopting Erasmus: the European Community Action Scheme for the Mobility of University Students' (COM(85) 756 final)**

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

The aim of the Commission Proposal is to boost the proportion of students who spend a period of study in another Member State of the Community during their university studies to around 10% of the total student population from 1992 onwards.

Actions to be undertaken in order to promote such student mobility include:

the introduction of an EC Student Grants Scheme to be administered through appropriate national authorities;

the establishment of a European University Network, based on exchange programmes and more closely aligned curricula;

the improvement of academic recognition of diplomas and periods of study, specifically backed up by a European Community Course Credit Transfer System (ECTS) and by EC and national academic recognition information centres;

complementary measures such as university teacher exchange programmes, European-wide lecture programmes, diffusion of information plus study visits grants, European university associations and the awarding of 'Erasmus prizes'.

#### **Gist of the Committee's Opinion<sup>1</sup>**

The European Community's 'Erasmus' Programme — an ambitious inter-European exchange scheme for students — should be aimed at the widest possible cross section of young people and should not simply create a Euro-elite. This is the Opinion which was adopted unanimously by the Economic and Social Committee, which further urged that proposals of this kind should be extended to cover young workers and trainees.

The Committee believes strongly that the programme should encourage mobility along the entire higher education curricular range and that positive steps should be taken to correct curricula or national and regional imbalances. Indeed the Committee feels that the Commission

<sup>1</sup> CES 396/86.



ought to modify the term 'University' used in the Programme and replace it by a more appropriate title such as 'Higher Education Establishments'.

The Committee considers that the scope of the 'Erasmus' Programme must reach out to facilitate the free movement of students between Member States. Principally the Committee argues that as much recognition must be given to students' linguistic difficulties as to problems in the areas of financial support, course content, credit transfer and legislation.

More extensive provision for language preparation should be made available within the 'Erasmus' Programme itself.

The Committee welcomes the European Community's ambitious proposal to increase the number of students who participate in exchange schemes in Europe from the present enrolment of about 3 000 to a minimum of 150 000 by 1992.

To be successful the major proportion of the 'Erasmus' Programme's funds must be directed to non-administrative activities and it should draw on the existing national administrative machinery for its implementation. The Committee asks that the expertise of its members, active in the academic sector, should be called upon by the European Community to ensure that the programme will reach the widest possible young audience.

*This Opinion was drawn up in the light of the work produced by the Section for Social Questions, chaired by Mr Kirschen (Italy — Workers). The Rapporteur was Mr Schwarz (United Kingdom — Various interests).*

#### 4. EXPOSURE TO BENZENE

**'Proposal for a Council Directive on the protection of workers from the risks related to exposure to benzene at work' (COM(85) 669 final)**

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

On 27 February 1984 the Council adopted a resolution on a second action programme by the European Communities on safety and health at work. This programme consists of 21 actions, six of which are concerned with protection against dangerous substances. The fifth of these aims to 'develop preventive and protective measures for substances recognized as being carcinogenic and other dangerous substances and processes which may have serious harmful effects on health'.

The Council had also adopted, on 27 November 1980, Directive 80/107/EEC on the protection of workers from the risks related to chemical, physical and biological agents at work.

The aim of this Directive is to protect workers against risks to their health and safety, including the prevention of such risks, arising or likely to arise at work from exposure to chemical and biological agents considered harmful.

To ensure that exposure of workers to agents is avoided or kept as low as possible, Member States are required, when they adopt measures for the protection of workers against the effects of an agent, to take the measures set out in Article 4 of the Directive.

Article 8 of the Directive concerns proposals for individual directives to be submitted by the Commission to the Council in respect of the agents listed in Annex I, which includes benzene. The two individual Directives on lead and asbestos, which the Council has already adopted, the two proposals for Directives on noise and the proscription of certain specific agents or certain working activities, which are at present being examined by the Council, and the present proposal for a Directive on the protection of workers from the risks related to exposure to benzene at work all fall within the meaning of Article 8.

Benzene is a colourless liquid and a normal constituent in petroleum. It is found in low concentrations in the natural environment.

The extraction of benzene from coal for commercial purposes dates from 1849; today, however, approximately 90% of benzene is obtained from the distillation of petroleum, using various processes, such as fractional distillation or catalytic cracking.

Benzene is mainly used as a raw material in the manufacture of organic compounds such as phenol, styrene, cyclohexene and maleic anhydride; as a component of petroleum it is also present in petrol (5% on average in Europe).

An estimated 7 million tonnes of benzene are produced in the Member States each year, mainly in the United Kingdom, Germany and the Netherlands.

For at least 100 years benzene has been recognized as constituting a health risk for persons coming into contact with it. It enters the body almost exclusively via the airways; very small quantities can also be absorbed via the skin.

Benzene's high fat solubility facilitates its distribution in tissues which are rich in lipids, such as the adipose tissue, the nervous system and the bone marrow.

Benzene is rapidly oxidized in these tissues, mainly into phenol and also into catechol and hydroquinone. Whereas 25 to 50% of the benzene is eliminated in unchanged form by respiration, the remaining fraction is secreted together with the oxidation products, in the urine.

Acute health effects are observed following exposure to high levels (over 500 ppm), with symptoms of poisoning.

Prolonged exposure to toxic doses can, however, lead to changes in the bone marrow which may culminate in a persistent pancytopenia, i.e. a reduction of all bloodcell components. There may be early symptoms, such as anaemia, leukocytopenia and thrombocytopenia. In serious cases the victim may develop aplastic anaemia provoked by a functional deficiency of the bone marrow.

### **Gist of the Committee's Opinion<sup>1</sup>**

Whilst it regrets the failure to adopt a global approach to the benzene question and the slowness and shortcomings of action at Community level, the Section welcomes the efforts made by the Commission to improve protection of workers from workplace hazards. The Section would urge the Commission to press ahead with implementation of the specific measures laid down in the framework Directive of 27 November 1980 and in the second European Communities action programme on health and safety at the workplace.

In its Opinion, adopted by 99 votes for, 2 votes against and 8 abstentions, the Committee stressed that benzene exposure is especially dangerous to young people under 18 years of age and women who are pregnant or breastfeeding. For this reason, the Section would request that the Directive stipulate that, as is the case in many Member States, people in these categories should not be assigned to or continue to perform jobs where they are exposed to benzene.

*This Opinion was drawn up in the light of the work produced by the Section for Social Questions, chaired by Mr Kirschen (Italy — Workers). The Rapporteur was Mr Dassis (Greece — Workers).*

<sup>1</sup> CES 401/86.

## 5. SHIPBUILDING

### **'Guidelines for a Community policy in the shipbuilding sector'**

#### **Purpose of the Additional Opinion**

In its Opinion of 26 September 1984 on the Proposal for a Council Directive Amending Directive 81/363/EEC on Aid to Shipbuilding, the Committee thought it extremely important for the Community to examine precise guidelines for a series of well-coordinated measures on which an overall policy could be based.

Pending an official response from the Commission on this matter, the Industry Section has been given permission to draw up an Additional Opinion.

#### **Gist of the Committee's Opinion<sup>1</sup>**

In its Opinion, adopted by a large majority with two votes against and three abstentions, the Committee points out that, more than 10 years after the onset of the shipbuilding crisis, the situation justifies concerned appraisal of the industry's future and, by definition, the effectiveness of the policies pursued to date in an attempt to halt the decline.

Overall productivity trends in the Community shipbuilding sector show no significant improvement despite capacity shedding and a range of rationalization measures. Employment, and hence production capacity, in this sector have dropped by over 50% since 1975 but output has fallen at the same rate because of dwindling orders.

In the Committee's view, therefore, the Community can no longer drag its feet in identifying the minimum level of capacity to be defended with all our might. The Commission must return to the charge and determine this minimum capacity, making sure that Member States are not blinkered by inexcusable partisan interests.

Once the minimum capacity has been identified, the Member States (via agreements, possibly along the lines of the steel industry market quota arrangements) should join with the Community in framing a clear-cut policy safeguarding the shipbuilding sector.

According to the Committee, ship repairs and shipbuilding are interlinked and therefore require coordinated action in the shape of restructuring and support measures ensuring the healthy survival of this sub-sector too.

<sup>1</sup> CES 400/86.

As far as aid is concerned, the Committee points out:

'one cannot fail to be struck by the discrepancy between the Community authorities' efforts to control and reduce aid granted by EEC countries to their shipbuilding industry and their inability or lack of the necessary energy to track down and denounce the multiple forms of aid received by shipyards outside the Community, as well as the obvious dumping practices which this Opinion condemns.'

In the view of the ESC the Commission should work for appropriate international, political and commercial action to resist all kinds of protectionist policies followed by third countries, thereby creating a climate in which the competitiveness of the Community merchant shipping fleet can be restored. This will be an effective means of boosting the shipbuilding sector at the same time.

*This Opinion was drawn up in the light of the work produced by the Section for Industry, Commerce, Crafts and Services, chaired by Mr de Wit (Netherlands — Employers). The Rapporteur was Mr Arena (Italy — Employers).*

## 6. SATELLITE TELEVISION

**'Proposal for a Council Directive on the Adoption of Common Technical Specifications of the MAC/Packet family of standards for direct satellite television broadcasting' (COM(86) 1 final)**

### **Gist of the proposal for a Directive**

Direct transmission of television programmes via satellites represents a significant technological step forward in TV broadcasting. It opens the way to true Pan-European television, with geographical coverage of areas larger than the territories of the individual nation States in Europe. However, in order to ensure that consumers, industry and broadcasters throughout the Community can fully benefit from this technical progress, it will be necessary to implement common technical solutions, and to agree on common standards.

Therefore, the European Broadcasting Union (EBU) and the European consumer electronics manufacturing industry have developed a family of transmission systems which include not only systems for direct satellite broadcasting, but also retransmission into existing cable networks; there is thus a family of 'MAC/packet' (MAC — multiplexed analogue components) transmission systems which vary according to the respective signal processing for picture and sound/data transmission.

The purpose of the Directive is to:

direct the outstanding decisions of the Member States towards the exclusive adoption of a system of the MAC/packet family;

exclude — even during a transition period — the adoption of any amended version of existing television broadcasting systems (such as PAL or SECAM) and to avoid different incompatible systems within the Community for direct satellite TV broadcasting;

establish for the relevant Community manufacturing industry a clear framework for its decisions on the equipment for direct reception of European-wide TV programmes;

pave the way for the creation of a large open European market for direct satellite TV broadcasting equipment for the benefit of the consumers, the operators and the manufacturing industry in the Community;

make the broadcasting of multilingual television programmes possible.

The adoption of the MAC/packet systems as a common standard in the Community is not an intermediate transitional solution. The technical concept of MAC/packet systems allows for long term evolution towards high definition television systems, thus responding to the requirements of operators and consumers during the coming decades.

The Directive lays down a procedure for adaptation to technical progress, in particular to the further development of the technical specifications of the MAC/packet family.

The Commission thinks that decisions on the proposal's adoption should now be taken without delay, considering that the launch of the first European direct broadcasting satellites are to be launched in 1986.

### **Gist of the Committee's Opinion<sup>1</sup>**

In its unanimous Opinion, the Committee welcomes the Commission's proposal for a Directive concerning the MAC/packet family of standards for direct satellite television broadcasting.

It feels that the MAC<sup>2</sup> systems will make a major contribution to European cooperation and enable the countries of Europe to become better acquainted with each other's culture and social and political

<sup>1</sup> CES 393/86.

<sup>2</sup> Multiplexed analogue components.

systems. In addition, it is important for the economic development of Europe that the manufacturing industry should be stimulated by the new technical developments and that its sales prospects should be considerably enhanced as a result.

In the Committee's view, it is of great importance for European cooperation that a uniform system should now be laid down for satellite reception technology, after we have had to contend with two different systems (PAL and SECAM) for conventional television transmission.

The Committee expects that viewers in the Member States will be able, with time, to adapt to the common technical specifications; they must, however, be offered reasonable interim solutions in the transitional phase.

*This Opinion was drawn up in the light of the work produced by the Section for Industry, Commerce, Crafts and Services, chaired by Mr de Wit (Netherlands — Employers). The Rapporteur was Mr Broicher (Germany — Workers).*

## 7. PUBLIC SUPPLY CONTRACTS

### **'Communication by the Commission to the Council — public supply contracts — conclusions and perspectives'**

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

The Commission starts by taking stock of the present situation in the field of public procurement. Although a number of initiatives have been taken, it has still not been possible to break down the barriers between national markets. According to the Commission, the natural inertia of the local, regional and national authorities responsible for the award of contracts has been compounded by short-term political constraints which bear witness to the authorities' short-sightedness. Each year the Member States spend as much as 40 000 million ECUs more than they should do, simply because contracts are not awarded to the firms submitting the best tenders from the point of view of price and quality.

The liberalization of public procurement would be in the interest of suppliers, industry and commerce, but the purchaser and hence the public purse would benefit even more so. It is obvious that competition between potential suppliers is bound to have a positive effect on quality and price.

In its survey of Community legislation, the Commission points out that the free movement of goods is the ultimate aim. This is to be achieved by making it compulsory to publish invitations to tender in the Official

Journal and also by ensuring compliance with procedural rules and criteria governing the award of contracts. However, the scope of the rules laid down at the end of 1976 by Directive 77/52/EEC has been considerably restricted by a number of important derogations in the fields of telecommunications, transport and water, gas and electricity and in the service sector in general.

In addition, the half-hearted application of this legislation has meant that the number of contracts to which Community procedures are applied has fallen to only 5%.

The figures for contracts awarded by national authorities to suppliers from other EEC countries show that the chances of non-nationals getting a contract are still extremely slim; between 1981 and 1982 the number of contracts going to another EEC country fell from 4.5% to 0.9%, where it remained in 1983, too.

The Commission thinks that progress towards a common market in public procurement can be made on three fronts:

the application of current Directives should be improved further. The most important points in this respect are: the translation of the Directives into national law; the quantity and quality of information on public supply contracts; the interpretation of the Directives by the Community Institutions; regional and local authorities' observance of the Directives; the scheme applicable to small businesses, which are penalized by the 200,000 ECU threshold;

the Directives should be amended in the light of the experiences of the last five years in order to improve them and limit blatant cases of abuse. The Commission mainly has in mind: greater transparency at all procedural stages; clearer definition of exemptions; and the amendment and improvement of procedures; e.g. as regards calculating the threshold for certain contracts;

application of the Directives should be extended to sectors and fields currently excluded. At the moment the Directives cover only a very small area of public procurement; in particular, they do not apply to organizations providing public services in the fields of telecommunications, transport and water, gas and electricity and to the service sector in general (apart from public works).

### **Gist of the Committee's Opinion<sup>1</sup>**

In its Opinion adopted unanimously in Brussels with three abstentions, the Economic and Social Committee welcomes the candid nature of the

<sup>1</sup> CES 399/86.



Commission's criticism of the non-functioning of the Community's internal market in respect of public purchasing. Notwithstanding the difficulties of changing long established practices and the inherent pressures associated with implementing a policy which may appear to conflict with perceived local, regional and national interests, the Committee is strongly of the view that the basic legislation governing procurement on a Community scale must be respected — contrary to what has hitherto been the case — without exception by all parties. In view of the lip-service paid to the realization of this goal, by the heads of those very governments who have failed to implement the Community policies in this area, it is clear that more than pious statements of intent are called for. Indeed, the political credibility of the Community legislation in this area is at stake if serious efforts are not made to make public authorities comply with the spirit as well as the letter of the Community legislation in this matter.

The Committee is convinced that not enough effort at Community level has been put into communicating the Directives to all parties at central, regional and local level and the mutual long-term advantages of applying them. This new communicative effort must be a corner-stone in the Commission's attempts to redress the situation.

The Committee wholeheartedly supports the actions proposed by the Commission to remedy the lack of progress in achieving a true Common Market in public purchasing. It particularly invites the Commission to put more emphasis on studying and alleviating the practical problems facing potential suppliers.

The Opinion supports the Commission's emphasis on improving the transparency of non-competitive bidding i.e. the requirement for prior information on whether non-competitive or negotiated tendering is to be used — and not least why.

The Committee is, however, convinced that more efforts should be made by the Commission in the following areas:

Uniform guidelines should be laid down for the interpretation and implementation in practice of the Directives so that uncertainties and diverging, often bona fide, misinterpretations are avoided.

A Public Procurement Unit should be set up within the Commission with clearly defined terms of reference and with adequate financial resources. It would be responsible for implementation, communication, establishing meaningful statistics, and monitoring in the field of public purchasing in the Community.

The Commission should initially concentrate its efforts on central government and large local purchasing contracts.

A system of redress that works has to be introduced. The Committee is convinced that the lack of a workable system of redress is a major reason for the seemingly low credibility of the Community Directives, which are seen as lacking in teeth because of the poor chance of winning a case quickly enough to see a reversal of the decision.

The opening of the EC-procurement market to non-member countries, parties to the GATT Agreement on Government Procurement, cannot take place unilaterally but must be achieved on a reciprocal basis so that European firms are ensured the same advantages on the markets of non-member countries.

Finally, the Committee is in favour of extending the coverage of the Directive to the whole public procurement area, including telecommunications, transport, energy and water.

*This Opinion was drawn up in the light of the work produced by the Section for Industry, Commerce, Crafts and Services, chaired by Mr de Wit (Netherlands — Employers). The Rapporteur was Sir George Sharp (United Kingdom — Various interests).*

## 8. LEGAL PROTECTION SEMI-CONDUCTORS

**'Proposal for a Council Directive on the legal protection of original topographies of semiconductor products' (COM (85) 775 final)**

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

The design of a topography represents a considerable investment in terms of labour and capital; however, as the Commission points out, it is possible to copy a topography much more cheaply, thus undermining the efforts made by designers. This is the first reason for this proposal. The other reason is linked to US legislation on semi-conductor chips (November 1984), which provides protection for foreign designers of circuits, but only on the basis of reciprocity; several Member States are also preparing laws to this effect. Since the basic position in law differs appreciably from one Member State to another and rapid action should be taken, the proposal sets out a general framework within which each Member State can choose the form of protection which is most suited to its legal system. Either copyright law, legislation specially enacted for the purpose, or a combination of the two may be used as the basis. The proposal merely lays down what must be protected, the formalities which may be required, who is to benefit from the protection, the acts against which protection must be provided and the minimum and

maximum duration of the protection. The Commission also states that the need for a single registration procedure should also be examined by the Community in the longer term; this will be dealt with later.

Consultations have already been held with experts from the Ten and European industrial bodies (in particular, the Union of Industries of the European Community and the European Electronic Component Manufacturers' Association). The text takes account of the views expressed: there was general agreement that a framework text is the best approach and that the proposal has to be restricted to the aspects which it covers at present. The proposal also takes account of the draft treaty on the same subject drawn up by the World Intellectual Property Organization: work on this treaty started last November and at the moment it is difficult to forecast what course it will take.

### **Gist of the Committee's Opinion<sup>1</sup>**

In a unanimous Opinion, the Committee fully supports the Commission's initiative to introduce a Directive on the legal protection of original topographies of semi-conductor products. It agrees largely with the proposed contents of the Directive but expects the Council and the Commission to take serious note of the comments below.

The Committee takes the view that the imitation of such topography must be prevented. A small minority of Member States have legal protection measures, while a large majority have no means of protection in law. The implementation of legal protection measures is therefore necessary.

The Commission proposal is also aimed at obtaining protection of EC topographies in the USA. Under the provisions of the US legislation, protection of EC semi-conductor products on the US market will be jeopardized unless the EEC decides to act soon. The Committee therefore urges early adoption of the Directive by the Council, at any rate before June 1986. It also calls on the Commission to undertake all the necessary steps to ensure maximum prolongation of interim protection in the USA. Member States should nonetheless complete the necessary legislative steps to comply with the Directive as soon as possible and at the latest by 1 October 1987.

*This Opinion was drawn up in the light of the work produced by the Section for Industry, Commerce, Crafts and Services, chaired by Mr de Wit (Netherlands — Employers). The Rapporteur was Mr Noordwal (Netherlands — Employers).*

<sup>1</sup> CES 394/86.

## 9. SEEDS

**'Proposal for a Regulation (EEC) of the Council amending Regulation (EEC) No 2358/71, Regulation (EEC) No 2727/75, and Regulation (EEC) No 950/68 on seeds' (COM(86) 28 final)**

### **Gist of the Commission proposal**

As agreed in accession negotiations with Spain, the Commission is proposing, in connection with hybrid sorghum seeds, a system of reference prices coupled with the issue of import certificates, i.e. the same system as that adopted for hybrid maize seeds.

The Commission is also proposing to include in the Annex to Regulation (EEC) No 2358/71 (on the common organization of the market in the seeds sector) the following varieties of vegetables:

*Hedysarum coronarium L.*,

*Onobrichis viciifolia Scop.*,

*Trifolium subterraneum L.*,

*Vicia villosa Roth.*

### **Gist of the Committee's Opinion<sup>1</sup>**

In a unanimous Opinion, the Committee endorses the proposal, which seeks to bring sorghum and fodder crop seeds which are of importance to the Mediterranean area within the Community system.

*This Opinion was drawn up in the light of the work produced by the Section for Agriculture, chaired by Mr de Caffarelli (France — Various interests). The Rapporteur was Mr Schnieders (Germany — Employers).*

## 10. MEAT PRODUCTS

**'Proposal for a Council Directive amending Directive 77/99/EEC on health problems affecting intra-Community trade in meat products' (COM(85) 678 final)**

### **Gist of the Commission proposal**

The purpose of this proposal is to introduce certain procedures which already apply to fresh meat (Directive 83/90/EEC). The present

<sup>1</sup> CES 398/86.

procedure for the approval of establishments by Member States is joined by a new procedure which is to be followed in the event of disputes between Member States: if, after bilateral negotiations, the Member States cannot agree, the Standing Veterinary Committee procedure may be applied after consultations with one or more experts designated by the Commission. The proposal also provides for regular on-the-spot checks by Commission experts to ascertain whether the establishments approved by the Member States are in fact complying with the provisions of the Directive, following a procedure which takes into account the experience gained from applying the Directive concerning intra-Community trade in fresh meat. As regards the inspection of meat products in intra-Community trade, the proposal would introduce new rules to take account of the requirements of the internal market. Since the health certificate guarantees that the products comply with the Directive, only documentary checks on these certificates are needed. The country of designation can only carry out physical checks if serious irregularities are suspected. In such cases the inspections must be carried out in a non-discriminatory manner and in such a way that the transportation of the goods encounters as few obstacles as possible.

Apart from introducing these new procedures, this proposal would also widen the scope of the Directive. Certain meat products which have not undergone heating, salting or drying as defined by the Directive are not covered by Community arrangements at the moment. These include meat products incorporating other foodstuffs, additives or condiments, where the latter do not function as a preservative. The Commission considers that this category of products should also be subject to the provisions of the Directive.

As in the case of fresh meat, it is also proposed:

- that the preparation, wrapping and packaging of meat products may be carried out on the same premises if certain health precautions are strictly observed;
- that meat products may be stored at approved establishments operating independently of the production plants;
- that the health marking on products transported in bulk for further processing be simplified.

The Annexes have been drafted in such a way as to harmonize them as far as possible with those to Directive 83/90/EEC. Rules concerning the production of meat products in hermetically sealed recipients have been drawn up to take account of manufacturing techniques. Lastly, a flexible procedure is proposed for amending the Annexes in line with technological progress.

### **Gist of the Committee's Opinion<sup>1</sup>**

In its Opinion adopted unanimously with seven abstentions, the Committee approves the Commission's proposal and takes the view that it is very likely to facilitate intra-Community trade and at the same time improve consumer protection in the Community.

*This Opinion was drawn up in the light of the work produced by the Section for Agriculture, chaired by Mr de Caffarelli (France — Various interests). The Rapporteur was Mr Wick (Germany — Employers).*

## **11. HARMFUL ORGANISMS**

**'Proposal for a Council Directive amending, in view of the accession of the Kingdom of Spain and the Portuguese Republic, Directive 77/93/EEC on protective measures against the introduction into the Member States of harmful organisms of plants or plant products' (COM(85) 784 final)**

### **Gist of the Commission proposal**

Council Directive 77/93/EEC established a regime for the protection of plants and plant products from harmful organisms. The present proposal would amend Directive 77/93/EEC in view of the accession of Spain and Portugal. It takes account of the ecological conditions and the plant health situation which characterize the territories of Spain and Portugal and the other Member States. It also creates a transitional period to enable Spain and Portugal to take all the steps that are necessary to comply with Directive 77/93/EEC.

### **Gist of the Committee's Opinion<sup>2</sup>**

In its Opinion, adopted unanimously with one abstention, the Committee endorses the Commission's proposal amending Council Directive 77/93/EEC in order to:

extend the application of the Directive as a whole to Spain and Portugal;

extend the protection in respect of certain harmful organisms of general Community concern and organisms of particular concern to Spain and Portugal or to other Member States or regions with similar ecological conditions.

<sup>1</sup> CES 403/86.

<sup>2</sup> CES 395/86.

The Committee reiterates a number of points which it raised in an earlier Opinion. In particular, it feels that research on harmful organisms and protection from them are largely inadequate.

*This Opinion was drawn up in the light of the work produced by the Section for Agriculture, chaired by Mr de Caffarelli (France — Various interests). The Rapporteur was Mr de Tavernier (Belgium — Various interests).*

## 12. DANGEROUS PREPARATIONS

**'Proposal for a Council Directive on the Approximation of the Laws, Regulations and Administrative Provisions of the Member States relating to the Classification, Packaging and Labelling of Dangerous Preparations'** (COM (85) 364 final)

### **Gist of the proposal**

The dangerous preparations sector has been governed to date by:

- a 1973 Directive (73/173/EEC) on solvents;
- a 1977 Directive (77/728/EEC) on paints, varnishes, printing inks, adhesives and similar products; and
- a 1978 Directive (78/631/EEC) on pesticides.

In 1979, the Council amended the 1967 Directive on dangerous substances for the sixth time and required that the three Directives mentioned above be adapted to it, especially as regards definitions.

Despite the above-mentioned Community measures, the rules, if any, applying to dangerous preparations in the Member States differ greatly as regards classification according to the degree of risk. This is a significant barrier to trade and directly affects the establishment and functioning of the Common Market.

The present proposal therefore has a twofold objective:

- to amplify and harmonize Community legislation on the classification and labelling of dangerous preparations; and
- to meet formal requests from the Member States voiced in 1980 and repeated in 1983 that a Directive on dangerous preparations in general be drawn up, instead of the three existing ones and another forthcoming.

The proposal aims to classify and label all the preparations according to the degrees of danger they might present, irrespective of their uses. This should help remove the barriers to trade referred to above and give

better protection to persons who come into contact with such preparations, either at work or in leisure activities, by providing a label giving essential information on the hazards involved and the precautions to be taken.

### **Gist of the Committee's Opinion<sup>1</sup>**

In its Opinion adopted unanimously with one abstention, the Committee approves the Commission's aim of making Community rules more consistent by correcting potential disparities in the basic criteria.

The need for these proposals is highlighted by the huge scale of the problem: so far around 1 200 substances have been classified, while the number of substances for assessment in the EEC inventory is 95 000. Preparations deriving from these and in circulation are reckoned to number about 500 000.

While stressing the need to allow a sufficient period of time, with suitable implementing arrangements, for the transition to the single Directive, the Section nonetheless feels that amendment of the current provisions on classification, packaging and labelling must not, at the very least, mean a reduction in existing information and safety levels for workers and consumers.

*This Opinion was drawn up in the light of the work produced by the Section for Protection of the Environment, Public Health and Consumer Affairs, chaired by Mrs Heuser (Germany — Various interests). The Rapporteur was Mr Romoli (Italy — Employers).*

## **13. SURFACE FRESH WATER**

**'Proposal for a Council Decision amending Decision 77/795/EEC Establishing a Common Procedure for the Exchange of Information on the Quality of Surface Fresh Water in the Community' (COM(85) 605 final)**

### **Gist of the proposal**

The proposal seeks to amend the procedure for the exchange of information on the quality of surface water which was adopted in 1977.

The main feature is the intercalibration of the reference method for measuring the parameters contained in the Annex. This should make

<sup>1</sup> CES 391/86.



the results more reliable when assessing the comparability of the results obtained when two reference methods of measurement are used by different Member States.

### **Gist of the Committee's Opinion<sup>1</sup>**

In its Opinion adopted unanimously, the Committee approves the Commission's amendments to the proposed Decision. It also urges the Commission to circulate its report as widely as possible from now on.

The Committee also suggests that the intercalibration exercise (proposed to make the results obtained from analysis of the parameters easier to compare) should be made obligatory, and should be periodically repeated.

*This Opinion was drawn up in the light of the work produced by the Section for Protection of the Environment, Public Health and Consumer Affairs, chaired by Mrs Heuser (Germany — Various interests). The Rapporteur was Mr Zoli (Italy — Various interests).*

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<sup>1</sup> CES 392/86.



## External relations

### Official visit by the ESC Chairman to the Netherlands

The Committee Chairman visited the Netherlands on 9 April 1986 as part of the round of official visits made by him to countries holding the Council presidency.

During his visit, Mr Muhr met with the following ministers: Mr H.E. De Koning, Minister for Social Affairs and Employment, Mr G.M.V. van Aarden, Minister for Economic Affairs, Mr H. van den Broek, Minister for External Relations and President of the Council, and Mr W.F. van Eekelen, Secretary of State for European Affairs.

Mr Muhr also had discussions with Mr Quene, Chairman of the Dutch Economic and Social Council, and other members of that body.

The main topics covered were the setting-up of an internal market, agriculture, relations between the EEC and the USA, and institutional matters.

The ESC delegation also included the two Vice-Chairmen, Mr Noordwal and Mr Emo Capodilista, and the Secretary-General, Mr Louet.

On 13 March, Mr Muhr had talks in Brussels with Mr Korosec, Yugoslavian Ambassador to the European Communities, and with Mr Tyszkiewicz, Secretary-General of UNICE.

### Other activities

#### Integrated operations — visits to Belfast and to Naples

Delegations of the Economic and Social Committee visited Belfast (Northern Ireland) and Naples, on 19 and 20 February 1986 and 28 and 29 April 1986 (respectively) to assess progress achieved in applying to these two cities the integrated operations method of development aid and to make recommendations for the future.

The objective of integrated operations is to help stimulate economic regeneration of an areas experiencing acute social and economic difficulties. The method is to encourage the concentration of national, local

and Community resources on the area and to overcome administrative bottlenecks through a greater collaboration by the bodies concerned.

The Delegations; some 25 strong, consisted of Committee members from different countries and experts on development, and were headed by Mrs Moyra Quigley (UK — Various interests). The rapporteur for the Committee's Opinions on the subject was Mr Della Croce, President of the Italian Research Centre for Labour Economics (CREL).

In each case the Delegation from the ESC met representatives of local regional interests.

#### **Meeting of the Economic and Social Committee with EFTA's consultative committee in Belgium**

The thirteenth joint meeting of the Economic and Social Committee and the Consultative Committee of the European Free Trade Association was held in Brussels and Bruges on 10 and 11 April 1986.

Both committees consist of representatives of employers' associations, trade unions, agriculture, cooperatives, consumer organizations, the professions and other economic groups in their respective member countries.

The joint meeting firstly discussed the positions to be adopted by the European Community and EFTA at the next GATT multilateral negotiations. It then examined by what means concrete cooperation could be developed between the European Community and the EFTA countries in the field of technology, particularly among the different existing and future research programmes.

The Committee's delegation was led by the Chairman, Mr Gerd Muhr, and by Mr Maurice Zinkin (UK — Employers' Group), Chairman of the External Relations Section.

EFTA's delegation was led by Mr Jürg Zeller (Federation of Swiss Importers and Wholesale Traders), Chairman of EFTA's Consultative Committee.

Commission Vice-President Marin addressed the Section for Social Questions at the Committee's headquarters on 10 April. On this occasion he also had talks with Mr Muhr.

The *ad hoc* working party on Lomé had contacts in Brussels on 15 April with the Dutch Permanent Representation (as current Council President) and with the President-in-office of the Committee of ACP Ambassadors, H.E. Mr Giama, the Ambassador of Somalia.



*Members of the study group on 'Integrated operations' at Belfast in Northern Ireland.*

At the invitation of Mrs Vayssade, European Parliament rapporteur for the Community programme on equal opportunities for women, Mrs Rangoni-Machiavelli stood in for Mrs Engelen-Kefer, the ESC rapporteur on this matter, at the meeting of the Commission on Women's Rights in Brussels on 2 April.

Mrs Heuser, Chairman of the Committee's Environment Section, attended a conference on the prevention of cancer in Munich on 5 March.

Mr Brassier, the rapporteur for the Committee's Opinion on the prevention of cancer, held a press conference on this matter in Frankfurt on 25 March.

Mr Broicher chaired a working party of the Colloquium organised by the ISWA (Institute for Social and Economic Policy Training) in Berlin on 6 - 9 April. Mrs Engelen-Kefer made a statement on state intervention in employment policy and Mr McLaughlin, a Director at the ESC, on the internal market.

As part of the work of the Study Group on Animal Protection, Committee members Mr Storie-Pugh and Mr Boddy, accompanied by Mr Kuby, a Director at the ESC, visited the centre for the breeding of primates for experimentation in Göttingen on 7 April and held a press conference.

The Study Group on Asean met representatives of the Asean Ambassadors' Group in Brussels on 8 April.

The ESC Secretary-General, Mr Louet, attended the 75th anniversary Congress of the ELA/STV (Basque Workers' Solidarity) in Bilbao on 12 and 13 April, and the conference on European business union in Strasbourg on 16 April.

## New consultations

Since the last Plenary Session, the Economic and Social Committee has been requested to deliver Opinions on the following subjects:

**'Proposal for a Council Directive on the approximation of the laws of the Member States relating to simple pressure vessels'**

**'Proposal for a Council Directive amending Directive 85/611/EEC as regards jurisdiction in disputes arising from the marketing of units of undertakings for collective investment in transferable securities (UCITS)'**

**'Annual Report on Competition Policy'**

**'Proposal for a Council Decision amending, on account of the accession of Spain and Portugal, Decision No 82/752/EEC on the adoption of a European Economic Community research and development programme for a machine translation system of advanced design (EUROTRA)'**

**'Proposal for a Council Decision adopting an action programme for the promotion of youth exchanges in the Community — YES For Europe — 1987-1989'**

**'Proposal for a Council Regulation amending Regulation (EEC) No 1408/71 on the application of social security schemes to employed persons, to self-employed persons and to members of their families moving within the Community, and Regulation (EEC) No 574/72 laying down the implementing provisions for Regulation (EEC) No 1408/71'**

**'Proposal for a Council Regulation (EEC) amending Regulation (EEC) No 3626/82 on the implementation in the Community of the Convention of international trade in endangered species of wild fauna and flora'**

**'Proposal for a Council Directive on the approximation of the laws of the Member States concerning food additives authorized for use in foodstuffs intended for human consumption'**

**'Proposal for a Council Directive amending Directive 79/112/EEC on the approximation of the laws of the Member States relating to the labelling, presentation and advertising of foodstuffs for sale to the ultimate consumer'**

**'Proposal for a Council Directive on the Approximation of the Laws of the Member States relating to Materials and Articles Intended to Come into Contact with Foodstuffs'**

**'Proposal for a Council Directive on the Approximation of the Laws of the Member States relating to Foodstuffs Intended for Particular Nutritional Uses'**

**'Socio-Structural Policy in Agriculture'.**



# Provisional future work programme

## May 1986 Plenary Session

### *Opinions upon consultation*

- Standstill on VAT and excise duties
- Cross-Channel fixed link VAT rules
- Dumping of waste at sea
- Protection of vertebrate animals
- Water quality objectives for chromium
- Asbestos pollution
- Measures applicable to goods introduced into the customs territory
- Customs warehouses
- Maritime transport
- New and renewable energy sources
- Eurotra
- STAR programme
- Social security of employees
- VALOREN programme
- Fauna and flora

### *Own-initiative Opinions*

- GATT
- Shared-cost research
- Farm workers

## Subsequent Plenary Sessions

### *Opinions upon consultation*

- Mid-1986 economic situation
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- Social developments
- Community action in the field of tourism

**Forestry sector**

Admission of non-resident carriers of goods and passengers by inland waterway

Admission of non-resident carriers of goods and passengers by road

Yes for Europe programme

Foundation for the improvement of living and working conditions

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Simple pressure vessels

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EEC/Asean relations

EEC/United States/Japan relations

Criteria and efficiency of integrated operations

Financial integration in the Community

Local job-creation initiatives

***Information report***

SMEs in the tertiary sector

Importance of technological R & D for SMEs

Upland areas

Health problems

Stocktaking and prospects for a Community rail policy

Island regions

## Members' news

### Death

Mr Milne (United Kingdom), a Committee member since September 1978, has died.

### Resignation

Mr Lauga (France) has resigned from the Committee following his election to the French National Assembly.



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

Community Advisory Committee for the Representation of Socio-Economic Interests (UKL 8.50)

European interest groups and their relationship to the Economic and Social Committee (UKL 25)

**Obtainable from Editions Delta, 92-94 Square Plasky, 1040 Brussels:**

Action by the European Community through its financial instruments (Brussels 1979) (BFR 425)

The economic and social interest groups of Greece (BFR 350)

The right of initiative of the ESC (BFR 400)

**Obtainable from Kogan Page Ltd., 120 Pentonville Rd., London N1**

Directory of European Agricultural Organizations (UKL 39)

**Office for Official Publications of the EC**

Bulletin (monthly publication)

Annual Report 1983 (ECU 3.93 - UKL 2.30)

Annual Report 1984 (ECU 4.05)

EEC Air Transport Policy (October 1985) (ESC 85-10) (ECU 5.50, UKL 3.30, IRL 4, USD 5.00)

The Economic and Social Situation of the Community (1985) (84-015) (ECU 5.60, IRL 4, UKL 3.50, USD 4.

## PUBLICATIONS OBTAINABLE FROM THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMITTEE

### General documentation

The other European Assembly, January 1986 (CES 86-001)  
European Union, a people's Europe and the Economic and Social Committee  
(Committee Chairman Muhr's speeches to the *ad hoc* Committees for  
Institutional Affairs and a People's Europe), 1985 (EX-43-85-35)

### Opinions and studies

Occupational Medicine — occupational cancer (1985)  
Consumer-producer dialogue (Opinion) (January 1985) (ESC 84-011)  
Europe and the new technologies — Conference report (January 1985)  
(ESC 84-016)  
Irish border areas (Information report) (February 1984) (ESC 84-002)  
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(ESC 82-010)  
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Economic pointers for 1982 (Opinion) (August 1981) 32 pp. (ESC 81-010)  
Problems of the handicapped (Opinion) (September 1981) ± 46 pp. (ESC 81-013)  
Present situation in the Community's building sector (Opinion) (September 1981)  
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(ESC 80-012)  
The organization and management of Community R&D (February 1980)  
(Study) 168 pp. (ESC 80-001)  
Agricultural structures policy (November 1979) (Opinion) 90 pp. (ESC 79-003)  
Enlargement of the European Community Greece-Spain-Portugal (September  
1979) (Study) 75 pp. (ESC 79-002)  
The Community's relations with Spain (June 1979) (Study) 112 pp. (ESC 79-001)  
Community shipping policy — flags of convenience (April 1979) (Opinion)  
170 pp.  
Youth unemployment — Education and training (November 1978) (5 opinions)  
97 pp.  
The stage reached in aligning labour legislation in the European Community  
(June 1978) (Documentation) 60 pp.  
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(Opinion) 164 pp.  
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