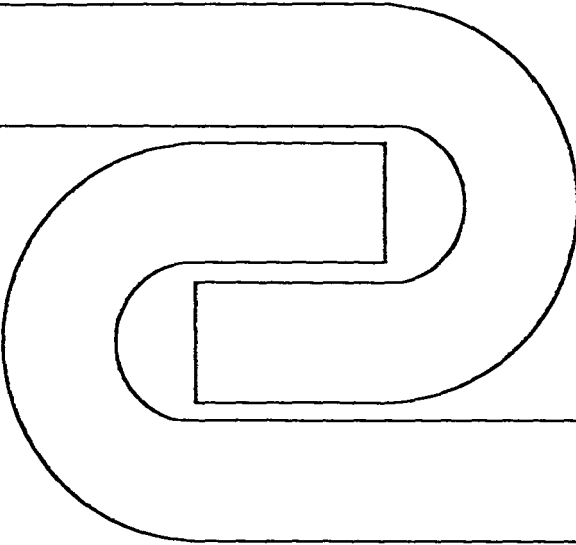


ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMITTEE  
OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES

# BULLETIN



Brussels - No. 8-9/1981



# CONTENTS

	<i>Page</i>
<b>I. 190th PLENARY SESSION .....</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Adoption of Opinions .....</b>	<b>3</b>
1. FOOD AID (Own-initiative Opinion) .....	3
2. AGRICULTURE SPAIN (Own-initiative Opinion) .....	4
3. FRENCH OVERSEAS TERRITORIES (Own-initiative Opinion) .....	5
4. ENERGY OBJECTIVES 1990 (Own-initiative Opinion) .....	6
5. PROTECTION OF WORKERS AGAINST ASBESTOS .....	8
6. COMMUNITY TRADE MARKS .....	11
7. COSMETICS .....	12
8. BIODEGRADABILITY .....	13
9. SUMMERTIME .....	14
10. COMBINED TRANSPORT .....	15
11. WINE SECTOR .....	16
12. SHEEPMEAT .....	18
13. PAINTS, VARNISHES, ADHESIVES .....	19
14. PROSPECTUS FOR UNLISTED COMPANIES .....	20
<b>II. EXTERNAL RELATIONS .....</b>	<b>23</b>
The Chairman's engagements .....	23
<b>III. NEW CONSULTATIONS .....</b>	<b>25</b>
<b>IV. PROVISIONAL FUTURE WORK PROGRAMME .....</b>	<b>27</b>



# I

## 190th PLENARY SESSION

The 190th Plenary Session of the Economic and Social Committee of the European Communities was held at Committee headquarters, Brussels, on 23 and 24 September 1981. It was presided over by the Committee's Chairman, Mr Tomás Roseingrave.

### ADOPTION OF OPINIONS

#### 1. FOOD AID (Own-initiative Opinion)

*"The Community's food aid policy"*

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

In an own-initiative Opinion, which was adopted unanimously, the Economic and Social Committee made several recommendations designed to improve the administration of Community Food Aid programmes, namely:

- better forward planning to forecast availability and needs for food aid;
- greater use of Commission staff serving abroad to supervise operations on the spot;
- channelling more aid to suitable charities and specialized agencies belonging to Member States;
- changing the present system of supply and shipment of food aid to make it more efficient;
- ensuring that some of these aid resources are used to develop suitable infrastructures and storage facilities in the recipient countries.

In order to avoid distressing situations in the future, it would be advisable to devise an elaborate system of international cooperation, in

---

<sup>(1)</sup> Doc. C.I.S. 944/81.

which the Community, in its capacity as an importer and exporter of foodstuffs on a large scale, would have a significant part to play, its main objective being to promote agricultural production in the recipient countries.

*This Opinion was based on material prepared by the Section for External Relations under the chairmanship of Mr de Précigout (France - Employers). The Rapporteur was Mr Williams (United Kingdom - Various Interests).*

## **2. AGRICULTURE SPAIN (Own-initiative Opinion)**

***"The agricultural aspects of the enlargement of the Community to include Spain"***

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

Compliance with the underlying principles of the CAP; concrete solutions to the problem of surpluses, changes in trade flows and the budget posed by the future enlargement; concrete solutions to the problems expected in the wine, fruit and vegetable, and olive oil sectors. Broadly, these are the recommendations of the own-initiative Opinion adopted by a large majority with two votes against and five abstentions. Needless to say, social groups and economic interests in Spain were closely involved in the preparatory work.

The Opinion takes a resolutely constructive attitude with regard to further enlargement of the Community. It argues that Spain should be required to accept the "acquis communautaire" and comply rigorously with the underlying principles of the CAP; these two points are not considered to be negotiable. Common prices should be phased in over a transition period, but Community preference should be introduced immediately, as should alignment of production and marketing rules.

Regarding the problem of market balance in sectors where the Community is almost or more than self-sufficient, the Committee says that producers should comply strictly with production rules and urges effective monitoring of standardization. The Community should stimulate demand in the Community and make a determined effort to conquer external markets.

Enlargement may have a "substitution effect" which would jeopardize current trade flows from the Mediterranean countries to the Community. The Committee recommends that the Community

---

<sup>(1)</sup> Doc. CES 955/81.

strengthen and reorientate its cooperation measures to help non-member Mediterranean countries to increase their output of products not easily grown in the Community for which there is a mounting demand in the Community.

The Community will have to accept the financial consequences of an option for enlargement, and change the ceiling on the Community's own resources as soon as the need is felt. The cost of enlargement must not be borne solely by the agricultural sector and farmers who already have to contend with operating in the most deprived areas of the Community.

Finally, enlargement may cause difficulties in certain markets in particular. For the fruit and vegetables sector, the Committee advocates various measures: complementarity between EEC regions, strengthening Community preference, stringent application and monitoring of quality standards, more efficient methods of managing the Community market and a significant increase in the range of products subject to reference prices.

In the wine sector, the Committee feels that Spain will have to ban new plantings and the blending of red and white wines. The Community, for its part, will have to formalise existing measures and extend them to cover the whole of the EEC, and remove obstacles to consumption.

In the olive oil sector, there must be an overall policy for fats and oils which takes into account the economic and social importance of olive oil in the enlarged Community.

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

### **3. FRENCH OVERSEAS TERRITORIES**

#### **(Own-initiative Opinion)**

*"Prospects for agriculture in French Guiana and the French Antilles within the framework of the EEC"*

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

In its Opinion, adopted unanimously, the Economic and Social Committee makes a number of proposals for boosting the economic

<sup>(1)</sup> Doc. C1S 950/81.

development agricultural and other sectors of the French overseas departments of Guiana, Martinique and Guadeloupe.

It calls for an integrated economic development programme spread over a number of years which coordinates all of the Community's funds.

In this connection, the Community's agricultural market organizations must be better tailored to the specific seasonality and other features of DOM products: the two aims of this exercise should be to support food production so that the departments become self-sufficient, and to encourage certain exports to neighbouring countries and the Community.

DOM quality products should be publicised. A small-scale promotion campaign would suffice to boost sales.

Similarly, Guiana's forests could be an important asset if more were to be found out about the types of wood growing there. It should be noted that timber is the second largest item of the Community balance of payments deficit.

The European Commission should step up its efforts in the fields of vocational training and agronomic research into DOM products and in providing the DOMs' inhabitants with information about Community aid available. The Community should also keep a constant watch on the repercussions of its domestic policy decisions and external commitments on the development of these outlying regions of the EEC.

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

#### **4. ENERGY OBJECTIVES 1990 (Own-initiative Opinion)**

*"Communication from the Commission to the Council on the review of energy policy objectives for 1990 and Member States' investment programmes"*

##### **Background information**

In 1974 the Council of Ministers set out a series of 1985 objectives for Community energy policy. These objectives were amended in 1977 in the light of changed economic conditions and formed the subject of an Opinion by the Economic and Social Committee (CES 285/78). In 1979 the Commission drew up a fresh series of energy objectives for 1990, on which the ESC produced a further Opinion (CES 608/79).



The present document is intended to be an updating of the 1990 objectives by reference to further changes in the energy market and the economies of the Member States; it analyses progress towards the 1990 objectives and the adequacy of Member States' investment plans. Many of the conclusions depend upon forecasts of supply and demand, while levels of economic growth may substantially affect industrial demand for energy.

The Commission's main conclusions are:

- a) the ratio of 0.7 or less between energy growth and economic growth is likely to be achieved;
- b) oil consumption is likely to be around 43% of total energy consumption instead of "about 40%". This, and a failure to achieve the nuclear and coal objectives mentioned below, could entail significant additional oil consumption — perhaps as much as 50 million tons per year (1 million barrels per day) in the early 1990's;
- c) production of 70 to 75% of electricity from coal and nuclear energy should be achieved, but only if investment programmes are fulfilled. There is in fact some doubt whether all Member States will succeed in this. This question is examined in greater detail in a separate report (doc. COM(81) 65 final);
- d) although bigger than at present, the proportion of energy consumption covered by renewable sources will inevitably remain small (2.2%);
- e) though progress is being made in adapting energy prices to the attainment of objectives, pricing policies still vary widely within the Community.

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

This Opinion was adopted by a large majority with two votes against and eleven abstentions. It contains both general and specific comments regarding the 1990 objectives. It expresses some hesitations about some of the assumptions underlying the Commission's communication, especially the economic growth rate of 2.5% and the correlation between economic growth rates and energy consumption rates as a measure of successful energy policy.

The specific comments cover three main areas:

---

<sup>(1)</sup> Doc. C1 S 954/81.

— **Review of policy**

- The more critical attitude of the Commission in this area is welcomed but the ESC stresses the specific problems of each Member State and the possible conflict of energy pricing policy with fiscal goals.

— **Energy saving**

Energy consumption has already been reduced by the economic crisis but this should not lead to a false sense of security and should give impetus for further reductions in imported oil use which in turn will help Member States' balance of payment positions.

— **Investment**

The reduction of uncertainty is a precondition for investment in most energy producing technologies. The Opinion also stresses the importance of investment in renewable energy sources.

*This Opinion was based on material prepared by the Section for Energy and Nuclear questions under the chairmanship of Mr Hatry (Belgium - Employers). The Rapporteur was Mr Margot (Belgium - Various Interests).*

## **5. PROTECTION OF WORKERS AGAINST ASBESTOS**

*"Proposal for a Second Council Directive concerning the protection of workers against risks related to exposure to agents at work: asbestos"*

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

It has been established that asbestos is responsible for a certain number of diseases, including certain tumors. Most of the Member States therefore adopted regulations some time ago, which, however, differ considerably from one state to another. Furthermore, as our scientific knowledge progresses, these differences are liable to become more and more marked, especially in terms of exposure limits.

Asbestos is used very extensively because it has certain unique properties: tensile strength, abrasion resistance, chemical resistance, flame retardance and thermal and electrical insulation. It is used in a variety of industries. Its main applications are in construction, mechanical engineering, shipyards and the automotive industry. Abestos fibres are primarily used mixed with cement in construction and in the manufacture of pipes.

Asbestos consumption in the Member States is estimated at more than 800,000 tons per year, most of it imported, since Italy is the only Member State where abestos (chrysotile) is extracted.

Persons can be exposed to asbestos in a number of ways, but exposure is occupational and para-occupational.

Occupational exposure can be both direct, as in mines and asbestos factories, etc., and indirect, as in the case of workers close to areas contaminated by asbestos.

Para-occupational exposure is a result of contamination of members of the family through contact with workers' clothes contaminated with asbestos or the use of asbestos products by do-it-yourself enthusiasts.

Asbestos is generally taken up by the body by inhalation, thus explaining why fine respirable asbestos fibres (diameter less than 3 microns) constitute a potential health hazard to exposed persons.

Effects on the health are generally manifested after a long period of exposure, but relatively short-term exposure can also have its effects.

The Council Directive on the protection of workers from exposure to chemical, physical and biological agents at work stipulates that Member States ensure that the relevant surveillance of the state of health of workers is provided during the period of exposure and that the workers and/or their representatives have access to the relevant information concerning the hazards constituted by these agents.

This framework directive also lays down that asbestos is an agent requiring the following additional measures:

- implementation of medical surveillance of workers prior to exposure and subsequently at regular intervals;
- access for workers and/or their local representatives to the results of exposure measurements and to the collective anonymous results of biological examinations showing exposure where such examinations are scheduled;
- access of each worker concerned to the results of his biological examinations showing exposure;
- information for workers and/or their local representatives, where limits are exceeded, on the reasons for the excess and the measures taken or to be taken to rectify this problem;
- access for workers and/or their local representatives to information which might help to familiarize them with the hazards to which they are exposed.

The Commission's explanatory memorandum refers expressly to the Committee's 1979 Study on the environmental and health hazards of asbestos (Doc. CES 230/79).

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

Considering the dangerous and carcinogenic effects of asbestos, the Economic and Social Committee, in an opinion adopted by 84 votes in favour, 42 votes against and 10 abstentions, called for better protection of workers exposed to this substance.

The Committee is of the view that it is unrealistic to contemplate a ban on asbestos at the present time. On the other hand, it is convinced that harmful exposure must be eliminated in all instances where asbestos is extracted, manipulated, treated, transformed, loaded, unloaded, applied, removed or demolished or used in the manufacture of articles.

The indirect exposure to asbestos is also of great concern since this exposure can affect asbestos workers' families or the surrounding population of a near-by plant.

Use should be made of the most advanced equipment for the sampling and analysis of asbestos, so that all fibres can be counted. It understands that electron microscopy detects more airborne fibres than optical methods, but the Committee also appreciates that there are technical, financial, and practical problems in recommending electron microscopy as the preferred method at present.

The Committee endorses the Commission's view that asbestos should be replaced by suitable and safer substitutes. This is a matter of fundamental importance. In line with the ILO-Convention 139 and ILO-Recommendation 147, it stresses that this substitution should be carried out regardless of whether there is any emission.

The strong correlation between smoking and the development of lung cancer among those working in the asbestos industry must be continuously stressed.

Workers should receive all necessary information on the dangers of asbestos at the workplace and medical record-keeping and medical surveillance of asbestos workers could be greatly improved by setting up a European cancer register which would provide a profile of health and mortality rates of workers in hazardous industries.

*This Opinion was based on material prepared by the Section for Social Questions under the chairmanship of Mr Houthuys (Belgium - Workers). The Rapporteur was Mr Etty (Netherlands - Workers).*

---

<sup>(1)</sup> Doc. CES 956/81.

## 6. COMMUNITY TRADE MARKS

*“Proposal for a first Council Directive to approximate the laws of the Member States relating to trade marks and the proposal for a Council Regulation on Community trade marks”*

### Gist of the proposed Directive and Regulation

#### a) The Directive (based on Article 100 of the EEC Treaty)

It provides initially for the approximation of those provisions of national trade mark laws which have the most direct and the most marked impact on the free movement of goods or services and on competition within the Community, namely the conditions governing the registration and continued existence of trade marks, the rights conferred by trade marks, the use of trade marks and the amicable settlement of disputes.

Such approximation still cannot operate, however, to remove all the conflicts which restrict free movement and are due to the autonomous nature of the national legal systems. The only way in which such conflicts can be eliminated is to create a Community system of trade marks. National laws will exist alongside it since, as far as a large number of firms is concerned, protection of their marks at Community level is neither necessary nor useful. The approximation of national trade mark laws and the creation of a Community trade mark law are complementary means of attaining the same objectives.

#### b) The Regulation (based on Article 235 of the EEC Treaty)

The purpose of the proposal for a Regulation on Community trade marks is to create a European internal market in marked goods. The proposed Community trade mark system will make it possible to obtain a trade mark that is valid for the whole Community by submitting an application to one office in accordance with a single law.

The proposal for a Regulation contains all the substantive law rules and rules on procedure that are necessary for the registration and use of a Community trade mark, including the provisions concerning signs of which a Community trade mark may consist, the right conferred by such a trade mark and the exhaustion of such rights, lapse and invalidity, infringement, the prohibition of dual protection by a national mark and a Community mark, conversion into an application for a national mark. Prior national rights are fully protected.

Implementation of the Regulation calls for the creation of a Community Trade Mark Office, which will be a new Community

body with a large degree of independence in technical matters and be supervised from the legal point of view by the Commission and from the judicial point of view by the Court of Justice. Two sensitive political issues are left unresolved in the Commission's proposal: the choice of a single language and the seat.

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

In an Opinion, adopted by 75 votes to 8 with 22 abstentions, the Economic and Social Committee endorsed the creation of a Community trade mark. The Committee is also endeavouring to create a European internal market in marked goods.

It considers that a Community trade mark law is a necessary step towards one of the objectives of the Treaty, namely, the free movement of goods.

In its specific comments the Committee proposes some amendments aimed at making the Community trade mark more attractive to prospective proprietors of these marks and at safeguarding current commercial practices where these do not lead to an artificial cutting off of national markets within the Community.

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

## **7. COSMETICS**

***"Proposal for a Council Directive amending for the third time directive 76/768/EEC on the approximation of the laws of the Member States relating to cosmetic products"***

### **Gist of the proposal**

The aim of the proposal is:

- to authorize the use of barium, strontium and zirconium lakes or salts of a limited number of colouring agents;
- to permit, under certain conditions, the use of two complexes of zirconium as anti-perspirants;
- to make the use of silver nitrate in the manufacture of cosmetic products subject to certain restrictions and conditions, in the interests of health protection;

---

<sup>(1)</sup> Doc. C.L.S 952/81.

- to draw up a list of permitted substances (approved list) for use as sunscreen agents;
- to replace the expiry date by the minimum shelf-life;
- to adapt the form in which the manufacturing batch number and the product identification reference is indicated to the most recent developments in technology. It is not only the dimensions of the packaging which preclude identification of the goods but also the nature and shape of the packaging and the material of which it is made.

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

In a unanimous Opinion, the Committee approves the Draft Directive and is pleased that the Commission has heeded the Committee's Opinion on the parent Directive, notably by proposing an approved list of sun-protection agents.

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

## **8. BIODEGRADABILITY**

***"Proposal for a Council Directive amending Directive 73/405/EEC on the approximation of the laws of the Member States relating to methods of testing the biodegradability of anionic surfactants"***

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

This Proposal amends Council Directive 73/405/EEC on the Method of Testing the Biodegradability of Anionic Surfactants which forms part of the general programme to abolish technical barriers to trade.

The main aim of the Proposal is the adaptation of the method of testing the biodegradability of anionic surfactants to technical progress.

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

In a unanimous Opinion, the Committee approves the proposal for a Directive but believes that the long-term trend should be towards harmonization of the various methods so that the reference method

<sup>(1)</sup> Doc. C1S 945/81.

<sup>(2)</sup> Doc. C1S 946/81.

(confirmatory test procedure) becomes the sole testing method in use throughout the Member States of the Community.

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

## 9. SUMMERTIME

### **"Proposal for a second Council Directive on summertime arrangements"**

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

On 22 July 1980 the Council adopted a Directive (80/737/EEC) setting 29 and 28 March (from 1 a.m. in both cases) as the dates on which summertime should begin in each Member State in 1981 and 1982 respectively.

The current Commission proposal is based on Article 4 of the above Directive, which states that the Council, acting on a Commission proposal and as soon as possible, will adopt more comprehensive measures for the harmonization of summertime. The purpose of such standardization is primarily to facilitate cross-frontier transport and telecommunications between the Member States.

Article 2 of the proposed Directive specifies that, in the years 1983-2000, the uniform summertime period shall begin at 1 a.m. on the last Sunday in March — unless this is celebrated as Easter in one or more Member States, in which case it shall begin on the previous Sunday — and end at 1 a.m. on the second Sunday in October

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

In a unanimous Opinion, the Committee approves the proposal for a second Commission Directive laying down common dates for the beginning and end of summertime on the whole of the Community from 1983 onwards.

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

<sup>(1)</sup> Doc. C.E.S 949/81.



## 10. COMBINED TRANSPORT

*“Proposal for a Council Directive on certain measures to promote the development of combined transport”, and the*

*“Proposal for a Council Regulation (EEC) amending Regulation (EEC) No. 1107/70 with a view to supplementing the system for the granting of aids for transport by rail, road and inland waterway by the addition of provisions on combined transport”*

### Gist of the Commission proposals

#### Proposal for a Directive

The Commission considers that combined transport, particularly in its road/rail form, should be promoted on general economic grounds. (Increased road safety, better working conditions for road transport workers, energy savings, more rational use of the railways' carrying capacity, reduced trans-shipment costs).

The development of combined transport, must not be the result of an authoritarian decision but must match the market and its needs.

The Commission thinks, however, that the market economy principle does not preclude certain interventions by the public authorities to assist combined transport (State aids, tax exemptions).

To help it in its work on developing combined transport the Commission intends making use of a consultative committee composed of two experts from each of the following sectors: railways, road haulage, inland waterways, ports, transport agents, users and commercial organizations specializing in combined transport.

#### Proposal for a Regulation

This Proposal seeks to amend Regulation (EEC) No. 1107/70 on aids.

The Commission considers that from 1 July 1981 until 31 December 1990 combined transport should be promoted by aids as follows:

- until 31 December 1985 50% of the total sum invested;
- until 31 December 1988 30% of the total sum invested;
- until 31 December 1990 15% of the total sum invested.

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

Unanimously with one abstention, the Committee approves the Commission's proposals subject to a number of specific comments.

<sup>(1)</sup> Doc. C.I.S. 951/81.

With regard to the proposal for a Directive, the Committee requests that a careful study be made in advance of the practicable effects of the provision making a Directive applicable to combined transport within a Member State.

It also suggests that Article 2, "Definitions", and in particular the phrases "nearest suitable rail loading station" and "nearest suitable rail unloading station" be reworded, and makes a concrete proposal to this effect.

As the consultative body provided for by the Treaties, the Committee also reiterates its reservations about the proliferation of other consultative committees.

If the establishment of a consultative committee proves to be really vital in the field of combined transport, members of the ESC believe that the trade unions should also be involved.

With regard to the Proposal for a Regulation, the Committee considers that investment aid is needed to improve fixed installations and handling equipment for transshipment in the combined transport sector. However, it rejects public aid for transport equipment.

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

## 11. WINE SECTOR

*"Proposal amending Council Regulation (EEC) No. 337/79 on the Common Organisation of the Market in Wine and Regulation (EEC) No 950/68 relating to the Common Customs Tariff", and the "Proposal for a Council Regulation (EEC) amending Regulation (EEC) No. 338/79 laying down Special Provisions relating to Quality Wines Produced in Specified Regions"*

### Gist of the Commission document

*"Proposal amending Council Regulation (EEC) No. 337/79 of 5 February 1979 on the Common Organization of the Market in Wine and Regulation (EEC) No. 950/68 relating to the Common Customs Tariff"*

This proposal, which does not make any fundamental changes in the basic regulation, is intended to adjust some of its provisions in particular as regards:

- extension of the derogation permitting the distillation of wines with an alcoholic strength of less than 9.5% vol. to wines which are subject to the observance of a minimum price,
- the deadline for concluding long-term storage contracts for grape musts and concentrated grape musts, and the duration of such contracts,
- the raw materials used in making "British", "Irish" and "home-made" wines,
- the obligations on producers as regards entries in the registers and the notification of enrichment, acidification and deacidification,
- extension of the possibility of collaboration between the control authorities of Member States to the authorities of non-member countries which are interested in such collaboration,
- certain penological practices, to take account of technical progress,
- the way of expressing the concentration of musts so as to simplify analytical checks (refractometer),
- the definition of grape juice to take account of the Directive on the approximation of the laws of the Member States concerning fruit juices and certain similar products,
- more precise definitions of sparkling wine, aerated sparkling wine, semi-sparkling wine and aerated semi-sparkling wine to enable control of those products to be reinforced.

***"Proposal amending Council Regulation (EEC) No. 338/79 of 5 February 1979 laying down Special Provisions relating to Quality Wines Produced in Specified Regions"***

Under Regulation (EEC) No. 338/79 the processing of grapes into quality wines produced in specified regions and the preparation of quality sparkling wines produced in specified regions are permitted only within the specified region whose name the wines bear. By way of derogation, such operations may be authorized outside that region. Experience has shown the need to demarcate precisely both the specified regions and the areas in which the above mentioned operations are permitted. This will align Community rules on those applied in most wine-growing countries and facilitate the task of the anti-fraud services.

It is also advisable to postpone by one year the end of the transitional period which expires on 31 August 1981 as regards:

- the preparation of quality sparkling wines produced in specified regions in Italy for which the compulsory length of the preparation

process may be fixed at between six and nine months instead of not more than nine months:

- the use of the names of certain specified regions to designate both table wines and quality wines produced in those specified regions.

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

This Opinion was adopted with only one vote against.

The Committee approves the Commission's proposals although it has some recommendations (a) to make it easier to use musts covered by long-term storage contracts during the wine-making period, (b) to solve the problem of deacidification and (c) for certain quality sparkling wines p.s.r. at least, to make permanent the waiver concerning the maximum period of preparation which is currently granted to sparkling wines produced in certain regions of Italy.

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

## **12. SHEEPMEAT**

***"Proposal for a Council Regulation (EEC) amending regulation (EEC) No. 1837/80 on the common organization of the market in sheepmeat and goatmeat"***

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

Article 9 of Council Regulation (EEC) No. 1837/80 of 27 June 1980 on the common organization of the market in sheepmeat and goatmeat (O.J. E.C. No. L 183 of 16 July 1980) provides that:

- In those regions where the intervention measures are not applied, the Member State or Member States concerned may pay a variable slaughter premium for sheep when the prices recorded on the representative market or markets of the Member State or Member States concerned are below a "guide level" corresponding to 85% of the basic price;

---

<sup>(1)</sup> Doc. CLES 947/81.

- In the event of payment of the premium, an amount equivalent to that premium is charged for sheep sector products when those products leave the territory of the Member State concerned;
- The amount of the premium shall be equal to the difference between the guide level and the market price recorded in the Member State or Member States concerned.

Experience has shown that this "guide level" represents a relatively high percentage of the basic price, and this stands in the way of the alignment of prices on the various Community markets.

The Commission is therefore proposing to set the "guide level" at 80% of the basic price.

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

The Committee adopted its Opinion unanimously. It considers that it is difficult to give a precise Opinion on the Commission's proposal when certain definitions used for price reporting have not been standardized. It therefore considers that further initiatives will be necessary to ensure the proper organization of the Community market in sheepmeat and goatmeat.

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

## **13. PAINTS, VARNISHES, ADHESIVES**

***"Proposal for a Council Directive amending Directive 77/728/EEC on the approximation of the laws, regulations and administrative provisions of the Member States relating to the classification, packaging and labelling of paints, varnishes, printing inks, adhesives and similar products"***

### **Gist of the Proposal**

The Proposal follows on the amendments made to the Directives on Dangerous Substances, in 1967, and Solvents, in 1973, and seeks in particular to enlarge the Directive's area of application.

Clarification of certain points in this Proposal helps eliminate difficulties in the interpretation of the Original Directive.

---

<sup>(1)</sup> Doc. C1S 948/81.

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

The Committee endorses unanimously the proposed Directive and recommends that it and the Revised Annexes, which are currently being updated to bring them into line with technical progress, enter into force concurrently.

*The Rapporteur-General was Mr Zoli (Italy - Various Interests).*

## **14. PROSPECTUS FOR UNLISTED COMPANIES**

*"Proposal for a Council Directive coordinating the requirements for the drawing-up, scrutiny and distribution of the prospectus to be published when securities are offered for subscription or sale to the public"*

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

This Proposal for a Council Directive should be seen in the context of two previous Council Directives covering the same area of activity.

- Directive 80/390/EEC co-ordinating the requirements for the drawing-up, scrutiny and distribution of the listing particulars to be published for the admission of securities to official stock exchange listing ("the Listing Particulars Directive") (17 March 1980), and
- Directive 79/279/EEC co-ordinating the conditions of admission to official stock exchange listing (5 March 1979).

A further Directive is at present under discussion in the Council relating to information to be published on a regular basis by companies whose shares are admitted to official stock exchange listing.

The Committee gave Opinions on the original Commission Proposals as follows:

- Official Journal C 125 dated 16 October 1974 (p. 1);
- Official Journal C 204 dated 30 August 1976 (p. 5);
- Official Journal C 53 dated 3 March 1980 (p. 56).

The Commission considers that an adequate information policy should not be limited to securities which are admitted to official listing.

---

<sup>(1)</sup> Doc. CES 953/81.

Even in those Member States in which the market provided by the official stock exchange is the central market, a number of public offers take place outside the stock exchange and investors do not therefore have the benefit of the safeguards which are associated with admission to official stock exchange listing. The present Proposal for a Directive is designed to provide the equivalent information to be given to them in such circumstances.

The scope of this Proposal for a Directive is restricted to non-listed securities as the prospectus to be published concerning listed securities is dealt with by the Listing Particulars Directive.

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

The Committee noted that the Commission's proposal has the advantage of encouraging a channelling of security dealings through the stock markets. It therefore endorses the proposal, subject to certain reservations.

It believes that exchange controls, rather than the absence of harmonized national regulations governing the issue of securities by unlisted companies, stand in the way of the creation of a Community capital market. Nevertheless, the proposed harmonization may contribute to the creation of a European capital market.

Secondly, the number of provisions for exemption at the discretion of the Member States should be as limited as possible.

Furthermore the Committee proposes a certain number of specific amendments to the proposal for a Directive, as well as more precise definitions for the terms "securities" and "public offer"; plus explanatory notes, including a definition of the term "restricted circle of persons".

Finally, the Committee recalls its sentiments expressed in an Opinion of 17 July 1974, to the effect that the Contact Committee provided for in the Commission proposals should include representatives of issuers, the banks and the public.

The Opinion was adopted by a large majority, with two votes against and 11 abstentions.

---

(<sup>1</sup>) Doc. C.I.S 957/81.

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

*The Committee also unanimously adopted an Opinion on Amendments to Article 55 of the Rules of Procedure (incompatibility of functions). The Rapporteur: Mr De Bruyn (Belgium - Various interests).*



## II

# EXTERNAL RELATIONS

### THE CHAIRMAN'S ENGAGEMENTS

In the intervening period since the 189th Plenary Session the Chairman of the Committee, Mr Roseingrave:

- met the President and the members of the Bureau of the European Secretariat of the Liberal, Learned and Social Professions on 23 July as part of the endeavours to strengthen relations between the Committee and socio-occupational organizations established at EEC level;
- held talks with Mr Ortoli, Vice-President of the Commission, on 8 September, in connection with the Committee's work on the Fifth Medium-term Economic Policy Programme. Mr Roseingrave was accompanied by the Chairman of the Section of Economic and Financial Questions, Mr Rollinger;
- took part in a seminar on energy saving in Dublin, on 25 September.



### III

## NEW CONSULTATIONS

Since the beginning of July, the Council requested the Committee for its Opinion on the following subjects:

*“Communication from the Commission concerning the multi-annual research and development programme of the European Communities in the sector of raw materials (1982-1985) (COM (81) 281 final)”*

*“Proposal for a Council Decision adopting a Research and Training Programme (1982-1986) in the Field of Controlled Thermonuclear Fusion (COM(81) 357 final)”*

*“Proposal for a Council Decision relating to the Coordination of the Activities of the Member States and Community Institutions with a view to setting up a Community Inter-institutional Information System (INSIS)”*

*“Proposal for a Council Decision concerning the Coordination of the Actions of the Member States and the Commission related to Activities Preparatory to a Long Term Programme for the use of Telematics for Community Information Systems concerned with Imports/Exports and the Management and Financial Control of Agricultural Market Organizations (COM(81) 358 final)”*

*“Draft of the 5th Medium Term Economic Policy Programme drawn up in accordance with Article 6 of the Convergence Decision of 18 February 1974 (COM(81) 344 final)”*

*“Proposal for a Council Regulation Introducing Arrangements for Movement within the Community of Goods sent from one Member State for Temporary Use in One or More Other Member States (COM(81) 378 final)”*

*“Proposal for a Council Directive Laying Down Minimum Standards for the Protection of Laying Hens Kept in Battery Cages (COM(81) 420 final)”*

*“Proposal for a Council Decision Establishing a Reciprocal Exchange of Information and Data from Networks and Individual Stations Measuring Air Pollution within the Member States (COM(81) 361 final)”*

*“Proposal for a Council Regulation (EEC) Applying Articles 85 and 86 of the Treaty (Rules on Competition Applying to Undertakings) to Air Transport (COM (81) 396 final)”*

*“Problems of general interest for the Community, dealt with the 10th Report on Competition Policy”,*

# IV

## PROVISIONAL FUTURE WORK PROGRAMME

### OCTOBER PLENARY SESSION

#### Referrals

- Labelling and packaging of foodstuffs
- Liquid containers
- Tourist assistance
- Public service concept in transport
- Inter-regional air transport
- Financial balance of railways
- Application of Articles 85 and 86 of the Treaty to air transport
- GSP (Generalised System of Preferences)
- Protection of laying hens

#### Own-Initiative Opinions

- Coordination of employment policy instruments
- Reflections on the CAP
- Prospects for the 80's

### NOVEMBER PLENARY SESSION

#### Referrals

- Fifth medium-term economic policy programme
- Annual economic report 1981
- Information and consultation of workers in transnationals
- Atmospheric pollution
- Scientific and technical R & D programme
- Thermonuclear fusion research and training programme 82-86
- Raw materials R & D programme 82-85

#### Study

- Consistency of external policies

## **SUBSEQUENT PLENARY SESSIONS**

### **Referrals**

- Memorandum on the future of regional policy
- Annual accounts of banks
- Movement of goods within the Community
- Community inter-institutional information system
- 10th competition report
- Air transport — competition

### **Own-Initiative Opinions**

- Role of small and medium-sized enterprises
- Development of common transport policy
- Annual European Regional Development Fund report

### **Studies**

- Community R & D policies' aims and priorities
- Integrated operations
- Turkey

# PUBLICATIONS OBTAINABLE FROM THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMITTEE

## Periodical

- Bulletin (monthly publication)

## General Documentation

- The Economic and Social Committee (leaflet) (January 1980)
- The Economic and Social Committee (April 1981) (A descriptive brochure) 16 p.
- Annual Report (1981) ... (Ex-30-80)
- Directory — List of Members (January 1981) (ESC-81-001)
- The Right of initiative of the Economic and Social Committee (October 1977) 124 p.

## Opinions and Studies

- Economic Pointers for 1982 (Opinion) (August 1981) 32 p. (ESC 81-010)
- Problems of the Handicapped (Opinion) (September 1981) ± 46 p. (ESC 81-013)
- Present situation in the Community's Building Sector (Opinion) (September 1981) ± 24 p. (ESC 81-011)
- Community Competition Policy (Opinion) (ESC 81-008)
- Prevention of Marine Pollution (2 Opinions) (ESC-81-004)
- Working Conditions (September 1980) (Opinion) 61 p. (ESC-80-012)
- Conference on the Enlargement of the European Community — 26 and 27 June 1980 (September 1980) (Extracts) ± 150 p. (ESC-80-009)
- The Organisation and Management of Community R & D (February 1980) (Study) 168 p. (ESC-80-001)
- Agricultural Structures Policy (November 1979) (Opinion) 90 p. (ESC-79-003)
- Enlargement of the European Community Greece-Spain-Portugal (September 1979) (Study) 75 p. (ESC-79-002)
- The Community's Relations with Spain (June 1979) (Study) 112 p. (ESC-79-001)
- Community Shipping Policy Flags of Convenience (April 1979) (Opinion) 170 p.
- Employee Participation and Company Structure (September 1978) (Opinion) 116 p.
- Your Unemployment — Education and Training (November 1978) (5 Opinions) 97 p.
- The Stage reached in aligning labour legislation in the European Community (June 1978) (Documentation) 60 p.
- Employment in Agriculture (June 1978) (Study) 135 p.
- Monetary Disorder (June 1978) (Opinion) 98 p.
- Small and Medium-sized Enterprises in the Community Context (April 1978) (Opinion) 29 p.
- Industrial Change and Employment (November 1977) (Opinion) 98 p.
- EEC's Transport Problems with East European Countries (December 1977) (Opinion) 164 p.
- Community Nuclear Safety Code (July 1977) (Study) 50 p.
- Regional Development — Unemployment and Inflation (June 1977) (Opinion) 130 p. (Ex-22-77-435)
- Research and Development (November 1976) (Study) 35 p.
- Systems of Education and Vocational training (August 1976) (Study) 114 p.
- Regional Policy (March 1976) (Opinion) 11 p.
- European Union (July 1975) (Opinion) 33 p.
- Progress Report on the Common Agricultural Policy (February 1975) (Study) 52 p.)
- The Situation of Small and Medium-sized Undertakings in the European Community (March 1975) (Study) 69 p.



Obtainable from GOWER Publishing Company Limited, 1 Westmead Farnborough, Hampshire, GU 147RU)

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

---

---

**ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMITTEE**  
Press, Information and Publications Division

Rue Ravenstein 2  
1000 Brussels

Tel. 5123920  
5139595

Telegrams: ECOSEUR  
Telex 25963 CESEUR

Catalogue Number ESC-81-015-EN