

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL CONSULTATIVE ASSEMBLY

# BULLETIN



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## 262nd Plenary Session

The 262nd Plenary Session of the Economic and Social Committee of the European Communities was held in Brussels on 25 and 26 January 1989. The Chairman, Mr Alberto Masprone, presided.

This Session was attended by Mr Solbes Mira, Spanish Secretary of State for the European Communities, who presented the programme of the Council Presidency, and Ms Vasso Papandreou, Member of the Commission, who set out the new Commission's programme.

### **Résumé of Mr Pedro Solbes Mira's speech, President-in-Office of the Council**

Mr Pedro Solbes presented the Spanish Presidency's programme to the ESC Plenary Session. He first expressed appreciation of the sense of responsibility shown by the Committee, which was currently engaged in work of vital importance, in particular the drafting of a Community charter of basic social rights. At a time when the Community was facing one of its greatest challenges yet, the Committee was thus re-affirming its status as a specialized and practical institution which could be relied on whenever its contribution was needed.

Mr Solbes reviewed the subjects covered in the Single Act, noting that while major progress had been made in legislation for the single market, there were other areas of great importance — the environment, research and development, economic and social cohesion — where much ground still had to be covered. Efforts also had to be intensified in two other key areas: economic and monetary union, and social policy. Mr Solbes went on to highlight a few aspects of the other Community policies: agriculture and fisheries; the audiovisual sector; education and culture; health and consumer affairs; the people's Europe; transport, tourism and communications; industry and energy.

Mr Solbes ended by announcing that the Council would study the Memorandum on upgrading the role of the ESC in the run-up to



*The Economic and Social Committee Chairman, Mr Alberto Masprone (left) greets Mr Solbes Mira, Spanish Secretary of State for the European Communities, on his arrival at the Committee headquarters to attend the Plenary Session.*

1992, and promised that the Council Presidency would study the Committee's contribution with interest.

## **Discussion**

In the debate which followed, several Committee members noted a certain degree of ambiguity in Mr Solbes's statement. Mr Francesco Drago (Italy — Various Interests Group) felt that the Community authorities in Brussels were out of step with the ordinary citizen. The members of the Workers' Group, led by their Chairman Mr François Staedelin (France), stressed that the problem of unemployment had been completely overlooked, as had the urgent need to devise Community policies to combat it. Mr Enrique Calvet Chambon (Spain — Workers' Group) felt that unemployment should be the overriding concern. Another Spanish member of the same Group, Mr Javier Velasco Mancebo, felt that a Presidency without a political soul was inconceivable. Mr Rafael Termes Carrero (Spain — Employers' Group) considered that economic growth and fixed prices were enough to combat unemployment. Another Employers' Group member, Mr William Poeton (United Kingdom) focused on the need for a review of the role of the Committee and of its members. The position of the European consumer and the need for a common policy were defended by Mr Francisco Ceballo Herrero, a Spanish member of the Various Interests Group. Mr Wolfgang Haas (Germany — Various Interests Group) raised the subject of transport, calling for the creation of a balanced common infrastructure. Lastly, Mr Nikolaos Vassilaras (Greece — Various Interests Group) urged that the disadvantaged regions, and islands in particular, should not be forgotten.

## **Résumé of the speech given by Ms Papandreou, Member of the Commission**

'The Commission has asked for your opinion: the Commission is counting on you', Ms Vasso Papandreou, the Greek Commissioner for social affairs, declared. She was referring to the Opinion which the Commission President, Mr Jacques Delors, had requested on a Community charter of basic social rights. This Opinion is scheduled for debate at the ESC's next Plenary Session, on 23 February.

Ms Papandreou, who is also responsible for relations between the Commission and the ESC, stressed that the ESC played 'a key role' as it reflected the concerns and ambitions of the various social classes and 'productive' groups. Ms Papandreou expressed her



*Ms Vasso Papandreou, the new Greek Commissioner, addressed the ESC's Plenary Session. She is seen here seated third from left. On the left, Mr Masprone and Mr Moreau, Chairman and Secretary-General of the ESC respectively.*



conviction that the ESC would meet the challenge which the Community had set. She concluded: 'Together we will see how we can upgrade your role. That is a promise!'

## **Discussion**

In his reply, the Chairman of the Worker's Group, Mr François Staedelin (France) stated that the ESC accepted the challenge of the social charter, but he refused to consider the Opinion as 'an end-of-year examination' for the Committee. He urged the Commission to tackle unemployment, this being an area in which policy coordination was needed.

Mr Athanassios Petropoulos (Greece — Employer's Group) felt that 'the foundations of economic prosperity will not be truly solid until social dialogue is complete ... The productive classes do not wish to build a solely commercial Community. The Community's centre of gravity must be its citizens'.

'Social dialogue cannot be limited to the two sides of industry', stated Mr Alfons Margot (Belgium — Various Interests Group). It also had to involve representatives of farmers, craftworkers, consumers and other groups. The former ESC Chairman strongly stressed the need to take account of small firms, as they could create jobs.

Such a call could not leave Ms Papandreou unmoved: back in 1983, she had visited the ESC as the Chairwoman of the Greek Committee for the European Year of Small and Medium-sized Enterprises.

## *ADOPTION OF OPINIONS*

### 1. GREEN PAPER — COPYRIGHT

**'Green Paper on copyright and the challenge of technology — Copyright issues requiring immediate action'**

[COM(88) 172 final]

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

For some time now, the Commission has been keeping under review the copyright field as a whole with a view to publishing a consultative document that would deal comprehensively with the issues that have emerged as meriting discussion and decision at Community level. The issues dealt with in the Green Paper are not the only ones requiring attention but are considered the most urgent:

- (a) piracy;
- (b) home copying of sound and audiovisual works;
- (c) distribution and rental rights for sound and video recordings;
- (d) legal protection of computer programs;
- (e) legal problems relating to the operation of databases;
- (f) external aspects of copyright protection.

After receiving the views of interested parties on the specific suggestions made in this consultative document, the Commission will submit concrete legal proposals to the Council (based on Article 100a of the Treaty of Rome).

The Commission addresses issues only of direct relevance to the functioning of the internal market, to the development of key industrial interests and to the development and protection of the Community's commercial interests abroad. Many copyright issues will remain firmly national.

- (a) **Piracy** constitutes a pressing problem for relevant Community industries, in particular the film and recording industries. To eliminate piracy of sound and video recordings in the Community, clear substantive legal provisions are needed to protect the rights of authors, producers, performers and broadcasting organizations to authorize the reproduction for commercial purposes of their recordings and broadcasts.

(b) **Audiovisual home copying.** The advent of digital technology has increased the risk of easy and perfect copying of all kinds of material. The Commission recognizes that the practice of home copying may cause losses to right holders to the extent that it may replace sales of pre-recorded material. It therefore proposes a series of related measures which aim to reduce home copying rather than to sanction it by means of harmonization at Community level.

(c) **Distribution and rental rights for sound and video recordings.** Also linked to the development of new durable audiovisual products which can be rented many times.

The Commission considers that the author, the performer and the phonogram producer may suffer economic damage by the unauthorized commercial rental of sound recordings. This risk should be countered by the introduction in all Member States of a right to authorize the commercial rental of such recordings.

The right to authorize the commercial rental of video recording should be generalized.

(d) **Computer programs.** The Commission has decided within the framework of the completion of the internal market, to examine as a matter of priority the issues relating to the legal protection of computer programs and subsequently to submit a proposal for a Council directive on the legal protection of these programs. All information received and experience gained indicates that the Community approach should be within the framework of copyright and related rights.

(e) **Databases.** The existence of different legal systems could pose problems to the development of a European information market. The Member States must adopt convergent approaches if this information market is to develop properly.

Specific legal action aiming at resolving existing difficulties seems to be at best premature.

The Commission is also considering whether the protection of the mode of compilation of the database itself should extend to databases composed of material which is not in itself protected by copyright.

(f) **External relations: multilateral and bilateral.** Copyright cannot be seen only in a unilateral, bilateral or multilateral context. The success or failure of multilateral efforts, and the ongoing

negotiations in the new GATT round in particular, are bound to have an effect on the Community's bilateral efforts.

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

After a debate in which a large number of amendments were discussed, the Committee Opinion was adopted comfortably by 102 votes to 22 with 28 abstentions.

The Opinion focuses on some inadequacies in the Green Paper on copyright published last year by the EC Commission.

The Committee is particularly critical of the failure to address issues such as the wholesale unsupervised use of photocopying, the lack of uniformity in the definition of copyright and the period of protection for copyright in the various Member States.

There was some disagreement between the Employers' and Workers' Groups on private copying of audiovisual material. The Employers' Group called for technical arrangements to prevent tape-copying, while the Workers' Group opposed any attempt to curtail private copying.

The Plenary Session adopted an amendment tabled by two Workers' Group members (Bartholomeus Pronk — the Netherlands and Paul Flum — Germany), opposing the use of technical devices to restrict home taping, including measures to limit the reproduction of digital audio recordings in the home.

A further amendment sponsored by two Irish members (Tomas Roseingrave — Various Interests Group and Gordon Pearson — Employers' Group) was also carried urging that a balance be struck between the use of new technology and the need to protect the livelihood of intellectual and artistic creators.

Finally, the Session adopted an amendment tabled by Mrs Alma Williams (United Kingdom — Various Interests) opposing any action detrimental to specially disadvantaged people, such as the blind who rely heavily on home-taping.

*This Opinion was drawn up in the light of the paper produced by the Section for Industry, Commerce, Crafts and Services, chaired by Mr Kazazis (Greece — Employers). The rapporteur was Mr Moreland (United Kingdom — Various Interests).*

<sup>1</sup> CES 74/89.

## 2. ROAD VEHICLES' WEIGHTS AND DIMENSIONS

### **'Proposal for a Council Directive amending Directive 85/3/EEC on the weight, dimensions and certain other technical characteristics of certain road vehicles'** [COM(88) 287 final]

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

The purpose of this proposal is to achieve technical harmonization of goods vehicles — which is considered by some Member States to be a key condition (alongside tax and social harmonization) in order to open up road haulage in the Community.

Community legislation already exists specifying a maximum length of 15.5 metres for articulated vehicles. However, the length of the semi-trailer itself is not specified and there has been a tendency in some parts of the Community to reduce the size of the driver's cab so as to provide more loading space.

The Commission believes that this compression of the cab, which sometimes involves placing the sleeping area of the second driver in the roof of the cab, can jeopardize the safety and comfort of drivers. It therefore proposes extending the maximum authorized length from 15.5 metres to 16.5 metres and specifying a maximum semi-trailer length of 12 metres. The measure would take effect from 1 July 1989.

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

In an Opinion adopted by 43 votes for, 11 votes against and 7 abstentions, the Committee thinks it important to reaffirm that one of the main aims of the common transport policy is the elimination of all distortions of competition both within each mode of transport and between different modes.

Unfortunately, the proposal fails to lay down a minimum size for cabins, and above all it does not consider the physical and psychological harm which its adoption would cause by encouraging road transport.

When Community technical standards are drawn up, thought must also be given to the effect which these standards will have on the negotiations in progress with traditional Community transit coun-

<sup>1</sup> CES 75/89.

tries, and whether they will make the chance of agreement being reached even more remote.

The Committee calls on the Commission to revise and supplement its proposal so that the following aims can be achieved:

- (i) to take a lead, both inside and outside the Community, in revising the trend which has led to constant and ill-considered sharp increases in road vehicles' weights and dimensions;
- (ii) to lay down minimum dimensions for the cabins of all the vehicles;
- (iii) not to provide any further incentives for using road transport in preference to other modes;
- (iv) to put the transport regulations of the EEC (which is the world's largest trading area and a bench-mark for all its trading partners) on a more authoritative and dynamic footing;
- (v) not to raise further doubts about the soundness and certainty of Community law.

*This Opinion was drawn up in the light of the paper produced by the Section for Transport and Communications, chaired by Mr L.J. Smith (United Kingdom — Workers). The rapporteur was Mr Cavazutti (Italy — Workers).*

### 3. VOTING RIGHTS FOR COMMUNITY NATIONALS IN MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS

**'Proposal for a Council Directive on voting rights for Community nationals in local elections in their Member State of residence'**

[COM(88) 371 final]

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

The first principle of the proposal is recognition of the right to vote. This is a right, not an obligation, so that individuals who are entitled to vote in their country of origin may continue to do so. The fact is that some Member States (France, Greece, Italy, Spain) allow citizens resident abroad to vote. However, no one would claim dual voting rights.

A minimum period of residence is required to exercise the right to vote. The Directive does not specify a figure for all the Member States but simply stipulates a maximum which may not be exceeded. This means that Member States which have already set

a lower figure or wish to do so, need not change their practice. The period of residence required may not exceed the term of office of a municipal council. This formula respects the rules in force in the various countries while introducing a system which places all Community voters on an equal footing. The reference to national practice is designed to facilitate adaptation to the system in operation in the country of residence so that new voters will have seen at least one municipal council in operation.

The rules governing age and incapacity in the Member State of residence will apply.

The second principle of the proposal is recognition of the right to stand for election.

The residence qualification here is defined by reference to the same criteria as the right to vote but is set at two terms of office of a municipal council. Member States which wish to do so may, of course, set a lower limit.

To take account of administrative practice in certain Member States, the proposal makes it possible to disbar local councillors who are nationals of another Member State from posts such as that of Mayor and deputy Mayor since these entail duties extending beyond the municipality. A similar exclusion applies when local councillors have a hand in electing a parliamentary assembly (e.g. the French Senate) because this impinges on national sovereignty. In municipalities where all councillors are electors, they would be replaced in accordance with the rules on the appointment of additional electors.

To take account of the political situation in Member States with a high proportion of nationals from other Member States, the Commission is proposing that, where this exceeds 20% of the total population, the Member States concerned would be authorized to waive these provisions for the first elections under the Directive. For subsequent elections the Commission would report to the Council with proposals for gradual implementation of the Directive in the Member States concerned. Furthermore, for the first two elections under the Directive, Member States would be free to limit the number of non-national councillors to 25% of the total. These arrangements reflect the Commission's concern to ensure that the Directive is implemented gradually and causes no disruption, as recommended by the Adonnino Committee at the 1985 Milan Summit.

## Gist of the Committee Opinion <sup>1</sup>

Stressing that the issue is both topical and important, the Committee's Opinion (adopted by 126 votes for, 4 against and 9 abstentions) points out that the Commission proposal represents a significant attempt to:

- (i) overcome remaining obstacles to the free movement of people and create a European area with no internal frontiers;
- (ii) complete the single market by 1992 and build a people's Europe;
- (iii) promote the respect and full exercise of the democratic rights which the Member States pledged to uphold in the Single Act;
- (iv) more generally, make for wider participation by citizens and nations in a swifter and more balanced process of economic, social, democratic and cultural growth in the Community and Member States.

In its specific comments, the Opinion covers, in the same vein, the following issues:

- freedom of choice but no obligations or dual votes;
- top priority — rapid implementation of the Directive;
- adaptation of national laws;
- length of residence;
- the right to stand for election;
- municipal posts and indirect elections;
- the possibility of deferring implementation of the Directive;
- limiting the number of municipal councillors;
- the report on implementation of the Directive.

*This Opinion was drawn up in the light of the paper produced by the Section for Social, Family, Educational and Cultural Affairs, chaired by Mr Carroll (Ireland — Workers). The rapporteur was Mr Vercellino (Italy — Workers).*

<sup>1</sup> CES 73/89.



#### 4. EXTENSIFICATION OF PRODUCTION

**'Proposal for a Council Regulation (EEC) amending Regulation (EEC) No 797/85 with regard to the extensification of production'**  
[COM(88) 745 final]

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

The Commission proposes to defer application of the extensification scheme until 31 December 1989. At the request of several Member States, it would seem that limited application of the scheme ought to be allowed in 1989 on an experimental basis so that Member States can finalize the appropriate technical and administrative procedures.

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

The Economic and Social Committee approved unanimously, less 1 abstention, its Opinion on the Commission proposal.

*The rapporteur-general for this Opinion was Mr Luchetti (Italy — Various Interests).*

#### 5. 17th REPORT ON COMPETITION POLICY

[COM(88) 232 final]

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

As the programme for the completion of the internal market by 1992 gains momentum, the key importance of competition is being increasingly recognized. This is reflected in both the economic and industrial policies of the Member States, which are putting a greater emphasis on competition rules.

In the course of 1987, the Commission maintained its efforts to preserve and enhance competition within the common market, through its examination and control of State aids, public enterprises, State monopolies, restrictive agreements and abuses of dominant positions. Unjustified State subsidies place obstacles in the way of companies by putting them at a disadvantage in relation to their subsidized competitors. The consumer ultimately pays the

<sup>1</sup> CES 72/89.

bill if the State aids distort competition and undermine efficiency. By having to pay higher prices for less efficiently produced goods and services the consumer and the manufacturer are the victims of agreements, price fixing, abuses of dominant position and other forms of restrictive practice.

During 1987 there were a number of important policy developments.

In the air transport sector, a package of measures was adopted, enabling the Commission to implement a competition policy more akin to the policy already in force in other economic sectors.

Progress was also made on the prior vetting of mergers. The Council adopted a positive stance on this issue in November and the Commission submitted an amended proposal. A system for the control of Community-wide concentrations at Community level is now recognized as an essential element of the internal market strategy.

The Committee adopted a favourable Opinion on this subject, with no dissenting votes and two abstentions, on 2 June 1988.

In keeping with the objective of cohesion laid down in the Single European Act and the new circumstances created as a result of the enlargement of the Community, the Commission established a new framework for regional aids in the least developed regions of the Community.

The Commission also continued its policy of systematically ordering the recovery of illegal State aids which were found to be incompatible with the common market.

Further steps were taken towards the adoption of block exemption regulations for certain types of know-how licences and franchise agreements. The former are important in the key areas of technology transfer and dissemination of knowledge, while the latter have come to be regarded as an efficient means of distribution. The proposed regulations will supplement the existing legislation by conferring block exemptions upon other categories of agreement. This should provide greater legal certainty in the future for companies entering into know-how and franchising arrangements.

Here too, the Committee delivered favourable Opinions on 23 March 1988 (know-how agreements) and 27 April 1988 (franchise agreements).

Finally, during 1987 the ground was prepared for the future adoption under Article 90 of the EEC Treaty, of Commission Directives to liberalize the telecommunications markets. The first such Direc-

tive, which was adopted by the Commission in April 1988, concerns the liberalization of the terminal equipment market.

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

The Economic and Social Committee adopted unanimously, less 6 abstentions, its Opinion on the 17th Report on Competition Policy.

It is essential that the Community market, and more particularly the single market of 1992, should remain an open market and that there should be free operation of competition not just between Community firms but also between Community firms and third-country firms, provided the latter observe GATT rules. In this connection the Committee thinks that greater 'reciprocity' in trade should preferably be seen in terms of equivalent, rather than identical, reciprocal constraints and that at all events the Community must avoid being overly cautious in its external trade policy.

Completion of the internal market also presupposes an improvement in working conditions in the Community on the basis of a social policy that precludes unfair competition in this area.

The extent to which a genuine competition policy has been implemented is to a certain degree visible in the differences in the price of a given good or service from one Member State to another.

Looking at the findings of the Eurostat survey based on a harmonized classification of patterns of consumption (purchasing power parities), one is struck by the fact that the sizeable price differential which existed in 1975 (excluding taxes and all taxes included) had narrowed only very slightly 10 years later.

In conclusion, the Committee stresses the importance of a dialogue with the relevant firms and sectors on the interpretation of these price surveys with a view to submitting reasoned opinions to the authorities responsible for implementing competition policy. Between now and 1992, the prices of everyday consumer goods and services will warrant special attention.

*This Opinion was drawn up in the light of the paper produced by the Section for Industry, Commerce, Crafts and Services, chaired by Mr Kazazis (Greece — Employers). A supplementary Opinion was drawn up by the Section for Regional Development, Town and Coun-*

<sup>1</sup> CES 77/89.

*try Planning, chaired by Mr Dassis (Greece — Employers). The rapporteur was Mr Ramaekers (Belgium — Various Interests).*

## 6. ELECTROMAGNETIC COMPATIBILITY

**'Proposal for a Council Directive on the approximation of the laws of the Member States relating to electromagnetic compatibility (Additional Opinion)'**  
[COM(87) 527 final]

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

The Economic and Social Committee adopted its Opinion unanimously. Although it welcomes the fact that the Council's common position has taken account of the Committee's Opinion in a number of important respects, it regrets that the Council has introduced a requirement for third-party certification in the case of apparatus for which no standards exist.

The Committee sees this as a departure from the principles of the new approach and fails to comprehend why more stringent requirements are laid down in this Directive, which does not deal with safety, than in, for example, the machines Directive which does cover safety and which accepts the principle of manufacturers' declarations for all but the most dangerous machines.

*The rapporteur-general for this Opinion was Mr Noordwal (the Netherlands — Employers).*

## 7. COLLECTION OF INFORMATION — CARGO-LINER TRAFFIC

**'Proposal for a Council Decision extending the collection of information concerning the activities of carriers participating in cargo-liner traffic in certain areas of operation'**  
[COM(88) 748 final]

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

The Commission proposes extending for one year (until 31 December 1989) the monitoring system introduced on 1 January 1979,

<sup>1</sup> CES 76/89.

which covers traffic between the Community and East Africa, Central America and the Far East. The monitoring system is due to end on 31 December 1988. In order to avoid any discontinuity in the monitoring system, the Member States will be requested to continue giving information on a voluntary basis pending the approval of the proposed Decision.

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

The Economic and Social Committee adopted its Opinion unanimously. It approves the proposal, which is for a one-year extension until 31 December 1989, and not for two years as previously. No reasons are given for this departure from earlier practice.

It may in part be explained by the fact that a primary focus of the monitoring to date in the three trades has related to carriers from certain countries which constitutionally do not acknowledge normal market-economy principles.

However, there have recently been significant changes in the political climate and shipping industries in these countries which may lead to a need for a re-assessment of the continuation of the monitoring scheme. Nevertheless, it appears prudent to extend the monitoring once more, but to review the position again after one year.

*This Opinion was drawn up in the light of the paper produced by the Section for Transport and Communications, chaired by Mr L.J. Smith (United Kingdom — Workers). The rapporteur working alone was Mr Whitworth (United Kingdom — Employers).*

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<sup>1</sup> CES 78/89.

## 8. DEROGATIONS GRANTED TO DENMARK ON TRAVELLERS' ALLOWANCES

**'Proposal for a Council Directive further amending Directive 69/169/EEC as regards a derogation granted to the Kingdom of Denmark relating to the rules governing travellers' allowances on imports'**  
[COM(88) 731 final]

### Gist of the Commission document

Under Article 133 of the Act of Accession of the Kingdom of Denmark to the European Communities, Denmark had the right to exclude until 31 December 1975, the following goods from the exemption from turnover tax and excise duty:

tobacco products;

alcoholic beverages: distilled beverages and spirits of an alcoholic strength exceeding 22%;

beer, for quantities exceeding 2 litres.

The Danish Government has secured continuous extension of this derogation.

The Danish Government is now seeking a fresh extension of the derogation:

- (i) since the approximation of indirect taxes within the Community is posing many problems for Denmark;
- (ii) since the Danish Government has also agreed to terminate by the beginning of 1989 the unilateral action (which is at present the subject of legal proceedings) requiring Danish travellers to stay in another country for more than 24 hours in order to qualify for the allowance of ECU 350;
- (iii) since furthermore the Danish Government has agreed to end the derogation permitting it to impose a unit value limit of ECU 280 on the general allowance for travellers (ECU 350).

The Commission is proposing new arrangements that will expire on 31 December 1990. Under these arrangements the unit value of the goods importable duty-free is to be raised from ECU 280 to 340, the derogation concerning still wine is to be abolished and quantities of cigarettes and smoking tobacco importable duty-free are to be increased (from 60 to 80 cigarettes and from 100g to 150g of smoking tobacco).

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

The Economic and Social Committee approved unanimously the proposal.

*This Opinion was drawn up in the light of the paper produced by the Section for Industry, Commerce, Crafts and Services, chaired by Mr Kazazis (Greece — Employers). The rapporteur was Mr Noordwal (the Netherlands — Employers).*

## **9. GRAIN LEGUMES**

**'Proposal for a Council Regulation (EEC) introducing a specific measure for certain grain legumes'**  
[COM(88) 832 final]

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

In order to encourage continued cultivation of lentils, chickpeas and vetches in areas at present under these crops, the Commission proposes granting aid per hectare of land sown and harvested. This aid will not be granted for areas qualifying for aid to encourage the withdrawal of arable land pursuant to Regulation (EEC) 797/85.

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

As the cultivation of lentils, chickpeas and vetches is in the Community's interest, particularly in the more disadvantaged areas, the Committee unanimously approved the Commission proposal. The Committee further suggested that the scheme be extended to dried beans.

*The rapporteur-general for this Opinion was Mr Margalef Masia (Spain — Various Interests).*

<sup>1</sup> CES 71/79.

<sup>2</sup> CES 79/89.





## External relations

### Activities of the Chairman and the Secretary-General

On 19 December 1988 the Chairman, Mr Masprone, had a meeting in Brussels with Mr Pangalos, Greek Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs and current President of the Council.

On 20 December 1988 Mr Masprone attended a reception given in Brussels by the Permanent Assembly of French Chambers of Commerce and Industry to the European Communities.

On 11 January 1989 Mr Masprone and the Secretary-General, Mr Moreau, had a meeting with Ambassador Sfar, Head of the Tunisian Mission to the European Communities, in Brussels.

On the same day, Mr Moreau met the French Permanent Representative, Mr Louet, in Brussels.

On 12 January Mr Masprone had a meeting with the Maltese Ambassador, Mr Licari.

Also on that day, the Chairman met Mr Arndt, Chairman of the European Parliament's Socialist Group, in Brussels.

On 13 January Mr Moreau met Mr Lavondès, Secretary-General of the French Economic and Social Council, in Paris.

On 16 January Mr Moreau gave a press luncheon in Brussels for Spanish journalists, to mark the Spanish Presidency of the Council.

Also on 16 January, Mr Masprone took part in a Congress of the Confederazione Nazionale Artigianato in Bologna.

On 17 January Mr Masprone went to Strasbourg, accompanied by Mr Moreau. The Chairman had discussions with Mrs Simone Veil, Chairman of the Liberal and Democratic Reformist Group of the European Parliament, Mr Christian de la Malène, Chairman of the Group of the European Democratic Alliance and Mr Vinci, Secretary-General of the European Parliament. He attended the Magna Charta ceremony at the European Parliament and the investiture of the new Commission.

The following day, still in Strasbourg, Mr Masprone and Mr Moreau met Mr Oreja, Secretary-General of the Council of Europe with Mr Furrer, Director for Political Affairs, Mr Smyth, Director for Economic and Social Affairs, also present.

Later that day Mr Masprone met Mr Anjoi, a Member of the Court of Auditors, in Luxembourg.

He attended a formal session of the Court of Justice in Luxembourg (formal swearing-in of the members of the Commission), followed by a reception.

On 20 January the Chairman had a meeting with Ms Papandreou, Member of the Commission, in Brussels.

Also on that day, Mr Morzeau took part in a Symposium organized in Paris by the 'Europe and Society' Foundation on the subject of the Cecchini Report.

On 23 January Mr Masprone and Mr Moreau had a meeting with Mr Neiertz, the French Secretary of State for Consumer Affairs.

### **Other activities**

From 15 to 18 December, a Committee Member, Mr Zufiaur, and Mr McLaughlin, a Director in the Committee Secretariat, took part in a colloquy on the priorities of the Spanish Presidency, held in Madrid and organized jointly by Tepsa (Trans-European Policy Studies Association) and Euroforum.

A delegation from the Economic and Social Council of the Nord-Pas-de-Calais Region was received at the ESC in Brussels on 19 December. There was a discussion of the Drive (Dedicated road infrastructure for vehicle safety in Europe) project, in which the project coordinator, Mr Karamitsos (Commission Directorate-General XIII, Directorate F) took part.

On 16 January Mr L.J. Smith (Chairman of the ESC's Section for Transport and Communications) and Mr McLaughlin had a meeting with Mr Karel van Miert, the new Commissioner responsible for transport policy.

On 17 January Mr McLaughlin had a meeting with Mr Alfredo Sarich, Secretary-General of IDEA (International Data Exchange Association), about the preparation of a conference to be jointly organized by the ESC and IDEA in September 1989 on the main questions relating to electronic data transmission.

On 26 January Mr Kazazis (Chairman of the ESC's Section for Industry), accompanied by Mr McLaughlin, had a meeting with Sir Leon Brittan, the new Commissioner responsible for competition policy, in Brussels.



## New consultations

Since the last Plenary Session the Economic and Social Committee has been consulted on the following questions:

**'Proposal for a Council Directive concerning the protection of fresh, coastal and marine waters against pollution caused by nitrates from diffuse sources'**

[COM(88) 708 final]

**'Proposal for a third Directive on the approximation of the laws of the Member States relating to insurance against civil liability in respect of the use of motor vehicles'**

[COM(88) 644 final — SYN 165]

**'Draft Recommendation on banning smoking in public places'**

[COM(88) 674 final]

**'Proposal for a Council Decision on a Community financial contribution towards expenditure incurred by Member States for the purpose of ensuring respect of the Community system for the conservation and management of fishery resources'**

[COM(88) 703 final]

**'Proposal for a Council Decision introducing a Community financial measure for the eradication of contagious bovine pleuropneumonia (CBPP) in Portugal'**

[COM(88) 797 final]

**'Proposal for a Council Regulation instituting a certificate for dogs and cats on visits of less than one year in the Member States and introducing Community measures to set up pilot projects for the control and eradication of rabies'**

[COM(88) 836 final]

**'Proposal for a Council Decision adopting a specific multi-annual research and training programme for the European Atomic Energy Community in the field of radiation protection (1990-91)'**

[COM(88) 789 final]

**'Proposal for a Council Directive amending Directive 80/181/EEC on the approximation of the laws of the Member States relating to units of measurement'**

[COM(88) 751 final — SYN 171]

**'Proposal for a Council Directive on the approximation of the laws of the Member States relating to appliances burning gaseous fuels'**

[COM(88) 786 final — SYN 178]

**'Proposal for a Council Directive on the approximation of the laws of the Member States relating to active implantable electromedical equipment'**

[COM(88) 717 final — SYN 173]

**'Proposal for a Council Directive on the harmonization of the laws of the Member States relating to non-automatic weighing machines'**

[COM(88) 780 final — SYN 174]

**'Proposal for a Council Directive amending Directive 75/106/EEC on the approximation of the laws of the Member States relating to the making-up by volume of certain prepackaged liquids'**

[COM(88) 750 final — SYN 172]

**'Proposal for a second Directive on the coordination of laws, regulations and administrative provisions relating to direct life assurance, laying down provisions to facilitate effective exercise of the freedom to provide services and amending Directive 79/267/EEC'**

[COM(88) 729 final — SYN 177]

**'Proposal for a Directive amending, particularly as regards insurance against civil liability in respect of the use of motor vehicles, the first Directive 73/239/EEC and the second Directive 88/357/EEC on the coordination of laws, regulations and administrative provisions relating to direct insurance other than life assurance, laying down provisions to facilitate effective exercise of the freedom to provide services and amending Directive 73/239/EEC'**

[COM(88) 791 final — SYN 179]

**'Proposal for a Council Directive on investment services in the securities field'**

[COM(88) 778 final — SYN 176]

**'Proposal for a Council Regulation on the elimination of controls performed at the frontiers of Member States in the field of road and inland waterway transport'**

[COM(88) 800 final]

**‘Proposal for a Directive amending Directives:****80/778/EEC concerning water intended for human consumption;****76/160/EEC concerning bathing water;****75/440/EEC concerning surface water;****79/869/EEC concerning the methods of measurement and the frequency of analysis of surface water’****[COM(88) 752 final]****‘Proposal for a Council Decision establishing a medium-term Community action programme to foster the economic and social integration of the least privileged groups’****[COM(88) 826 final]****‘Proposal for a Decision establishing the Lingua programme to promote training in foreign languages in the European Community’****[COM(88) 841 final]****‘Proposal for a Regulation on animal health conditions governing intra-Community trade in ovine and caprine animals’****‘Proposal for a Directive amending Directive 72/464/EEC on health and veterinary inspection problems upon importation of bovine animals and swine and fresh meat from third countries, in order to include ovine and caprine animals’****[COM(88) 742 final]****‘Proposal for a Council Regulation amending Regulation (EEC) No 486/85 on the arrangements applicable to agricultural products and certain goods resulting from the processing of agricultural products originating in the African, Caribbean and Pacific States or in the overseas countries and territories’****[COM(88) 679 final]****‘Proposal for a Council Directive on the European driving licence’****[COM(88) 705 final]**





# Provisional future work programme

## February 1989 Plenary Session

### *Opinions*

Community Charter of Basic Social Rights

NCI V borrowing  
[COM(88) 661 final]

Package holidays  
[COM(88) 41 final — SYN 122]

Sewage sludge  
[COM(88) 624 final]

Rear-mounted roll-over protection structures for narrow-track tractors  
[COM(88) 626 final — SYN 163]

Roll-over protection structures mounted in front of tractors  
[COM(88) 629 final — SYN 164]

Approximation of the laws relating to the roll-over protection structures of tractors  
[COM(88) 630 final — SYN 167]

Fertilizers  
[COM(88) 562 final — SYN 160]

Additional Opinion on the pilot programme of research in aeronautics

Safety belts  
[COM(88) 544 final]

Decommissioning of nuclear installations  
[COM(88) 415 final]

Teleman programme  
[COM(88) 416 final]

Framework agreement for scientific and technical cooperation with Iceland

[COM(88) 527 final — SYN 156]

Research and development programme — MAST

[COM(88) 587 final — SYN 162]

ACP Yam imports

[COM(88) 679 final]

Spanish table wines for distillation

[COM(88) 633 final]

Conservation and management of fishery resources

[COM(88) 703 final]

Eradication of contagious bovine pleuropneumonia in Portugal

[COM(89) 710 final]

Brucellosis screening for certain breeds of pig

[COM(88) 797 final]

Common organization of the market in the cereals' sector

[COM(88) 614 final]

### *Information Report*

Assessment and follow-up to IMPs

Employment and training of research staff

## **Future Plenary Sessions**

### *Opinions*

Protection of natural and semi-natural habitats

[COM(88) 381 final]

Health and environment protection against PCBs

[COM(88) 559 final — SYN 161]

Freedom of access to information in the environmental field

[COM(88) 484 final]

Strategy and action programme for the forestry sector: protection against air pollution and fire

[COM(88) 255 final]

Research and development programmes: Epoch and STEP

[COM(88) 632 final — SYN 168]

Public contracts in exempted sectors  
[COM(88) 377 final and 378 final]

Annual and consolidated accounts — SME exemptions  
[COM(88) 292 final — SYN 158]

High-definition TV  
[COM(88) 659 final]

Utilization of electricity  
[COM(88) 576 final]

Forestry sector (Agr. Op.)  
[COM(88) 255 final]

Nutritional labelling of foodstuffs  
[COM(88) 489 final — SYN 155]

Batteries and accumulators  
[COM(88) 672 final]

Banning smoking in public places  
[COM(88) 674 final]

13th Annual ERDF Report  
[COM(88) 728 final]

Poseidon programme  
[COM(88) 730 final]

Capacity of air-traffic control systems  
[COM(88) 577 final]

Economic situation mid-1989

Right of asylum and status of refugees

Social developments in the Community — 1988

Tourism — five-year programme  
[COM(88) 363 final]

Protection of the Mediterranean environment

Noise level of subsonic aircraft  
[COM(88) 662 final]

Legal protection of biotechnological inventions  
[COM(88) 496 final — SYN 159]

Civil liability for motor vehicles  
[COM(88) 644 final]

Food treated with ionizing radiation  
[COM(88) 654 final — SYN 169]

Drivers' licences  
[COM(88) 705 final]

Maximum alcohol intake for drivers  
[COM(88) 707 final]

Speed limits  
[COM(88) 706 final]

*Information reports*

Poverty

GATT/Uruguay Round

EEC/Mediterranean country relations

*Own-initiative work*

European cultural area (Additional Opinion)

Consumer information centres

Social consequences of cross-frontier mergers

Contribution of the cooperative sector to regional development

Relations between the EEC and NPIs of South-East Asia  
1992 and the EEC's external trade

Utilization of agricultural and forestry resources

Future of the rural world — Environment and agriculture

Trans-frontier television

## Members' news

### Appointments

The Council of Ministers has just appointed, on proposals by the Dutch and French Governments respectively, Mr G.W.M. Lustenhouwer to replace Dr L.N. Goris and Mr Joel Decaillon to replace Mr André Dunet for the remainder of their terms of office, i.e. until 20 September 1990.

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