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267th Plenary Session

The 267th Plenary Session of the Economic and Social Committee of the European Communities was held in Brussels on 21 and 22 June 1989. It was presided over by the Chairman, Mr Alberto Masprone.

The Session was attended by Mr Christophersen, Vice-President of the Commission, who took part in the debate on the economic situation in the Community in the first half of the year.

ADOPTION OF OPINIONS

1. THE ECONOMIC SITUATION IN THE COMMUNITY — MID-1989 (Own-initiative Opinion)

Gist of the Committee Opinion¹

In an Opinion, adopted by 76 votes to 44 with 9 abstentions, the ESC pointed out that the prospects for economic growth in the Community remain generally good, and suggest that the extremely long period of sustained but moderate expansion is to continue.

It should be borne in mind, however, that the Community economy depends, to a high degree, on the world economy. Although the latter is still going through a period of fundamentally sound growth, a number of unsolved problems have made it vulnerable. For example, the enormous indebtedness of developing countries, the US budget and current-account deficits and the fluctuations in the US dollar continue to spell danger.

The more unfavourable world economic situation, together with the slower increase in private consumption and restrictive monetary

¹ CES 752/89.

and/or budgetary policies in some Member States, probably mean that the Community growth rate will be around 3.25%. At the same time a further supply-side improvement is likely. In some Member States, such as Italy, Spain, Portugal and the UK, economic growth is likely to drop below its current high levels. The impetus received by other partners will probably result in them playing a more expansionary role.

In 1988 the upturn in investment was the most important growth factor in almost all Community countries. Given the considerable improvement in returns on capital and the fact that industry is now working to full capacity, capital formation is likely to increase and there is likely to be a shift from labour-saving investments to investments in new plant. In addition, investment will probably benefit from industry's preparations for the advent of the single European market.

Although the growth in employment has gathered a little momentum in recent years, more than 10% of the active population is still out of work, i.e. there are approximately 15 million registered unemployed. Long-term joblessness is still rising and already accounts for more than one half of total unemployment. Youth unemployment still averages more than 20% throughout the Community. The growth in the employed labour force is not reflected in a corresponding fall in joblessness, since some of the vacancies are filled by non-registered unemployed and the participation rate is on the increase. Furthermore, it is forecast that the growth in employment will fall slightly to just over 1% in 1989. Another point to bear in mind is that a considerable number of the new jobs are part-time. If the slight fall in unemployment cannot be speeded up, the unemployment rate in the Community in 1992 will be not much less than 10% of the active population.

Inflation in the Community will, on average, rise only slightly above the present rate and thus remain in check (a 4.8% increase in the private-consumption deflator is forecast for 1989). However, the individual Member States must be extremely vigilant (some more so than others), since the factors which hold down prices are losing some of their force. Thus, for instance, a further improvement in the terms of trade is unlikely. Furthermore, prices are under pressure from domestic demand and costs, especially in Member States where there has been a high utilization of capacity for some time (e.g. the UK, Italy and Spain). However, it is forecast that average unit labour costs in the Community will rise by a moderate 3.3% in 1989 (compared with 4.5% in the USA and 1.6% in Japan).

On the monetary front, the growth in money supply is likely to slow down.

The strengthening and stabilization of monetary cohesion within the Community has been helped by the convergence of inflation rates, especially between EMS countries. However, there are still great differences between Member States' budgetary situations and their external balances are also beginning to diverge. This may destabilize the pattern of exchange rates.

The Opinion also discusses current economic policy necessities, namely:

- (i) coordination of economic policy in the EC;
- (ii) exchange-rate and monetary policy;
- (iii) budgetary policy;
- (iv) wages policy;
- (v) the internal market and the requisite policies (general employment policy, regional policy, sectoral policy, European infrastructure policy, competition policy, consumer policy, active environmental protection for an efficient economy, employment and labour market policy, fiscal policy, exchange-rate and monetary policy).

In a minority declaration the members of the Employers' Group explained their vote against the Opinion.

These members felt that, in approving previous Opinions, they had reached the limit of the concessions possible with respect to working hours and could not now accept the new wording of the text especially as regards the advisability of long-term commitments. The Group pointed out that there was a contradiction in the Opinion between the recommendations which would involve a rise in wage costs on the one hand and, on the other, the fact that the Opinion referred to the environmental and employment problems facing the Community, which could not be solved unless considerable financial efforts were made. Finally, these members were of the view that the Opinion was proposing excessive reliance on demand-side policy, and wished to express their disagreement with this point.

This Opinion was drawn up in the light of the paper produced by the Section for Economic, Financial and Monetary Questions, chaired by Mr Margot (Belgium — Various Interests). The rapporteur was Mr Geuenich (Germany — Workers).

2. SOCIAL DEVELOPMENTS IN THE COMMUNITY IN 1988

Gist of the Commission document

As in previous years the Commission has asked the Committee to issue an Opinion on social developments in the Community over the past year, taking as its basis the Commission's report on social developments in 1988.

Gist of the Committee Opinion ¹

The Community is faced with a 'social challenge': to ensure that the expected growth actually creates real jobs and not only raises the volume of work but also improves the level and quality of employment.

According to an Opinion adopted unanimously (less three abstentions) this social challenge should be met through a series of measures to make employment more responsive to market requirements without making it merely a variable of them: adaptable working methods, appropriate training, employment programmes geared to social needs, etc.

In some circumstances, it should be possible to combine the cost reductions resulting from longer operating hours of equipment with reductions of individual working time and the creation of more jobs. Working hours should be reorganized so as to facilitate part-time work for those who so wish. The way to follow is that of collective negotiations between the two sides of industry at all levels, complemented by national and European legal measures guaranteeing basic social and occupational rights.

In the final analysis, the European social challenge raises the question of what sort of transnational democratic and ethical model we envisage, what form of synthesis we seek between social needs and consumer needs, and what sort of 'people's Europe' we wish to build. The message from the Economic and Social Committee is 'progress by consensus'.

This Opinion was drawn up in the light of the paper produced by the Section for Social, Family, Educational and Cultural Affairs, chaired

¹ CES 753/89.

by Mr Carroll (Ireland — Workers). The rapporteur was Mr Schade-Poulsen (Denmark — Employers).

Debate with the participation of Mr Christophersen, Vice-President of the Commission

During the debate the Commissioner had to counter criticism levelled at the Cecchini Report by the two rapporteurs. Published by the Commission in 1988, the Cecchini Report forecasts that the internal market will boost growth by 4.5 to 7.5% of GDP and create 1.8 to 5.7 million extra jobs, provided a number of back-up measures are taken at Community level.

To quote the Opinion on the economic situation: 'The report over-emphasizes the microeconomic angle. Therefore the scale and duration of the adverse effects which the internal market programme may have on employment and regional development are underestimated', whilst the rapporteur for the Opinion on social developments explained during the plenary session debate that even if the most optimistic forecasts of the Cecchini Report were borne out, unemployment would still remain a problem in the Community.

Replying to this criticism Mr Christophersen said: 'We do not share your scepticism. As far as the Commission is concerned, the Cecchini Report is a realistic evaluation. The social dimension of the internal market could release enormous growth potential, providing greater flexibility in the Community'.

The Chairman of the ESC Workers' Group, Mr François Staedelin, roundly rebuked the Commissioner on this last phrase, saying that the social dimension invariably took second place to economic considerations in the Commission's scale of priorities. In 1985 Mr Jacques Delors had argued that the internal market should be built before a social Europe. Were we now being told: Let us first achieve economic and monetary union?!

Economic growth alone would not bring down unemployment. That was the message of the two ESC Opinions. The Opinion on social developments talked about a 'social challenge' — i.e. ensuring that the anticipated growth would succeed in creating 'real' jobs and



From left to right in the photograph: Mr Masprone, Chairman of the ESC; Mr Henning Christophersen, Member of the Commission who took part in the discussions on the economic and social situations. Next to him, the two Vice-Chairmen of the ESC, Mr Hovgaard Jakobsen and Mr Jenkins.

increasing the volume of work. Among the proposed back-up measures, the introduction of employment programmes tailored to social requirements (e.g. housing) attracted particularly sharp criticism from the employers' representatives on the ESC.

Mr Werner Löw (Germany — Employers) felt that undue emphasis was placed on these programmes. He also disagreed with the Opinion on the economic situation when it called for wage increases to enable the least-favoured countries to catch up with the others.

Unquestionably the most hotly disputed point in both Opinions was the reduction of working time. The Opinion on the economic situation argued that: 'Wages policy must continue to contribute towards improving the employment situation. According to the Committee this also includes the further shortening and restructuring of working time, bearing in mind the sharper rise in productivity'. Although an amendment tabled by Camille Giacomelli (Luxembourg — Employers) calling for the deletion of this passage was defeated at the plenary session, the employers' representatives reiterated their opposition on this point in a 'minority statement'.

3. VAT — SECOND-HAND GOODS

Proposal for a Directive supplementing the common system of value-added tax and amending Articles 32 and 28 of Directive 77/388/EEC — Special arrangements for second-hand goods
[COM(88) 846 final]

Gist of the Commission document

The European Commission has put forward proposals for a special VAT régime for second-hand goods, works of art, antiques and other collectors' items. The new proposals are designed to eliminate the double taxation of these goods which heavily penalizes dealers and consumers in many Member States. The proposals also contribute to the completion of the VAT tax base, which is an essential part of the programme to complete the internal market.

Most goods which are sold second-hand have already borne tax when they were originally sold as new goods. To tax them again on their full value when they re-enter the commercial circuit is to subject them to double taxation. Earlier attempts to adopt a VAT régime which would avoid such double taxation have ended in

failure. The Sixth VAT Directive of 1977 left the treatment of second-hand goods¹ to a separate Directive, allowing Member States to retain their existing treatment in the meantime. A draft Seventh VAT Directive was put forward by the Commission in 1978 but the Council failed to adopt it despite 10 years of discussion. In 1987, faced with the prospect of a denaturing by the Council of its original proposal, the Commission withdrew it.

At the time of that withdrawal, Lord Cockfield, Vice-President of the Commission, promised a fresh proposal which would take account both of the particular nature of the second-hand market and of the proposals for the abolition of fiscal frontiers which are an integral part of the programme to complete the internal market. The present proposals are a fulfilment of that commitment.

Gist of the Committee Opinion²

The introduction of a common system is complicated by the differing situations in the Member States.

The Committee, in an Opinion adopted unanimously less two abstentions, stated that the principle which underlies the proposal is to be supported. However, the proposal does not completely resolve the double taxation problem raised by the Court of Justice. The principle that VAT can never be charged twice on the same item must be implemented fully.

The principle that the tax should be based on the profit made by the dealer when re-selling the item may in some respects appear a simple solution, but in other respects it makes the tax different from traditional VAT. The special arrangements would tax the dealer's profit (as defined by the Commission, i.e. the difference between the purchase price, inclusive of tax, and the selling price, exclusive of tax) rather than the value of the item.

The proposal specifies that Member States may take as the taxable account the overall profit made over each tax period. This would alter the nature of the tax still further. It would remove any real link with the value of the individual items sold, and the final consumer would be quite unaware of the tax being levied on him.

This Opinion was drawn up in the light of the paper produced by the Section for Economic, Financial and Monetary Questions, chaired by

¹ Article 32 of Directive 77/388/EEC.

² CES 751/89.

Mr Margot (Belgium — Various Interests). The rapporteur was Mr Della Croce (Italy — Workers).

4. STOCK EXCHANGE LISTING PROSPECTUS

Proposal for a Council Directive amending Directive 80/390/EEC in respect of mutual recognition of stock exchange listing particulars
[COM(89) 60 final]

Gist of the Commission document

On 17 April 1989 the Council adopted a Directive 'coordinating the requirements for the drawing-up, scrutiny and distribution of the prospectus to be published when transferable securities are offered to the public' (89/298/EEC).

If the offer concerns securities which are to be officially listed on a stock exchange, the information must comply with the requirements of Directive 80/390/EEC as amended by Directive 87/345/EEC.

Under the present proposal, the public-offer prospectus (89/298/EEC) whose information complies with the requirements of Directive 80/390/EEC as amended by Directive 87/345/EEC may be used for a stock exchange listing in any Member State if it has been approved in the preceding three months by the authority responsible for approving public-offer prospectuses.

Gist of the Committee Opinion ¹

The Committee unanimously adopted its Opinion approving the proposal for a Directive as submitted.

This Opinion was drawn up in the light of the paper produced by the Section for Economic, Financial and Monetary Questions, chaired by Mr Margot (Belgium — Various Interests). The rapporteur was Mr Pardon (Belgium — Employers).

¹ CES 750/89.

5. VETERINARY MEDICINAL PRODUCTS

Proposal for a Council Regulation laying down a Community procedure for the establishment of tolerances for residues of veterinary medicinal products

Proposal for a Council Directive amending Directive 81/851/EEC on the approximation of the laws of the Member States relating to veterinary medicinal products

Proposal for a Council Directive extending the scope of Directive 81/851/EEC on the approximation of the laws of the Member States relating to veterinary medicinal products and laying down additional provisions for immunological veterinary medicinal products
[COM(89) 779 final]

Gist of the Commission proposals

Legal basis: Article 43 for the first, Article 100a for the others

Objectives

- (a) To institute a centralized Community system for determining binding tolerances (acceptable levels) for residues of veterinary medicinal products in foodstuffs of animal origin.
- (b) To improve the decentralized Community procedure which enables a person who has obtained authorization to market a veterinary medicinal product in one Member State to apply for its extension to the other Member States.
- (c) To update the detailed provisions of the veterinary medicines directives in the light of developments since 1981. The main changes concern the distribution of veterinary medicinal products, the administration of non-authorized products, the environmental risks, the protection of innovation, information, exports and manufacturers' obligations.
- (d) To extend the veterinary medicines directives to cover immunological veterinary medicinal products. In addition to certain detailed changes to take account of the biological origin of these products, there are two major areas where a somewhat different approach is required:
 - (1) it is important to ensure high levels of batch-to-batch consistency during manufacturing;

- (2) since immunization is linked to prevention, Member States should be empowered to prohibit, where justified, the use of immunological veterinary medicinal products which otherwise comply with quality, safety and efficiency criteria.

Gist of the Committee Opinion ¹

The Economic and Social Committee unanimously adopted an Opinion approving the Commission's draft Regulation providing for the establishment by 1 January 1997 of a positive list setting out the authorized tolerances for residues of active principals of veterinary medicinal products applicable to the whole of the EC.

Excessive differences continue to exist between the Member States in respect of the holding, distribution and classification of prescription and non-prescription veterinary medicinal products, guidelines for the use of products and surveillance. These differences are jeopardizing attainment of the level of safety desired by consumers and they may perpetuate distortions in competition.

The Committee calls upon the Commission to draw up forthwith a list of the veterinary medicinal products available on the EC market. Such a list would make it possible to identify the disparities in the classification of veterinary medicinal products available only on prescription, and to put forward proposals for harmonization. In the Committee's view all veterinary medicinal products should be assessed as to the level of control required, using a modulated system indicating the degree of professional supervision needed in the use of each product.

In the Committee's view priority should be given to harmonizing the criteria used to evaluate the safety and effectiveness of immunological products.

This Opinion was drawn up in the light of the paper produced by the Section for Protection of the Environment, Public Health and Consumer Affairs, chaired by Mr Jaschick (Germany — Various Interests). The rapporteur was Mr Ramaekers (Belgium — Various Interests).

¹ CES 749/89.

268th Plenary Session

The 268th Plenary Session of the Economic and Social Committee was held in Brussels on 12 and 13 July 1989. The Committee Chairman Mr Alberto Masprone, presided.

The Session was attended by Mr Frans Andriessen, Vice-President of the Commission, who took part in the debate on the Own-initiative Opinion on 1992 and the Community's external trade.

ADOPTION OF OPINIONS

1. POVERTY (Own-initiative Opinion)

Gist of the Committee Opinion¹

Six to ten million Europeans are living in conditions of acute poverty, reveals an Own-initiative Opinion unanimously adopted by the Economic and Social Committee.

'Despite measures taken at national and Community level between 1970 and 1985, the gap has not closed', indicates the ESC Opinion, 'and there has been a marked increase (15.75%) in the number of persons with low, very low or no incomes (a rise of 6 million, i.e. 1.9% of the total EC population). The years between 1970 and 1985 witnessed a change in the composition of Europe's poor. Overall there was a relative decline in the number of the poor from the elderly population and a sharp rise in the number of the poor from the ranks of the unemployed and single-parent families. Continuing high unemployment in the EEC could mean that severe poverty will be here to stay unless vigorous action is taken'.

¹ CES 834/89.

The ESC has used three criteria in defining severe poverty: homelessness or housing unfit for human beings; lack of financial resources; lack of welfare and health protection.

‘Taking these three factors as a starting point, we must look for ways of enabling those who are marginalized by poverty to exercise their full rights as enshrined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights’, explained Roger Burnel, who in France is also President of the National Union of Family Associations and a member of the Higher Audiovisual Council.

The means to be employed to achieve this aim include:

- (i) culture and education (including waging war on school failure);
- (ii) information (information about rights should be accessible to those directly concerned);
- (iii) financial support (a minimum guaranteed income with a view to reintegrating poor people in society and, through vocational training, into working life).

The ESC’s Opinion on poverty is the ‘political conclusion’ of an information report adopted by the Committee on 15 March 1989. In the past very many ESC Opinions have made passing reference to the problem of poverty. This is why the ESC is calling today for the ‘severe poverty’ dossier to be included in all economic, social and cultural debates in the Member States and other Community institutions.

The ESC also stresses three other points, namely:

- (i) the need to increase the systematic exchange of information and experiences between Member States;
- (ii) the need to provide a more satisfactory definition of ‘poverty’ and ‘severe poverty’, basing them on actual reality;
- (iii) the need to activate specific, adequately-funded programmes for the very poor.

During the plenary session Mr Roger Burnel proposed that any work carried out by the Committee on severe poverty should also include a complementary chapter on ‘the contribution Europe can make to overcoming poverty in the world’.

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 Burnel (France — Various Interests).

2. 1992 AND THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY'S EXTERNAL TRADE (Own-initiative Opinion)

1992 and the Community's external trade: The impact of a single Community internal market on the Community's trade with its major trading partners

Gist of the Committee Opinion ¹

In its Own-initiative Opinion, adopted unanimously less two abstentions, the Committee states that the completion of the internal market requires that the Member States cease to regulate their trade relations with third countries independently and move towards Community-level management. For this it is necessary to push ahead with the adoption of measures to establish and strengthen the Community's identity abroad.

The ESC's Opinion points to the advantages which the single market will have for all Community citizens and for third countries which will benefit from the uniform standards of a 'partner' open to the outside world.

As regards those sectors governed by multilateral relations, the Committee agrees that the importance of the GATT (General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade) talks lies in the fact that they are multilateral and non-discriminatory. If it is to tackle unfair competition effectively, the Commission must increase the number of administrative staff dealing with deterrent measures and strengthen the 'new Community commercial instrument'. Secondly, the Committee proposes developing a Community policy in (a) those sectors governed by bilateral national relations, e.g. its policy on visible trade contains a number of gaps owing to the differences in Member States' import arrangements (especially quotas), and (b) those sectors not covered by international agreements (such as trade in services) or by the new regulations on public supply contracts (telecommunications, water, energy, transport).

The Opinion, accompanied by a lengthy and detailed report, proposes continuity in existing relations with other countries and regions in a spirit of cooperation (especially in the case of the developing and debtor countries), with mutual respect for international standards and agreements. It analyses the impact of the single market region by region. The EFTA (European Free Trade

¹ CES 837/89.

Association) countries will be the main beneficiaries. In the case of the Gulf, Latin American and Asean (Association of South-East Asian Nations) countries, the ESC thinks that greater cooperation is necessary, along with special attention for the Mediterranean countries. As far as relations with Comecon (Council for Mutual Economic Assistance) are concerned, significant progress will only be achieved by gradually phasing out the remaining quotas and promoting broader economic, financial and industrial cooperation. The ACP (African, Caribbean, Pacific) countries need assurances of continuing cooperation in all its forms and the adoption of appropriate measures to deal with the serious problem of indebtedness.

Finally, the Committee points out that the benefits of the internal market could be diluted if the United States were to react negatively, hence the need to settle their differences. The Community's objective in its relations with Japan should be a more balanced pattern of trade. This could be achieved if the Japanese market were decisively opened, allowing greater penetration by Community firms.

Speech by Mr Frans Andriessen in brief

Addressing the plenary session of the Economic and Social Committee on Thursday 13 July, Mr Frans Andriessen, Commissioner responsible for external relations, trade policy and cooperation with other European countries, defended the idea of Europe as a 'partner' in international trade relations.

Mr Andriessen said that Europe wished to act as a partner and conclude multilateral agreements on access to markets, the settlement of disputes and safeguard clauses. He also shared the views expressed in the Committee's Opinion that it was urgently necessary to open up markets in the service industries.

He then stressed the need for a confident Europe willing to assume leadership in GATT negotiations. Since the Commission had had to define what it meant by 'reciprocity' in trade, it now possessed the instruments for negotiating similar treatment for products from sectors not yet covered by multilateral agreements. 'I say "negotiate"', the Commissioner said, 'but not with a pistol pointing at you'.

Turning to the question of anti-dumping measures for which the Community had also been criticized in the past, the Commissioner said that such measures 'were not an instrument of protectionism but simply a matter of counteracting unfair competition'.



At the Committee's last plenary session, Mr Andriessen, Vice-President of the Commission, spoke to the Assembly on the subject of external trade. He is seen here on the right, with Mr Masprone, the Committee's President.

On one point alone the Commissioner explained that he could not agree with the Committee Opinion, saying: 'There can be no general rule regarding "local content"; it would contravene GATT rules'. He concluded by saying that 'local content can be used when an attempt is made to circumvent anti-dumping measures'.

The principle of partnership was valid in international trade relations but it was also valid in relations between the Member States of the Community. The restrictive measures which still remained in place in this area should be replaced by the use of instruments pertaining to the social and economic cohesion of the single market, such as the structural Funds.

The Commissioner also said it was unthinkable to imagine that a single market could be completed without a social dimension of equal importance to the economic dimension. 'A clear, unambiguous attitude on this subject has been adopted in Madrid by 11 of the Member States', he went on to say.

Debates

Regarding the social charter, the Commissioner was tackled by Mr Walter Briganti (Italy — Various Interests), who criticized the Commission for having left out of its draft social charter any mention of consumers, the professions, and a social economy, as mentioned prominently in the Opinion on basic social rights adopted by the Committee on 22 February 1989.

On behalf of the Workers' Group, Mr Michael Geuenich (Federal Republic of Germany) affirmed that the key element in international trade relations was the notion of Europe as an 'international partner'. The European Communities themselves should put emphasis on the partners living closest to the EEC, i.e. Eastern European countries', he added.

Winding up on behalf of the Employers' Group, Mr Aldo Romoli (Italy) said that the Committee's Opinion on 1992 and international trade relations was not an isolated document. In recent months the ESC had also adopted Own-initiative Opinions on GATT and on trade relations with the countries of South-East Asia.

This Opinion was drawn up in the light of the paper produced by the Section for External Relations, Trade and Development Policy, chaired by Mr Neto da Silva (Portugal — Employers). The rapporteur was Mr Beltrami (Italy — Employers)

3. LIBERALIZATION OF CAPITAL MOVEMENTS

Proposal for a Council Directive on a common system of withholding tax on interest income

Proposal for a Council Directive amending Directive 77/799/EEC concerning mutual assistance by the competent authorities of the Member States in the field of direct taxation and value-added tax

Gist of the Commission document

The two proposed Directives provide for:

(a) The introduction by all the Member States of a withholding tax of not less than 15% on interest paid to all Community residents. This is a moderate rate close to the Community average (0 to 35%) and likely to be approved by the Member States.

The rate should be moderate to avoid:

- (i) driving savings outside the Community for tax reasons;
- (ii) exerting upward pressure on interest rates.

The proposal provides for certain exemptions, to be implemented at the discretion of the Member States:

- (i) small savings not subject to income tax in the Member States;
- (ii) Eurobonds, which are issued mainly on the European market;
- (iii) residents of non-member countries — as is already the case in most Member States;
- (iv) Member States would be exempt from the obligation to apply withholding tax to interest paid to their residents where they have a system of automatic declaration by the banks to the tax authorities;
- (v) transactions between firms and interest paid by a private individual.

The introduction of a non-definitive ¹ withholding tax on all Community residents entails the new tax concept of a Community resident, a further step towards the creation of a European financial area.

¹ A withholding tax is described as non-definitive if it does not fully discharge the taxpayer's tax liability, and he is therefore still required to declare the amounts received for purposes of income tax.

(b) The second Directive amends Directive 77/799/EEC of 19 December 1977 on mutual assistance between tax authorities and is intended to assist the exchange of information between tax administrations, where there are definite indications of fraud, by removing administrative barriers.

It is not intended to affect the laws on banking secrecy.

Gist of the Committee Opinion ¹

In its Opinion, adopted by 85 votes for, 7 against and 29 abstentions, the Committee agrees that the withholding tax is an appropriate form of taxation from various points of view, including the principle of equity. Interest payments are taxed immediately, thereby providing a secure source of income in the Member States. By being levied at source, the withholding tax on interest income bears some resemblance to the wage tax levied on earned income at source. Earned income is taxed at source in most Member States.

Most Member States already have a withholding tax on interest. The impending liberalization of the capital market therefore necessitates Community regulations to forestall the misallocation of capital resources resulting from investments being attracted to areas with the most favourable tax systems.

The higher the rate of the withholding tax, the greater the attractiveness of tax avoidance. Setting a rate of around 10% would therefore be desirable. A lower rate would also considerably facilitate the passage of the Directive through the Council, where a unanimous vote is required.

One of the main reservations about the draft Directive is that even Community regulations will not prevent capital from being invested in tax-free bonds.

Similarly it will still be possible to invest capital in non-member countries where there is no withholding tax.

Consideration should be given to whether or not implementation of the Directive should be dependent on a commitment by the Community's most important trading partners to operate a parallel scheme themselves.

¹ CES 836/89.

This Opinion was drawn up in the light of the paper produced by the Section for Economic, Financial and Monetary Questions, chaired by Mr Margot (Belgium — Various Interests). The rapporteur was Mr Broicher (Germany — Employers).

4. 13th ERDF REPORT

Thirteenth Annual Report (1987) from the Commission on the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF)
[COM(88) 728 final]

Gist of the Commission document

The Thirteenth Annual Report from the Commission on the activities of the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) begins by highlighting the two most important events of 1987.

First, assistance to programmes stemming from the 1984 Regulation really took off, and secondly, the entry into force on 1 July 1987 of the Single European Act gave full legal force to Community regional policy through Articles 130a and 130c. Setting out from this new legal basis the Commission began preparing in 1987 proposals for reform of the structural Funds so as to better define and rationalize their functions with the aim of reinforcing economic and social cohesion in the Community as a whole.

In 1987 the ERDF's appropriation commitments were of the order of ECU 3 500 million as against ECU 3 100 million in 1986.

In 1987 the first grants to the Community's STAR (advanced telecommunications services) and Valoren (exploitation of indigenous energy potential) programmes were approved and two new proposals were submitted for the conversion of areas affected by industrial restructuring (Renaval and Resider). The Committee issued Opinions on both programmes in 1988.

With regards to investment projects, the ERDF received 4 707 applications in 1987 (6 154 in 1986). 91% of aid went to infrastructure projects (87% in 1986). Three sectors dominated: transport (48%), water engineering (25%) and infrastructure linked to productive activities (9%).

The ERDF's impact on employment is illustrated by the 27 500 jobs created and 38 900 safeguarded in 1987.

With regard to the geographical breakdown of the ERDF's activities, more than half of the total assistance went to the following: the Mezzogiorno (25%), Andalusia, Castilla la Mancha and Castilla y León (15%), northern Portugal (4.7%), Scotland and the West Midlands (4.8%) and Ireland (3.2%). The highest per capita assistance (in descending order of magnitude) went to the following: Basilicata, French Guiana, the Azores, Madeira, the Algarve, Campania, Crete, Alentejo, Castille and the South-West of the UK.

The 13th report contains a new chapter reviewing the first three years of implementation of the 1984 Regulation and the reform of the structural Funds initiated in 1987.

Finally, it should be pointed out that the ERDF's budget resources have increased thirteen-fold since the ERDF's inception in 1975 and are set to double between 1987 and 1992.

Gist of the Committee Opinion ¹

The Opinion (adopted unanimously less three abstentions) seeks to determine to what extent ERDF activities in 1987 accorded with the objective — often expressed, and enshrined in the Single Act — of reducing regional disparities. Its conclusions are fairly pessimistic.

Although programmes such as STAR, Valoren, Renaval and Resider are endorsed, and the future Stride and Envireg programmes are impatiently awaited, the fact is stressed that regional initiatives will be only a drop in the ocean if they are not combined with coordination of national policies and assessment of the regional impact of all Community policies.

The Opinion expresses regret that the financing of individual projects still far exceeds that of programmes, and that of infrastructures still far exceeds productive investments which create lasting jobs.

On infrastructure — always a bone of contention — the Opinion expresses the hope that in future the report will show for each region the ratio between ERDF financing of infrastructure and the regional level of available infrastructure.

Finally, it is hoped that the 14th ERDF report will be further enriched and enlarged, that it will deal with the regional impact of

¹ CES 832/89.

ERDF measures and other policies in terms of employment, and provide information on the participation of economic and social groups in the planning and implementation of the measures. In addition, this fuller and more ambitious report should be made available more quickly than its predecessor.

This Opinion was drawn up in the light of the paper produced by the Section for Regional Development and Town and Country Planning, chaired by Mr Vasco Cal (Portugal — Workers). The rapporteur was Mr Amato (Italy — Workers).

5. NOISE LEVEL OF SUBSONIC AIRCRAFT

Proposal for a Council Directive on the limitation of noise emission from civil subsonic jet aeroplanes
[COM(88) 662 final]

Gist of the Commission proposal

For the purposes of noise creation, aircraft can be divided into three groups (called 'Chapters'):

Chapter 1: 'old' aircraft which pre-date 1969, e.g. Caravelle, BAC III, etc. These are the noisiest and have been mostly phased out.

Chapter 2: aircraft introduced between 1969 and 1977; e.g. DC-10, Boeing 747, etc. These are quieter than the first group, but not significantly so.

Chapter 3: newer aircraft introduced since 1977, e.g. Boeing 767, Airbus A 320, etc., plus certain older models which meet stricter norms. These are the quietest.

The objectives of the present proposal are:

1. to reduce aircraft noise in conformity with the fourth environmental action programme;
2. to that end to introduce harmonized regulations which will ensure that Chapter 3 standards are enforced as from 1990 and that second-hand Chapter 2 aircraft cannot be added to Community fleets after that date, thus accelerating their gradual phasing out.

Gist of the Committee Opinion ¹

Unanimously, less two abstentions, the Committee approves the Commission's proposal on environmental grounds, but draws attention (1) to the existence of disagreements on technical problems, and (2) to the problems which could arise for ECAC (European Civil Aviation Conference).

This Opinion was drawn up in the light of the paper produced by the Section for Protection of the Environment, Public Health and Consumer Affairs, chaired by Mr Jaschick (Germany — Various Interests). The rapporteur was Mr Velasco Mancebo (Spain — Workers).

6. THERMIE PROGRAMME

Proposal for a Council Regulation (EEC) concerning the promotion of energy technology in Europe — European technologies for energy management — Thermie programme [COM(89) 121 final]

Gist of the Commission proposal

Energy technology plays a key role in improving the energy situation in the Community, in enhancing its security of supply and in reducing energy costs.

In the Commission's view it is vital that energy technology should continue to play this role to insure against the uncertainties of the world energy markets, on which the Community is dependent for about half of its supplies. This means that it is necessary to continue the efforts to diversify sources of supply and in particular to develop indigenous energy resources and improve energy efficiency.

The Thermie programme thus fits in with the measures for achieving the 1995 energy objectives fixed by the Council in September 1986. ² It should make it possible to turn to account the work done in the form of demonstration projects in the energy field ³ and under the programme of support for technological development in the hydrocarbons sector ⁴ and thereby close the gap between the

¹ CES 831/89.

² Council Resolution of 16 September 1986 — OJ C 241, 25.9.1986, p. 1.

³ Regulations Nos 3639 and 3640/85 — OJ L 350, 27.12.1985, pp. 25 and 29.

⁴ Idem.

demonstration of new energy technology and its commercial application.

The promotion of energy technology should also help to achieve other objectives, such as:

- (i) completion of the internal market, through the establishment of coherent performance and quality standards;
- (ii) strengthening of the technological base of European industry, through increased cooperation between firms and greater industrial integration in the sectors in questions;
- (iii) greater protection of the environment, through a reduction in energy consumption, the development of new and renewable energy sources and the cleaner use of coal;
- (iv) the strengthening of economic and social cohesion, through the transfer of technology to the least prosperous regions of the Community and the more intensive development of their energy potential.

The Commission also expects that the promotion of energy technology will have beneficial effects on employment as a result of expansion of the sectors in question:

The Thermie programme will cover four areas:

- (i) energy efficiency;
- (ii) renewable energy sources;
- (iii) clean use of coal;
- (iv) oil and gas exploration and development.

It will have two main thrusts:

- (i) the promotion of innovation, dissemination and targeted projects, for which financial support may be granted if they meet the conditions specified in the proposal for a Regulation;
- (ii) the carrying-out of consolidation or back-up activities aimed at promoting the application of energy technology and market penetration.

The funding for the Thermie programme, which is to cover the period 1990-94, has not yet been fixed by the Commission. The figure of ECU 700 million is, however, put forward as an indication.

Gist of the Committee Opinion ¹

In an Opinion adopted unanimously, the Committee, while approving the programme's objectives, takes the view that, in order to make Community measures more effective, account must be taken of existing national programmes and there must be coordination with related Community programmes.

This general expression of support for the Thermie programme is, however, followed by specific comments on the content of the programme itself and its implementing provisions, which the Committee asks the Commission and the Council to take fully into account.

The Committee notes that there is a serious lacuna in paragraph 2a of this Article, which in contrast to the preceding programme excludes any Community financial support for technological development projects, particularly in the hydrocarbons sector. The Committee also suggests that, in the case of projects which are unattractive for industrial involvement because they have no short-term prospects of profitability, the Commission should consider special financing measures.

The Committee asks that the social partners be consulted when the Advisory Committee required to assist the Commission is set up, so that their interests are properly taken into account.

The Committee notes the absence from the proposed programme of efforts to achieve Community-wide standardization and to draw up binding environmental protection provisions in the energy production fields concerned.

The Committee calls for the appropriations for the programme to be broken down by specific fields of activity, but also for authorization of divergences between the final budgetary allocation for each field of activity and the allocation originally envisaged, which would make it possible to deal with unforeseen developments in the course of work on the projects.

As the Commission is committed to speeding up and improving the effectiveness of its procedures, the Committee draws attention to the need to:

- (i) simplify and speed up the procedures so that SMEs can participate more in the proposed programme;

¹ CES 833/89.

- (ii) lay down quantifiable criteria for periodic assessment of the progress achieved on projects and of their results.

This Opinion was drawn up in the light of the paper produced by the Section for Energy, Nuclear Questions and Research, chaired by Mr Romoli (Italy — Employers). The rapporteur was Mr von der Decken (Germany — Various Interests).

7. RELATIONS BETWEEN THE EEC AND MEDITERRANEAN COUNTRIES (Own-initiative Opinion)

Community Mediterranean policy

Gist of the Committee Opinion ¹

The non-member Mediterranean countries (TMCs) should form a priority part of the Community's external relations policy, as the Mediterranean region is of strategic interest to the Community. The TMC's economic problems, their demographic situation, and the social conflicts in these countries are all a source of concern for the security of Europe as a whole. The harmonious development of these countries is thus very much in the Community interest. This was stated in the Committee's Opinion, adopted by 45 votes to 19, with 17 abstentions.

Although the Community's Mediterranean policy has been beneficial, it has not achieved its original objectives. Trade with the TMCs has not seen the increase that was hoped, and the Community's share of TMC foreign trade has fallen. The aim of restoring a trade balance has not been achieved, and the TMC's trade deficit with the Community has actually increased. Nor has Mediterranean policy been able to stem the TMC's worsening economic and social plight.

The Community's relations with the TMCs thus need to be placed on a new footing, with a joint strategy for the overall development of the entire Mediterranean basin. This would reconcile the development of the TMCs with the interests of the Community's

¹ CES 835/89.

own Mediterranean regions. For the Community, the new policy would mean:

- (i) a gradual, coordinated reorganization of production, so that EEC and TMC production no longer compete with each other, but become complementary;
- (ii) reviewing Community policies to help achieve a balanced geographical and sectoral distribution of production.

The Community's southern regions would play a pivotal role in this new policy. Expansion of the regional-level initiatives already under way within the TMC's would also be very helpful.

The joint development policy outlined above requires an instrument for joint decisions and mutual commitment, such as a development agreement. Financial resources would also have to be made available on a much larger scale than hitherto.

The institutional framework for the new policy could be implemented in four stages:

- (i) setting up of a Mediterranean cooperation council, as already outlined by the European Parliament;
- (ii) establishment of a Mediterranean forum, bringing together the various institutions and socio-economic representatives;
- (iii) setting up of an agency to provide technical and planning support for the development agreements;
- (iv) conclusion of an EEC-TMC joint development convention, with the setting up of specific institutions for the purpose.

The Opinion outlines specific sectors which the new policy should contemplate. These include training, research, agriculture, industry, energy, tourism, transport, the environment, employment and culture.

Lastly, the Committee stresses that the involvement of the socio-economic organizations will be crucial to the success of the new policy. It proposes:

- (i) the establishment of a permanent contact group between the ESC and the economic and social councils of the TMC's (where they exist) or their socio-economic organizations;

- (ii) the organization of annual meetings of the socio-economic organizations of the Euro-Mediterranean area.

This Opinion was drawn up in the light of the paper produced by the Section for External Relations, Trade and Development Policy, chaired by Mr Neto da Silva (Portugal — Employers). The rapporteur was Mr Amato (Italy — Workers).

External relations

The Chairman and Secretary-General's activities

18th joint ESC/EFTA meeting

On 12 and 13 June 1989, Mr Masprone, Chairman, and Mr Moreau, Secretary-General, attended the 18th joint meeting of the Economic and Social Committee and the Consultative Committee of EFTA at Kristiansand in Norway. The meeting, chaired by Mr Masprone for the ESC and Mr Davidsson for the European Free Trade Association, adopted a paper on EFTA-EC cooperation in the field of financial services (rapporteur: Mr Robert Pelletier — France — ESC). It contained joint recommendations to member governments of the EC and EFTA and the institutions of the European Community.

The meeting also dealt with monetary cooperation and the freedom of establishment in the banking sector and also discussed the latest developments in the new approach to the relations between the EC and EFTA, moving from bilateral to multilateral procedures, and their implications for the future.

Another subject raised was the need for economic integration to be accompanied by provision for a social dimension. Based on an opinion adopted in February by the ESC on basic social rights, the Commission intends to submit a number of proposals.

The meeting's other major contribution was to finalize and adopt recommendations on a European market in transport, dealing in particular with road transport, combined transport and aviation, as the most pressing problems at this stage.

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On 31 May 1989, the Chairman, Mr Masprone, welcomed a delegation from the Chamber of Commerce, CEOE Canarias, to Brussels.

On 1 June, Mr Moreau, Secretary-General, met Mr Jean-Louis Thys, Minister of the Brussels Region.

On the same day he met the Permanent Representative of Spain to the EC, Mr Westendorp y Cabeza, in Brussels.

On 2 and 3 June, Mr Moreau attended the meeting of the Secretaries-General of the national Economic and Social Councils at The Hague.

On 5 June, Mr Masprone attended the International Environment Day at the Palais d'Egmont, Brussels.

Mr Moreau met Mr Georg Reisch, Secretary-General of the European Free Trade Association (EFTA) in Geneva.

On 6 June, Mr Moreau attended the meeting of the Secretaries-General of the European Institutions, held at the Commission of the European Communities, Brussels.

Mr Masprone and Mr Moreau met, in turn, the Permanent Representative of France to the Communities, Mr Philippe Louet, and the Permanent Representative of the Federal Republic of Germany, Mr Werner Ungerer. In the afternoon they received a delegation of the International Association for Mutual Assistance (AIM) at the Committee building, Brussels.

On 7 June, the Chairman met Mr Schmidhuber, Member of the Commission. On the same day, in Paris, Mr Moreau met Mr Kaspar, Secretary-General of the French Labour Confederation (CFDT) and Tony Dreyfus, Secretary of State to the Prime Minister.

On 8 June, Mr Masprone attended the ceremony for the 125th Magirus anniversary at Ulm, Germany.

On 9 June, the Chairman and the Secretary-General met Sir David Hannay, Permanent Representative of the United Kingdom to the Communities, in Brussels. Mr Moreau was received in turn by the Permanent Representative of Belgium, Mr de Schoutheete de Tervarent, and by Mr Weyland, Permanent Representative of Luxembourg.

On 14 June, the Chairman met Mr Lang, Bavarian Minister of State for the Economy and Transport.

On 15 June, Mr Masprone met Mr Mathias, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Portugal to the Communities in Brussels.

Mr Moreau met Mr Pierre Guillen, Vice-Chairman of the National Council of French Employers (CNPf) and Mr Lavondes, Secretary-General of the French Economic and Social Council (CES).

On 16 June, Mr Masprone and Mr Moreau met Mr Nieman, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of the Netherlands to the Communities, in Brussels.

On 20 June, Mr Moreau received a delegation of Electricité de France (EDF) and addressed them on the role played by the ESC in Brussels, and how it is run.

On 22 June, Mr Masprone delivered a speech at the Eurochambers seminar at the College of Europe, Bruges.

On 22 and 23 June, Mr Masprone and Mr Moreau went to Paris at the invitation of the Chairman of the French Economic and Social Council (CES) on the occasion of the celebration of the bicentenary of the French Republic.

On 26 June, Mr Masprone delivered the opening speech at the 'Animal Health Industry' Conference at the Palais des Congrès, Brussels.

On 27 June, Mr Moreau went to Madrid to meet representatives of various Spanish economic interest groups. He attended a conference at the Diplomatic School and gave a speech on the ESC Opinion 'Basic social rights in the Community'.

On 30 June, Mr Moreau attended the meeting of the Management Committee of the Office for Official Publications. He also met Mr Giraud, the Registrar at the Court of Justice, Luxembourg.

On 4 July, Mr Moreau met the Director-General of the International Labour Organization (ILO), Mr Michel Hansenne, in Geneva.

On 5 July, Mr Moreau attended the opening of the European symposium '1992 and the heritage of history' organized by the European University Institute in Florence and the European Commission at the Borschette Centre, Brussels.

On 6 July, as part of the European symposium 'Work, social security and the fight against family impoverishment in Europe', Mr Moreau chaired the plenary session dealing with 'professional training and retraining policies' in the Medicine Faculty auditorium at the Catholic University of Louvain, Belgium.

On 20 July, the Chairman and the Secretary-General met Mr Dondelinger, Member of the Commission.

Official visit to London

Mr Masprone was in London from 26 to 28 July to meet government ministers, parliamentarians, leaders of business, of trade unions, of local authorities, of industry, of the professions, of consumers and of the city.

Mr Masprone was accompanied by the Vice-Chairman, Mr Erik Hovgaard Jakobsen, and by the Secretary-General, Mr Moreau.

Mr Francis Maude, Minister of State at the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, received the delegation at Lancaster House on Thursday 27 July, while Mr John Redwood, Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Department of Trade and Industry, was their host at dinner. The delegation also had a meeting with Mr Tim Egger, Minister of State at the Department of Employment.

The ESC delegation met the European Communities Select Committees of the House of Lords and of the House of Commons, the TUC, CBI, the Institute of Directors, the British Bankers' Association, the Consumers in the EC Group, the UK Interprofessional Group and the Local Government International Bureau, and Mr Robin Leigh-Pemberton, Governor of the Bank of England.

Subjects of discussion were European legislation in the making to achieve the single market, its social dimension, economic convergence, financial services, food legislation and transport safety.

Other activities

From 4 to 7 June, Mr Vercellino, member of the ESC, attended a seminar in Rome, arranged by the Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung, entitled 'Environment policy and the internal market'.

On 13 and 14 June, Mr Murphy, member of the ESC, attended the first meeting in Dublin of the coordination group 'Innovative workplace action for health' organized by the European Foundation for the Improvement of Living and Working Conditions.

On 16 June, Mr McLaughlin, Director at the ESC, attended a conference on the 'Perspectives for a European mortgage market', organized by the Mortgage Federation at the Générale de Banque, Brussels.

On 22 June, Mr Perrin-Pelletier, member of the ESC, and Mr Leiner of the Secretariat, delivered speeches on 'The EC car industry at the crossroads', organized in Brussels by the Centre for European Policy Studies.

On 26 and 27 June, Mr McLaughlin attended a meeting of the Study Group of the ESC Section for Industry, Commerce, Crafts and Services held in London.

On 3 July, Mr L. J. Smith, member of the ESC and Chairman of the Section for Transport and Communications, met Mr van Miert, Member of the Commission, in Brussels.

On 7 July, Mr von der Decken, member of the ESC, attended the 'Second exploratory workshop on consumers and biotechnology' organized by the Concertation Unit for Biotechnology in Europe (CUBE) at the Borschette Centre, Brussels.

On 12 July, Mr McLaughlin attended the Tedis conference, organized by the Commission at the Borschette Centre, Brussels.

New consultations

In June, the Economic and Social Committee was consulted on the following matters:

Proposal for a Council Decision amending Decision 87/327/EEC adopting the European Community action scheme for the mobility of university students (Erasmus)
[COM(89) 235 final]

Proposal for a Council Decision adopting a specific research and technical development programme for the European Atomic Energy Community in the field of management and storage of radioactive waste (1990-94)
[COM(89) 226 final]

Proposal from the Commission to the Council on the Community's generalized tariff preferences scheme for 1990
[COM(89) 242 final]

Proposal for a resolution adopting an action plan for 1990-94 as part of the 'Europe against cancer' programme
[COM(89) 210 final]

Proposal for a Council Directive on the approximation of the laws, regulations and administrative provisions of the Member States concerning the general safety of products
[COM(89) 162 final — SYN 192]

Proposal for a Council Regulation (EEC) amending Regulation (EEC) No 1031/88 determining the persons liable for payment of a customs debt
[COM(89) 214 final — SYN 195]

Proposal for a Recommendation on the coordinated introduction of a pan-European public radio paging system in the Community

Directive on the wave bands to be set aside for the coordinated introduction of the pan-European public radio paging system in the Community
[COM(89) 166 final — SYN 193]

Proposal for a Council Regulation (EEC) on the fixing of rates for the carriage of goods by road between Member States
[COM(89) 189 final]

Proposal for a Council Regulation (EEC) on the improvement of the conditions under which fishery and aquaculture products are processed and marketed
[COM(89) 187 final]

Proposal for a Council Directive concerning minimum requirements for vessels entering or leaving Community ports carrying packages of dangerous or polluting goods
[COM(89) 7 final]

Proposal for a Recommendation on the implementation of a policy for administrative simplification in the Member States
[COM(89) 259 final]

Right of residence throughout the Community for students, retired people and other non-active persons

Proposal for a Council Decision concerning the conclusion of a Cooperation Agreement between the European Economic Community and the Republic of Austria on a programme plan to stimulate the international cooperation and interchange needed by European research scientists (Science)
[COM(89) 264 final — SYN 197]

Proposal for a Council Decision concerning the conclusion of a Cooperation Agreement between the European Economic Community and the Kingdom of Norway on a programme plan to stimulate the international cooperation and interchange needed by European research scientists (Science)
[COM(89) 265 final — SYN 196]

Proposal for a Council Directive on the right of residence for students
[SYN 199]

Proposal for a Council Directive on the right of residence for employees and self-employed persons who have ceased their occupational activity
[SYN 200]

Proposal for a Council Directive on the right of residence
[COM(89) 275 final]

Proposal for a Council Regulation (EEC) concerning minimum standards for the protection of calves kept in intensive farming systems

[COM(89) 114 final]

Proposal for a Council Regulation (EEC) concerning minimum standards for the protection of pigs kept in intensive farming systems

[COM(89) 115 final]

Cooperation Agreement between the EEC and Switzerland (Science)

[COM(89) 83 final]

Cooperation Agreement between the EEC and Finland (Science)

[COM(89) 309 final]

Cooperation Agreement between the EEC and Sweden (Science)

[COM(89) 310 final]

Provisional programme of future work

Plenary session of September 1989

OPINIONS

Takeover bids

[COM(88) 823 final]

Danube basin water resources

[COM(89) 28 final]

Life assurance

[COM(88) 729 final — SYN 177]

Investment services for securities

[COM(88) 778 final — SYN 176]

Technical standards and regulations

[COM(88) 722 final]

Liability for customs debt

[COM(89) 214 final — SYN 195]

Administrative simplification in Member States

[COM(89) 259 final]

Roadworthiness tests

[COM(89) 6 final]

Pan-European public radio paging system

[COM(89) 166 final]

EEC/Austria Cooperation Agreement (Science)

[COM(89) 264 final]

Protection of calves

[COM(89) 114 final]

Protection of pigs

[COM(89) 115 final]

GSP 1990

[COM(89) 242 final]

OWN-INITIATIVE WORK

Consumer information centres

Cooperatives' contribution to regional development with the participation of Mr Cardoso e Cunha

Subsequent plenary sessions**OPINIONS**

Tobacco advertising
[COM(89) 163 final]

Legal protection of computer programmes
[COM(88) 816 final — SYN 183]

Completion of the internal market and the approximation of indirect taxation
[COM(89) 260 final]

European cultural area (Additional Opinion)

Erasmus II programme
[COM(89) 235 final]

Pensions

Right of stay for students, pensioners, the non-economically active
[COM(89) 275 final]

Pesticide residues in fruit and vegetables
[COM(88) 798 final]

Plant protection products
[COM(89) 34 final]

Community Directive on the general safety of products
[COM(89) 162 final — SYN 192]

Fur imports
[COM(89) 198 final]

Europe against cancer
[COM(89) 210 final]

European environment agency
[COM(89) 303 final]

Telecommunication terminals
[COM(89) 289 final]

Fixing of rates/carriage of goods by road
[COM(89) 189 final]

Sea transport — hazardous packages
[COM(89) 7 final]

- Nuclear waste management and storage research programme (1990-94)
[COM(89) 226 final]
- Legal instruments — transparency of energy prices
EEC/Norway Cooperation Agreement (Science)
[COM(89) 265 final]
- Processing and marketing of fishery and aquaculture products
[COM(89) 187 final]
- Veterinary issues
[three Directives, horses]
- Mutual recognition of professional qualifications
[COM(88) 824 final]
- Liability for waste hazards
[COM(89) 282 final]
- 18th Report on Competition Policy
[SEC(89) 873]
- Improvement of the business environment (Additional Opinion)
[COM(89) 102 final]
- Agriculture and forest produce
[COM(89) 91 final]
- Protection of natural and semi-natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora
[COM(88) 381 final]
- Measures in favour of maritime transport
- Protection of the Mediterranean environment (Medspa)
[COM(89) 262 final]
- Tourism — five-year programme
[COM(88) 363 final]
- Tourism sector: harmonization and collection of statistical data
[COM(88) 652 final]
- Mobile machinery
[COM(88) 740 final — SYN 175]
- European company
[COM(89) 268 final]
- Relations between the Member States and the railways
[COM(88) 842 final]
- Competition in the telecommunications services market (Additional Opinion)
- Framework R&D programme (1987-91)

Preparation for the 13th annual ACP/EEC meeting

OWN-INITIATIVE OPINIONS

Social consequences of cross-border mergers

Community's economic and monetary union

Ecological equilibrium as growth factor

Declining industrial areas

GATT-Uruguay Round

Development of economic and commercial relations between the
EEC and Latin America

Utilization of agricultural and forest resources

The future of rural society

[COM(88) 501 final]

Environment and agriculture

[COM(88) 338 final/2]

Members' news

Nominations

The Council of the European Communities has nominated two new members of the Economic and Social Committee: Mr Albert Mercier (France) of the French Confederation of Labour. Mr Mercier replaces Mr Jean-Pierre Delhomenie, who has resigned. The other new member is Mr Garcia Morales (Spain). He is Assistant Director at the International Relations Department of the Spanish Confederation of Employers' Organizations (CEOE). Mr Morales replaces Mr Martin Almendro, who has resigned.

New Chairman of the UEAPME

Mr René Bernasconi (France), member of the Economic and Social Committee, has just been elected Chairman of the European Union of Crafts and Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (UEAPME).

Mr Noordwal promoted

Mr Noordwal, member of the ESC and Chairman of its Employers' Group, has been promoted to the rank of 'Officier' in the Oranje-Nassau Order.

New Chairman of the Basse-Normandie ESC

Mr Droulin, member of the ESC, has been elected Chairman of the Basse-Normandie Economic and Social Committee.

PUBLICATIONS OBTAINABLE FROM THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMITTEE

General documentation

The other European Assembly (CES 89-003)
Leaflet on the ESC

Opinions and studies

Europe and the new technologies (1986) (ESC 89-004)
Disadvantaged island regions (July 1988) (ESC 88-009)
Basic Community social rights (Opinion) (February 1989)
Horizon 1992: The ESC supports the removal of fiscal frontiers (July 1988)
(8 Opinions)
Target date 1992: The ESC supports 'the new-frontier Europe' (June 1988)
(7 Opinions) (ESC 88-010)

Obtainable from Gower Publishing Co. Ltd, 1 Westmead, Farnborough, Hants GUI 47RU

Community Advisory Committee for the Representation of Socio-Economic
Interests (UKL 8.50)
European interest groups and their relationship to the Economic and Social
Committee (UKL 25)

Obtainable from Editions Delta, rue Scailquin 55, 1030 Brussels

The economic and social interest groups of Portugal (BFR 350)
Action by the European Community through its financial instruments
(Brussels, 1979) (BFR 425)
The economic and social interest groups of Greece (BFR 350)
The right of initiative of the ESC (BFR 400)

Obtainable from Kogan Page Ltd, 120 Pentonville Road, London N1

Directory of European agricultural organizations (UKL 39)

Office for Official Publications of the European Communities

Bulletin (monthly) (per issue: ECU 4. Annual subscription: ECU 28)
Annual Report 1988 (ECU 8.50)
Effects of the CAP on the social situation of farmworkers in the European
Community (Brussels, 1987) (ECU 3.40)
European environment policy: air, water, waste management (Brussels,
1987) (ECU 3.50)
Community rail policy (ECU 7.40)
EEC maritime transport policy (Brussels, June 1986) (ECU 3.40)
EEC air transport policy (October 1985) (ECU 5.50)
GATT — towards a new round (Opinion) (Brussels, 1986) (ECU 2.20)
Competition policy (ECU 3.40)
Europe and the new technologies (Brussels, 1988) (ESC 87-020) (ECU
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