

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL CONSULTATIVE ASSEMBLY

BULLETIN



EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES
ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMITTEE

Brussels No 11-12/1998

The Bulletin reports every month (10 issues yearly) on the activities of the Economic and Social Committee, a Community consultative body. It is edited by the Secretariat-General of the Economic and Social Committee of the European Communities (2 rue Ravenstein, B-1000 Brussels) in the official Community languages.

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMITTEE
Press, Information and Publications Division

Rue Ravenstein 2
B-1000 Brussels

Tel. 519 90 11

Telegrams ECOSEUR
Telex: 25983 CESEUR

Catalogue number: ESC-88-016-EN

Luxembourg: Office for Official Publications of the European Communities, 1989

Catalogue number: EX-AA-88-012-EN-C

Reproduction is authorized, except for commercial purposes, provided the source is acknowledged.

Printed in Belgium

Contents

	<i>Page</i>
260th PLENARY SESSION	3
Adoption of Opinions	3
1. Resolution — Proposals for an EC action programme 1989-92	3
Extracts from Mr Delors' speech	3
2. Commission's Annual Economic Report 1988-89	6
Extracts from Mr Schmidhuber's speech and from the debate	9
3. European company statute	10
4. Racism and xenophobia	13
5. Social security for employed and self-employed persons	15
6. Financial support for Greece in the social field	16
7. Comett II	18
8. Biotechnology — Genetically modified organisms	22
9. Discharges of dangerous substances into water	24
10. Sprint	25
11. Transport infrastructure programme	27
12. European Tourism Year	29
13. Transit (Additional Opinion)	30
14. Eurotra	34
15. Flair	36
16. Joule	39
17. Marketing of compound feedingstuffs	41

18. Energy policy and completion of the internal market (Information report)	42
19. Fisheries — Sardines (Own-initiative Opinion)	50
EXTERNAL RELATIONS	45
Activities of the Chairman and the Secretary-General	45
Other activities	47
NEW CONSULTATIONS	49
PROVISIONAL FUTURE WORK PRO- GRAMME	51
MEMBERS' NEWS	55

260th Plenary Session

The European Communities' Economic and Social Committee held its 260th Plenary Session in Brussels on 23 and 24 November 1988. Its Chairman, Mr Alberto Masprone, presided.

The President of the EC Commission, Mr Jacques Delors, attended the debate on the Resolution on proposals for an EC action programme 1989-92, and Commissioner Peter Schmidhuber was present for the drawing-up of the Opinion on the Annual Economic Report 1988-89.

ADOPTION OF OPINIONS

1. RESOLUTION — PROPOSALS FOR AN EC ACTION PROGRAMME 1989-92¹

Extracts from Mr Delors' speech

'The plan to relaunch Europe is above all economic but the Single Act also sets other objectives, including the social dimension. Refusing to discuss any one of these objectives is like breaking a marriage contract'. This is what Commission President, Jacques Delors, declared on 23 November to the European Communities' Economic and Social Committee before the ESC adopted by 120 votes to 23,² with 9 abstentions, a resolution containing proposals for an EEC action programme for the years 1989-92.

The resolution recommends a whole series of priorities for putting right 'the delays, shortcomings and failures of Community action' and is an unprecedented initiative by the ESC.

¹ CES 1267/88.

² Some of the votes against were due to the form of the text submitted, as a resolution cannot be amended in a plenary session.



From left to right: Mr Moreau, ESC Secretary-General, Mr Masprone, ESC Chairman, and Mr Delors, President of the Commission.

After paying tribute to the former President of the National French Employers' Council, François Ceyrac, who was the main drafter of the resolution, Jacques Delors singled out three of its priorities.

First: jobs. The ESC resolution felt that the Community should 'make use of its borrowing capacity to finance infrastructure projects directly, if necessary.' The Commission President agreed that there was still much to do in this area, but explained that structural policies would enable the situation to be improved: 'In 1993, they could boost European growth on average by 1%.' However, there was no 'miracle cure' for unemployment. The ESC resolution recommended taking steps to re-organize or reduce working hours which were 'consistent with higher productivity.'

Second: the integration of young people into Community life, 'a very strong point in your resolution', stressed Jacques Delors. 'And there, we are very weak. No one is falling in love with a market without frontiers.' The ESC resolution recommended a 'Europeanization' of curricula and educational qualifications, cultural exchanges and projects to be implemented by and on behalf of European youth, to make it easier for young people to find work.

Third: the effectiveness of the Community's institutions. The ESC felt that 'the increase in the Community's decision-making powers, in areas where this gives decisions greater impact, should go hand in hand with a strengthening of the prerogatives of the European Parliament.' For Jacques Delors, 'the shortcomings on the democratic front stem rather from the relative lack of commitment of national parliaments to the Community's work.'

The ESC resolution also considered that 'the role of representatives of economic and social interests should be consolidated through more precise and more effective involvement of the Economic and Social Committee in Community legislative activity.' Jacques Delors' reply: 'Let the Economic and Social Committee play a greater role as regards technical expertise, but also as regards expertise in the most noble sense of the term, the result of comparing several points of view.' His invitation to the ESC on 9 November to issue an Opinion at the beginning of 1989 on a Community charter of basic social rights was an opportunity for the Committee's 'rehabilitation'.

Jacques Delors would be making 'judicious use' of the ESC resolution at the next European Council in Rhodes on 2 and 3 December, where the Heads of State and/or Government would be taking stock of progress towards the single market. He emphasized that

'the terms of the European Community's social dimension must be clearly set out.'

During the debate between ESC members before the vote on the resolution, François Staedelin (France — Chairman of the Workers' Group) mentioned the Committee's intention to organize a great debate on its resolution during 1989, with politicians and national trade union leaders. He stated that the members of the ESC's Workers' Group had agreed to overlook 'certain important matters' so that the resolution could show that occupational interest groups knew how to give priority to the general interest of Europe.

From the Employers' Group, William Poeton (United Kingdom) deeply regretted that the resolution should, at this stage, mention the 'European company' (the resolution stated that the company's statute should provide, in particular, 'for rules on the information, consultation and participation of workers which take account of the diversity of national practices and conditions and of provisions concerning taxation'). Camille Giacomelli (Luxembourg) regretted the absence of any reference to a framework that was favourable to business, and Werner Löw (Germany) found that the resolution laid too much emphasis on social aspects.

Finally, from the Various Interests Group, Roger Ramaekers (Belgium) regretted the lack of any reference to the social economy. But Beatrice Rangoni-Machiavelli (Italy) was pleased to see that the resolution took account of consumers' interests. 'The dialogue between producers and consumers will be a driving force of the single market,' she said.

In the end, the resolution was adopted by more than two-thirds of the members present, which is the minimum threshold required for the adoption of a resolution.

2. COMMISSION'S ANNUAL ECONOMIC REPORT 1988-89

Gist of the Commission document

The Commission adopted its Annual Economic Report 1988-89 on 19 October 1988. The report, which will be adopted by the Council after consultation of the European Parliament and the Economic and Social Committee, is based on forecasts which the Commission judges as extremely positive.

At 3.5% in 1988 and just under 3% in 1989, growth in the Community will be at its strongest level since the late 1970s. The 7% rise in investment will be the highest for over 20 years. Inflation, at 3.5%, is around its 1960s level. Member States have achieved considerable success in the fight against inflation and the convergence of their inflation rates.

The Community is now reaping the rewards of the cooperative growth strategy for more employment which it began in 1985. Despite these positive trends, however, four areas of concern remain:

Unemployment still averaging 11%. The guidelines of the cooperative strategy are still valid for overcoming the problem of under-employment. This means removing unnecessary administrative obstacles which hinder employment creation; greater mobility and skill improvements; and a further improvement in the profitability of capital by means of moderate increases in wage costs.

The risk of renewed inflation. The recent rises in short-term interest rates have reduced inflation expectations. None the less, domestic inflationary pressures must be kept under control, and the credibility of the monetary authorities must be maintained.

Excessive budgetary deficits in some countries. For 1988 and 1989, little progress seems likely on the convergence of general government balances. Budgetary policies do not seem to be helping to reduce the divergences in external accounts.

Intra-Community disequilibria in external balances. There is now a wide divergence between the external balances of Member States in deficit and those in surplus. These imbalances are offset by capital movements. In future, growth in the countries with surpluses must be increasingly led by domestic demand.

To sum up, one year after the stock-exchange crash the Community is very favourably placed to tackle its economic policy problems for the next few years.

Gist of the Committee Opinion ¹

The priorities set at the Brussels and Hanover Summits will call for ever-increasing commitment in the next few years from the

¹ CES 1231/88.

Member States; these have not displayed enough economic dynamism at a time when the two sides of industry have shown that it is possible to build a European social dialogue.

In an Opinion adopted by 112 votes to 5, with 2 abstentions the Committee feels that the degree of consensus achieved on the need for dynamic Europe-wide growth provides the bedrock for the economic and social cohesion which is vital to the successful completion of the internal market. Growth and jobs, development and balance between regions, economic and social cohesion, and the completion of the internal market, are all interdependent. Anything less than total success in any one of these areas would halt progress towards economic and monetary union.

Gretaer economic cohesion between the Member States is contingent on real coordination of economic, and not just monetary policies. The Committee also supports the creation of an EEC financial area and the adoption of Directives designed to bring about the unrestricted provision of services. It also favours a study on the setting-up of an autonomous European Central Bank.

The Committee considers that the measures to iron out imbalances in trade and the gradual process of adjustment between geo-economic areas are still at an early stage. It also notes that imbalances within the Community are growing, making the problem of adjustment more complex. At international level it is mainly the Central Banks who have restored stability to the financial markets and regulated exchange rate parities by solid coordination of interest rate policies.

Furthermore, the dangers inherent in excessive exchange rate and interest rate fluctuations remain; and the financial markets would again become unstable if the economic situation were to get out of control as a result of inadequate international cooperation or coordination.

The Committee calls on the Community institutions to ensure that the domestic and external objectives of the major economic powers are compatible with the commitment made in the Plaza and Louvre agreements to cooperate on and coordinate economic policies.

At the same time, it calls on the Commission firmly to oppose (and if necessary, to retaliate against) the use of trade legislation, such as the US Trade Act, in pursuit of aggressive, neo-protectionist policies at industrial and commercial levels.

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

Mr Goris (The Netherlands — Various Interests). The rapporteur was Mr Drago (Italy — Various Interests).

Extracts from Mr Schmidhuber's speech and from the debate

Addressing the Economic and Social Committee on 23 November 1988, during the debate on its Opinion on the Commission's Annual Economic Report for 1988-89, Commissioner Schmidhuber called on the economic and social interest groups represented on the ESC to give further support to the Commission's economic policy.

Mr Schmidhuber stressed that the Community's economy was in a healthier position than it has been for a long time; average growth in 1988/89 would be 3-3.5%, inflation would be back at the 1960s level of 3.5%, and employment would rise by over 1%. Many companies were already striving to become more competitive, in the run-up to 1992.

At the same time, the Commission agreed with the ESC's call for a further study of the internal market's effects on employment. It intended to carry out a survey of employers and workers in early 1989.

The favourable economic situation was also due in the final analysis to national efforts made as part of the cooperative growth strategy for more employment. In Mr Schmidhuber's view, this allowed the Community to concentrate on the three main medium-term goals of economic policy:

- (i) to exploit the advantages of the completion of the internal market;
- (ii) to strengthen the Community's economic and social cohesion;
- (iii) to reduce unemployment.

If the proposed economic strategy were applied to the full, a lasting growth rate of 3.5% could increase employment by 1.5% and lead to a one percentage-point drop in unemployment by the beginning of the 1990s.

Finally, Mr Schmidhuber warned against the continued risk of a return to higher inflation in a number of Member States. He drew attention to the gap between the current accounts of countries with deficits and those in surplus.

In the debate which followed, Mr Jens Peter Petersen (Germany — Employers' Group) called on the Commission to improve the co-ordination of economic policy on a more permanent footing. Mr Petersen felt that a decision-making centre for economic policy would soon be needed in Brussels.

Mr Michel Collas (France — Employers' Group) stressed that faster progress towards a common currency would rapidly make the problem of Member States' budget deficits and surpluses meaningless.

Several members of the Workers' Group, including the Group Chairman, Mr François Staedelin (France), criticized the Commission for talking of lower inflation, higher corporate profits and a better growth rate, while Member States continued to pursue restrictive wage policies and did not do enough to create jobs.

3. EUROPEAN COMPANY STATUTE

Commission memorandum on the internal market and industrial cooperation statute for the European company — Internal market White Paper, point 137
[COM(88) 320 final]

Gist of the Commission document

European industry has to be restructured if it is to be competitive at world level, and this calls for the creation of a European company statute. This is the only way to ensure efficient management and take advantage of the economies of scale offered by international business activities. At the same time, it could pioneer worker involvement in the decision-making structures of European industry. It is still impossible legally to merge companies from different Member States, a difficulty which stems from differing traditions of worker participation in company decision-making: in some cases, participation must be voluntary, while in others it must be statutory.

The Commission document cites the main obstacles to cross-frontier cooperation: the impossibility of carrying out cross-frontier mergers; tax problems; differences in Member States' company law; the difficulty under present company law of managing a group of enterprises as a single economic unit; and the administrative difficulties surrounding the establishment of companies.

The Commission also mentions action taken to remove or reduce these obstacles, citing the proposed Directives already before the Council.

The Commission identifies and analyses a number of specific issues associated with the European company statute: co-existence with national systems of company law; worker participation; information and consultation of workers; the problem of groups; tax treatment.

The Commission makes the following points:

- (i) The statute must establish a single system of company law, totally independent of national systems, but optional.
- (ii) There must be a choice between three forms of worker participation, although Member States could possibly restrict the choice.
- (iii) The workers of the European company should enjoy the same information and consultation rights as other firms in the Community.
- (iv) The Commission recognizes the creation of groups as a part of enterprise cooperation, but questions whether the European company statute is the proper place to create a body of rules governing groups.
- (v) The European company should be subject to the tax laws of the State in which it is domiciled, in the same way as any other company. However, losses suffered in another Member State may be deducted from the profits in the Member State of residence.

The European Council of 29 and 30 June 1987 called on the institutions to make swift progress on the creation of a European company. The present memorandum sets out the conditions which the Commission feels are needed in order to achieve this goal. The Commission asks for the Committee's views on the following key questions:

- (i) the principle of an optional statute;
- (ii) the independence of such a statute of national laws;
- (iii) the inclusion of the three schemes for worker participation.

After examining these views, the Commission could make a formal proposal on the statute for the European company at the beginning of 1989.

Gist of the Committee Opinion ¹

In its Opinion which was adopted with 96 votes for, 25 against and 21 abstentions, the Committee thinks that the Commission is right to clarify first of all the politically most significant difficulties which have so far impeded the adoption of a European company statute.

The European company statute is a suitable instrument for improving cross-frontier cooperation between firms and promoting economic integration in the Community. However, expectations placed in the statute should not be too high.

This makes it all the more important that consideration also be given to the views of the two sides of industry in the Member States.

The Committee endorses the memorandum's objective of creating a system of company law which is as uniform and independent of national law as possible. However, the ESC points out the limitations of this objective.

The decision on which of the various possible participation systems to adopt must follow consultations between the trade unions represented in the company and the company management. Irrespective of the system adopted, it is vital to define its content, in order to ensure equivalent minimum arrangements for participation. The option of collectively agreed participation systems must be on a similar footing to the solutions proposed in the Commission memorandum. The Committee notes that worker participation at company level in some Member States is governed exclusively by legislation.

The Committee considers that the general reference to the 'German system' (which embraces various participation arrangements) may create legal uncertainty. The Commission will also need to clarify the question of a final say for shareholders.

The Committee agrees with the Commission that, in the case of groups, workers be consulted at the European company level where strategic decisions are taken. Rules on groups, although needed, should be dealt with separately and should not, for the moment at least, be included in the statute.

The Committee endorses the proposal concerning the imputing of losses incurred by foreign subsidiaries and permanent estab-

¹ CES 1233/88.

ishments abroad, but stresses that the other tax obstacles must be eliminated too.

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 Petersen (Germany — Employers).

4. RACISM AND XENOPHOBIA

Proposal for a Council Resolution on the fight against racism and xenophobia

Gist of the Commission document

The Commission has submitted three specific proposals of a legislative or institutional nature or relating to the fields of information and education or training.

The fight against racism and xenophobia forms part of the general campaign to protect fundamental rights, which is one of the main aspects of identity and the movement towards integration in the Community. At Community level, action has been stepped up to achieve social equality. The Commission refers *inter alia* to the interinstitutional Declaration against racism and xenophobia of 11 June 1986, in which the Community institutions and representatives of the Member States considered that it was 'indispensable that all necessary steps be taken to guarantee that this joint resolve is carried through' to protect the individuality and dignity of every member of society and to reject any form of segregation of foreigners.

Legislative or institutional proposals

The Commission proposes that national legislation proclaiming the equality of citizens and the protection of fundamental rights should be encouraged and improved, for example by an increase in the number of legal persons empowered to bring civil proceedings.

The Commission also feels that the provisions in force could usefully be complemented by mediation structures. In this connection, the contribution of associations fighting discrimination based on racist attitudes or xenophobia is particularly desirable.

Proposals in the field of information

The Commission feels that repression alone will not eliminate all forms of racism and xenophobia. Information and communication structures should be reinforced, since xenophobia and racist attitudes are fed by ignorance and a lack of understanding of different cultures. Thus, in the field of education the Commission proposes action in the following areas: comparative assessment of the legal instruments implemented in the Member States; publication of legal texts and precedents with the aim of educating; demoscopic studies on the perception of democratic values and on the state of relations between the various communities living in Europe; alerting those responsible for providing information to the importance of the role they can play in eliminating racial prejudice and promoting harmonious relations.

Proposals in the field of education and training

In this area, the following types of action could be encouraged: improving the training of public servants coming into contact with immigrants, and of teachers, particularly in areas with a large immigrant population; pursuing specific training measures aimed at foreign workers; promoting the teaching of the languages and cultures of origin; promoting a European dimension in education to develop civic-mindedness and the values of pluralism and tolerance among young Europeans; extending international exchange programmes for young people as a means of promoting tolerance and understanding; developing and extending current cooperation on the basis of private schemes aimed at improving the education of migrant workers' children.

Gist of the Committee Opinion ¹

The aim should be to bring about a European Community in which ethnic and cultural diversity is accepted, participation of members of all groups is maximized, and individual dignity is respected.

In its Opinion adopted, unanimously with 3 abstentions, the Committee:

- (i) approves the recognition of the importance of international instruments and urges their ratification and implementation;
- (ii) considers that laws aimed at prevention or punishment of discrimination or xenophobic acts need to be applied vigorously;

¹ CES 1232/88.

- (iii) underlines the importance of education in countering racism and xenophobia;
- (iv) approves the recognition and the importance of an information policy and in particular recommends that Member States should promote the establishment of routine systems, based on adequate data, for monitoring levels of racial discrimination, harassment and disadvantage, so that effective policy measures can be adopted;
- (v) approves the proposal that Member States be invited to report every three years;
- (vi) wholly supports the proposal to make a comparative assessment of the legal instruments implemented in the Member States to combat all forms of discrimination, racism, xenophobia and incitement to hatred and racial violence;
- (vii) urges the adoption of a law which will secure the existing rights in EC law without discrimination on the grounds of race, colour, ethnic or national origins or descent;
- (viii) stresses that inter-racial tolerance and social integration can only improve through increased access to the democratic process.

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 Mrs Flather (United Kingdom — Various Interests).

5. SOCIAL SECURITY FOR EMPLOYED AND SELF-EMPLOYED PERSONS

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

Gist of the Commission proposal

This is the latest in a series of amending regulations made necessary due to changes in national legislations of which the Community regulations must take account for the purpose of protecting the rights of migrant workers. They concern the reform of the

Netherlands legislation on general old-age insurance and of the insurance for medical expenses and also amendments to German legislation in respect of invalidity pensions. Furthermore, some existing provisions should be amended for the purpose of regulating situations which do not appear in the regulations or because the implementation of these provisions revealed shortcomings. The points at issue are the proposed amendments to Articles 57 and 84 of the regulation and Article 3 of the implementing regulation. Furthermore, the proposal contains certain amendments emanating from previous amendments or of an administrative nature.

Gist of the Committee Opinion ¹

The proposal is essentially a technical updating and is generally endorsed by the Economic and Social Committee in its unanimously adopted Opinion.

The rapporteur-general was Mr Pearson (Ireland — Employers).

6. FINANCIAL SUPPORT FOR GREECE IN THE SOCIAL FIELD

Proposal for a Council Regulation (EEC) amending Regulation (EEC) No 815/84 on exceptional financial support in favour of Greece in the social field

Gist of the Commission proposal

Under Council Regulation (EEC) No 815/84 the Hellenic Republic was granted ECU 120 million in exceptional financial support for the period 1 January 1984 to 31 December 1988, for the construction, adaptation and equipment of:

- (a) vocational training centres in the Athens area, and
- (b) centres for the rehabilitation of the mentally ill and mentally handicapped.

During the first four years this Regulation has been in force (1984-87), financial assistance approved by the Commission amounted to ECU 63.7 million (53.12% of the total budget approved), whereas actual utilization of appropriations for payment accounted for only ECU 21 700 000, i.e. 18.1% of the total.

¹ CES 1237/88.

This utilization of appropriations, which has fallen short of initial estimates, reflects the slow implementation of the programme. This is due to various factors set out in the explanatory memorandum of the proposal.

In view of the difficulties hitherto encountered in implementing the programmes, the Greek authorities have sought the Commission's technical assistance; the latter made available the services of experts, who helped to draw up initial plans, drafted practical recommendations regarding ways in which the operations could be improved, and carried out a preliminary assessment of current projects. It would be advisable for such assistance to assume a more systematic form following the pattern set recently by certain provisions applying to other Community interventions. A relevant amendment to the regulation would enable the Community and the Hellenic Republic to improve the management of the programme by setting up strict criteria for the rational utilization of available resources. It is estimated that expenditure relating to these measures should not exceed ECU 2 400 000 for the period 1988-91, i.e. 2% of the overall budget, without affecting the total amount of Community aid as laid down by Regulation (EEC) No 815/84.

On 10 September 1987, the Hellenic Republic submitted a request to the Commission for an extension of the arrangements concerned until 31 December 1991 since the programmes could not be completed before the deadline set by the Regulation. This request was accompanied by a revised programme and a new timetable for commitments and payments, which none the less does not exceed the overall budget of ECU 120 million provided for in the regulation. The Commission considers this request to be justified; of the 224 projects agreed by the Commission during the period 1984-87, 150 have already started, but of these, only 25 have been completed; furthermore, it is expected that a further 80 projects will be submitted for financing during the period 1988-91. This is why it is necessary to adapt the period of the Community's intervention to the new programme timetable by extending Regulation 815/84 for three years so that the purposes of the Community's intervention can be achieved.

As regards the programme concerning the centres for the rehabilitation of the mentally ill and mentally handicapped, a limited number of urban construction projects, previously agreed or provided for, are proving difficult to implement on account of the shortage of suitable building sites in densely populated towns. The number of areas suitable for the location of an urban mental health centre is of necessity limited and the choice of site is restricted.

Consequently, the acquisition of building sites for construction or buildings for renovation should be financed in certain cases under Regulation (EEC) No 815/84.

Gist of the Committee Opinion ¹

The Economic and Social Committee unanimously adopted its Opinion. However, while approving the proposal and noting the explanations given by the Commission in its explanatory memorandum the Committee points out that because of the delays in implementing the programmes, the initial forecasts have not been able to be adhered to. It underlines the importance of rapid and effective programme implementation and the optimum use of resources.

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 Dassis (Greece — Workers).

7. COMETT II

Proposal for a Council Decision adopting the second phase of the programme on cooperation between universities and enterprises regarding training in the field of technology (Comett II)

Gist of the Commission document

The Commission document describes the present stage of development of Comett and explains the content and details of a second phase of the programme, beyond 1990. This communication was drawn up after consultation with the social partners at Community level (ETUC, Unice), the Industrial Research Development Advisory Committee (Irdac) and the Liaison Committee of Rectors' Conferences of the Member States of the European Community.

The Commission requests for Comett II a budget of ECU 250 million for the period 1990-94, a level of funding it considers necessary in order to match the economic and social challenges which the Community faces. It will be recalled that the

¹ CES 1221/88.

Community had requested ECU 80 million for the first phase of Comett (1986-89) and that the Council, in its decision of 24 July 1986, approved an estimated budget of ECU 45 million.

The Commission proposes that the second phase of the programme should be a deepening and broadening of Comett I. A deepening in two senses: first, by greater targeting of the actions proposed on the changing requirements of enterprises and sectors for advanced qualifications and training; second, by increasing support particularly for Comett projects involving university and enterprise partners from peripheral regions of the Community.

The broadening of Comett would be achieved by opening up the programme to cooperation with university and industrial partners from European non-Member States as well as with international organizations.

Principal features of Comett II

The Commission proposes to:

- (i) retain strands A and B and amalgamate strands C and D into one strand entitled 'Joint continuing training projects and multimedia distance training'. Close interaction will be ensured with the Delta programme;
- (ii) give priority to joint training projects and multimedia distance training in strategic areas within the Community's R&D framework programme and within the main manufacturing and services sectors for the application of these technologies, (including the fields of industrial and social management of technology), special attention being accorded to projects involving small and medium-sized enterprises;
- (iii) support the balanced development of Comett II throughout the Community by according special attention to Comett projects associating industrial and/or university promoters in peripheral regions and, in certain duly justified cases, to support Comett projects of a national dimension on condition that, in the second phase, such projects develop within a transnational configuration;
- (iv) accept the principle of limited preparatory grants for the first stages of planning for projects under Comett II;
- (v) introduce a clause whereby Community funding of university-enterprise training partnerships (UETPs) should be progressively reduced;

- (vi) retain a strand for 'complementary measures', focused on the analysis of the conditions which would contribute to the implementation of the programme and implement a process of continuing evaluation.

By way of indication, the Community contribution for the proposed measures would be as follows:

- (1) for the UETPs, ECU 70 000 maximum for the first year, then ECU 60 000 and ECU 50 000 respectively for the following two years, subject to an overall limit of 50% of actual operational costs. It is proposed to grant support from 1990 to 150 UETPs so as to reach an overall figure of 250 UETPs in 1992;
- (2) for transitional placements, the Community contribution would be, as in Comett I, of a flat-rate nature. It would amount to an average of ECU 5 000 per person for placements of medium duration (6 to 12 months) and ECU 25 000 per person for the long-duration placements linked to the execution of industrial projects. For the grants intended to promote the mobility of university and enterprise staff, the Community contribution would be a maximum of ECU 15 000 per person. Within Comett II, it is proposed to implement 13 500 medium-duration placements, 350 long-duration placements and 1 000 university and industry fellowships;
- (3) for joint continuing training projects and multimedia distance training projects, the Community contribution would be limited to 50% of eligible operational costs. It is estimated this contribution will not exceed ECU 30 000 for an intensive course and ECU 500 000 for a European continuing training programme involving five partners from at least two years. It is planned to provide support for the execution of 550 intensive training courses and the launching of 170 European continuing training programmes;
- (4) for the 'complementary measures', including the evaluation and the logistic and technical support for the management of the programme, the funding will not exceed 4.5% of the overall budget estimated as necessary for the implementation of Comett II.

Gist of the Committee Opinion ¹

The Economic and Social Committee unanimously adopted its Opinion. In its view the increasing evidence of a shortage of highly qualified personnel in the new technologies and their application in all branches of the economy and public administration makes it all the more important to continue the Comett programme and to build on the experience gained so far and the priorities derived from it.

The Committee considers that the emphasis should be placed on the need for the second phase of the programme to integrate more traditional sectors of industry as well as strategic high-tech sectors.

After pointing out that the available funds are not commensurate with the objectives assigned to Comett, the ESC makes several specific comments concerning:

- (i) the need for a comprehensive approach to the problem of training managerial personnel and specialists;
- (ii) the importance of the environmental technologies;
- (iii) the contribution of the Comett programme to improving the Community's economic and social cohesion;
- (iv) the need for clear and complete information on the opportunities provided by this programme;
- (v) the participation of SMEs;
- (vi) the opening-up of the programme to organizations from the EFTA countries and the financial implications of this.

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 Nierhaus (Germany — Workers).

¹ CES 1222/88.

8. BIOTECHNOLOGY — GENETICALLY MODIFIED ORGANISMS

Proposal for a Council Directive on the contained use of genetically modified micro-organisms and the proposal for a Council Directive on the deliberate release to the environment of genetically modified organisms

Gist of the Commission proposal

The purpose of the present proposal is to establish a Community legal framework within which the branch of biotechnology known as genetic engineering can operate and develop.

Genetic engineering is concerned with modifying the genetic structure of organisms such as viruses, bacteria, fungi and living cell cultures, so that they can fulfil new functions. It is considered to be an 'industry of the future', in which the European Community must be enabled to effectively participate.

Hence the proposed legislation, which is in the form of two directives put forward in parallel:

A first directive on the contained use of genetically modified organisms (GMOs) in the laboratory and in industry.

This category of GMOs can be further subdivided into:

Group 1 — zero risk GMOs, for example, used in modifying the fermentation agent in yoghurt to prevent souring;

Group 2 — high risk GMOs, for example, used in modifying vaccines to make them safe.

A second directive on the deliberate release of GMOs into the environment, for example, potatoes which have been given improved disease resistance; organisms to disperse oil pollutants at sea.

The two proposals are designed to ensure technological progress while at the same time ensuring protection of public health and the environment by establishing the general principle of prior notification and endorsement and product withdrawal where necessary.

Gist of the Committee Opinion ¹

More than 10 years experience of contained use of genetically modified organisms has made it possible to frame satisfactory measures to protect man and the environment. Consequently, in a unanimously adopted Opinion, the Committee welcomes the first proposal but suggests the rewording of a number of definitions: for example clarification of the scope of the proposal, extension of the definition of the term 'accident' and the need to provide a definition of 'pathogenic' in connection with the classification of organisms. It recommends that emergency services be adequately equipped to tackle possible accidents and, lastly, stresses the need to involve the public at large in the consultative procedures for development of this key new technology.

The situation as regards deliberate release of organisms into the environment is in sharp contrast.

However, in the light of our limited experience, the proposed directive should be seen only as a first step and as a reference framework for completing and adopting data in this field. The Committee also questions the Commission's sharp distinction between 'experimental' and 'commercial' releases. In order to avoid creating a legislative vacuum the Commission is asked to guarantee adequate safety arrangements for the transport of genetically modified organisms.

Serious consideration ought to be given to how to involve both the public at large and the social partners and experts in the consultative procedure, for example, through preliminary consultations at national, regional and local level. Provisions must also be framed to protect commercial confidentiality at the research stage.

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 von der Decken (Germany — Various Interests).

¹ CES 1235/88.

9. DISCHARGES OF DANGEROUS SUBSTANCES INTO WATER

Proposal for a Council Directive amending and supplementing Annex II to Directive 86/280/EEC on limit values and quality objectives for discharges of certain dangerous substances included in List I of the Annex to Directive 76/464/EEC

Summary of the Commission proposal

The purpose of this proposal for a Directive is to widen the specific scope of the framework Directive 86/280/EEC by including in Annex II special provisions for 1,2-dichloroethane, perchloroethylene, trichlorobenzene and trichloroethylene.

The four new substances have been the subject of ecotoxicological, technical and economic studies as part of the Commission's work, on the basis of priorities agreed with the national experts (SMEs concerned: dry cleaning, removal of grease from metals).

Gist of the Committee Opinion ¹

In its unanimously adopted Opinion the Committee endorses the proposal, while urging that attention also be paid to the problem of simultaneous discharge of several toxic substances and their cumulative effects, and to the interaction of pollutants.

Emphasis is also placed on the economic and social implications of such measures. It is thus necessary to proceed with caution, reconciling the interests at stake with the essential priority of human health.

The Commission is asked to draw up an overall selection framework, laying down objective standards for defining the toxic substances to be included in the relevant list. A time schedule for such action is essential, so that the various parties involved (the public, the water authorities and industry) can coordinate their action.

When fixing the dates for the entry into force of the limit values for emissions and the quality objectives, account should be taken of the two stages involved: firstly, incorporation of the Directive into

¹ CES 1223/88.

national legislation and, secondly, a reasonable deadline for implementation by industry.

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 Rolão Gonçalves (Portugal — Employers).

10. SPRINT

Proposal for a Council Decision on the implementation at Community level of the main phase of the strategic programme for innovation and technology transfer — Sprint (1989-93)

Gist of the Commission document

The Commission has just adopted the proposal on the main phase of the Sprint programme (Strategic programme for innovation and technology transfer) for 1989-93, which will have a budget of ECU 130 million and will reinforce and add a new dimension to the activities undertaken during the current experimental phase expiring at the end of this year.

On the basis of experience gained to date, it seems that Community action should be focused on three main lines.

- (1) Strengthening the European infrastructure for innovation services by establishing or consolidating intra-Community networks of technology transfer and innovation support professionals (such as consultants, sectoral collective research centres, design, quality and value analysis experts, science parks, etc.); these networks will pursue practical objectives in the way of technology transfer between firms, dissemination of new technologies to traditional industries or the improvement of the quality of European products and services.
- (2) Support for pilot projects on innovation transfer within the Community focusing on the application of existing technologies to receptive sectors preferably situated in regions of the Community that are less developed or in industrial decline.
- (3) Improvement of the environment for innovation by making the processes involved better known and by greater coordination between the Member States and the Commission.

Two sets of additional measures are therefore proposed:

- (i) European innovation monitoring system,
- (ii) strengthening of coordination and the exchange of experience between the Member States and the Commission.

Gist of the Committee Opinion ¹

In an Opinion, adopted unanimously, the Committee believes that the programme's aims are extremely important for the Community's ability to hold its own in worldwide competition, with a view to the planned large internal market of 1992, it is high time that steps were taken to promote innovation potential which can be mobilized across national frontiers with the cooperation of the various institutions in the areas of industry, science and service infrastructure.

Since, given its budget, the programme can make only a small contribution to national efforts to promote innovation potential, the Committee welcomes the Commission's planned concentration on promoting the Community-wide cooperation aspect.

Within the framework of these aims special priority should be given to including in the programme those regions and economic sectors which do not yet have a highly developed infrastructure for promotion of innovation and technology transfer. Cooperation with the national authorities and industrial associations would obviously be appropriate here, too.

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 Nierhaus (Germany — Workers).

¹ CES 1224/88.

11. TRANSPORT INFRASTRUCTURE PROGRAMME

Proposal for a Council Regulation for an action programme in the field of transport infrastructure with a view to the completion of an integrated transport market in 1992

Gist of the Commission document

The Commission has already sent the Council a comprehensive programme for action in the medium term in the field of transport infrastructure [COM(86) 340 of 27 June 1986].

The basic principle of Community assistance for infrastructure has generally been welcomed, and the Council has reached agreement on the objectives of a policy for transport infrastructure and criteria for assessing the Community interest of projects. However, no agreement has been possible on the Commission proposal to set up a comprehensive Regulation, although this is strongly supported by the European Parliament and the Economic and Social Committee (OJ C 328 1986).

Notwithstanding the fact that the medium-term programme has not been officially adopted, the Council has been able to reach agreement on specific proposals. The last of these proposals was approved at the end of 1987 (ESC Opinion published in OJ C 35 1988 — Rapporteur: Mr Rouzier).

The development of the common transport policy up to 1992 requires specific action in the field of infrastructure. The present proposal is designed to link up with the series of actions the Commission is undertaking to achieve this target.

This regulation would give the Community powers to act by means of priority actions linked closely to the traffic needs of a 'Europe without frontiers'. The aim would be to provide Community support for projects whose early completion would facilitate the movement of Community goods and passengers, possibly also involving important transit routes.

The programme to help achieve an integrated transport market covers the following:

- (i) studies and preparatory work to be defined following consultation with the Transport Infrastructure Committee;

- (ii) construction of a combined transport network based on the results of the study now underway;
- (iii) development of new telecommunication and teleinformation technologies to improve the management of road traffic and information to car and commercial vehicle drivers;
- (iv) improvement of the Paris-Madrid-Barcelona-Lisbon-Oporto-Algeciras road and rail transit routes;
- (v) improvement of infrastructure associated with the Channel tunnel;
- (vi) construction of a high-speed rail line between Paris, London, Brussels, Amsterdam and Cologne;
- (vii) improvement of the North-South transit link in Ireland to serve the ports of Larne, Belfast, Dublin and Rosslare;
- (viii) modernization of the North-South inland waterway network between the Netherlands, Belgium and France;
- (ix) construction of the 'Scandinavian link';
- (x) modernization of the transit routes between southern Germany/Italy-Greece;
- (xi) international links in frontier areas;
- (xii) improvement of other Alpine transit routes, in particular to and from Italy.

Gist of the Committee Opinion ¹

The Economic and Social Committee unanimously adopted its Opinion on this subject. In view of the relatively limited financial resources available, it considers that the most disadvantaged regions would have benefited more if resources had been concentrated on a limited number of schemes.

The Committee notes that certain schemes will qualify for two sources of Community financing at once (budget Heading 580 and the European Regional Development Fund). It is clear that under no circumstances must either of these contributions exclude the other.

The Committee also points out that Community funds for launching or speeding up infrastructure projects must be additional to

¹ CES 1225/88.

national funds and should therefore not lead to a reduction in the latter.

The Committee trusts that the report on the experience gained during the implementation of the programme will facilitate the preparation of guidelines taking account of a number of criteria: contribution to the setting-up of coherent, balanced transport networks; present and future transport needs; safety improvements; micro-economic and macro-economic impact; effect on the environment and on living and working conditions. These guidelines should help the Council decide on further measures for transport infrastructure after 1 January 1993.

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 Rouzier (France — Workers).

12. EUROPEAN TOURISM YEAR

Proposal for a Council Decision on an action programme for the European Tourism Year (1990)

Gist of the Commission document

The stated objectives of European Tourism Year are to:

- (i) prepare the coming of the large area without internal frontiers using the integration role of tourism to advantage;
- (ii) promote greater knowledge of cultures and life styles by citizens of Member States, especially the young;
- (iii) stress the economic importance of the tourism sector in the completion of the internal market;
- (iv) promote a better distribution of tourism over time and location, the staggering of holidays, alternatives to mass tourism and new destinations;
- (v) promote intra-Community and international tourism in Europe.

These objectives will be pursued through coordinated activities of the Community, Member States and private organizations.

The amount deemed for the implementation of the programme for the European Tourism Year, within the limits of appropriations included in the annual budget, is ECU 5 million. The arrangements

for financing the programme are described in an annex to the proposed Decision.

Gist of the Committee Opinion ¹

In its unanimous Opinion, the Committee is prepared to accept the proposal for a European Tourism Year, provided that adequate account is taken of social, consumer and environmental aspects, but reserves the right to comment more fully at a later stage.

The Committee also recommends the enlargement of the Steering Committee (Article 5).

The rapporteur-general for this Opinion was Mr Vassilaras (Greece — Various Interests).

13. TRANSIT (Additional Opinion)

Community traffic in transit through non-EC countries (Switzerland, Austria and Yugoslavia)

Current situation as regards transit and opening of second phase of negotiations

The achievement of the internal market and the development of the common transport policy require a lasting solution to the problems of Community transit through Switzerland, Austria and Yugoslavia. The obstacles which these countries put in the way of transit traffic, in particular by road, on their territory also constitute barriers to Community trade, to the freedom to provide transport services and to European integration.

On 7 December 1987 the Council authorized the Commission to start a first phase of negotiations with these three countries. The purpose of this first phase was above all to identify the problems which exist and possible solutions, and to prepare for negotiations on the most important points.

In its Own-initiative Opinion of 23 March 1988 ² (rapporteur: Mr Cavazzuti) the Economic and Social Committee expressed its views on this matter.

¹ CES 1238/88.

² OJ C 134, 24 May 1988.

The Commission is now recommending to the Council that it agrees to the opening of a second phase of negotiations with Austria, Switzerland and Yugoslavia.

At the meeting of the Section for Transport and Communications on 12 October 1988, Mr Peña Abizanda, Director-General at the Commission, briefed members on the proposals which the Commission is going to submit to the Council. They may be summarized as follows:

Switzerland

- (i) The Community should continue to seek a satisfactory solution with Switzerland to Community road transit problems. Transit traffic should be allowed to use the shortest existing routes as much as possible. The elements of such a solution could be based on the idea of a road transit corridor through Switzerland which, within certain limits, would be open to 40-tonne lorries. These limits could be fixed so as to avoid traffic congestion on that route and to meet environmental standards. A time limit and/or quantitative restrictions could be envisaged, but at all events the Community should have a guarantee of a minimum yearly tonnage.
- (ii) The Community should also continue to seek agreement, within a comprehensive settlement, on improving combined transport in particular; its development in Switzerland and in the Community would give a wider choice to the user and would pave the way for future solutions.
- (iii) Access of Swiss transport undertakings to the Community's territory should be examined on the basis of reciprocity. If a satisfactory solution is found for Community road transit, measures could be proposed to guarantee the access of Swiss transport undertakings to Community territory. In the event of Switzerland not being prepared to compromise, the Community should consider reciprocal measures, in particular as regards technical restrictions on commercial vehicles and tax treatment.

Austria

- (i) The Community should continue to seek a satisfactory solution with Austria to Community road transit problems. Such a solution would need to take account of the legitimate interest of both sides and be on the basis of reciprocity. This solution

should seek to eliminate the administrative and technical obstacles imposed on Community transit traffic, and to decrease the impact of this traffic on the environment.

- (ii) The agreement could include the modernization and development of rail and combined transport.
- (iii) Financial questions should be discussed in the light of the Community's interest in developing infrastructure in the Community and in Austria with a view to easing problems posed to Community transit traffic, and could be a source of concessions in a package. These could take the form of financial assistance to combined transport or an appropriate contribution to transport infrastructure development.

Yugoslavia

- (i) The solution of the difficulties encountered by Community transporters transiting through Yugoslavia should be found on a reciprocal basis.
- (ii) The agreement should also include the points on which there was a certain convergence of interests and views during the exploratory talks. The difficulties of Community transit are mainly in the fields of quotas, taxation and driving axle weight. Their solution cannot be made conditional on an expansion of Yugoslav infrastructure capacity (especially road) and even less on a financial contribution from the Community.
- (iii) Questions relating to access to certain traffic links (including air) should be examined on the basis of a balance of mutual advantage and with due respect for the market economy.
- (iv) Financial questions should be discussed in the light of the Community's interest in developing transit infrastructure in Yugoslavia; conditions should be made more flexible than at present.

Gist of the Committee Opinion ¹

The Economic and Social Committee adopted this Additional Opinion unanimously.

¹ CES 1234/88.

The completion of the internal market and the development of the common transport policy require a lasting solution to the problems of Community transit through Switzerland, Austria and Yugoslavia.

The Committee voiced its views on this subject in its Own-initiative Opinion of 23 March 1988, in which it underlined that 'it is through negotiations — and in no other way — that ways will have to be found of restoring basic conditions of equality and non-discrimination for Community goods and traffic in transit through the three countries in question'.

The Committee is delighted to note in the present Additional Opinion that the line taken by the Commission completely tallies with the aforementioned Committee's Opinion's general thinking and the wishes voiced therein.

Yugoslavia, the Section is pleased to note, is generally quite willing to accept transit traffic and look for equitable solutions to the problems resulting therefrom.

The Committee acknowledges that Yugoslavia's main priority in the transport sector is to develop its infrastructure (road and rail).

The Committee acknowledges that Austria too has accepted a large part of the Community road-transit traffic which Swiss measures have diverted away from Switzerland. The Section agrees that such traffic, which mainly uses the North-South transit route (Brenner), should not be increased beyond the level at the time of the negotiations.

One suitable way of limiting the future volume of transit traffic passing through Austria by road would be to make better use of existing capacity in the field of combined transport — which is underutilized at the moment, especially in Switzerland.

From the detailed information it has received the Committee is prompted to express concern about the Swiss situation, how it may develop and what effect it may have on intra-Community trade.

The Commission's proposed solution to the preliminary problem of transit traffic by road is to create a road transit corridor open, within certain limits, to 40-tonne lorries. The Committee calls on the Commission to maintain and re-affirm this stance.

Adequate solutions to the other problems (infrastructure, border formalities, environmental protection, access to the market and the under-use of combined transport) will require concrete proposals. In the field of combined transport in particular, such proposals will have to be submitted by the rail companies and Switzerland.

Finally, the Committee agrees most strongly that if negotiations with one of the transit countries run into serious difficulties, reciprocal measures should be adopted and that these should be included in the wider context of the Community's general relations with the country in question.

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 Cavazzuti (Italy — Workers).

14. EUROTRA

Proposal for a Council Decision concerning a specific programme for the completion of a machine-translation system of advanced design (Eurotra)

Gist of the Commission document

Initially adopted by the Council in 1982,¹ the Eurotra programme falls within activity 8 of the Framework programme of Community activities in the field of research and technological development (1987-91)² and more precisely within section 8.4. — 'Dissemination and utilization of scientific and technological research results'.

Essentially, the aim of the Eurotra programme is to establish a common system to cover all translations to be made between all the Community's official languages. Thus the development of fast, efficient data-processing systems for translation and interpreting is aimed at eventually reducing the negative effects of language barriers in the field of dissemination and utilization of research results.

In the process, the Eurotra programme is intended to supplement the research activities under the programme for the dissemination and utilization of scientific and technological research results (1988-92) — the subject of a separate proposal for a decision which the Commission has just presented.

The 1982 Council Decision (as amended by a Decision of November 1986,³ so as to include Spanish and Portuguese and make changes in the timetable, the budgetary allocation and the pro-

¹ OJ L 317, 13 November 1982, p. 19.

² OJ L 302, 24 October 1987, p. 1.

³ OJ L 341, 4 December 1986, p. 39.

cedures for implementing the programme) stipulates that the programme is to last a total of seven years, divided into three phases. The total appropriations initially considered necessary for the programme's implementation were ECU 20.5 million, broken down as follows:

- Phase 1: preparatory phase — 2 years — ECU 2 million;
- Phase 2: phase of basic and applied linguistics research — 3 years — ECU 13 million;
- Phase 3: phase of stabilization of the linguistic models and evaluation of results — 2 years — ECU 5.5 million.

By a decision of 25 July 1988,¹ the Council authorized the Commission to begin the third phase of the programme as of 1 July 1988, thus making it possible to release the ECU 5.5 million already allocated to it by the 1982 decision. The Committee approved the Commission proposal on the subject at its Plenary Session in July 1988.²

The draft Decision on which the Committee is now being consulted seeks to allocate an additional sum of ECU 6.5 million for implementing this third phase of the Eurotra programme.

Gist of the Committee Opinion³

In its Opinion, adopted unanimously, the Committee approves the proposal. It notes the Commission's willingness — and the measures it has already taken — to give a positive response to the recommendations of the Eurotra assessment panel, whose report has highlighted certain shortcomings.

The Committee also makes a number of comments with regard to:

(a) Eurotra's user potential

The Committee considers that there are potential users for Eurotra outside the Community institutions.

In this context, the Committee thinks that:

- (i) the Commission should be authorized to negotiate and conclude agreements with international organizations and third

¹ OJ L 222, 12 August 1988, p. 1.

² The document number of the relevant Opinion will be given later.

³ CES 1228/88.

countries with a view to involving them in the programme's implementation;

- (ii) in due course Eurotra's potential will have to be exploited to the full beyond the confines of the Community institutions.

(b) *Eurotra's social implications*

The Committee would once again draw attention to the social and employment implications which a machine translation system will have one day, especially for translators. It requests that measures be taken, if necessary, to keep translators abreast of, and involved in, machine translation developments and to train computational linguists in translation schools.

Similarly, the work of typing staff should be changed by the use of machine translation. The problems which might arise in this connection are linked more generally to the development of data processing.

The Committee nevertheless calls for appropriate training and retraining measures, as necessitated by the development of machine translation.

(c) *Cultural and educational implications*

The Committee warns against the temptation to regard machine translation as an alternative to, or substitute for, language learning.

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 Proumens (Belgium — Employers).

15. FLAIR

Proposal for a Council Decision to adopt a multiannual research and development programme in food science and technology (1989 to mid-1993) — Flair

Gist of the Commission document

The objectives of the Flair (food-linked agro-industrial research) programme are to promote food industry efficiency and competitiveness; to improve food safety and quality for the consumer; to reinforce the scientific and technical infrastructures serving the European food industry; and to contribute towards the harmonious realization of the internal market.

The Flair programme complements the Eclair programme presented by the Commission in December 1987¹ and comes under activity 4 in the framework programme of Community research and technological development (1987-91):² 'Exploitation and optimum use of biological resources' and more specifically under activity 4.2.: 'Agro-industrial technologies'.

These two complementary programmes seek to 'provide benefits for agriculture, industry and the consumer simultaneously, in particular through the implementation of technologies based on modern concepts in the life sciences'.

While the Eclair programme is aimed at stimulating research activities at the interface between agriculture and industry, the Flair programme is concerned exclusively with the food sector and in particular with the processing-distribution-consumer aspects. The proposed programme has three main sections:

The assessment and enhancement of food quality, consisting of research and development on:

- (i) quantitative measures of 'quality';
- (ii) objective organoleptic and sensory criteria and their relationship to quality;
- (iii) quantitative measures of 'freshness' of processed foods;
- (iv) the characteristics of raw materials as they affect processing and end-product quality; and
- (v) new technologies and processing innovations which enhance food quality while also facilitating processing, and the building of consumer confidence.

Food hygiene, safety and toxicological aspects, consisting of research and development on:

- (i) improved rapid screening tests to predict potential toxicity factors;
- (ii) the occurrence of natural plant toxins and their effects on food;
- (iii) predicting microorganism growth rates, accelerated methods for specific organisms and total counts;

¹ OJ C 62, 5 March 1988, p. 7, Opinion CES 329, OJ C 134, 24 May 1988, p. 15.

² OJ L 302, 24 October 1987, p. 1.

- (iv) improved understanding of the relationship between food constituents and food allergies (immunogenic properties); and
- (v) the application of these tests in food processing and new food product development to ensure the safety of both processes and products.

Nutrition and wholesomeness aspects consisting of research and development work on:

- (i) new processing techniques, applications and natural ingredients which provide high nutritional and wholesomeness values;
- (ii) the bioavailability of the nutritional constituents (e.g. vitamins and minerals) and the effects of processing, distribution, catering, storage and home treatment;
- (iii) the nutritional and wholesomeness value of foods designed for particular users (e.g. slimming or athletics) or important to sub-groups in the population (e.g. infants and the elderly); and
- (iv) those new processes and technologies which enhance the nutritional and wholesomeness of foods.

The programme will be implemented in the form of concerted actions or cost-shared actions as appropriate. Grants may also be awarded for training, with a view to promoting mobility. Total funding under the Community budget is put at ECU 25 million.

The Commission also specifies the criteria for project selection and for evaluation of the programme. The projects are to be open to European non-member countries.

Gist of the Committee Opinion ¹

In its Opinion, adopted unanimously, the Committee also points to certain weaknesses or gaps in the Commission proposal, namely:

- (i) the difficulty of identifying clear overall objectives in the Flair programme set against a background of Commission policy in the agro-industry field;
- (ii) a lack of clarity in some definitions;
- (iii) the lack of an order of priorities in the proposals.

The Committee also highlights certain aspects of the programme, namely those connected with:

¹ CES 1230/88.

(i) *Consumer needs*

The programme would benefit in terms of the clarity of its overall objectives and the specificity of its individual project targets from a deeper knowledge of consumer views throughout the Community.

(ii) *The social field*

What is needed is a positive and dynamic approach to the social aspects of this programme, going beyond the conventional consultation at the project stage and at the stage of the utilization of successful results.

(iii) *The review procedure and flexible funding*

According to the Committee the procedure proposed by the Commission for reviewing the programme lacks flexibility; a greater degree of flexibility should be introduced in the funding of individual projects to enable them to proceed at an optimum pace.

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 de Normann (United Kingdom — Employers).

16. JOULE

Proposal for a Council Decision adopting a specific research and technological development programme in the field of energy — Non-nuclear energies and rational use of energy (1989-92) (Joule)

Gist of the Commission document

The Joule programme (Joint opportunities for unconventional or long-term energy supply) comes under research action line 5 of the framework programme for Community research and technological development activities (1987-91):¹ Energy, and more precisely under line 5.3 — Non-nuclear energies and rational use of energy — the implementation of which is closely linked with the Community's energy strategy.

¹ OJ L 302, 24 October 1987, p. 1.

Intended to ensure continuity of the research and technological development activities undertaken in this field since 1975, the Joule programme has the practical aims of contributing to:

- (1) increasing the long-term security supply and reducing energy import, through the diversification of sources and better efficiency of energy use, thus providing a technical support for the achievement of the energy objectives defined for 1995 by the Community;
- (2) alleviating environmental problems related to energy conversion and use;
- (3) improving EC industrial competitiveness through (a) a reduction in energy cost and (b) the development of energy technologies;
- (4) establishing the large internal market of 1992 in the energy sector, *inter alia* through research leading to norms and standards;
- (5) solving technical problems in energy supply and use in developing countries.

To this end, the Commission proposes that the programme should focus on the following four main areas, which constitute sub-programmes:

- (i) systems analysis and modelling for energy and environment;
- (ii) rational use of energy;
- (iii) optimization of efficient and clean use of fossil sources;
- (iv) development of renewable energy sources.

The funding from the Community budget considered necessary for carrying out the programme is ECU 122 million. The programme will be implemented in the form of shared-cost projects and the coordination of projects. It also includes the possibility of funding studies and expert assessments, as well as scholarships for training and mobility.

Gist of the Committee Opinion ¹

In its unanimously adopted Opinion the Committee endorses the draft Decision but regards the funding as inadequate and totally inappropriate to the importance and scale of the tasks to be carried out in the fields covered by the programme.

¹ CES 1229/88.

The Committee takes the view that strengthening research and development activities on energy production and utilization techniques is a vital necessity for the future of the Committee and indeed the world.

The Committee also believes that the content of the sub-programmes must be widened to include the following fields:

- (i) greater efforts to investigate all possibilities for better use of the enormous potential of waste heat from industry and power stations;
- (ii) development of demand-orientated units and plant for developing countries;
- (iii) investigation of the potential for cost reduction through economies of scale, more rational production methods and technical innovation;
- (iv) development of solar energy.

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 Flum (Germany — Workers).

17. MARKETING OF COMPOUND FEEDINGSTUFFS

Proposal for a Council Directive amending Directive 79/373/EEC on the marketing of compound feedingstuffs

Gist of the Commission proposal

The parent Council Directive 79/373/EEC was adopted on 2 April 1979. It lays down the basic principles and rules governing the labelling of compound feedingstuffs marketed in the Community, and allows Member States to derogate from certain common rules. Those derogations have created certain barriers to the free movement of compound feedingstuffs in the Community.

The amendment is designed to remove these barriers by abolishing the derogations dealing with labelling and the use of ingredients in particular.

The proposal on labelling provides for:

- (i) a positive list of particulars, which must be set out on the label;

- (ii) a positive list of particulars to supplement the above information;
- (iii) provision for other information, mainly of a commercial nature.

Provision is also made for a qualitative statement of ingredients, which may be grouped by category.

Gist of the Committee Opinion ¹

The Committee notes that the Commission proposal is an adaptation of its earlier proposals: it is part and parcel of the move to open up trade in the run-up to the completion of the single market by 1992.

The unanimous Opinion states that it is necessary to harmonize standards (and thus the methods of analysis and assessment, too) in order to permit effective checks for livestock farmers.

The main ways of permitting this should be:

- (i) obligatory declarations of ingredients;
- (ii) lists of ingredients banned on health grounds;
- (iii) specification of the dates of manufacture and expiry.

The Committee recommends that a certain amount of caution should be exercised in applying each of these points.

This Opinion was drawn up in the light of the paper produced by the Section for Agriculture and Fisheries, chaired by Mr Laur (France — Various Interests). The rapporteur was Mr Della Croce (Italy — Workers).

18. ENERGY POLICY AND COMPLETION OF THE INTERNAL MARKET (INFORMATION REPORT)

Aims of the information report

Energy is a key component — indeed frequently the cornerstone — of many industrial and technological strategies. The energy sector can therefore not be omitted from the integration process due to reach completion in 1992.

¹ CES 1226/88.

Gist of the Information Report ¹

The Community's energy situation, particularly since the oil crisis, shows quite clearly that energy cannot be regarded as a typical economic commodity. Priority is now given to safe, crisis-resistant energy supplies. The result has been barriers to a free market economy.

Another factor to be underlined in the context of a single internal market is the extremely wide variety of national structures, laws and regulations in the energy field itself as well as in the tax, labour-market, economic, environmental and social fields.

Account must be taken of a possible conflict between a free energy market on the one hand and conventional methods of guaranteeing reliable supplies on the other.

Resolving this potential conflict is a challenge. The report describes, in four separate chapters, the present situation in the electricity, oil, natural gas and coal industries. Any changes which might have to be made in each of these four sectors, must be considered against the timescale of 1992 and beyond.

The report also calls for reasonable deadlines for the transition to a single internal energy market since over-hasty changes are likely to create socio-economic problems.

It was decided by 68 votes to 15, with 5 abstentions, to forward the information report to the Council and the Commission.

However, the measures proposed or contemplated by the Commission in its White Paper on completion of the internal market [COM(85) 310 final of 14 June 1985] do not suffice *per se* to bring about the creation of this extensive Community-wide market in 1992. The Section takes the view that specific energy policy measures would be of substantial help to this end.

In this connection the Section feels that the purpose of the information report should not be to determine the conditions for implementing a genuine Community energy policy.

It should concentrate primarily on studying the interactions between the internal market and energy policy and drawing up a list of obstacles in the energy sector that could impede completion of an effective single market by the 1992 deadline.

¹ CES 69/88 fin.

The Section intends to explore energy production and consumption problems, matters concerning subsidization of more rational energy use, regulations and standards and access to the market.

In addition to pinpointing and analysing obstacles, the Section could go on to propose possible measures for stemming up integration of the common energy market, thereby consolidating the Community-wide single market.

This information report 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).

19. FISHERIES — SARDINES (Own-initiative Opinion)

Market for sardines in the Community: Situation and outlook

Gist of the Committee Own-initiative Opinion ¹

The Economic and Social Committee unanimously adopted its Own-initiative Opinion on the market for sardines.

It stresses that although the sardine industry is highly regionalized, it has vital socio-economic implications for certain Member States (Portugal, Spain, France, Greece and Italy).

The sector is highly vulnerable to imports from outside the Community, where prices are far lower. The industry's economic and social decline must be avoided, by taking greater account of the impact of the agreements concluded with non-Community countries.

Production, marketing and sales, which are all closely linked, are in need of greater modernization and mechanization.

¹ CES 1227/88.

External relations

Activities of the Chairman and the Secretary-General

On 28 October, the Secretary-General, Mr Jacques Moreau, attended a colloquium at the European Institute of Public Administration in Maastricht on the theme 'What Community in 1993?': Strategic questions beyond the White Paper'.

From 3 to 5 November, the Secretary-General was in Dakar (Senegal) for the EEC/ACP Trade Union Conference, where he made a speech.

On 7 November, the Secretary-General hosted a lunch for the Committee of Permanent Representatives (Coreper) in Brussels. The same evening he addressed the National Institute for Labour and Employment.

On 8 November, the Chairman, Mr Masprone, accompanied by the Secretary-General, gave the keynote speech at a colloquium organized jointly by the ESC, the Commission and the European Centre for the Development of Vocational Training (Cedefop), the theme of which was the role of the two sides of industry in initial and continuous training with an eye to 1992. The colloquium was attended by some 120 representatives of trade unions and employers' associations, and by scientists and experts on initial and continuous vocational training. Afterwards, a press conference was given by the Secretary-General, the Director of Cedefop, Mr Ernst Piehl, and ESC member Mr John Carroll.

On 9 November, the Secretary-General gave a press luncheon in Brussels to discuss the preparation of the resolution on proposals for a Community action programme for the years 1989-92.

On 10 November, the Secretary-General welcomed to the Committee building a group of 300 young people from the USSR on a visit to Belgium. It was the first time that young Soviets had been able to visit the European Community.

Also on 10 November, the Chairman and the Secretary-General attended a colloquium in memory of Jean Monnet, one of the foun-

ders of the European Community. The colloquium was held in the Palais des Congrès in Brussels.

On 11 November, the Chairman and the Secretary-General welcomed Mr Cheysson, the Commissioner responsible for development policy and relations with the Third World, to a meeting of the ESC Section for External Relations, Trade and Development Policy. The meeting was also attended by Mr Mallet, Chairman of the European Parliament's Committee for External Economic Relations..

On 14 November, the Secretary-General had talks in Geneva with Mr Francis Blanchard, Director-General of the International Labour Office (ILO).

On 16 November, the Chairman gave a press luncheon in Rome. Its aim was to present him to the Italian press following his election as ESC Chairman. The luncheon also provided an opportunity to speak about the ESC's proposals for a European Community action programme for the years 1989-92, which were the subject of a Resolution adopted at the Plenary Session.

On 16 November, the Secretary-General had talks in Strasbourg with Council of Europe leaders on the preparation of a Community Social Charter.

On 18 November, the Chairman visited Ambassador Calamia, the Italian Permanent Representative to the European Communities in Brussels.

On 18 November, the Secretary-General had talks in Paris with the French Minister for Labour, Mr Jean-Pierre Soissons, and the Chairman of the European Centre of Public Enterprises (CEEP).

On 22 November, the Secretary-General attended a video conference to mark the 15th anniversary of Infas (France), together with ESC members Mr Arets and Mr Staedelin and Mr Kirchberger from the Commission.

On 23 November, the Chairman and the Secretary-General had talks with the President of the European Parliament, Lord Plumb, at the headquarters of the EP in Brussels.

On 24 November, the Chairman, the Secretary-General and ESC rapporteur Mr Ceyrac presented the Resolution on a European Community action programme for the years 1989-92 at a press conference organized by the ESC in Brussels.

On 24 November, the Secretary-General received a delegation from the Bavarian Diet's Committee for European Policy, which was visiting the ESC in Brussels.

On 25 and 26 November, the Secretary-General attended an international colloquium on the French Democratic Labour Confederation (CFDT) at its 41st congress in Strasbourg..

Other activities.

On 28 October, ESC member Mr Nierhaus attended the Second European congress on continuous training, organized by the senator for economic and labour affairs in Berlin.

On 3 November, ESC member Mr Jaschick attended the Seventh international congress of the European Food Law Association in Brussels.

On 9 November, ESC Director Mr McLaughlin attended a remembrance service for former ESC Chairman Mr Basil de Ferranti. On 11 November, Mr McLaughlin addressed the University of Reading's Graduate School of European Studies, speaking about transatlantic trade questions, especially US trade policies and their impact on Europe.

On 12 November, ESC member Mr Flum attended a colloquium on the social dimension of the internal market organized in Karlsruhe by the European Trade Union Confederation with all the media unions.

On 15 and 16 November, Mr Mullers from the ESC secretariat represented the Secretary-General at a European trade union conference on energy policy organized in Aachen by the European Trade Union Confederation.

On 17 and 18 November, ESC Director Mr McLaughlin attended an international symposium in Strasbourg organized jointly by the European Parliament and the Trans-European Policy Studies Association (Tepsa) with the theme 'Beyond traditional parliamentarianism: The European Parliament in the Community system'.

On 22 November, the Chairman of the ESC Section for Energy, Mr Romoli, attended a meeting of the European Parliament in Brussels on 'Energy and the internal market of 1992'.

On 22 and 23 November, ESC member Mr Roseingrave attended a meeting at the European Foundation in Dublin to coordinate the

project 'Coping with social and economic change at neighbourhood level'.

On 23 November, a group of 25 Spanish journalists were received at the ESC and attended the Plenary Session. The following day, four Portuguese ESC members, Mr Rolão Gonçalves, Mr Ataide, Mr Cal and Mr Conde, received a group of 15 or so Portuguese journalists, who attended the Plenary Session in the morning.

On 29 and 30 November, ESC Director Mr McLaughlin attended the Plenary Session of the Conference of the Peripheral Maritime Regions of the EEC (CRPM) in Madeira.

New consultations

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

Proposal for a Council Regulation on a code of conduct for computerized reservation systems
[COM(88) 447 final]

Proposal for a Council Directive on freedom of environmental information
[COM(88) 484 final]

Proposal for a Council Directive on the disposal of polychlorinated biphenyls and polychlorinated terphenyls
[COM(88) 559 final — SYN 161]

Proposal for a Council Decision adopting a specific research and technological development programme in the field of marine science and technology (MAST) (1989-92)
[COM(88) 587 final — SYN 162]

Proposal for a Council Directive on the approximation of the laws of the Member States relating to compulsory use of safety belts in vehicles of less than 3.5 tonnes
[COM(88) 544 final]

Proposal for a Council Directive amending Directive 78/660/EEC on annual accounts and Directive 83/349/EEC on consolidated accounts with respect to the exemptions for small and medium-sized companies and to the drawing up and publication of accounts in ECU
[COM(88) 292 final — SYN 158]

Proposal for a Council Directive supplementing and amending Directive 76/116/EEC in respect of the trace elements boron, cobalt, copper, iron, manganese, molybdenum and zinc contained in fertilizers
[COM(88) 562 final — SYN 160]

Commission Communication to the Council on a Community action programme for improving the efficiency of electricity use, accompanied by a draft Council Decision
[COM(88) 576 final]

The Council is expected to consult the Committee on this matter shortly:

Proposal for a Council Regulation (EEC) on the zootechnical and genealogical conditions governing the sale of pedigree animals
[COM(88) 598 final]

The Commission has asked the Committee to give its Opinion on the following matter:

Community Charter on Fundamental Social Rights

Provisional future work programme

December 1988 Plenary Session

Opinions

- Cosmetic products [COM(88) 324 final — SYN 149]
- Hazardous waste [COM(88) 391 final — SYN 145]
- Predictive medicine [COM(88) 424 final — SYN 146]
- Air quality — SO₂ [COM(88) 436 final]
- Tedis [COM(88) 523 final]
- Vocational training for drivers of vehicles carrying dangerous goods [COM(88) 339 final]
- Code of conduct (computerized reservation systems) [COM(88) 447 final]
- Doses programme [COM(88) 410 final — SYN 139]
- R&D programme — Decommissioning of nuclear installations [COM(88) 415 final]
- Brite-Euram programme (1989-92) [COM(88) 385 final — SYN 142/2]
- Veterinary checks [COM(88) 383 final]
- Agricultural research programme [COM(88) 459 final — SYN 152]
- Health problems affecting trade in meat products [COM(88) 535 final]
- Beef/veal [COM(88) 529 final]
- Sheepmeat and goatmeat [COM(88) 528 final]
- Pedigree requirements for the marketing of purebred animals [COM(88) 598 final]

Own-initiative work

Nuts

Utilization of agricultural and forestry resources

Subsequent Plenary Sessions

Opinions

17th Competition Policy Report [COM(88) 232 final]

Green Paper on copyright [COM(88) 172 final]

Programme of strategic research and technology in the field of aeronautics [COM(88) 393 final — SYN 144]

Acceleration of agricultural development in Greece [COM(88) 533 final]

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

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

Weights and dimensions of motor vehicles (maximum length) [COM(88) 287 final]

Safety belts in vehicles [COM(88) 544 final]

Research and technology programme — Monitor [COM(88) 386 final — SYN 147]

Voting rights for Community nationals in municipal elections [COM(88) 371 final]

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

Protection of natural and semi-natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora [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]

Framework agreement for scientific and technical cooperation with Iceland [COM(88) 527 final — SYN 156]

Research and technical development programme — MAST [COM(88) 587 final — SYN 162]

Economic situation mid-1989

European cultural area (Additional Opinion)

Right of asylum and status of refugees

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

Protection of the Mediterranean environment

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

Strategy and action programme for the forestry sector: protection against air pollution and fire [COM(88) 255 final]

Protective device tractors

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

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

Teleman programme [COM(88) 416 final]

Community strategy and action programme for the forestry sector (five proposals — agriculture) [COM(88) 255 final]

Future of the rural world [COM(88) 501 final]

Environment and agriculture [COM(88) 338 final/2]

Information reports

Employment and training of researchers

Poverty

Assessment and follow-up to IMPs

GATT/Uruguay Round

EEC/Mediterranean country relations

Own-initiative work

Consumers' information centres

Contribution of the cooperative sector to regional development countries of South-East Asia

Relations between the EEC and the newly industrializing countries of South-East Asia

1992 and the EEC's external trade

Members' news

Appointment

The Council of Ministers has just appointed Dr Giorgio Liverani (Italy) a member of the Economic and Social Committee in place of Mr Maurilio Salamone, who has resigned. Dr Liverani is confederal secretary of the Italian Workers' Union (UIL).

In memoriam

The Economic and Social Committee has learned with deep sorrow of the deaths of two of its former members, Mr Carlo Hemmer (Luxembourg) who was a member from August 1970 to September 1986, and Mr Heinrich Kolbenschlag (Germany), who was a member from August 1970 to September 1982.

PUBLICATIONS OBTAINABLE FROM THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMITTEE

General documentation

The other European Assembly, (CES 88-006)

Opinions and studies

National regional development aid (Opinion) (Brussels 1986)
Demographic situation in the Community (Information report) Brussels (1986)
Consumer-producer dialogue (Opinion) (January 1985) (ESC 84-011)
Irish border areas (Information report) (February 1984) (ESC 84-002)
Transport policy in the 1980s (Opinion) (March 1983) 99 pp. (ESC 83-003)

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

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

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

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 Rd, London N1

Directory of European agricultural organizations (UKL 39)

Office for Official Publications of the European Communities

Bulletin (monthly publication) (per issue: ECU 2.50. Annual subscription: ECU 28)
Annual Report 1987 (ECU 6.50)
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) (ESC 86-008-EN) (ECU 3.40)
EEC air transport policy (October 1985) (ECU 5.50)
The economic and social situation of the Community (1986) (84-015) (ECU 4)
GATT — towards a new round (Opinion) (Brussels 1986) (ECU 2.20)
Competition policy (ECU 3.40)

Venta y suscripciones · Salg og abonnement · Verkauf und Abonnement · Πωλήσεις και συνδρομές
Sales and subscriptions · Vente et abonnements · Vendita e abbonamenti
Verkoop en abonnementen · Venda e assinaturas

BELGIQUE / BELGIE

Moniteur belge / Belgisch Staatsblad

42, Rue de Louvain / Leuvenseweg 42
 1000 Bruxelles / 1000 Brussel
 Tél. 5 12 00 26
 CCP / Postrekening 000-2005502-27

Sous-dépôts / Agentschappen:

**Librairie européenne /
Europese Boekhandel**

Rue de la Loi 244 / Wetstraat 244
 1040 Bruxelles / 1040 Brussel

Jean De Lannoy

Avenue du Roi 202 / Koningslaan 202
 1060 Bruxelles / 1060 Brussel
 Tél. (02) 538 5169
 Téléc 63220 UNBOOK B

CREDOC

Rue de la Montagne 34 / Bergstraat 34
 Bte 11 / Bus 11
 1000 Bruxelles / 1000 Brussel

DANMARK

J. H. Schultz Information A/S

EF-Publikationer

Ottillavej 18
 2500 Valby
 Tlf: 01 44 23 00
 Telefax: 01 44 15 12
 Girokonto 6 00 08 86

BR DEUTSCHLAND

Bundesanzeiger Verlag

Breite Straße
 Postfach 10 80 06
 5000 Köln 1
 Tel. (02 21) 20 29-0
 Fernschreiber:
 ANZEIGER BONN 8 882 595
 Telefax: 20 29 278

GREECE

G.C. Eleftheroudakis SA

International Bookstore
 4 Nikis Street
 105 63 Athens
 Tel.: 322 22 55
 Telex: 2194 10 ELEF
 Telefax: 3254 889

Sub-agent for Northern Greece:

Molho's Bookstore

The Business Bookshop
 10 Tsimiski Street
 Thessaloniki
 Tel. 275 271
 Telex 412885 LIMO

ESPAÑA

Boletín Oficial del Estado

Trafalgar 27
 E-28010 Madrid
 Tel. (91) 446 60 00

Mundi-Prensa Libros, S.A.

Castelló 37
 E-28001 Madrid
 Tel. (91) 431 33 99 (Libros)
 431 32 22 (Suscripciones)
 435 36 37 (Dirección)
 Telex 49370-MPLI-E
 Telefax: (91) 275 39 98

FRANCE

Journal officiel

**Service des publications
des Communautés européennes**

26, rue Desaix
 75727 Paris Cedex 15
 Tél. (1) 40 58 75 00
 Télécopieur: (1) 4058 7574

IRELAND

Government Publications Sales Office

Sun Alliance House
 Molesworth Street
 Dublin 2
 Tel. 71 03 09

or by post

Government Stationery Office

EEC Section

6th floor
 Bishop Street
 Dublin 8
 Tel. 78 16 66

ITALIA

Licosa Spa

Via Benedetto Fortini, 120/10
 Casella postale 552
 50 125 Firenze
 Tel. 64 54 15
 Telefax: 64 12 57
 Telex 570466 LICOSA I
 CCP 343 509

Subagenti:

Libreria scientifica Lucio de Bisio -AEIOU

Via Meravigli, 16
 20 123 Milano
 Tel. 80 76 79

Herder Editrice e Libreria

Piazza Montecitorio, 117-120
 00 186 Roma
 Tel. 67 94 628/67 95 304

Libreria giuridica

Via 12 Ottobre, 172/R
 16 121 Genova
 Tel. 59 56 93

GRAND-DUCHÉ DE LUXEMBOURG

Abonnements seulement
 Subscriptions only
 Nur für Abonnements

Messageries Paul Kraus

11, rue Christophe Plantin
 L-2339 Luxembourg
 Tél. 48 21 31
 Télex 25 15
 CCP 49242-63

NEDERLAND

SDU uitgeverij

Christoffel Plantijnstraat 2
 Postbus 20014
 2500 EA 's-Gravenhage
 Tel. (070) 78 98 80 (bestellingen)
 Telefax: (070) 476351

PORTUGAL

Imprensa Nacional

Casa da Moeda, E. P.
 Rua D. Francisco Manuel de Melo, 5
 1092 Lisboa Codex
 Tel. 69 34 14

Distribuidora Livros Bertrand Lda.

Grupo Bertrand, SARL
 Rua das Terras dos Vales, 4-A
 Apart. 37
 2700 Amadora Codex
 Tel. 493 90 50 - 494 87 88
 Telex 15798 BERDIS

UNITED KINGDOM

HMSO Books (PC 16)

HMSO Publications Centre
 51 Nine Elms Lane
 London SW8 5DR
 Tel. (01) 873 9090
 Fax: GP3 873 8463

Sub-agent:

Alan Armstrong Ltd

2 Arkwright Road
 Reading, Berks RG2 0SQ
 Tel. (0734) 75 17 71
 Telex 849937 AAALTD G
 Fax: (0734) 755164

ÖSTERREICH

Manz'sche Verlagsbuchhandlung

Kohlmarkt 16
 1014 Wien
 Tel. (0222) 533 17 81
 Telex 11 25 00 BOX A
 Telefax: (0222) 533 17 81 81

TURKIYE

Dünya süper veb ofset A.S.

Narlıbahçe Sokak No. 15
 Cağaloğlu
 İstanbul
 Tel. 512 01 90
 Telex: 23822 dsvo-tr

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

European Community Information Service

2100 M Street, NW
 Suite 707
 Washington, DC 20037
 Tel. (202) 862 9500

CANADA

Renouf Publishing Co., Ltd

61 Sparks Street
 Ottawa
 Ontario K1P 5R1
 Tel. Toll Free 1 (800) 267 4164
 Ottawa Region (613) 238 8985-6
 Telex 053-4936

JAPAN

Kinokuniya Company Ltd

17-7 Shinjuku 3-Chome
 Shinjuku-ku
 Tokyo 160-91
 Tel. (03) 354 0131

Journal Department

PO Box 55 Chitose
 Tokyo 156
 Tel. (03) 439 0124

AUTRES PAYS

OTHER COUNTRIES
ANDERE LANDER

**Office des publications officielles
des Communautés européennes**

2, rue Mercier
 L-2985 Luxembourg
 Tél. 49 92 81
 Téléc PUBOF LU 1324 b
 CC bancaire BIL 8-109/6003/700



EN

Prices (excluding VAT) in Luxembourg

Single copy	ECU 2.50	BFR 110	IRL 2	UKL 1.80	USD 3.10
Annual subscription	ECU 28	BFR 1 200	IRL 21.60	UKL 19.80	USD 33.50



OFFICE FOR OFFICIAL PUBLICATIONS
OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES

L-2985 Luxembourg



EX-AA-88-012-EN-C