

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL CONSULTATIVE ASSEMBLY

BULLETIN

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246th Plenary Session

The Economic and Social Committee of the European Communities held its 246th Plenary Session at the Committee building in Brussels on 13 and 14 May 1987. The Chairman, Mr Fons Margot, presided.

The Session was attended by Mr Wilfried Martens, Prime Minister of Belgium and President-in-Office of the Council.

Mr Martens

After outlining the Val-Duchesse procedures and explaining the Single Act and the reforms proposed by the Commission to ensure its success, Mr Martens said that the Commission's proposals had frequently failed to enlist unanimous enthusiasm among the Member States. Even the Belgians — traditionally 'good Europeans' as they were — had objected to some aspects.

However, the Commission's proposals had to be viewed as a whole, offering an intermediate solution.

There must be no illusions: a short-term regulation with the sole purpose of extending the Fontainebleau solutions for another year or two would encounter exactly the same difficulties as had arisen in efforts to frame a medium-term regulation, though the solutions would have to take effect by 1992. The southern countries, for instance, would find it hard to agree to an increase in their contributions to 1.4% of VAT receipts if this was used purely and simply to cover deficits in the agricultural sector and to compensate the United Kingdom, without any corresponding commitment to boost the structural funds, and thereby pave the way for greater social and economic cohesion in the Community.

Moreover, all-round negotiations, including a number of decisions of principle focusing on the medium-term development of the Community, were essential if order was to be restored to Community finances in the short term.

As President of the Council, Mr Martens would do his best to prevent the interdependence of the various components of the package being thrown into jeopardy. Given the short deadline,



Mr Fons Margot (left), President of the ESC, seen here with Mr Wilfried Martens, Prime Minister of Belgium and President-in-Office of the Council, attending the Committee's 246th Plenary Session.

however, it would probably be impossible to achieve complete agreement on so ambitious a programme, especially in view of the political situation in a number of Member States.

None the less, he would do everything in his power to arrive at least at a broad policy. The time had come to decide whether or not the Community was going to keep the appointment it had set itself. We could not rest content with a European free trade area since the creation of a Community with a genuine economic and social dimension was vital to everyone: entrepreneurs, farmers, the self-employed, the employed and — first and foremost, without a shadow of doubt — those who were looking for work, such as the young workers and jobless wandering the streets.

Mr Martens was convinced that this last factor would bring its full weight to bear when the moment came for the Economic and Social Committee to adopt its Opinion on the 'Delors' package.

In conclusion, the Belgian Prime Minister called on both sides of industry to play a twofold key role, firstly as a lobby group in influencing the European Council and the individual Governments of the Member States and, secondly, as a creative source generating constructive proposals in the social sphere.

Extracts from the debate

Mr Ceyrac (France — Employers) saw the adoption of the Single Act, on which the introduction of the single European market in 1992 depended, as the most important step in the building of Europe since the signature of the Treaty of Rome. But when could this Act be implemented properly, as a clear statement of the Member States' political determination? Mr Ceyrac warned the Council not to yield to the temptation, in implementing the Act, of allowing undue scope for derogations.

Mr Staedelin (France — Chairman of the Workers' Group) expressed the bitterness felt by trade union representatives over the Council's attitude. The agreements of 6 November 1985 had nurtured hopes of a social dialogue and of a tripartite conference under the Belgian Presidency, that would urge the Commission to submit proposals paving the way for legislation by the Council. This dream had turned into a nightmare. The President of the Council said that, in the absence of agreement between both sides of industry, there would be no legislation. Yet a European social dimension was a legal pillar of the Community. In the building of Europe, workers must be sure that they would not be abandoned — yet they had not been given

that guarantee. On the contrary, they could discern preparations for fresh attacks on earnings.

Mr De Tavernier (Belgium — Various Interests) found the recent decisions on CAP reform too harsh on farmers, who were deeply concerned about their future. Such a policy was unfair. The continued importation of vegetable fats into the Community could not be sustained financially. The CAP was the spearhead of the Community yet it was now being dismantled because it cost too much.

Mr Houthuys (Belgium — Workers) observed that many ministers, also within the OECD, shared concern over the economic future of their respective countries and that sluggish economic growth was having a damaging effect on jobs. In his view, it would be catastrophic for Europe if the Delors-Pfeiffer plan for a common strategy on growth and employment should fail. It was vital to adopt a European approach to all problems.

Mrs Williams (United Kingdom — Various Interests) asked what the Belgian Presidency was doing to put Europe across to the man in the street. Stickers, T-shirts and badges were needed. Where was the image of Europe which took an interest in the poor, the disinherited, the disabled, the elderly — even women?

Mrs Williams proposed a trade safety campaign, including a general duty to trade safety, covering all products and not just particular issues.

Mr Collas (France — Employers) pointed out that the employers' and trade union delegates had agreed, on 6 November 1985, on the need and urgency of creating a single internal market, bringing down interest rates and encouraging European business to take part in free and fair international trade. This agreement was of substantial help to the Commission.

Mr Briganti (Italy — Various Interests) advocated that the Val-Duchesse meetings should cease to be limited to only two groups and should encompass others, such as representatives of cooperatives.

Mr Petersen (Germany — Employers) stressed that economic growth was more vital than ever in creating new jobs. The only effective means of rolling back unemployment was to stimulate growth. However, subsidies had to be avoided, since these distorted competition, fostered protectionism and kept alive outdated industries.

Mr Arets (Belgium — Employers) stressed the need to complete the setting-up of a European economic area without frontiers or technical barriers. Tax barriers also had to be removed, which would not be

easy. Belgium had minted gold and silver ECU and Mr Arets expressed the hope that other countries would follow suit. The ECU should develop into a major monetary zone alongside the dollar. The Belgian Presidency could count on the ESC's support for its efforts to promote the R&D framework programme.

Mr Vercellino (Italy — Workers) was disappointed that the Committee's vote on the Single Act had not been unanimous. He felt that the votes against had expressed not so much opposition to the 'Delors package' as the belief that more needed to be done to encourage jobs and growth. The number one concern in Italy and Europe as a whole was unemployment.

Mr Cebalho Herrero (Spain — Various Interests) said that the consumer was not sufficiently protected by Community legislation. He quoted the case of the Directive prohibiting the use of hormones in milk production, which had been cleverly circumvented by multinationals. Stricter rules on safety were essential for the protection of children.

Mr Romoli (Italy — Employers) stressed the importance of research and energy for the Community, and called on the Community to concentrate on those two areas. A scientific and technological revolution was under way, which had disrupted employer-worker relations, among other things. It was no use thinking that one could go on using the same old methods.

Mr Dassis (Greece — Workers) expressed his disappointment with the Belgian Presidency, which had referred to the Commission an application to join the European Community by Turkey, a country where human rights and the rights of trade unions were being trampled underfoot.

Mr Boisseree (Germany — Various Interests) hoped that the fourth environmental programme would come to fruition and that its recommendations would be put into effect. If this were not done the hopes of the people of the Community would once again be dashed. Majority voting should be used in the Council to speed the progress of the programme.

Mr Goris (Netherlands — Various Interests) said that at present it was small and medium-sized enterprises which were making the greatest contribution to economic growth and, because of their structure, to employment.

Mr Martens' replies

Replying to the various speakers, Mr Martens first of all said that extending the duration of the Community Presidency, at present six

months, would bring an element of stability and continuity to the decision-making process and would, he hoped, in the longer term help bring into being a true European political executive.

On the question of social dialogue, Mr Martens said that genuine consultation and discussion was needed in the Community, together with the encouragement of a joint European approach to socio-economic issues.

OPINIONS ADOPTED

1. MAKING A SUCCESS OF THE SINGLE ACT: A NEW FRONTIER FOR EUROPE

Gist of the Committee Opinion¹

A market without internal frontiers should have been achieved by 1970, but this was not to be. Very little progress has been made since 1970, because of a lack of commitment by the Member States. In such circumstances, how can we expect the man in the street to show any enthusiasm for Europe? In its Opinion on 'Making a success of the Single Act: a new frontier for Europe', the Economic and Social Committee calls, in its Opinion adopted by 113 votes for, 25 votes against and 27 abstentions, for establishment of the 'new frontier' Europe by 1992.

For the ESC, 'making a success of the Single Act' means:

providing the resources to meet the challenge facing the Community;

translating speeches about solidarity into everyday reality.

The Community-wide market must be accompanied by the development of a common economic and social dimension with the following features:

greater convergence of Member States' economic policies, so as to optimize their impact;

the will to keep the social dialogue going and to develop Community social legislation;

¹ CES 481/87.

strengthening of the European Monetary System, with a view to expanding the private use of the ECU and promoting it as a European currency;

an aggressive technological research and development policy to safeguard the future of Community industry and prevent a scientific and intellectual brain drain;

a stronger Community foreign trade policy.

The ESC believes that the financing arrangements must be equitable and must provide the Community with guaranteed stable and adequate own resources. All financing must be based on easy-to-understand criteria which are objective, verifiable and based on solidarity; this is incompatible with the concept of balancing budget contributions and receipts.

The ESC feels that the economic growth which will come about thanks to the size of the Community-wide market should take account of the need for social progress and, in keeping with true Community solidarity, should benefit everyone and thereby further the smooth creation of a people's Europe.

The impending profound changes in the fabric of industry — made necessary by the development of new technologies, and the company restructuring which will accompany the creation of a Community-wide market must not be allowed to exacerbate unemployment, or weaken our resolve to make progress on the social front and introduce measures to actively generate employment.

The ESC points out that negotiated measures in the area of manpower planning, organization of work, adaptation of working time and retraining are essential here. The persistent high level of unemployment is creating intolerable personal distress and is depriving the economy of useful manpower, particularly in the case of young people, whose integration into working life should be facilitated by appropriate training in the new technologies, which are essential for improving business competitiveness. The ESC therefore calls for a campaign against unemployment and genuine social protection for all.

Opening up the markets of the new Member States to the Community's most successful businesses will require measures (a) to enable the industry of these States to maintain their active presence in the Community-wide market, and (b) to reinforce the social and economic cohesion of the Community.

Finally, the ESC feels that the support of public opinion is necessary if the Single Act is to be a success. It therefore urges its members to

make an ongoing individual and joint effort to inform and convince the groups they represent. It is also necessary to make a larger impact on public opinion by securing significant progress towards a people's Europe, so as to gain public support and ensure a high turnout in the next European Parliament elections.

The rapporteur for this Opinion was Mr Burnel (France — Various Interests).

2. ADULT TRAINING

'Commission Communication on adult training in firms'
(COM(86) 780 final)

Gist of the Commission proposal

The growing importance of flexibility of the production process, the need to exploit the findings of research and development and higher expectations as regards production quality, are the decisive factors in the upgrading in Community undertakings of adult training. Adult training is now seen as an investment.

Training in firms is increasingly aimed at specific economic objectives. Economic goals and training goals are merged in a single programme. This interaction with economic goals is accompanied by a change in the ultimate aim and content of training policies. No longer is it a question of correcting certain effects of industrial restructuring and new technological processes: there is a need to anticipate, through adequate training policies, the effects of material investment, so as to improve its impact in terms of productivity and work organization.

The Communication seeks to identify the priorities for Community action in the field of in-firm training — as opposed to basic training — of adult employees and, in so doing, to give a new impetus to actions now under way.

The Communication is a follow-up to the conclusions of the Social Affairs Council of June 1986 and the Council Resolutions of June 1983 on vocational training in the 1980s and training measures relating to new technologies. It derives likewise from the conclusions of the Presidency of the European Council held in London on 5 and 6 December 1986, which stress the importance of Community action related to employment geared to promoting improved training for young people and adults. Finally, it takes account of the studies carried out by Cedefop and the experience acquired under the Tecnet programme.



Opening conference of the European Year of the Environment organized by the ESC in Luxembourg: from left to right, Mrs Miet Smet, Secretary of State for the Environment (Belgium), Mr Fons Margot, Chairman of the ESC and Mr Clinton Davis, Member of the Commission.

The Communication highlights the positive lessons to be learned from firms and the key components of the strategies to be implemented in the Member States. It concludes by proposing priorities for Community action.

Gist of the Committee Opinion¹

In its Opinion, which was adopted unanimously, the Committee underlines the growing importance of further vocational training. This is an inevitable consequence of the increasing pace of technological change and the high level of skills required of workers if firms are to survive in the increasingly harsh climate of world competition.

The Committee attaches particular importance to the need to provide specific support for the exchange of information between both sides of industry on the consequences of the increased use of new technologies. Balancing different interests, and thereby promoting acceptance for new technologies, is as much of a challenge for all concerned as the promotion of technological change itself. How this challenge is met will determine the dynamics of technological change and its social acceptability.

The Committee is therefore particularly keen on the Commission's proposal to support the efforts of both sides of industry to show the advantages of further training, both in terms of career prospects for workers and the increased technological competitiveness of firms.

The Committee agrees in principle with the Commission that the new information, telecommunications and audio-visual technologies can make a bigger contribution to the development of further training. Language barriers are, however, a problem.

The Committee also regards as particularly promising the proposal that firms should cooperate with training centres to develop practical training materials on, for example, technological innovation in firms.

And, generally speaking, the ESC feels that it is unrealistic to limit support to training in firms. External or inter-firm training establishments also fulfil an important role in individual Member States of the EC, complementing and extending the scope of training in firms.

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 472/87.

3. TRAINING OF YOUNG PEOPLE

'Proposal for a Council decision adopting an action programme for the training and preparation of young people for adult and working life' (COM(87) 90 final)

Gist of the Commission proposal

The aim of the Commission is to promote the extension, improvement and diversification of educational and vocational training facilities so as to ensure that all of the more than 53 million young people aged between 14 and 25 can, if they so wish, have one and if possible two years of vocational training in addition to compulsory school education.

The Commission proposes a programme spread over five years, beginning in 1987. The cost will be 4 225 000 ECU in the first year. Expenditure for the following years is estimated at 8 030 million ECU in 1988, 8.5 million in 1989, 9.3 million in 1990 and 10 million in 1991.

The Commission proposals are a direct response to the mandate of the European Council which, meeting in Milan on 28 and 29 June 1985, called on the Commission and Member States to transform into reality the measures proposed in the Adonnino Committee Report on the 'People's Europe'. This report emphasized the importance for the Community of a policy in favour of young people.

The action programme provides for implementation of the following measures during the duration of the programme (1987-92):

- (a) the launching of a European network of training partnership initiatives linking projects from the different Member States;
- (b) technical assistance in the vocational training field;
- (c) comparative research on vocational education and training issues;
- (d) co-sponsoring of surveys on youth training programmes and their effectiveness;
- (e) review of trends in vocational qualifications;
- (f) support for innovative information projects on the transition to adult and working life which involve young people in their planning, organization and implementation;
- (g) support for youth initiatives to encourage the development of entrepreneurial skills, responsibility and creativity amongst young people;
- (h) exchange of training specialists;
- (i) European conferences and reviews between policy makers and the social partners of the implementation of the Council decision.

Gist of the Committee Opinion¹

In its unanimous Opinion, the Committee first of all makes the point that economic development in the highly-industrialized countries is characterized on the one hand by an increasing shortage of jobs for lower-skilled workers, and on the other by a relative increase in the demand for well-trained specialists in all sectors of the economy and administration.

It also stresses that the European economy will not be able to compete at all on world markets unless Europe's human potential is fully exploited and well-trained specialists are turned out at all levels and in all branches of the economy and society.

The Committee then deals with the financial aspects of operating training schemes, the multiplicity of vocational training facilities in the Member States, and the problem of the comparability of training schemes.

With regard to the Commission's proposals, the Committee makes specific comments on:

- the additional efforts which need to be made to secure quantitative and qualitative improvements in vocational training opportunities for young persons, harmonizing these at the highest possible level;

- the fact that vocational training policy can neither dispense with, nor replace an active labour-market policy;

- the establishment of links between highly-developed and disadvantaged regions of the Community with the aim of initiating an intensive exchange of ideas that can be put to practical use;

- the development and gradual alignment of vocational training facilities for young people; the problem of the recognition of end-of-course diplomas; the development of language training;

- relations between training and labour market needs;

- the particular situation of young women;

- the training of instructors;

- the role of Cedefop (Centre européen pour le développement de la formation professionnelle).

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 486/87.

4. FOURTH ENVIRONMENTAL ACTION PROGRAMME

'Draft Resolution of the Council of the European Communities on the continuation and implementation of a European Community policy and action programme on the environment (1987-92)' (COM(86) 485 final)

Gist of the Commission proposal

The fourth action programme for the environment sets the framework in this area of EEC activity from 1987 to 1992 and outlines the measures which need to be taken. The programme marks an important new phase in Community policy, in which protection of the environment should become an integral part of economic and social policies and not just an optional extra.

The programme covers the following subjects:

- I. General policies and principles including:
 - better implementation of EC directives in national law;
 - integration with other Community policies;
 - economic and employment aspects;
 - information and education;
 - the overall approach, rather than the single-problem approach;
 - review of procedures regarding standards.
- II. Action in specific sectors:
 - further action in fields covered in previous programmes, e.g. air, water, chemicals, noise, waste, etc.;
 - proposed action in fields not previously dealt with, e.g. biotechnology, soil protection, nuclear safety, and Third World countries.

Gist of the Committee Opinion¹

In an Opinion, adopted by 81 votes for, 42 votes against and 17 abstentions, the Committee welcomes the fourth environmental action programme and the draft Council Resolution on the continuation and implementation of the environment policy. Protective and preventive environmental measures are important for safeguarding the fundamental prerequisites of life and the quality of life of all the Community's inhabitants and environmental protection concerns all areas of life, specialist interests and responsibility. Furthermore,

¹ CES 482/87.

everyone both influences and benefits from the environment. In view of this, the Community should determine standards for a progressive environmental policy.

The projected further development and upward alignment of substantive European environmental law is welcomed. The Committee sees this as a step towards strengthening the principle of taking preventive action, a principle which starts with measures to tackle the source of pollution or damage, brings older plants and products within the scope of the protective measures and requires resources to be used sparingly and damage to the environment to be avoided.

The Committee sees the following areas as priorities:

- the monitoring and assessment of existing conservation provisions and the adjustment of these provisions to technical progress, taking account of the economic and social impact;

- the incorporation of the conservation aspect in all policy areas and EC financial instruments (especially the Social Fund);

- precautionary measures, involving non-EC countries, to protect the Community against large-scale, international environmental pollution;

- environmental protection measures in frontier regions, to be brought about by promoting increased cooperation and participation on the part of those concerned;

- workers should be informed about environmental problems affecting businesses in order to enable them to participate in solving the problems.

Bearing in mind the importance of the environmental programme for economic, social and employment policy, the Committee recommends that the Commission, in implementing the programme, consult employers', workers' and environmental groups. The ground work should be done at Community level for collaboration of this type at local, regional and national level.

The Committee wants extensive use to be made of the powers set out in the Single European Act, in order to supplement Community environmental law. With a view to making more rapid progress in the environmental sector the Committee calls upon the Council of Ministers to make use of majority voting wherever possible.

As the Committee attaches great importance to the link between environmental and consumer protection, it urges the Commission to devise policies for promoting the marketing and use of products which are not harmful to the environment. The press, radio and other media should be called upon to give greater publicity to such

products and to issue warnings against the use of products which are harmful to the environment.

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 Boisseree (Germany — Various Interests).

5. 11th ANNUAL ERDF REPORT

'Eleventh Annual Report (1985) to the Council by the Commission — European Regional Development Fund' (COM(86) 545 final)

Gist of the Commission document

The report details the ERDF's activities in 1985, a key year for regional development, for several reasons: 10th anniversary of the Fund's creation, first year of application of the new revised Regulation, inclusion of regional policy in the Single European Act.

The report first gives the general economic background to regional policy in 1985, and goes on to examine coordination with national regional policies.

Chapter Two explains in some detail the purpose, operating criteria and history of the Fund from its creation in 1975 through to 1985.

Chapter Three details Fund activity in 1985.

This activity was marked by a major drive to encourage productive investment, as previous reports had been criticized for concentrating too heavily on support for infrastructure (this being easier for the Member States). Controls were stepped up, as was press and public information.

Chapters Four and Five cover specific Community regional development measures and ERDF participation in Community integrated development operations.

Chapter Six and the Appendices provide more detailed statistical data on the various Member States and intervention areas.

Lastly, a bibliography of 1985 publications provides a useful Appendix to a report which is quite up to the standard of the previous two reports, which the Committee praised at the time.

Gist of the Committee Opinion¹

In its Opinion, adopted unanimously, with two abstentions, the Committee stresses that regional policy will never achieve the desired reduction in regional imbalance without a fundamental change in other Community policies. This is the logical conclusion to be drawn from the report, borne out by the fact that ERDF resources remain wholly inadequate despite a steady relative increase (of around 7% per year).

The Opinion again stresses that a successful regional policy depends on the coordination of national regional policies and the involvement of regional authorities in its implementation.

Greater coordination of the relevant Commission services is still needed, and procedures need to be made more flexible.

This Opinion was drawn up in the light of the paper produced by the Section for Regional Development and Town and Country Planning, chaired by Mr Dassis (Greece — Workers). The rapporteur was Mr Della Croce (Italy — Workers).

6. LAWNMOWERS

'Proposal for a Council directive amending Directive 84/538/EEC on the approximation of the laws of the Member States relating to the permissible sound-power level of lawnmowers' (COM(86) 682 final)

Gist of the Commission proposal

The proposal seeks to amend Directive 84/538/EEC by introducing a permissible sound pressure level at the operator's position for lawnmowers with a cutting width exceeding 120cm. It also stipulates the method for measuring these levels.

The proposed levels are based on the results of measurements taken in respect of several types of lawnmowers. Although the results ranged from 95dB(A) down to 86dB(A), a limit of 92dB(A) has been proposed because of the limited scale of the sample.

¹ CES 485/87.

Gist of the Committee Opinion¹

The Committee has adopted its Opinion on this subject unanimously.

It questions the utility of the present proposal. The Committee would have preferred to see it integrated in a forthcoming proposal from the Commission dealing globally with the larger question of barriers to trade and noise emissions from lawnmowers of all categories.

Also the basic Directive now being amended is based on the *emission* control principle. It sets a sound power level for lawnmowers: mowers exceeding this level cannot be put on the European market. It is now proposed to amend this Directive with a requirement that has the character of an *immission* control. The result is confusion: two control principles now are mixed.

Finally, although the Committee recognizes that the requirements under the basic Directive are applicable as from 1 July 1987 it finds it unrealistic to expect the current proposal to become operative from that date.

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 Pearson (Ireland — Employers).

7. TEMPORARY IMPORTATION OF CERTAIN MEANS OF TRANSPORT

'Proposal for a Council directive amending Directive 83/182/EEC on tax exemptions within the Community for certain means of transport temporarily imported into one Member State from another' (COM(87) 14 final)

Gist of the Commission document

Obstacles to the free movement of vehicles registered in one Member State and used in another are one of the most sensitive problem areas for individuals within the Community. Though Directive 83/182/EEC on tax exemptions within the Community for certain temporarily imported means of transport solved some of these obstacles, a number of problems persist, mostly due to the fact that an individual from one Member State is not allowed to drive in his own country a temporarily imported private vehicle registered in another Member State.

¹ CES 473/87.

The Commission is therefore proposing that Directive 83/182/EEC be amended so as to allow use by a resident of the Member State of importation in certain specified cases (e.g. re-hire, students, etc.).

Gist of the Committee Opinion¹

The Economic and Social Committee has adopted unanimously its Opinion on this subject.

It supports the Commission proposal, but fears that the new arrangements under Article 4 of the Directive may lead to abuse of temporary import concessions in respect of company cars.

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 Broicher (Germany — Employers).

8. VAT EXEMPTION

'Proposal for a Council directive amending for the third time Directive 83/181/EEC determining the scope of Article 14(1)(d) of Directive 77/388/EEC as regards exemption from value added tax on the final importation of certain goods' (COM(87) 21 final)

Gist of the Commission document

Council Directive 83/181/EEC lays down a Community system of exemptions from VAT at import which is closely linked to the Community system of duty reliefs laid down in Council Regulation (EEC) No 918/83. As the Commission has felt it necessary to propose certain amendments to Regulation (EEC) No 918/83, a proposal which the ESC unanimously endorsed, similar action needs to be taken with respect to Directive 83/181.

However, despite the obvious practical advantages maintaining identical reliefs for VAT and duty purposes, the Commission feels that certain reliefs from duty should not be extended to VAT, in order to avoid distortion of competition, and has specifically excluded from this proposal the definitive relief which has been proposed in the customs field for imports of apparatus used in medical research.

¹ CES 474/87.

The Commission considers that the present optional exemption for imports of negligible value should be made compulsory for items imported into one Member State from another, and that the present exemption for printed advertising matter should be made wider in scope where it relates to services offered by a person established within the Community.

The Commission is also proposing that two new exemptions from VAT which primarily concern imports into one Member State from another should be added to Article 79 of Directive 83/181/EEC. These exemptions, which apply to mint postage stamps, official publications and election material, were originally put forward in the proposal for a 19th VAT Directive, but the Commission considers that it would now be logical to take this opportunity to include them within Directive 83/181.

Finally, the Commission proposes that Article 46(1) of Directive 83/181 be amended. This Article reflects the fiscal obligations of Member States under the Nairobi Protocol to the Florence Agreement on the importation of educational, scientific and cultural goods, and the amendment is intended to bring Community legislation fully into line with paragraph 3 of the Protocol. It should be noted that, since the VAT and customs duty reliefs in this particular context are not the same, no comparable amendment has been proposed to Regulation (EEC) No 918/83.

Gist of the Committee Opinion¹

In an Opinion, adopted unanimously, the ESC endorses the Commission proposal. However, it feels that the new arrangements under Article 1(1) on total tax exemption for goods imported from another Member State could have been somewhat more generous.

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 Broicher (Germany — Employers).

¹ CES 475/87.

9. OWN FUNDS OF CREDIT INSTITUTIONS

'Proposal for a Council directive on the own funds of credit institutions' (COM(86) 169 final/2)

Gist of the Commission document

Article 1 of the first coordination Directive of 12 December 1977 contains a definition of own funds that proved sufficient in the initial stage of harmonization. However, in the light of the further moves towards harmonization and the rapid development of the credit industry since 1977, it has become clear that this definition is inadequate.

A more precise definition containing all the items that may be treated as the capital of a credit institution is becoming increasingly necessary, especially since the implementation of the Directive on the supervision of credit institutions on a consolidated basis.

Capital adequacy is a cornerstone of banking supervision; a definition of own funds is thus an essential requirement for future banking coordination.

Own funds in a credit institution serve a number of purposes. Firstly, they finance a credit institution's business, especially when it starts its operations. The own funds of a credit institution can be used to absorb losses and therefore are a guarantee for the stability and the continuity of the institution: their role in this respect is essential in maintaining the confidence of depositors. They are also a yardstick for measuring the solvency of the institution and other factors which play a vital role in banking supervision.

Since Member States currently use a variety of methods to calculate a credit institution's capital resources, the Commission is seeking to establish common standards for the measurement of own funds. Through the adoption of common criteria, the authorities in charge of banking supervision will be sure of a basic equivalence of supervision standards in all Member States.

The proposal is defined in broad terms and provides a maximum of elements and amounts in order to encompass the various elements comprising own funds in the different Member States, leaving Member States the possibility of excluding certain elements or adopting lower ceilings for the amounts in question.

The present Directive represents only a preliminary stage in a process to define more strictly the criteria under which elements will qualify as own funds. In addition, flexible procedure for the revision and amendment of this Directive is already included.

Gist of the Committee Opinion¹

The Committee has adopted its Opinion by a large majority with 7 votes against and 10 abstentions.

It trusts that all the conditions for the completion of a real European internal market will soon be satisfied.

The Committee has learned of a draft agreement between the United Kingdom and the USA on the establishment of common procedures for the calculation of an assets: risks ratio, with substantially the same aim as the present proposal. It stresses the need to ensure that the provisions of this agreement conform with those of the directive once the latter has been adopted.

On the substance of the proposal, the ESC feels that the distinction between internal and external elements stems from an admirable concern to present clearly the various parts of own funds and to encompass the maximum number of the various elements comprising own funds in the Member States.

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 Pelletier (France — Employers).

10. TYPE APPROVAL OF TRACTORS

'Proposal for a Council directive amending Directive 74/150/EEC on the approximation of the laws of the Member States relating to the type approval of wheeled agricultural or forestry tractors' (COM(86) 777 final)

Gist of the Commission proposal

As the Commission feels that the advisory committee procedure is the most suitable in the field covered by Directive 74/150/EEC on the EEC type approval of wheeled agricultural or forestry tractors, it is proposing that Article 13 be amended to enable this procedure to replace that currently used for adapting the directive to technical progress.

In addition, Annex II in the basic directive is to be amended so that certain parts, such as foot-rests, are to be checked to ensure confor-

¹ CES 487/87.

mity with the particulars in the information document supplied by the manufacturer, rather than with the harmonized requirements.

Gist of the Committee Opinion¹

The Committee adopted unanimously an Opinion approving the Commission proposal. It recognizes the need for speed and efficiency in the decision-making process at the Commission, but notes that consultation of the Economic and Social Committee under Article 100 A, paragraph 1, of the Treaty is not prejudiced by the new procedures deriving from the Single Act and the Community's new approach to technical harmonization; moreover it must be ensured that all the organizations concerned (industry, employers, farmers, small businessmen, consumers and workers' representatives) are consulted on all matters affecting safety and health.

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 Masprone (Italy — Employers).

11. CABOTAGE — ROAD TRANSPORT

'Proposal for a Council Regulation laying down the conditions under which non-resident carriers may operate national road haulage services within a Member State' (COM(85) 611 final)

Gist of the Proposal

The purpose of the proposal is to allow road hauliers to offer their services on other Member States' domestic markets. This practice is known as cabotage. The Commission presented an initial proposal on this subject in 1967² and a second one — which is still pending at the Council — in 1982.³ The new proposal, which supersedes the latter, represents a move towards the total liberalization of access to the market. It will allow non-resident carriers to make a maximum of two hauls in another Member State on the return leg of an international haul. Each cabotage operation must take place within the same Member State. These hauls will be subject to the national laws of that Member State, but not to national quotas or authorizations.

¹ CES 476/87.

² OJ 254 of 20 October 1967, page 1.

³ OJ C 18 of 22 January 1983, page 3.

The Commission thinks that if its proposal is adopted, lorries will be able to be used more efficiently and significant savings will be able to be made, for lorries returning home without a load account for between 16 and 30% of international road haulage traffic.

Member States currently forbid non-resident hauliers from operating on their domestic markets. This would change on 1 January 1987, when the proposed rules are to take effect.

Gist of the Committee Opinion¹

In its Opinion, adopted by a large majority, 2 votes against and one abstention, the Committee calls on the Commission to present forthwith an overview, on which the Committee would be consulted, containing the following information:

A list of all liberalization measures to be taken in the transport sector by 1992;

A list of the concurrent harmonization measures required for the sound development of the transport market;

A timetable for the phased implementation of harmonization and liberalization measures;

An analysis and assessment of the possible social, economic and technical consequences of these measures in the individual Member States for the different modes of transport and the drawing-up of a programme of social back-up measures;

Finally, the Economic and Social Committee asks the Commission to study the effects of the policies of certain non-member transit countries as they affect the Member States of the Community. It considers that the implementation of the principle of freedom to provide services within the Community could in fact be considerably impeded if transit is not guaranteed equally for all Member States.

For this reason the Committee cannot give its unqualified approval to the Commission proposal.

This Opinion was drawn up in the light of the paper produced by the Section for Transport and Communications, chaired by Mr Delourme (Belgium — Workers). The rapporteur was Mr Bleser (Luxembourg — Workers).

¹ CES 483/87.

12. COMMUNITY QUOTA/ CARRIAGE OF GOODS BY ROAD

'Proposal for a Council regulation amending Regulation (EEC) No 3164/76 on the Community quota for the carriage of goods by road between Member States'
(COM(87) 118 final)

Gist of the Commission document

On 13 November 1986 the Commission presented to the Council a proposal for a Council regulation, on access to the market for the carriage of goods by road between Member States.¹ *Inter alia*, this proposal provides for an increase of 40% in the Community quota for 1987 in line with the Council's conclusions of June 1986.

However, as the Council is not yet in a position to adopt this regulation, the Commission has proposed increasing and distributing Community authorizations for 1987 by means of an *ad hoc* regulation. In particular, the proposal provides that the total number of Community authorizations which are allocated to all Member States for 1987 is set at 11 535.

The proposal is based on the Commission Decision of 30 September 1986² which was confirmed by the Council in Decision 86/647/EEC of 16 December 1986.³ The Commission Decision envisaged an increase of 15% in the Community quota for 1987.

With regard to the increase in the Community quota for 1987, the ESC has already expressed certain views in its November 1986 Opinion⁴ on Article 2 of the Draft Regulation contained in COM(86) 595 final.

Gist of the Committee Opinion⁵

The Committee has adopted its Opinion unanimously with 9 abstentions. It notes that the Commission has been led to abandon its earlier approach and to present an *ad hoc* proposal reflecting a more pragmatic approach pending further discussion on the Commission documents on market access and tax harmonization. The Commission proposal under consideration is thus concerned solely with

¹ COM(86) 595 final/2.

² Decision 86/491/EEC, OJ L 285 of 8 October 1986, p. 29.

³ OJ L 382 of 31 December 1986, p. 2.

⁴ CES 966/86 of 26 November 1986.

⁵ CES 484/87.

an increase in the Community quota in the course of 1987 (the deadline of 1 April 1987 in the Commission document has now passed).

The Commission document envisages an overall increase of 55.1% in relation to Regulation (EEC) No 3677/85 (11 535 authorizations as compared with 7 437), but in relation to Commission Decision 86/491/EEC (11 535 compared with 9 386) the overall increase is only 22.9%. If the Council were to bring the Commission proposal into force by 1 July 1987, the expansion of capacity linked with the increase in the Community quota could be reasonable.

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

13. ASOR-SWITZERLAND AGREEMENT

'Proposal for a Council decision on the provisional application between the Community and Switzerland of Sections II and III of the Agreement on the international carriage of passengers by road by means of occasional coach and bus services (ASOR)' (COM(87) 151 final)

Gist of the Commission document

The Agreement on the international carriage of passengers by road of occasional coach and bus services (ASOR)¹ came into force in Switzerland on 1 January 1987. Article 18(4) of the Agreement provides that the provisions of Sections II and III of the ASOR should come into effect in Switzerland seven months later, i.e. on 1 August 1987.

However, Switzerland has requested the other Contracting Parties to bring this date forward to 1 April 1987 because the introduction of these provisions in the very middle of the tourist season (1 August) would cause practical and economic difficulties for the country.

The Commission therefore proposes that the Council meet Switzerland's request.

¹ This Agreement was published in OJ L 230 of 5 August 1982, p. 38. The ESC declared itself in favour of this Agreement in its Opinion of 26 May 1982 (OJ C 205 of 9 August 1982, p. 1).

Gist of the Committee Opinion¹

In its Opinion, adopted unanimously, with one abstention, the Committee approves the Commission's proposal to accept Switzerland's request to bring forward the date on which the provisions of Sections II and III of the ASOR are to apply to Switzerland.

It agrees with the Commission that there are good grounds for bringing forward this date by four months. Above all, the implementation of the provisions on 1 August, i.e. in the middle of the tourist season, would cause practical and economic problems.

However, the ESC cannot accept the new date proposed, namely 1 April 1987, and suggest 1 June 1987 instead so that the Council can consult the Committee and the European Parliament before taking its decision.

This Opinion was drawn up in the light of the paper produced by the Section for Transport and Communications, chaired by Mr Delourme (Belgium — Workers). The rapporteur was Mr Bleser (Luxembourg — Workers).

14. JAMS

'Proposal for a Council directive amending Directive 79/693/EEC on the approximation of the laws of the Member States relating to fruit jams, jellies and marmalades, and chestnut purée'

Gist of the Commission proposal

The main purpose of the draft directive is to delegate to the Commission the management of the *aquis communautaire* relating to fruit jams, jellies and marmalades and chestnut purée as governed by Council Directive 79/693/EEC of 24 July 1979.

Experience gained since the adoption of Directive 79/693/EEC has revealed the need for several amendments not caused by technical progress and for clarification of certain provisions whose interpretation is not clear. In the Commission's view advantage should be taken of this proposal for a Council Directive to make the necessary amendments and clarification. In particular:

- (a) The term 'chestnut purée' used in the English version of the directive does not make it sufficiently clear that the product

¹ CES 478/87.

- concerned is in fact a sort of jam. It should therefore be specified that it is a sweetened product.
- (b) The Commission no longer intends to propose the adoption of directives containing quality specifications. It is therefore necessary to delete the directive article which provides for a measure of this kind with regard to low-sugar products.
 - (c) The Commission considers it justified to inform consumers of the presence of sulphur dioxide in the products concerned on the understanding that it is generally accepted that values not exceeding 10 mg/kg may be ignored.
 - (d) The Commission proposes to make it clear that the tolerance for the labelling of sugar content is a tolerance in absolute terms, which is necessary for technical reasons.
 - (e) The new Article 8(a) proposed by the Commission delegates to the Commission management of the *acquis communautaire* in the field governed by the directive.
 - (f) The adoption of identity and purity criteria for products and substances which may be added should be delegated to the Commission.
 - (g) The Commission proposes that the case of certain additives should not be settled specifically at present, but should be dealt with in the more general context of the future Community regulations on food additives.
 - (h) The Commission proposes that the addition of red fruit juices should be authorized not only in jams (of ordinary quality) as at present, but also in extra jams.
 - (i) In the Commission's view the proposed directive takes account of the fact that, pursuant to Directive 86/102/EEC, amidated pectin has been put on the same footing as pectin since 'in the light of recent toxicological investigations' the two substances 'can be considered as equivalent'.

Gist of the Committee Opinion¹

The Committee unanimously approves the Commission proposal subject to certain observations about, in particular, the elimination of sulphur dioxide from foodstuffs and the difficulty caused by the term 'marmalade', which because of well-established food traditions, refers to different products in the various EC languages.

¹ CES 479/87.

This Opinion was drawn up in the light of the paper produced by the Section for Agriculture, chaired by Mr Lopez de la Puerta (Spain — Various Interests). The rapporteur was Mr Proumens (Belgium — Employers).

15. RADIOACTIVITY LEVELS/FOODSTUFFS

'Proposal for a Council regulation laying down maximum permitted radioactivity levels for agricultural products and drinking water' (COM(87) 28 final)

General background and gist of the Commission document

Following the Chernobyl nuclear accident, the Community was faced with the problem of the radioactive contamination of foodstuffs and the absence of Community or international standards laying down limits for the contamination of foodstuffs which may be placed on the market.

This situation has led to the Community taking a number of emergency measures to regulate, among other things, agricultural imports. It has also 'highlighted the need to establish tolerance limits for the radioactive contamination of foodstuffs. Such limits would apply equally to all domestic production and imported products'.

As early as May 1986 the Council adopted a regulation 'on the conditions governing imports of agricultural products originating in third countries, following the accident at the Chernobyl nuclear power-station'. (Regulation No 1707/86 — OJ L 146 of 31 May 1986, supplemented by Regulation No 1762/86 — OJ L 152 of 5 June 1986).

This Regulation, which lays down maximum tolerances for the contamination of imported foodstuffs, was applicable until 30 September 1986 but has been extended until 28 February 1987 (Regulation No 3020/86 — OJ L 280 of 1 October 1986).

Considering that stocks of products harvested during the period following the Chernobyl accident may still be presented for import into the Community after the expiry of this Regulation, the Commission proposed that it be extended a second time until 28 February 1988. The Council however accepted the new extension only until 31 October 1987 (Regulation No 624/87 — OJ L 58 of 28 February 1987).

The Commission has also presented to the Council a Communication on 'a permanent system for establishing limits for the radioactive

contamination of drinking water and agricultural products in the case of a nuclear accident' to which is appended the proposal for a Council Regulation on which the Committee is asked to deliver an Opinion.

The Commission proposes to lay down 'the maximum permitted levels of radioactive contamination of drinking water and of agricultural products which may be placed on the market or exported following a nuclear accident or any other event which has led to significant contamination of agricultural products or drinking water'.

The Commission considers, however, that it is inappropriate to lay down rigid contamination limits for drinking water and agricultural products beyond which such products can no longer be placed on the market or exported. The proposal for a Regulation consequently lays down the procedure to be followed to render these maximum permitted radioactivity levels applicable and to allow, if necessary, such levels to be adapted to the real situation created by the accident or event.

Gist of the Committee Opinion¹

The ESC has adopted its Opinion unanimously. It notes that the shortcomings in dealing with radioactive contamination of water and foodstuffs arose through the diversity of the measures taken by the Member States. There is an urgent need to lay down tolerance limits for radioactive contamination.

The ESC Opinion stresses the need to establish a Community system for the rapid exchange of information so that when an accident occurs, especially in a third country, the Community is supplied with accurate information and can act accordingly. Without such a system, as set out by the ESC in its Opinion of February 1987, all future efforts will be in vain.

Ten years ago, in 1977, before the Chernobyl accident, the ESC called for the establishment of a Community Nuclear Safety Code. Once again, in 1987, the ESC reiterates the need for the public to be fully informed about the risks of consuming contaminated food. An emergency plan should be drawn up which would include safety measures to be taken by the public authorities, producers, traders and the general public according to the degree of contamination.

¹ CES 480/87.

Contaminated products — intended for either animal or human consumption — should not be placed on the market or exported. All the Member States should ban the import of such products from third countries. The countries should report the accident, monitor the radioactivity and inform the Commission which will fix the admissible level and take specific measures for the 12 Member States.

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 Saiu (France — Workers).

16. LEAD IN PETROL

'Commission proposal to amend Directive 85/210/EEC on the approximation of the laws of the Member States concerning the lead content of petrol' (COM(87) 33 final)

Gist of the Commission document

Council Directive No 85/210/EEC of 20 March 1985 on the lead content of petrol required Member States to reduce to 0.15g Pb/l the permissible content of lead compounds in leaded petrol on their markets as soon as they deemed appropriate, and obliged them to take the necessary measures to ensure that unleaded petrol was available and evenly distributed throughout their countries by 1 October 1987.

Given that serious environmental and health hazards have been recorded and attributed to lead, and that leaded petrol is a major cause of lead pollution, the Commission now proposes to permit Member States to prohibit the sale of regular leaded petrol.

However, as an immediate ban by Member States on the sale of regular leaded petrol could have serious commercial consequences, the Commission proposes a sixth-month transition period so that neither producers, retailers nor consumers suffer the effects of sudden changes with respect to the marketing of regular leaded petrol.

Gist of the Committee Opinion¹

The Committee has adopted its Opinion unanimously, with two abstentions. It emphasizes that everything must be done to ensure

¹ CES 477/87.

that this proposal is a success, for a mere change from leaded regular to leaded premium might not by itself result in a reduction of lead in the environment in line with the stated objectives of the proposal.

The Committee is aware that, strictly speaking, national bans on the sale of leaded regular petrol represent an obstacle to trade. Despite this, it believes that the present proposal is justified above all by the need to protect the environment and public health, and by its beneficial effect on speeding up the introduction of unleaded petrol in the Community, not least because of the rather theoretical nature of such trade restrictions.

The Committee however, invites the Council to call on Member States to proceed with this elimination of leaded regular petrol from their national market in close consultation with the interested parties.

It is of the opinion that the national restrictions on the sale of regular leaded petrol inherent in the present proposal could raise problems with regard to the achievement of an internal market by 1993. However, it is to be expected that by 1993, market forces and the restrictions applied in the meantime will most likely have completely eliminated demand for leaded regular petrol.

The Committee is pleased to note that the Commission has studied the implications of its proposal for small and medium-sized enterprises.

It also agrees with the Commission's assurance that some motorists will be faced with a slight increase in costs, which, however, is justifiable as a direct consequence of the move towards a significant reduction in the pollution of the atmosphere. An important percentage of cars which use regular petrol are able to run on unleaded petrol, which — in some countries at least — is cheaper than leaded regular petrol due to tax incentives.

Moreover, the Committee is of the opinion that measures should be taken by the Community, the national governments and the industries concerned to ensure an appropriate level of consumer information and information for motorists on the ability of their vehicles to use unleaded petrols.

In this context, the Committee repeats its proposal that unleaded petrol should become effectively available throughout the Community earlier than the 1989 mandatory deadline.

Finally, the Committee wishes to reiterate the desirability of a complete elimination of lead from petrol.

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 Poeton (United Kingdom — Employers).

External relations

Chairman's activities

The Chairman, Mr Margot, and the Secretary-General, Mr Louet, met Mr Martens, Prime Minister of Belgium and President-in-Office of the Council, in Brussels on 15 April.

The Chairman, Mr Margot, accompanied by Mr Amato, Mr Gardner and Mr Lopez de la Puerta, Committee Members, Mr d'Aloya, Council representative, the Director-General of the Committee, Mr Graziosi, and Mr C. Laval, met Mr Früh, Vice-Chairman of the Agriculture Committee of the European Parliament, and Mr Marck, the European Parliament's rapporteur on farm prices, at a luncheon in Brussels on 23 April.

Mr Margot and Mr Louet had a meeting with Mr Evans, Chairman of the ESC Consultative Committee, in Brussels on 24 April.

The Bureau of the Economic and Social Committee, chaired by Mr Margot, held a meeting in Bruges on 28 April to discuss the Committee's position on the Single Act, designed to revitalize the idea of Europe.

From 6-8 May Mr Margot attended the 1987 Spring Congress of the International Association of Crafts and Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises, held in Lisbon.

On 4 and 5 May Mr Margot attended the 6th meeting of European Community Savings Banks, held in Berlin. He made a statement at the meeting.

Other activities

Mr Goris, member of the ESC, had a meeting with Mr Pfeiffer, Member of the European Commission, in Brussels on 27 April.

Mr Roseingrave, member of the ESC, took part in a public hearing on tourism held on 27 and 28 April.

Mr Campbell and Mr Saiu, Committee members, attended a seminar organized by the Commission of the European Communities from 27-29 April, on intervention levels following a nuclear accident.



Joint meeting of the ESC and the EFTA Consultative Committee in Basle on 1 and 2 April — from right to left, Mr Louet, Secretary-General of the ESC, Mr F. Margot, Chairman of the ESC, Mr R. Spani, representative of the central Swedish employees' organization, and Mr Per Kleppe, Secretary-General of EFTA.

A study group on 'Road taxes and tolls' met in Madrid on 28 and 29 April. A press conference on this subject took place on 29 April under the chairmanship of Mr Correll Ayora, a member of the Committee. Other Committee members who took part were Mr Delourme and Mr Moreland.

On 4 and 5 May a delegation of the Economic and Social Committee, including the study group on 'The 4th environment programme', 'Community action on the environment' and 'Environment and employment' met in Bilbao to exchange information with the local authorities and the socio-economic representatives of the Basque country. A press conference was held on 5 May. The following Committee members attended: Mrs Williams, Mr Jaschick, Mr Boisserie, Mr Springborg and Mr Laka Martin.

Mrs Parr, from the ESC Secretariat, attended a meeting of the Regional Council's Standing Committee, held in Venice on 4 and 5 May.

Mr Whitworth and Mr Eulen, Committee members, took part in a symposium organized by Mr Clinton Davis, member of the Commission, and Mr Herman De Croo, President-in-Office of the Council, on the future of the Community's fleet, held on 6 and 7 May. Mr Brunagel, from the ESC Secretariat, was also present.

Mr Amato, Committee member, attended the 3rd Conference of regions benefiting under the integrated Mediterranean programmes (IMPs), held in Heraklion from 7-9 May.

The ESC's participation in the European celebrations in Brussels

The purpose of the 'European festivities' is to celebrate, along with the 320 million inhabitants of Europe, the European Community which has been created by and for its citizens. 1987 marks the 30th anniversary of the signing of the Treaty of Rome. As Belgium has held the presidency of the European Council during the first six months of the year, a number of impressive events have been organized in Brussels. They will take place in the Cinquantenaire Park from 28-30 June, and more than 150 000 people are expected to attend.

The 'European festivities' have been organized by a committee set up specially for the occasion by the Union of European Federalists and a Belgian company, 'Bruxelles-Promotion'. The patrons of these festivities are His Majesty King Baudouin, the European Parliament, the Commission of the EC and the Economic and Social Committee



The meeting 'Environment' in Bilbao on 4 and 5 May. From left to right: Mr Otamendi (Basque Government), Mrs Williams, Mr Jaschick (ESC Members), Mr Kuby (ESC Director), Mr Boisseree, Mr Springborg and Mr Laka Martin (ESC members).

of the EC. The ESC Chairman, Mr Fons Margot, will act as spokesman for the Community's economic and social interests groups on Sunday, 28 June. There will be an ESC stand with a video and other information about its work. The ESC will also participate in a variety of cultural, scientific and sporting events and in a round table of international journalists.

New consultations

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

'Amended proposal for a Council directive relating to indirect taxes on transactions in securities' (COM(87) 139 final)

'Proposal for a Council Regulation (EEC) establishing a Community system of aids to agricultural income'

'Proposal for a Council Regulation (EEC) establishing a Community scheme to encourage the cessation of farming'

'Proposal for a Council Regulation (EEC) establishing a framework system for national aids to agricultural income' (COM(87) 166 final)

'Proposal for a Council Regulation on common rules for the international carriage of passengers by coach and bus' (COM(87) 79 final)

'Proposal for a Council directive amending Directive 84/538/EEC on the approximation of the laws of the Member States relating to the permissible sound-power level of lawnmowers' (COM(87) 133 final)

'Proposal for a Council decision with regard to the consolidated resolution on the facilitation of road transport of the United Nations' Economic Commission for Europe' (COM(84) 552 final)

'Lateral protection of motor vehicles' (COM(87) 132 final)

'Agricultural tractors' (COM(87) 194 final)

'Competition policy' (COM(87) 180 final)

'Weights and dimensions — road vehicles' (COM(87) 220 final)

Outline programme of future work

July 1987 Plenary Session

Opinions upon consultation

- Economic situation in the Community
- Social developments
- Financing of major Community infrastructure projects (COM(86) 722 final)
- Protection of workers (COM(86) 296 final)
- Import and export of dangerous chemicals (COM(86) 362 final)
- Sound laboratory practices (COM(86) 698 final)
- Toy safety (COM(86) 541 final)
- Environment action (COM(86) 729 final)
- Small and medium-sized enterprises' action programme (COM(86) 445 final)
- Eleventh company law Directive (COM(86) 397 final)
- Publication of accounting documents (COM(86) 396 final)
- Public works contract procedures (COM(86) 679 final)
- Pricing of medicinal products (COM(86) 765 final)
- Fluid fertilizers (COM(86) 704 final)
- Type approval of motor vehicles (COM(87) 26 final)
- Roadworthiness of motor vehicles and trailers (COM(87) 109 final)
- OJ publication of attestations and certificates (COM(87) 44 final)
- Technical standards and regulations (COM(87) 52 final)
- Market access (COM(86) 595 final/2)
- Fiscal competition distortions in road haulage (COM(86) 750 final)
- Pan-European mobile communications (COM(87) 35 final)
- Speed limits (COM(86) 735 final)
- Lawnmower sound power levels (COM(87) 133 final)

Egg products (COM(87) 46 final)
Liqueur wines (COM(87) 91 final)
Broadcasting activities (COM(86) 146 final)

Own-initiative Opinions

Consequences of the Chernobyl nuclear accident
Island region problems

Subsequent Plenary Sessions

Opinions upon consultations

Cosmetic products (COM(87) 74 final)
Winding-up of direct insurance undertakings (COM(86) 768 final)
Annual accounts of insurance undertakings (COM(86) 764 final)
Official testing of foodstuffs (COM(86) 747 final)
Farm incomes support (COM(87) 166 final)
Indirect taxes on share transactions (COM(87) 139 final)
Environment programme — employment creation (COM(86) 721 final)
Spilling of hydrocarbons at sea (COM(87) 120 final)
Aldrin waste (COM(86) 534 final)
Business and innovation centre (COM(86) 785 final)
Building products (COM(86) 756 final/3)
Sixteenth competition report
Public supply contract procedures (COM(87) 134 final)
Passenger cabotage (COM(87) 31 final)
Common rules for international passenger transport (COM(87) 79 final)
Five-year JRC programme
Ionizing radiation (COM(87) 121 final)
GSP 1988
Role and promotion of the private sector

Information Report

Social aspects of the internal market
Development of upland areas
Employment and training of research workers

GATT

ACP debt burden

Relations between the Community and the Mediterranean countries

Own-initiative Opinions

Trans-frontier employment policy problems

Relations between the Community and the State-trading countries

Social aspects of sea fisheries

Personal announcements

Nominations

The Council of Ministers has just nominated two new members of the Economic and Social Committee:

Mrs Tiemann (Federal Republic of Germany), a lawyer and consultant to various medical organizations in Germany. She replaces Mrs Heuser.

Mr Jean Gayetot (Belgium), Secretary-General of the Belgian General Federation of Labour (FGTB) and Chairman of the FGTB's Inter-régionale Wallonne (Walloon Regional Section). He replaces Mr Delourme.

PUBLICATIONS OBTAINABLE FROM THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMITTEE

General documentation

The other European Assembly, January 1987 (CES 87-004)
European Union, a people's Europe and the Economic and Social Committee
(Committee Chairman Muhr's speeches to the *ad hoc* Committees for
Institutional Affairs and a people's Europe), 1985 (EX-43-85-35)

Opinions and studies

National regional development aid (Opinion) (Brussels 1986)
EEC maritime transport policy (Brussels, June 1986) (ESC 86-008-EN)
Europe and the new technologies — Research/Industry/Social (Brussels 1986)
(ESC 86-004-EN)
Demographic situation in the Community (Information report) (Brussels 1986)
Occupational medicine — occupational cancer (1985)
Consumer-producer dialogue (Opinion) (January 1985) (ESC 84-011)
Europe and the new technologies (Conference report) (January 1985)
(ESC 84-016)
Irish border areas (Information report) (February 1984) (ESC 84-002)
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 3.50, UKL 2.50, USD 3.50,
IRL 2.70). Annual subscription: ECU 27.70, UKL 19.80, USD 29, IRL 21.20)
Effects of the CAP on the social situation of farmworkers in the European
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