

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL CONSULTATIVE ASSEMBLY

BULLETIN

LIBRARY



EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES
ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMITTEE

Brussels - No 12/1986

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 Bruxelles

Tel. 519 90 11

Telegrams: ECOSEUR
Telex: 25 983 CESEUR

Catalogue number: ESC 87-002-EN

Luxembourg: Office for Official Publications of the European Communities, 1987

Catalogue number: EX-AA-86-012-EN-C

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

Printed in Belgium

Contents

	<i>Page</i>
242nd PLENARY SESSION	3
— Summary of the speech by Mrs Lynda Chalker	3
Opinions adopted	5
1. Local employment initiatives (Own-initiative Opinion) ...	5
2. Integrated operations (Own-initiative Opinion)	6
3. Public supply contracts	8
4. Aid to shipbuilding	10
5. 1985 medium-term transport infrastructure programme...	12
6. Antioxidants	13
7. Fresh meat	14
8. Brucellosis	15
9. Wine sector	15
10. Sheep and goatmeat	17
11. RACE	18
EXTERNAL RELATIONS	21
Chairman's activities	21
Other activities	21
Annual meeting of ACP and EEC socioeconomic organizations groups	22
Conclusions of the conference on the cooperative, mutual and non-profit sectors: contributions to the construction of Europe	23
NEW CONSULTATIONS	25
OUTLINE PROGRAMME OF FUTURE WORK ...	26
MEMBERS' NEWS	29
PROVISIONAL FUTURE WORK PROGRAMME FOR 1987	30

242nd Plenary Session

The 242nd Plenary Session of the Economic and Social Committee of the European Communities was held at Committee headquarters, Brussels, on 16 and 17 December 1986 under the chairmanship of the Committee Chairman, Mr Fons Margot.

The meeting was attended by Mrs Lynda Chalker, Minister of State in the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, President-in-Office of the Council, who took stock of the work done by the Council under the British Presidency.

Summary of the speech by Mrs Lynda Chalker

Mrs Chalker expressed her delight at the decisions taken at the Agricultural Council that very morning to cut back milk and beef production by a substantial amount. But further action on the CAP was necessary.

'Do we go on draining the coffers but not the wine lake; filling up the grain silos and the frozen beef and butter stores but not the pockets of our farmers, whose incomes are dropping?' Mrs Lynda Chalker asked, 'For the CAP uses up over 50% of the total EC budget on storage and disposal of surpluses. These surpluses are becoming less and less disposable. And the cost of producing them is preempting other expenditure. The Commission is required by the Fontainebleau Agreement to report on the workings of budgetary discipline. We need a rigorous discipline which ensures that we finance only what we can consume and sell. That must be an essential part of next year's discussions.'

Referring to the British Presidency of the Council, she said that Britain had concentrated on practical issues that mattered to ordinary people — from deterring terrorism to promoting cheaper transport; from external trade to the internal market. So far, 36 internal market measures had been adopted under the UK Presidency: the most ever registered in a single presidency.

And what of unemployment, the most crucial and most worrying problem in all our countries? What was needed was to do something concrete and systematic about it on the Community level.

That is why the Presidency pioneered with Italy and Ireland an action plan for employment growth. Last week, Community Employment



On the left Mr Margot, Chairman of the ESC. Beside him Mrs Lynda Chalker, British Minister of State for Foreign Affairs and President of the Council of Ministers attending the Plenary Session.

Ministers agreed a resolution launching the action plan. It deals with all the key requirements of a jobs strategy.

There has been substantial progress on external trade negotiations. Foreign policy cooperation had been marked by agreement on measures *vis-à-vis* Syria following the Hindawi trial. At the European Council, agreement had been reached on the principles that would govern the Community's approach to terrorism: no concessions under duress; solidarity between Member States and concerted action in response to terrorist attacks.

Further, the British Presidency had proposed extending cooperation between the Member States into new areas of great public concern: drugs, illegal immigration, passport fraud, and abuse of asylum as well as cancer prevention and AIDS.

OPINIONS ADOPTED

1. LOCAL EMPLOYMENT INITIATIVES (Own-initiative Opinion)

Gist of the Committee Opinion¹

The widespread increase in local employment initiatives in recent years must be seen in the context of the parallel unemployment crisis.

These initiatives should be supported when they create sustainable jobs but the total number and quality of jobs achieved thereby should be carefully assessed.

This Opinion was adopted by 108 votes for, 6 votes against and 23 abstentions.

In terms of social cohesion and solidarity, local employment initiatives and community-based prime-mover groups can help to stimulate initiative; transform distressed communities; stabilize, involve and integrate disadvantaged or marginal groups; and improve and promote local public facilities, services, products and the environment.

Local employment initiatives are sometimes considered as a motivating form of employment, though there are also inherent risks and dangers, such as lower standards of pay, working conditions, insurance cover and job security. They cannot be seen as a panacea to mass unemployment.

¹ CES 1061/86.

The Opinion puts forward the following specific proposals:

Member States ought to calculate and provide the Community with reliable data on the net job-creative impact of such initiatives and how more sustainable jobs might be promoted in our local economies;

Member States should encourage local groups, communities and regions to secure an appropriate participation in the distribution of funds available;

a new credit-based European Employment Fund ought to be given consideration;

'up-front' financing of viable initiatives could be facilitated by the use of substantial single grants and guarantees;

the Community ought to promote the setting up of professional advisory services for their development;

all persons employed or self-employed in local employment initiatives ought to have access to State support in the form of unemployment benefit and other social insurance benefits both in cases of failure and of temporary inactivity;

workers' take-overs of bankrupt enterprises could be facilitated by formally involving them in the liquidation procedures;

the role of the social partners in stimulating local employment initiatives and ensuring proper working conditions could be organized through the setting up, Europe-wide, of local and regional tripartite committees.

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 Roseingrave (Ireland — Various Interests).

2. INTEGRATED OPERATIONS (Own-initiative Opinion)

'The criteria and efficiency of integrated operations'

Gist of the Committee Opinion¹

In its Opinion, adopted by a large majority, 2 votes against and 3 abstentions, the Economic and Social Committee calls for the full involvement and commitment of the local, national and Community authorities and of all the socioeconomic interest groups concerned.

¹ CES 1062/86.

This is felt to be vital to the success of the operations. The close involvement of Community representatives also makes it clear that the programmes are part of a European regional development policy, and also provides important technical back-up on the use of the structural funds.

The ESC feels that integrated operations (a system under which the various Community, national, regional and local financial instruments are pooled) are an effective way of promoting the development of certain areas.

Integrated operations have been devised to promote the economic and social development of underdeveloped or particularly run-down areas, by increasing employment and GDP (Gross Domestic Product) and improving living standards.

However, the ESC Opinion stresses that the main aim must be to improve employment, by increasing the number of permanent jobs.

To achieve this, measures are needed which must be satisfactorily distributed between infrastructure, manufacturing, services, and agriculture. Due attention must also be given to the protection of the environment, the countryside, and our cultural heritage, and to vocational training. As part of the major drive to create lasting employment, steps must be taken to provide secure manufacturing or service jobs for workers temporarily employed in the construction of infrastructure and factories or in the special housing programmes.

The economic and financial assistance for the programmes should come from the Member States (and where appropriate the regional and local authorities), the Community's structural funds, and the European Investment Bank.

The ESC feels that the administration of each integrated operation needs to be constantly supervised by a consultative committee including representatives of all the organizations and agencies involved. The success of the operations depends to a large extent on good relations between local and national authorities and on satisfactory liaison between them and the Community institutions.

Lastly, the ESC regrets the lack of coordination between the various Commission Directorates-General which were to combine various structural instruments in order to generate synergy. The Commission itself implicitly recognized this in 1986 by setting up a new Directorate-General XXII for the coordination of the structural Funds.

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).

3. PUBLIC SUPPLY CONTRACTS

'Proposal for a Council Directive amending Directive No 77/62/EEC relating to the coordination of procedures on the award of public supply contracts and deleting certain provisions of Directive No 80/767/EEC' (COM(86) 297 final)

Gist of the Commission document

The experience of the application of the basic Directive No 77/62/EEC on public supply contracts has demonstrated certain deficiencies which the Commission listed in a report to the Council of 14 December 1984 (COM(84) 717).

The Committee in its Opinion of 23 April 1986 on this document supported the Commission's list of solutions to the problems and suggested certain added improvements of its own.

The present proposal is to be seen as a follow-up to the abovementioned report; it spells out in concrete terms the following improvements of the basic directives:

a better transparency and opening up of competition in public procurement particularly by the introduction of a system of

- (a) pre-information (the contracting authority is obliged to publish annually its programme and schedule),
- (b) publication of information on the contracts,
- (c) a new negotiated procedure, which admits the negotiation of the market with a number of suppliers admitted by the contracting authority;

a more uniform application of certain dispositions of the directives in order to limit the abuses by means of a more precise and restrictive definition of the exempted organizations and of the single tender and negotiated procedure. Thus, in order to combat very divergent and extensive interpretations in respect of the organizations exempted from the discipline of the directives the exceptions are to be limited to (a) those transporters which assure the transport of people and merchandise from one point to another, thereby putting the installations such as ports and airports in the field of the coverage of the directives and (b) to the services treating drinking water only and (c) as regards the sector of energy and telecommunications, only the services having their principal activity in this domain.

Furthermore the use of the open procedure, giving the largest chance for the access of potential suppliers, is established as the norm. And an obligation to justify the use of the restricted, negotiated and single tender procedures is installed in order to discourage the contracting authorities as far as possible from using them as a method of discrimination and to exclude non-traditional participants in the market;

an obligation for contracting authorities to define technical specifications of productions by a reference to European standards or harmonization documents taking into account the recent developments in particular the new approach in the area of norms and standards. This reference is presently optional;

a lengthening and a harmonization of certain time limits. In order to increase the access to public supply markets of suppliers who have to surmount a series of additional difficulties because of their distance it is proposed to increase the minimum time limits laid down;

a strengthened control of the respect of the directives by imposing an obligation for more precise statistics reinforces and enlarges the statistical obligation in order to improve the quality of the information on contract awards and possibilities of control that result from such statistics. A deadline for the submission of the statistical reports by Member States is fixed in order to combat the existing problems of late submissions;

the elimination of the differences between the two Directives 77/62 and 80/767. Articles 5 and 6 of the Directive No 80/767/EEC having become irrelevant or been integrated into the Directive No 77/62/EEC are repealed.

Gist of the Committee Opinion¹

The Committee adopted this Opinion by a large majority with 2 abstentions. It is fully supportive of the Commission's proposal which is clearly a step in the right direction. In particular it supports the proposal to make it mandatory for contracting authorities to refer to European standards or to documents on European harmonization.

The Committee is not convinced, however, that the solutions developed by the Commission will bring about the anticipated success; indeed in the Committee's opinion they are likely to prove as unsuccessful as the measures hitherto applied if they are not improved in order to attack the

¹ CES 1058/86.

fundamental deficiency in the system: the basic Directive's lack of credibility because it permits no efficient sanctions.

The Committee therefore proposes that the Commission be given a number of specific powers to impose sanctions sufficiently significant to constitute a real deterrent against circumvention of the Directives.

Nevertheless, contracting authorities should also have the right to set aside *a priori* a certain percentage of their contracts for local enterprises so as to legitimize local employment concerns.

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 Kaaris (Denmark — Employers).

4. AID TO SHIPBUILDING

'Proposal for a Council Directive on aid to shipbuilding'
(COM(86) 531 final)

Gist of the Commission document

The new directive is intended to take over from the fifth Directive, which expires on 31 December. The fifth Directive, adopted in 1981 and extended for two years, lays down rules on State aid to shipbuilding which are intended to help restore the competitiveness of this crisis-ridden industry. To be authorized by the Commission, aid has to be justified by restructuring measures and granted on a declining scale.

The continuing deterioration of the market has led the Commission to reformulate its strategy. The sixth Directive is centred around the idea of focusing support measures on the most successful specialized sectors of the Community shipbuilding industry.

The main features of the new Directive are the following:

the objective of industrial policy: to refine the approach to restructuring, that is to say, to adapt the productive system to market conditions in order to establish a core of activity in the Community made up of the most successful yards;

production aid: the intention is that production aid must favour the specialized yards which may be able to compete internationally in the long run but it must not distort competition within the Community. It is proposed to authorize a reduced level of production aid subject to a common ceiling. All forms of production aid, whether direct or indirect, will be taken into account in calculating the ceiling.

The Commission has fixed this common ceiling at 26% after taking as its basis the differences between the cost structures of the most competitive Community yards and the prices charged by their main international competitors.

operating aid: This aid may be deemed compatible with the common market provided that, together with the production aid, it does not exceed the maximum ceiling referred to above, expressed as a percentage of annual turnover.

restructuring aid: State aid may be granted to tide over the total or partial closure of yards or to back up investment in restructuring and innovation (without any increase in capacity), although the Commission will strictly monitor the situation.

Gist of the Committee Opinion¹

In its Opinion, adopted by 88 votes for, 15 votes against with 5 abstentions, the Economic and Social Committee calls for a fully-fledged policy on shipbuilding.

The Committee is unable to endorse the draft Directive, which arouses deep concern about the future of the Community's shipbuilding industry and the jobs it provides.

The draft Directive makes aid policy the *sine qua non* and vehicle of shipbuilding policy without seemingly giving adequate thought to the effects and consequences.

The Committee fears that the new approach will simply cut capacity and jobs in order to scale down the financial burdens currently borne by the Member States.

The aid ceiling should be high enough to win sufficient orders and should be reviewed at reasonable intervals in the light of market trends. The ceiling should be at least 35% in the transition phase, when studies are being carried out.

If the Community's main rivals — Japan and South Korea — know that the Community is going to adopt the proposed aid policy, they will merely have to maintain current prices and abstain from major capacity cuts in order to ensure that the Community prices itself out of the shipbuilding markets to all intents and purposes. The Community authorities must act firmly in dealing with Japan and South Korea.

¹ CES 1059/86.

The Community concludes by saying that extension of the fifth Directive is necessary in order to provide time to map out a realistic policy for the sector which, whilst recognizing the need for restructuring, would establish once and for all the basic requirements for the safeguarding and proper operation of this vital industrial activity.

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 Arena (Italy — Employers).

5. 1985 MEDIUM-TERM TRANSPORT INFRASTRUCTURE PROGRAMME

'Proposal for a Council Regulation on the granting of financial support to transport infrastructure projects'
(COM(86) 674 final)

Gist of the Commission proposal

The aim of this *ad hoc* proposal is to commit appropriations still remaining from Chapter 58, Article 581 of the 1985 budget before the end of 1986.

Gist of the Committee Opinion¹

In its Opinion adopted unanimously, the Committee urges the Council to ensure that if Community assistance is provided, the Member States do not reduce their original allocation of funds.

The Committee notes with satisfaction that the Commission has tried to share out the appropriations evenly between road (55%) and rail (45%) and that the appropriations have been shared out satisfactorily between four categories of projects.

Works to better integrate areas situated geographically on the periphery of the Community: 40%;

Transit routes: 34%;

Works in major corridors: 24%;

Other projects: 2%.

The Committee considers that all in all this allocation represents a compromise which must be accepted by the Council as soon as possible,

¹ CES 1057/86.

and at any event by the end of the year; it would also urgently request the Council to adopt, in keeping with its decision of 10-11 November, the Regulation for a medium-term infrastructure programme at the start of 1987, making it possible to implement a plan for transport infrastructure which covers more than one budgetary year.

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

6. ANTIOXIDANTS

'Proposal for a Council Directive amending for the fourth time Directive 70/357/EEC on the approximation of the laws of the Member States concerning the antioxidants authorized for use in foodstuffs intended for human consumption' (COM(86) 384 final)

Gist of the Commission proposal

EDTA is a substance used as an antioxidant in mayonnaise and similar products whose legal acceptability at Community level comes to an end on 31 December 1986.

The present proposal is to authorize its use beyond that date on a permanent basis subject to certain restrictive conditions.

Gist of the Committee Opinion¹

The Committee adopted its Opinion unanimously.

It accepts this proposal with the proviso that it must be considered a temporary measure pending the introduction of new legislation on additives at present under discussion.

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 Gardner (United Kingdom — Employers).

¹ CES 1053/86.

7. FRESH MEAT

'Proposal for a Council Directive amending Directive 64/433/EEC on health problems affecting intra-Community trade in fresh meat'

'Proposal for a Council Directive amending Directive 72/462/EEC on health and veterinary inspection problems upon importation of bovine animals and swine and fresh meat from third countries' (COM(86) 532 final)

Gist of the Commission proposal

Article 7 of Directive 64/433/EEC lays down additional hygiene rules for intra-Community trade in frozen meat. The Commission is proposing the following amendments:

- (a) the insertion of a definition of chilled meat, frozen meat and quick frozen meat;
- (b) that livers may be obtained from approved cutting plants only;
- (c) that health checks may be tightened up or relaxed to take account of changes in the incidence of disease or the environmental health conditions in the Member States concerned;
- (d) the insertion in the technical annex of additional standards for slicing offal and freezing meat.

Similar amendments are proposed in respect of Directive 74/462/EEC to ensure that identical health standards apply to meat imports from third countries.

Gist of the Committee Opinion¹

In its Opinion adopted unanimously, the Committee approved this proposal for amending the Directives dealing with health problems affecting intra-Community trade in fresh meat and health and veterinary inspection problems upon importation of bovine animals and swine and fresh meat from third countries; their purpose is to further harmonize intra-Community trade and hence improve the operation of the common market and in particular the relevant common organization of markets.

The Committee would refer to its previous Opinion in this context. In general it welcomes the fact that present Community legislation is to be

¹ CES 1054/86.

consolidated, updated and supplemented; this will make it possible both to liberalize trade and to improve consumer protection.

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 Wick (Germany — Employers).

8. BRUCELLOSIS

'Proposal for a Council Decision introducing a supplementary Community measure for the eradication of brucellosis, tuberculosis and leukosis in cattle' (COM(86) 557 final)

Gist of the Commission proposal

The Commission proposes to renew for the three years 1989/90/91 the programme to eradicate brucellosis, tuberculosis and leukosis in cattle, in order to bring the cattle herds in Spain and Portugal up to Community standards and to eliminate the remaining sources of infection in other Member States. The Community is to grant financial aid of 31.7 million ECU, around 75% of which will go to Spain and Portugal.

A secondary effect of the proposal will be a small reduction in the number of cows in the Community.

Gist of the Committee Opinion¹

The Economic and Social Committee adopted this Opinion by a large majority with 3 abstentions and approves the Commission proposal.

The rapporteur-general for this Opinion was Mr Storie-Pugh (United Kingdom — Various Interests).

9. WINE SECTOR

'Proposal for a Council Regulation (EEC) amending the common organization of the market in wine' (COM(86) 577 final)

Gist of the Commission proposal

The Commission is asking the Council to reintroduce, for the 1986/87 to 1989/90 wine years inclusive, the transitional arrangements initially

¹ CES 1060/86.

planned for the first year of application of the compulsory distillation scheme, which laid down that, in the event of difficulties arising in the implementation of the scheme likely to jeopardize distillation, the Commission could, by means of the Management Committee procedure, adopt the necessary measures to ensure its effective execution.

The measures in question relate only to the provisions contained in Article 39 of the Regulation on the common organization of the wine market and should have no effect on the volumes to be distilled, the buying-in prices for the wine, the 85% figure applicable in each production region or the reference years.

The Commission also proposes that the wording of Article 41(6) be amended and that the buying-in price for this distillation operation be fixed according to the same percentage of the guide price as that referred to in Article 29.

Gist of the Committee Opinion¹

The Committee adopted its Opinion unanimously.

The arrangements for distribution between regions (or Member States) of compulsory distillation, agreed by the Heads of State in Dublin in 1984, were not fully applied in the first relevant wine year (1985/86).

Transitional arrangements had to be used to secure a fair allocation between Member States.

The experience gained in 1985/86 highlighted the need for greater flexibility in respect of allocation arrangements based exclusively on the year's harvest in the Member States.

The Committee agrees with the Commission that transitional implementing arrangements should run for several years and that it will be possible to establish new, more appropriate arrangements.

This is all the more necessary because it is hard to gauge the practical implications of Spanish and Portuguese membership for the allocation of compulsory distillation.

The aggregate compulsory distillation volume will not be affected by the draft instrument, so total expenditure eligible for EAGGF refund will be unchanged.

The rapporteur-general for this Opinion was Mr Yverneau (France — Various Interests).

¹ CES 1055/86.

10. SHEEP AND GOATMEAT

'Proposal for a Council Regulation (EEC) amending for the 11th time Regulation (EEC) No 1837/80 on the common organization of the market in sheep and goatmeat' (COM(86) 670 final)

Gist of the Commission document

The Commission proposes seasonal variations in the ewe grant, to offset major seasonal changes in costs. This adjustment would be implemented in regions where the seasonal evolution of production costs corresponds to the seasonalization of basic prices.

The adjustment could apply to 70% of the ewe grant.

Gist of the Committee Opinion¹

In its Opinion adopted unanimously, the Committee approves the aim, which is to make support for the sheepmeat market more rational by enabling the ewe premium to be adjusted in all regions in line with the seasonal variation in the basic prices fixed by the Council for each week of the farm year.

The Committee notes, however, that the reform proposed by the Commission will not offset all the distortions resulting from the present compartmentalization of the internal market and the inadequacy of the import arrangements. The section calls for the earliest possible submission of Commission proposals for greater integration of the Community sheep and goatmeat market.

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 Clavel (France — Various Interests).

¹ CES 1056/86.

11. RACE

'Proposal for a Council Regulation on a Community action in the field of telecommunications technologies (RACE)' (COM(86) 547 final)

Gist of the proposed Directive

The present proposal constitutes the first phase of the RACE (Research and Development in Advanced Communications Technologies in Europe) programme for the period 1987-91. It makes provision for the co-financing of pre-competitive and pre-normative work in the field of Integrated broadband communication (IBC) up to a maximum of 800 million ECU. This corresponds with costs being shared on a 50-50 basis, to work totalling about 10 000 man years.

The RACE definition phase which the Committee unanimously endorsed in its Opinion of 30 May 1985 has been successfully implemented. About 400 leading experts from 109 administrations, companies and organizations have worked closely together in order to establish a base for a common operator and industrial strategy with respect to services, infrastructure and standards.

The specific goal of RACE is to establish a strong, or even leading position on the world market for Community IBC manufacturers, operators and service industries.

Of the initial investment required for establishing IBC about one-tenth, i.e. 10-15 billion ECU will be spent on developing the technology for offering advanced services at reasonable costs. Of this amount by far the largest part will be invested by industry in the research and development of commercial products and by operators and service providers in the development of attractive services.

RACE is divided into three parts

1. IBC development and implementation strategies

This part relates to the development of functional specifications and the definition of proposals for IBC standards, concepts and conventions conforming to an open systems approach so that equipment from different sources can be interconnected and IBC equipment and services can interoperate.

2. IBC technologies

This covers technological cooperation in pre-competitive R&D with regard to the key requirements of new technology for low-cost IBC equipment and services. This comprises enabling and supporting tech-

nologies such as specific integrated circuits, opto-electronic devices, broadband switching techniques, etc.

3. Pre-normative functional integration

This part covers pre-normative cooperation designed to assess functions, operational concepts and experimental equipment with respect to functional specifications and standardization proposals arising from work in part I.

Projects will normally take the form of shared cost contracts with a maximum Community contribution of 50% of the total expenditure. The contracts will be awarded by open tendering procedure and shall involve the participation of at least two independent industrial partners not all established in the same Member State. The intention is to achieve the same kind of cross-fertilization through transfrontier cooperation which has resulted from the Esprit programme.

The RACE programme will be coordinated where appropriate with Eureka. One example here is the development of High definition television. Companies established in EFTA countries will be able to participate in RACE projects along lines still to be negotiated. The Community may conclude agreements with non-Member States participating in European cooperation in science and technology (COST).

Gist of the Committee Opinion¹

The Committee adopted its Opinion on this subject unanimously.

It considers telecommunications to be crucial for the Community's economic development. The Community is still in a good position to compete in telecommunication exports with the USA and Japan, but if it does not succeed in maintaining this position the employment in the Community dependent thereon will not be able to be safeguarded and expanded. New jobs will go elsewhere and the fact that hi-tech equipment is imported rather than made in the Community will exacerbate the negative repercussions on employment of the new technologies.

The Committee refers to the problem of the enormous funds which network operators and the providers of services will have to invest initially in the construction of an integrated broadband network.

The social consequences of integrated broadband networks should be studied in tandem with the technological evolution.

¹ CES 1063/86.

The Committee underlines the need to bear in mind small businesses and universities when ordering IBC equipment. The less-developed regions of the Community should wherever possible be fully integrated in the promotion measures, in order to avoid disparities when Community-wide services are established.

The rapporteur-general for this Opinion was Mr Bento Gonçalves (Germany — Workers).

External relations

Chairman's activities

On 19 and 20 November 1986, the Committee Chairman, Mr Margot, invited Belgian journalists to an informal luncheon for an initial exchange of views.

On 24 November 1986 the Chairman, accompanied by the Secretary-General, held a meeting in Brussels with the Right Rev. Wilfred Napier, Bishop of Kokstad and Vice-President of the Catholic Conference of South African Bishops, the Right Rev. Hugh Slattery, Bishop of Louis Trichard-Tzaneen, and Mr Noël Bruyns, press officer for the Conference of Bishops.

On 26 November Mr Margot talked to Mr David Wood of the Confederation of British Industry (CBI) in Brussels.

The following day, the Chairman and Mr Poeton and Mr Zuffiaur, the two Vice-Chairmen, along with Committee Bureau Members and the Secretary-General, Mr Louet, were invited to a luncheon held by members of Coreper (Committee of Permanent Representatives) in Brussels.

On 28 November the Chairman and the Secretary-General attended the meeting held by the Chairmen and Secretaries-General of Economic and Social Councils in Brussels. Before the meeting the participants were received by HM the King of the Belgians.

On 4 December Mr Margot and Mr Louet met Mr Samson, Minister for International Relations for Quebec, during his visit to Brussels.

On 8 December they visited Geneva for a meeting with Mr P. Kleppe, Secretary-General of EFTA and with the Secretary-General of GATT and Mr Tran van Tinh, representing the Commission.

Other activities

Mrs Williams, Committee Member, attended the Conference on Prevention of Burns and Scalds organized jointly by the ECPSA (European Consumer Product Safety Association) and the Commission of the European Communities on 27 and 28 November in Brussels.

On 3 December the Secretary-General, Mr Louet, talked to his opposite number at the European Parliament, Mr Vinci.

Mr Della Croce, Committee Member, presented his report on National regional development aids to the Italian press in Rome on 5 December at a press luncheon.

On 8 December Mr de Normann, Committee Member, attended the meeting held in London by the Steering Committee for European Year of the Environment.

Annual meeting of ACP and EEC socioeconomic organizations

Representatives of socioeconomic organizations in the European Communities and the ACP member countries (African, Caribbean, Pacific) held a meeting at the headquarters of the Economic and Social Committee of the European Communities, Brussels, between 3 and 5 December 1986.

The meeting, organized within the framework of the Joint ACP/EEC Assembly, entitled 'The role and contribution of socioeconomic organizations in the implementation of the various sections of Lomé III'. The Chairman of the Economic and Social Committee, Mr Fons Margot, introduced the discussions which were largely devoted to agriculture, fisheries and industry.

The meeting was attended by Mr E. Mworoha and Mr G. Bersani; Co-Chairmen of the Joint ACP/EEC Assembly; Mr Ejigu Mersie, President of the ACP Council and Minister for the Plan for Ethiopia; Mrs V. Bottomley, Parliamentary Private Secretary to the Minister for Overseas Development (UK); Mr D. Frisch, Director-General of the Directorate for Development in the EC Commission.

Various talks were given by, among others, Mr C. Sissokho, Senegalese Minister for the Protection of Nature, who spoke about the impact of river fishing on the Senegalese economy, Mr Egnell, Director-General of the SIASS (France), dealt with industrial rehabilitation, and Mr M. Botazzi, member of the French Commission for Cooperation and Development, commented on the problem of training in the ACP countries.

Conclusions of the conference on the cooperative, mutual and non-profit sectors: contributions to the building of Europe

organized jointly by the Economic and Social Committee of the European Communities and the Coordinating Committee for Cooperatives in the European Community (CCACC) in Brussels on 20 and 21 November 1986

On 20 and 21 November 1986 a European conference was held in Brussels which brought together leading figures from the cooperative, mutual and non-profit sectors along with representatives of the Community institutions, various national bodies and the universities. The aim of the conference was to explore ways in which these sectors could, now and in the future, contribute to the building of Europe in the economic and social spheres.

The participants, some 500 in number, agreed that the three sectors must step up their efforts to respond to the challenges facing Europe. They reaffirmed their support for the creation of a real European Union.

They also urged political leaders and the Community authorities in particular to create the conditions necessary for the development of cooperative, mutual and non-profit types of enterprise. The following observations and recommendations were made:

1. The conference called on cooperative, mutual and non-profit organizations to strengthen — or set up — without delay machinery making it possible to speak for the individual sectors and thus secure their recognition by the Community institutions as a partner in an on-going dialogue.
2. The conference called on the cooperative, mutual and non-profit sectors to continue and intensify the dialogue initiated at the conference and to develop their cooperation.
3. The conference recommended that the cooperative, mutual and non-profit organizations lay the foundations of a European-level structure which would provide joint representation for these sectors.
4. The Community institutions were asked to make use of the wealth of experience of the three sectors and their organizations by consulting their representatives and involving them sufficiently early and in an appropriate manner in the formulation and the implementation of Community policies.
5. The conference called on the Community institutions to support the three sectors in their contribution to economic development, employment, the completion of the internal market, a better regional balance and the quality of life.

6. The Community institutions were also asked to promote the establishment and development of cooperative, mutual and non-profit enterprises, in the light of the new technologies and the changed structure of supply and demand on the market. This should be done within the framework of existing Community policies and the relevant Funds should be allocated sufficient resources for this purpose. In addition, consideration should be given to the scope for setting-up a special instrument for boosting the financial resources, of cooperative, mutual and non-profit enterprises.
7. The conference called on the Commission to study ways of granting these three types of enterprise easier access to existing Community instruments and Funds.
8. The conference stressed the importance of developing the Community's external relations, in particular with the ACP countries, and emphasized the role which the cooperative, mutual and non-profit sectors could play in the development of the ACP countries, a role recognized in the Third Lomé Convention.
9. The Commission was also asked to create the conditions that would enable the three sectors to engage in permanent exchanges of information and make their voices heard.
10. The conference urged the Commission to review intra-Community legal barriers to the regrouping of cooperative, mutual and non-profit enterprises at European level.
11. The members of the Economic and Social Committee, particularly those representing the cooperative, mutual and non-profit sectors, were invited to support these conclusions in whatever way they deemed appropriate.
12. The conference preparatory committee was asked to act on all these proposals.

New consultations

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

'Proposal for a Council Directive amending certain Council Directives on the approximation of the laws of the Member States relating to industrial products with respect to the distinctive numbers and letters indicating the Member States';

'Proposal for a Council Directive amending Directive 71/316/EEC on the approximation of the laws of the Member States relating to common provisions for both measuring instruments and methods of metrological control';

'Proposal for a Council Directive on the approximation of the laws of the Member States relating to the making-up by volume of certain pre-packaged liquids;' and a

'Proposal for a Council Directive supplementing Directive 80/232/EEC on the approximation of the laws of the Member States relating to the ranges of nominal quantities and nominal capacities permitted for certain pre-packaged products' (COM(86) 653 final).

'Proposal for a Council Regulation introducing the preparatory phase of a Community programme on trade electronic data interchange systems (TEDIS)' (COM(86) 662 final).

Outline programme of future work

January 1987 Plenary Session

Opinions upon consultation

- VAT/SMEs
- Misleading products
- International access to the courts
- Wine
- Swine fever
- Fresh meat
- Sprint programme
- Publication of accounting documents
- Disclosure requirements — company branches
- Sound power levels of tower cranes
- Broadcasting

Subsequent Plenary Sessions

Opinions upon consultation

- Protection of workers
- Medical and health R&D programme
- Health protection — Euratom, Chapter III
- Action programme for SMEs
- Introduction of common border posts
- Common customs tariff
- Dangerous chemical products
- Toy safety
- Industrial products — distinctive numbers and letters indicating Member States
- Credit institutions' own funds

Interregional air transport
Non-resident road haulage carriers
Community quotas
Scientific and technical R&D programme
Economic situation
Social developments 1986
Fourth programme on the environment
Dairy sector

Own-initiative Opinions

Real way transport policy
Cross-border problems — employment policy
Island regions
11th ERDF Report
Consequences of the Chernobyl nuclear accident

Information reports

Public health
Island regions
Upland areas
GATT

Members' news

Appointment

The Council of Ministers has appointed Mrs Isabel Martin Castella (Spain) to replace Mr Milan de la Torre as Member of the Committee.

PROVISIONAL FUTURE WORK PROGRAMME FOR 1987

JANUARY	FEBRUARY	MARCH	APRIL	MAY	JUNE
1 New Year's Day	1 S	1 S	1 W	1 Labour Day	1 M
2 F	2 M	2 M	2 T	2 S	2 T
3 S	3 T	3 T	3 F	3 S	3 W
4 S	4 W	4 W	4 S	4 M	4 T
5 M	5 T	5 T	5 S	5 T	5 F
6 T	6 F	6 F	6 M	6 W	6 S
7 W	7 S	7 S	7 T	7 T	7 Whitsun
8 T	8 S	8 S	8 W	8 F	8 M
9 F	9 M	9 M	9 T	9 Schuman Day	9 T
10 S	10 T	10 T	10 F	10 S	10 W
11 S	11 W	11 W	11 S	11 M	11 T
12 M	12 T	12 T	12 S	12 T	12 F
13 T	13 F	13 F	13 M	13 W	13 S
14 W	14 S	14 S	14 T	14 T	14 S
15 T	15 S	15 S	15 W	15 F	15 M
16 F	16 M	16 M	16 T	16 S	16 T
17 S	17 T	17 T	17 F	17 S	17 W
18 S	18 W	18 W	18 S	18 M	18 T
19 M	19 T	19 T	19 Easter	19 T	19 F
20 T	20 F	20 F	20 M	20 W	20 S
21 W	21 S	21 S	21 T	21 T	21 S
22 T	22 S	22 S	22 W	22 F	22 M
23 F	23 M	23 M	23 T	23 S	23 T
24 S	24 T	24 T	24 F	24 S	24 W
25 S	25 W	25 W	25 S	25 M	25 T
26 M	26 T	26 T	26 S	26 T	26 F
27 T	27 F	27 F	27 M	27 W	27 S
28 W	28 S	28 S	28 T	28 Ascension Day	28 S
29 T		29 S	29 W	29 F	29 M
30 F		30 M	30 T	30 S	30 T
31 S		31 T		31 S	



Plenary sessions

JULY	AUGUST	SEPTEMBER	OCTOBER	NOVEMBER	DECEMBER
1 W	1 S	1 T	1 T	1 All Saints' Day	1 T
2 T	2 S	2 W	2 F	2 All Souls' Day	2 W
3 F	3 M	3 T	3 S	3 T	3 T
4 S	4 T	4 F	4 S	4 W	4 F
5 S	5 W	5 S	5 M	5 T	5 S
6 M	6 T	6 S	6 T	6 F	6 S
7 T	7 F	7 M	7 W	7 S	7 M
8 W	8 S	8 T	8 T	8 S	8 T
9 T	9 S	9 W	9 F	9 M	9 W
10 F	10 M	10 T	10 S	10 T	10 T
11 S	11 T	11 F	11 S	11 W	11 F
12 S	12 W	12 S	12 M	12 T	12 S
13 M	13 T	13 S	13 T	13 F	13 S
14 T	14 F	14 M	14 W	14 S	14 M
15 W	15 Assumption	15 T	15 T	15 S	15 T
16 T	16 S	16 W	16 F	16 M	16 W
17 F	17 M	17 T	17 S	17 T	17 T
18 S	18 T	18 F	18 S	18 W	18 F
19 S	19 W	19 S	19 M	19 T	19 S
20 M	20 T	20 S	20 T	20 F	20 S
21 T	21 F	21 M	21 W	21 S	21 M
22 W	22 S	22 T	22 T	22 S	22 T
23 T	23 S	23 W	23 F	23 M	23 W
24 F	24 M	24 T	24 S	24 T	24 T
25 S	25 T	25 F	25 S	25 W	25 Christmas
26 S	26 W	26 S	26 M	26 T	26 S
27 M	27 T	27 S	27 T	27 F	27 S
28 T	28 F	28 M	28 W	28 S	28 M
29 W	29 S	29 T	29 T	29 S	29 T
30 T	30 S	30 W	30 F	30 M	30 W
31 F	31 M		31 S		31 T

PUBLICATIONS OBTAINABLE FROM THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMITTEE

General documentation

The other European Assembly, January 1986 (CES 86-001)
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)
Tourism (Opinion) (June 1984) (ESC 84-004)
The economic and social situation in the Community (2 opinions) (July 1983)
(ESC 83-013)
Youth employment (Opinion) (June 1983) (ESC 83-011)
Transport policy in the 1980s (Opinion) (March 1983) 99 pp. (ESC 83-003)
Guidelines for Mediterranean agriculture (4 opinions) (September 1982) 64 pp.
(ESC 82-010)
The economic and social situation of the Community (2 opinions) (July 1982)
57 pp. (ESC 82-008)
The promotion of small and medium-sized enterprises (Opinion) (June 1982)
70 pp. (ESC 82-007)
Agricultural aspects of Spain's entry into the EC (Opinion) (February 1982)
107 pp. (ESC 81-017)
The EEC's external relations — Stocktaking and consistency of action (Study)
(January 1982) 139 pp.
Genetic engineering (Colloquium) (October 1981) 120 pp. (ESC 81-014)
Economic pointers for 1982 (Opinion) (August 1981) 32 pp. (ESC 81-010)
Problems of the handicapped (Opinion) (September 1981) ± 46 pp. (ESC 81-013)
Present situation in the Community's building sector (Opinion) (September 1981)
± 24 pp. (ESC 81-011)
Community competition policy (Opinion) (ESC 81-008)
Development policy and working conditions (September 1980) (Opinion) 61 pp.
(ESC 80-012)
The organization and management of Community R&D (February 1980)
(Study) 168 pp. (ESC 80-001)
Agricultural structures policy (November 1979) (Opinion) 90 pp. (ESC 79-003)
Enlargement of the European Community Greece-Spain-Portugal (Septem-
ber 1979) (Study) 75 pp. (ESC 79-002)
The Community's relations with Spain (June 1979) (Study) 112 pp. (ESC 79-001)
Community shipping policy — Flags of convenience (April 1979) (Opinion)
170 pp.
Youth unemployment — Education and training (November 1978) (5 opinions)
97 pp.
The stage reached in aligning labour legislation in the European Community
(June 1978) (Documentation) 60 pp.

Monetary disorder (June 1978) (Opinion) 98 pp.
Industrial change and employment (November 1977) (Opinion) 98 pp.
The EEC's transport problems with East European countries (December 1977) (Opinion) 164 pp.
Systems of education and vocational training (August 1976) (Study) 114 pp.

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:

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)
Annual Report 1985 (ECU 4.04, UKL 2.50, USD 4, IRL 2.90)
EEC air transport policy (October 1985) (ESC 85-10) (ECU 5.50, UKL 3.30, IRL 4, USD 5)
The economic and social situation of the Community (1985) (84-015) (ECU 5.60, IRL 4, UKL 3.50, USD 4)
GATT — towards a new round (Opinion) (Brussels 1986) (EX-46,86-937-EN-C) (ECU 2.20, BFR 100, IRL 1.60, UKL 1.40, USD 2.50)

**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 / BELGIË

Moniteur belge / Belgisch Staatsblad
Rue de Louvain 40-42 / Leuvensestraat 40-42
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

CREDOC

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

DANMARK

Schultz EF-publikationer

Møntergade 19
1116 København K
Tlf: (01) 14 11 95
Telecopier: (01) 32 75 11

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
Telecopierer: 20 29 278

GREECE

G.C. Eleftheroudakis SA

International Bookstore
4 Nikis Street
105 63 Athens
Tel. 322 22 55
Telex 219410 ELEF

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
28010 Madrid
Tel. (91) 446 60 00

Mundi-Prensa Libros, S.A.

Castelló 37
28001 Madrid
Tel. (91) 431 33 99 (Libros)
431 32 22 (Suscripciones)
435 36 37 (Dirección)
Télex 49370-MPLI-E

FRANCE

Journal officiel

**Service des publications
des Communautés européennes**
26, rue Desaix
75277 Paris Cedex 15
Tél. (1) 45 78 61 39

IRELAND

Government Publications Sales Office

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

or by post

Government Stationery Office

Publications Section

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

ITALIA

Licosa Spa

Via Lamarmora, 45
Casella postale 552
50 121 Firenze
Tel. 57 97 51
Telex 570466 LICOSA I
CCP 343 509
Subagenti:

Libreria scientifica Lucio de Biasio - AEIOW

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

Libreria Tassi

Via A. Farnese, 28
00 192 Roma
Tel. 31 05 90

Libreria giuridica

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

GRAND-DUCHÉ DE LUXEMBOURG
et autres pays / and other countries

**Office des publications officielles
des Communautés européennes**

2, rue Mercier
L-2985 Luxembourg
Tél. 49 92 81
Télex PUBOF LU 1324 b
CCP 19190-81
CC bancaire BIL 8-109/6003/200

Abonnements / Subscriptions

Messageries Paul Kraus

11, rue Christophe Plantin
L-2339 Luxembourg
Tél. 49 98 888
Télex 2515
CCP 49242-63

NERderland

Staatsdrukkerij- en uitgeverijbedrijf

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

PORTUGAL

**Imprensa Nacional
Casa da Moeda, E. P.**

Rua D. Francisco Manuel de Melo, 5
1092 Lisboa Codex
Tel. 69 34 14
Telex 15328 INCM

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

HM Stationery Office

HMSO Publications Centre
51 Nine Elms Lane
London SW8 5DR
Tel. (01) 211 56 56

Sub-agent:

Alan Armstrong & Associates Ltd

72 Park Road
London NW1 4SH
Tel. (01) 723 39 02
Telex 297635 AAALTD G

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



EN

Prices (excluding VAT) in Luxembourg

Single copy	ECU 2.79	BFR 125	IRL 2	UKL 1.70	USD 2.50
Annual subscription	ECU 22.23	BFR 1 000	IRL 13.50	UKL 13.50	USD 17



OFFICE FOR OFFICIAL PUBLICATIONS
OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES

L-2985 Luxembourg



EX-AA-86-012-EN-C