

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL CONSULTATIVE ASSEMBLY

# BULLETIN

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### **CORRIGENDUM**

In Bulletin No 1/1987 in the debate following Mr Tindeman's speech, Mr Moreland is erroneously referred to as a member of the Employers' Group. He is a member of the Various Interests Group.

## 245th Plenary Session

The 245th Plenary Session of the Economic and Social Committee of the European Communities was held in the Committee building, Brussels, on 14 April 1987. The Chairman, Mr Fons Margot presided.

### *OPINIONS ADOPTED*

#### 1. FARM PRICES 1987/88

**'Commission proposals on the prices for agricultural products and on related measures (1987/88)'**

#### **Gist of the Commission proposals**

##### **I. PRICES**

Given the situation on the Community and world markets, the Commission thinks that a restrictive policy on prices will be needed for the 1987/88 marketing year as well. This means that for several products prices must remain unchanged while, for others, prices must be either reduced or raised to allow for specific conditions on the relevant markets.

The impact of these proposals on the support prices for agricultural products for the Community (10 countries) is 0.5% (in ECU) and 0.2% (in national currencies). Spain and Portugal are not included in this calculation, given the incidence of the alignment of Spanish and Portuguese prices towards the common prices, as agreed in the Act of Accession.

##### **II. THE RELATED MEASURES**

These are an essential adjunct to the price proposals, the effect of which they strengthen or adjust. There are four main headings:

###### **(1) Strengthening and extension of the concept of farmers' coresponsibility**

The notion of a system of guaranteed maximum quantities (guarantee thresholds) is to be introduced for olive oil and soya and tightened up

for rape and sunflower, while the maximum quantity used for the fixing of the production aid for olive oil is to be restricted. For sugar, a special levy is to be introduced to eliminate that part of the overall loss not covered by the 1986/87 production levies.

#### **(2) Adjustment of intervention**

The intervention system was originally meant to be a 'safety net' and not an extra outlet in its own right, and the Commission proposes, in order to revert to this situation, that cereals and olive oil should be bought in only at certain times. These proposals follow up the recent limitations on the buying-in of milk and beef. Also, the Commission proposes the introduction of an intervention threshold for fresh tomatoes, and a proportionate reduction in the buying-in price beyond that threshold.

#### **(3) Improvement of quality**

The Commission is proposing that support for bread-making cereals should continue and that there should be an increase of 2.5% in the 'reduction' for feed grains, which will lead to a reduction in the support level for this latter type of cereals by the same percentage. It is also proposing an incentive to quality production through a production aid for the most popular type of rice ('Indica') and a reduction in the prices for rape not reaching the 'double zero' quality. The proposals include tighter controls of wine production.

#### **(4) Difficulties for certain farmers**

Independently of its proposals submitted under the socio-structural policy, the Commission stresses the need to allow for the special difficulties certain farmers have to contend with by proposing the retention of the aid (120 million ECU) for small grain farmers and an increase in the production aid for olive oil for small growers. It also proposes an increase in the aid paid for durum wheat in those regions where this is a traditional crop, as a counterpart to the intervention price reduction proposed for this type of grain.

### **III. TWO SPECIFIC ASPECTS**

#### **(1) Agri-monetary measures**

Complying with its undertaking to the Council to report by 31 December 1986 on the operation of the green ECU system, the Commission has now submitted its report.

The Commission draws the following conclusions from its analysis:

The Community must revert to an agri-monetary system which is consistent with the general monetary system. This aim cannot be achieved immediately. The move should therefore be by stages:

- (a) The Commission notes that some procedures now operated under the 'switch-over' system (set up in 1984) could well form an obstacle to the efforts being made to adjust the CAP, in that they are generating artificially a potential for price increases in most of the Member States. This danger has been aggravated by the recent instability of the EMS.

Consequently, it proposes that, from the next marketing year onwards, this system should be adapted in such a way that any 'artificial' creation of negative MCAs is automatically neutralized by a corresponding reduction of the prices in ECU, spread over two equal stages beginning for each product at the beginning of each of the two marketing years following currency realignment.

- (b) The principle of special green rates, deviating from real economic conditions, to be discontinued in 1992. The MCAs and the differential amounts also to be phased out by that date.

As regards the existing MCAs, the Commission takes the view that the drive to dismantle these amounts must continue. The negative MCAs created following the currency realignment of 12 January 1987 should be eliminated only within a year. On the other hand, the MCAs existing before that date should normally disappear, with two exceptions: the Greek MCAs and the British MCAs. The Commission feels that the relevant MCAs should be dismantled in two stages. Accordingly, it proposes:

- (a) total dismantlement of the MCAs in force on 12 January 1987 in France, Italy, Ireland, Spain and Portugal;
- (b) in the United Kingdom, a 4-point dismantlement of all the existing MCAs, and in Greece a 5-point dismantlement;
- (c) dismantlement of the positive MCAs in Germany and the Netherlands.

## **(2) Current regulations on oils and fats to be modified**

The output of olive oil must be maintained for social and economic reasons, and the production of oilseeds, as stated in the Commission's Green Paper, is an agricultural requirement and the only economic alternative to the production of surplus items (notably cereals).

However, because there is no proper protection at the frontiers, because of the enlargement of the Community to bring in Spain and Portugal, and because of declining world market prices, the cost to the Community

budget has become altogether excessive. Without action, this would be more than 3 000 million ECU in 1987 according to the budget estimates, and about 4 000 million ECU according to the latest estimates; the cost might even be higher by at least 2 000 million ECU when the effects of the last enlargement are felt in full.

This means that action is needed to cut costs within the Community. The Commission therefore proposes:

- (i) the introduction of a maximum quantities system for olive oil and soya oil. This system means that where production exceeds a quantity fixed by the Council, the unit aid paid will be reduced pro rata;
- (ii) that the criteria for implementing the same systems for rape and sunflower should be tightened up.

Because these changes could cause hardship for the poorer farmers, the Commission is proposing that a higher unit aid be paid to small olive oil growers.

#### **Consumers' contribution**

On the other hand, there seems to be a fair case for increased involvement of consumers in the achievement of budgetary equilibrium. When consumer prices for oils and fats are lowest (as was the case in 1986 and could well be again the case in 1987) the cost to the budget of maintaining Community production becomes unacceptable.

On the other hand, when prices rise, the support costs borne by the budget are reduced proportionately.

This being so, it would seem fair to implement a better allocation of costs between budget and consumer through a consumer price stabilization mechanism. This would operate as follows:

- (a) The average of ex-refinery refined soya oil prices charged in the Community in the last five years (1981 to 1985) is taken as the mechanism reference level (MRL).
- (b) Each year, the average of the prices of the preceding year is compared with the MRL. If the MRL exceeds the average, a levy will be charged, matching the difference on any vegetable or marine oil or fat released in the Community for human consumption or used for the production of food for consumption in the Community.

Where the price average exceeds the MRL and where this situation could interfere with the consumption of the relevant oils and fats, a consumer *aid* would be paid.



- (c) The mechanisms would start operating on 1 July 1987. The levy fixed for that date would apply until 31 December 1988. Thereafter, the calculation would be made each calendar year. However, the unit amount of any levy could in no circumstances in the future exceed that fixed for the 1 July 1987 — 31 December 1988 period.
- (d) The levy would be charged or the aid paid on out-take of the product from the refinery, or on import.
- (e) The revenue from the levy would be paid to the EAGGF and assigned to the financing of the CAP as regards oils and fats; it would thus constitute negative intervention expenditure.
- (f) The levy would be operated in Spain and Portugal only from 1991 onwards.

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

In its Opinion on farm prices, adopted by 94 votes for, 53 against and 12 abstentions, the Economic and Social Committee accepted the price freeze in ECU proposed by the Commission but expressed its concern at the reduction in farmers' incomes caused by reduction in prices for products in excess to Community needs. The combined effect on farmers' incomes must be properly evaluated and constructive alternatives devised to keep a healthy agriculture in being, it stated.

The Committee opposed the Commission's proposal on taxing oils and fats which would increase consumer prices. The majority supported the view that the monetary problems caused to the Community by supporting the production of oils and fats should be tackled by more market-oriented means.

In a minority statement presented to the Plenary Session, farmers' representatives favoured the Commission's position as it would provide substantial funds to European agriculture. The Committee was also in favour of abolishing green currencies at the earliest possible stage.

As far as connected measures are concerned, the Committee supports those which move in the direction of greater market orientation and approves the Commission's aim of returning intervention to its intended purpose. The Committee attaches priority to the reintroduction and retention of price and market unity. Hence its insistence that the green rates should be aligned regularly and rapidly on the central or market rates, this alignment being identical in all sectors. Temporary, degressive measures might prove necessary to offset the negative effects on the incomes of some farmers but they must not lead

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<sup>1</sup> CES 356/87.

to distortions in competition. To abolish in due course the system of green rates and MCAs, a higher degree of economic and monetary convergence and stability within the Community is required. To achieve this, all the Member States of the Community need to become full members of the European Monetary System.

As far as the cereals sector is concerned, the Committee calls in its Opinion for more direct measures to divert land from cereals.

With regard to rice, the Committee welcomes the move toward market orientation. In the field of wine the Committee welcomes the proposed strengthening of controls for this will reduce the problem of surpluses.

As far as fruit and vegetables are concerned, the Committee notes that the proposals of the Commission will have an effect on the withdrawal prices of produce which cannot find an outlet in the market. In the long run, varieties and qualities lacking market outlets should cease to receive financial support under the CAP.

As far as beef is concerned, some special measures are necessary to counteract the effect of the extra cow beef which will come on to the market as a result of the reduction in milk quotas.

As far as sheepmeat and goatmeat are concerned, the Committee cannot support the limitation of the ewe premium to 500 ewes and to 1 000 ewes in the less-favoured areas of the Community.

With regard to oilseeds, the Committee considers that guarantee thresholds should be based on the level of demand.

Finally, with regard to oils and fats, the Committee would point out that it has always rejected the imposition of charges. However, there are currently many problems in the oils and fats market. Expenditure has been increasing rapidly and is likely to increase further. The Committee cannot agree with the proposed system of stabilization because:

- (i) it would increase prices to the consumer over a wide range of foods, especially in the oil-eating countries;
- (ii) the proposal is considered to be in breach of the Community's obligations under GATT, the Lomé Convention and the Asean Cooperation Agreement;
- (iii) it can be argued that it is in essence a tax rather than an organization of the 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 Gardner (United Kingdom — Employers).*

## 2. IMITATION PRODUCTS

**'Proposal for a Council Directive on the approximation of the laws of the Member States concerning products which, appearing to be other than they are, endanger the health or safety of consumers' (COM(86) 499 final)**

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

The proposal seeks to approximate the laws of the Member States on the control of products which so resemble other products that they constitute a risk to the health and safety of consumers.

Two categories of products are involved:

- (i) products which resemble foodstuffs (e.g. erasers which imitate sweets) and are particularly dangerous for children;
- (ii) non-food products which if incorrectly used could cause consumers physical harm (e.g. cosmetics in imitation beer bottles).

The manufacture, import, export and marketing of such products would be prohibited. Member States would have to withdraw any product covered by the proposed Directive from the market.

A notification procedure is proposed, while the Commission, assisted by an Advisory Committee, would assess the appropriateness of measures taken by the Member States.

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

In its Opinion, adopted unanimously, the Committee welcomes the draft Directive as a significant measure designed to harmonize national measures in this area, and as a useful forerunner to the forthcoming framework draft Directive on the general safety of consumer goods.

It stresses the need for additional information and clarification. It proposes back-up measures to help increase public awareness of the risks to children and other particularly vulnerable groups.

The need for vigilance over imports and exports from and to third countries is also stressed. The Economic and Social Committee notes the proposal to set up an Advisory Committee to examine products, and emphasizes the fact that its members should include a variety of appropriate persons and experts.

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<sup>1</sup> CES 350/87.

*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 Mrs Williams (United Kingdom — Various Interests).*

### 3. METROLOGICAL CONTROL/ PREPACKAGED PRODUCTS

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

**'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 prepackaged products' (COM(86) 653 final)**

#### **Gist of the Commission proposals**

The following changes to existing Directives are proposed:

##### **1. Directive on distinguishing letters indicating the Member States**

At the end of 1985, Greece requested that it be assigned the distinguishing letters 'EL' in order to establish a link with its designation in its national language. The Commission proposes that the corresponding amendments be made to all Directives dealing with the approximation of Member States' laws on industrial products in which distinguishing letters are assigned to the Member States.

##### **2. Amendment to Directive 71/316/EEC**

This proposal to amend Directive 71/316/EEC adds to Annex II to that Directive the designs of the distinguishing letters for Spain ('E'), Greece

(‘EL’) and Portugal (‘P’) and replaces the design of the distinguishing letters ‘IR’ for Ireland by the distinguishing letters ‘IRL’.

These distinguishing letters for the Member States are one of the features of the EEC initial verification mark affixed on measuring instruments satisfying the requirements for free movement throughout the European Community.

### **3. Amendment to Directive 75/106/EEC**

The Commission proposes a complete harmonization of the authorized ranges of nominal quantities, and capacities for certain prepackaged products, including vermouths, liqueur wines, spirits and other spirituous beverages.

### **4. Amendment to Directive 80/232/EEC**

This proposal adds a new range for knitting and/or crocheting yarns to the ranges set out in Annex I to the Directive on ranges of nominal quantities and capacities for certain prepackaged products.

Unlike the other ranges in this Annex, the Commission proposes for knitting and/or crocheting yarns a range that must be totally applied, which means that the Member States must authorize the marketing of these products only in the quantities laid down by the Directive.

As far as the proposal for a Directive on the distinguishing letters for the Member States is concerned the proposed amendments are of an administrative nature.

As far as the two proposals for Directives on prepackaging ranges are concerned the proposed amendments and supplements are designed to protect the consumer and ensure fair commercial transactions in the prepackages concerned; they will provide businessmen and consumers with a legal certainty which could not as a matter of principle be provided by the simple mutual recognition of tests.

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

The Economic and Social Committee adopted its Opinion unanimously.

It welcomes the proposals made by the Commission. With regard to the stipulation of the 0.7 l volume for spirits, it does, however, ask the Commission to consider the extent to which Member States may retain the 0.75 l volume in order to avoid the costs involved in conversion.

<sup>1</sup> CES 351/87.

The Economic and Social Committee also welcomes the draft Directive amending Directive 80/232/EEC laying down the quantities in which hand-knitting and crocheting yarns are to be sold. It does, however, request the Commission (a) to amend the wording of Article 5 in order that it shall also apply to those quantities of hand-knitting yarns which are frequently enclosed only by a label and (b) to extend the list of fibres for the manufacture of hand-knitting yarns set out in point 11 to include other materials, such as silk and linen.

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

#### 4. CADDIA

**'Proposal for a Council Decision concerning the extension of the period of validity of Council Decision No 85/214/EEC of 26 March 1985 and Council Decision No 86/23/EEC of 4 February 1986 (Caddia)' (COM(87) 59 final)**

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

The application of the Council Decision of March 1985 concerning Caddia (a programme for setting up an information system between the Member States and the Commission with the aim of improving the administration of customs harmonization and agricultural policy) was limited to an initial period of two years expiring on 2 April 1987.

Given the interest that Caddia has aroused, the Commission is now proposing that the validity of this programme be extended until the end of 1992. This is the target date for completion of the internal market, a process in which Caddia is a major factor.

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

The Economic and Social Committee adopted its Opinion unanimously. It welcomes the Commission's new proposal, which seeks to extend the initial phase of the Caddia programme (endorsed by the ESC in July 1984) until the end of 1992.

<sup>1</sup> CES 352/87.

It expresses its recognition of the work done so far by the Steering Committee in conjunction with the implementation of the Caddia programme, but points out that the steps needed to ensure that the systems in the Member States are largely compatible with Caddia measures and objectives still have high priority among the Steering Committee's tasks.

The Economic and Social Committee urges the Commission to work out ideas in good time and take measures to ensure that the personnel concerned can acquire the necessary knowledge.

In conclusion, it repeats its observation that faster implementation of the Caddia programme will make it possible to considerably reduce and speed up customs formalities at the Community's internal frontiers, thereby bringing about an improvement that will be directly tangible to the Community's citizens.

*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 — Workers). The rapporteur was Mr Nierhaus (Germany — Workers).*

## 5. PERMANENT IMPORTS OF PERSONAL PROPERTY

**'Proposal for a Council Directive amending for the first time Directive 85/103/EEC on tax exemptions applicable to permanent imports from a Member State of the personal property of individuals' (COM(86) 584 final/2)**

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

Despite workers' freedom of movement and the right of entry and residence, an individual crossing national borders comes up against obstacles in connection with fiscal frontiers. This is particularly so in the case of passenger transport, temporary importation of vehicles and removals.

With a view to giving full effect to one of the Treaty's principles, namely the right of residence for workers, and to ensuring freedom of establishment and movement for individuals within the Community through (a) harmonization of the formalities to be completed on the transfer of normal residence between Member States and (b) easing of the rules governing importation of personal property, the Commission is proposing that Directive 83/183/EEC be amended so as to make exemption dependent only on presentation of an inventory of the imported goods accompanied by a harmonized declaration. It is also

proposing that a number of provisions regarding (a) conditions governing importation, (b) proof of former normal residence in the Member State of provenance and (c) personal property be relaxed:

- (i) in the case of motor-driven vehicles, caravans, mobile homes, pleasure boats and private aircraft, the six-month period of use may be maintained where such property was first supplied subject to VAT less than four years before the date of exportation. However, where this occurred more than four years previously, no period of use is henceforth to be required;
- (ii) the minimum quantitative limits for the allowances for certain goods (alcohol, wine, perfume etc. but not tobacco products) is to be increased to four times the quantities applicable to travellers within the Community (previously it was the same);
- (iii) Member States may no longer require proof of normal residence to be provided in the form of an official certificate issued by the local authority in the area in which the former residence was situated; in future, a declaration by the person concerned will be sufficient.

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

The Committee unanimously welcomes the proposal for a Directive. It considers it to be a real contribution towards eliminating formalities in transfrontier movements of goods within the Community and towards implementing freedom of movement for the Community's citizens. This is all the more justified since tax has already been paid on the goods in question and the quantities involved are insignificant compared with the volume of trade between the Member States.

The Economic and Social Committee suggests that the allowances in respect of certain highly taxed goods should be considerably increased, that the period within which removals may qualify for the exemptions in question should be extended to two years and that the discretionary value limit for marriage presents (currently 1 400 ECU) should be made mandatory for the Community.

*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).*

<sup>1</sup> CES 353/87.



## 6. SHEEPMEAT AND GOATMEAT

**'Proposal for a Council Regulation (EEC) amending for the 12th time Regulation (EEC) No 1837/80 on the common organization of the market in sheepmeat and goatmeat' (COM(87) 8 final)**

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

The purpose of the proposal is to adapt the common organization of the market in sheepmeat and goatmeat to take account of the accession of Spain and Portugal.

This it seeks to do by granting a ewe premium to producers in these two countries, which will be similar to that paid in other Community regions with similar production characteristics.

It is intended that this premium should be payable from the 1987/88 marketing year onwards.

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

In a unanimous Opinion, the Committee approves the proposal. It thinks, however, that longer term proposals should be drawn up in the light of experience gained.

*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 Strauss (United Kingdom — Various Interests).*

## 7. SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY FOR DEVELOPMENT II

**'Proposal for a Council Regulation (EEC) relating to a research and development programme in the field of science and technology for development' (COM(86) 550 final)**

### **Gist of the draft Regulation**

The proposed R&D programme just approved by the Commission has two objectives: (a) to stimulate research both in the Member States and

<sup>1</sup> CES 354/87.

in the Third World countries, aimed at helping to solve the problems of hunger and disease which still affect millions of people in tropical regions; (b) to strengthen developing countries' scientific potential by associating, as far as possible, Third World researchers with Community researchers on joint projects. The programme is a multi-annual programme in the field of science and technology covering the period 1987 to 1990.

With a budget of 80 million ECU, the proposed programme should make it possible to strengthen the scientific cooperation with Third World countries which the Community has endeavoured to implement since 1982.

In view of the fact that agriculture and nutrition, medicine and health are of vital importance for tropical countries, the cooperation is to be carried out in these areas.

The new programme carries on from the first Community 'Science and technology for development' (1983-86) programme, which will be completed at the end of this year. The Committee issued an Opinion on the first programme on 14 December 1983.<sup>1</sup>

Like its predecessor, this programme is to be carried out on the basis of shared costs, with the Community's share varying according to requirements.

Although the results achieved by the previous programme were encouraging, nevertheless the Commission feels that it is possible, and indeed necessary, to improve still further its scientific cooperation activities with Third World countries on certain points. For example, under the new programme it should be possible to strengthen research carried out with the countries of Latin America and Asia or research of a very marked interdisciplinary nature (in the areas of public health, nutrition, integrated rural development, etc.). Some areas which have not yet been sufficiently studied (tropical forestry, fisheries, etc.) should be looked at more closely and there should be more opportunities for South/South collaboration (i.e. between Third World countries).

To implement the second programme the Commission is proposing a number of new measures: the establishment of research networks on specific themes (water management, African trypanosomiasis, tropical medicinal plants, etc.); the setting-up in Third World countries of proper facilities for basic research, the supply of scientific equipment of Community origin to the teams working on the programme in these countries; a policy for the mobility of scientific staff from North to South and vice versa.

<sup>1</sup> CES 1195/83 — OJ C 35 of 9 February 1984 — Rapporteur: Mr Beretta.

The numerous subjects on which research is to be carried out include: improvement of tropical crop production, integrated measures to control noxious animals and plants, new fishing methods, management of tropical forest ecosystems, appraisal and use of water resources, campaign against parasitological diseases (malaria, sleeping sickness, bilharzia, etc.), bacterial diseases (leprosy, tuberculosis, etc.) and viral diseases (haemorrhagic fevers, viral hepatitis, AIDS, etc.), environmental health, etc.

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

In an Opinion adopted unanimously, the Committee, in general, strongly endorses the draft Regulation, and regrets the fact that it has not yet been adopted by the Council although the first programme expired in December 1986.

It feels that, in view of its declared aims, the programme should help to strengthen links between the Community and the developing countries.

While acknowledging the advantages which may result from the wide scope of the project lists covered by the programme, the Committee none the less stresses the danger that the available funds might be spread too thinly if too many projects were selected. In particular, the Committee would like the research projects selected to result in practical applications corresponding to the needs and capacities of developing countries.

The Committee also considers that the main purpose of the programme is to create a North to South flow of technical benefit with a progressively larger share of research work being undertaken in developing countries. In this context every possible effort should be made to increase the developing countries' scientific and technical independence and capability.

The Committee emphasizes that technology transfer is an essential element in this programme. It stresses that transfer of equipment must be accompanied by transfer of knowledge and expertise and that the latter must be done either by Community experts or, preferably, by well-trained local personnel.

The Committee attaches great importance to the development of an objective assessment system for future programmes.

*This Opinion was drawn up in the light of the paper produced by the Section for Energy, Nuclear Questions and Research, chaired by*

<sup>1</sup> CES 357/87.

*Mr Romoli (Italy — Employers). The rapporteur was Mr Campbell (United Kingdom — Employers).*

## 8. BORDER POSTS

**'Proposal for a Council Regulation (EEC) on the abolition of exit formalities at internal Community frontiers — introduction of common border posts' (COM(86) 524 final)**

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

Goods and vehicles crossing internal EC frontiers are still subject to customs formalities on both sides of the border. The entry and exit formalities are virtually identical and such duplication is of course both time-consuming and expensive.

The proposal, which was first mooted in the White Paper on the completion of the internal market, provides for formalities to be carried out at the point of entry only. It establishes legal procedures empowering customs officers to act on behalf of a neighbouring State and defines the scope of such action. It also lays down guidelines for tackling problems in connection with the interpretation or enforcement of the customs regulations of the neighbouring State.

Issues requiring interpretation will be referred to the Committee on the Movement of Goods established under Regulation (EEC) No 678/85 of 18 February 1985.

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

The Economic and Social Committee adopted its Opinion unanimously.

It is committed to the idea of a single Community market, welcomes the proposed transfer of work from the office of exit to the office of entry when the latter is empowered in any case to repeat such work, especially as it is also a step towards the future abolition of all border checks.

The proposal would, however, compel customs officials in the Member State of entry to apply the laws of the Member State of exit to a considerable extent.

Furthermore, the need to supply legal information, have translations done and settle disputes about the interpreting or implementation of the

<sup>1</sup> CES 358/87.

Member State of exit's laws is likely to increase customs offices' workloads and costs out of all proportion to the benefits to be gained.

Accordingly, the Committee thinks that it will be possible to transfer only specified export formalities and controls, where the office of entry is in a position to reach decisions on its own without knowing the laws of the Member State of exit. It recommends that the proposal be amended along these lines.

*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).*

## 9. FRUIT JUICES

**'Proposal for a Council Directive amending for the third time Directive 75/726/EEC on the approximation of the laws of the Member States concerning fruit juices and certain similar products' (COM(86) 688 final)**

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

The main purpose of the draft Directive is to delegate to the Commission the management of the existing EC provisions relating to fruit juices and similar products governed by Council Directive 75/726/EEC of 17 November 1975.

Experience gained since the adoption of the above-mentioned Directive has revealed the need for several amendments not caused by technical progress. The Commission has therefore decided to take advantage of this proposal for a Council Directive to make the necessary amendments.

The main amendments are as follows:

#### **(a) Definition of fruit nectar**

The Commission proposes that the Directive authorize the manufacture of fruit nectars without the addition of sugar. This addition is not at all necessary in the case of highly flavoured or very sweet fruits such as certain tropical fruits.

#### **(b) Use of fruit purée**

The Commission recommends authorizing the use of fruit purée for the production of certain fruit juices.

(c) **Honey**

The Commission proposes that, if honey has to be used in fruit nectars, it must replace the sugars totally and not partially.

(d) **Inadequate acidity level**

It is often necessary to correct an inadequate acidity level in the case of nectar made from apples produced in certain regions of the Community. The Commission therefore proposes to authorize the addition of citric acid or lemon juice.

(e) **Sweetening of concentrated fruit juices**

To avoid fraud the Commission considers that the sweetening of concentrated fruit juices should be limited solely to fruit juices intended for direct consumption.

(f) **Management of EC legislation**

The Commission proposes that the Commission itself be made responsible for managing the existing EC provisions in the field governed by the proposed Directive.

(g) **Additives**

The Commission proposes that the case of a number of additives should not be settled specifically, as at present, but should be dealt with in the more general context of the future Community regulations on food additives.

(h) **Special provisions relating to fruit nectars**

The Commission proposes:

- (i) to include a new category of fruits from which nectars may be obtained;
- (ii) to entitle it 'low-acid, pulpy or highly flavoured fruits, with juice inedible in the natural state';
- (iii) to lay down criteria for this new category of nectars.

It also proposes to waive the natural acidity criterion so as to allow the use of low-acid fruits.

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

The Committee unanimously approves the Commission proposal. At the same time it stresses the importance of forging ahead with harmonization and the introduction of new and more effective rules,

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<sup>1</sup> CES 359/87.

methods and criteria for analyses and sampling in order to constantly improve product control.

The Economic and Social Committee recommends that, when additives are absolutely necessary, natural additives only should be used wherever possible. Finally, it points out the need for sufficient time to be allowed so that producers and traders can adjust to the new rules of the present Directive.

*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 Quedevo Rojo (Spain — Various Interests).*

## 10. VETERINARY MATTERS/MEAT PRODUCTS

**'Proposal for a Council Directive amending Directive 80/215/EEC on animal health problems affecting intra-Community trade in meat products' (COM(87) 51 final)**

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

The Commission proposes the inclusion of heat treatment among the treatments already prescribed for the destruction of livestock disease germs in meat products, so as to make possible the circulation of these products within the Community and the marketing of Spanish and Portuguese production to some extent.

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

In its unanimous Opinion, the Committee supports the Commission's proposal.

The Community stresses that African swine fever is both a national and a Community problem. It expresses the hope that national authorities will find themselves able to apply the same safeguards for national trade as are proposed for intra-Community trade.

*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 Storie-Pugh (United Kingdom — Various Interests).*

<sup>1</sup> CES 355/87.

## 11. STOCK EXCHANGE PROSPECTUS

**'Proposal for a Council Directive amending Directive No 83/390/EEC coordinating the requirements for the drawing-up, scrutiny and distribution of the listing particulars to be published for the admission of securities to official stock exchange listing' (COM(87) 129 final)**

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

In its proposal, the Commission is seeking to amend Article 24 of Directive 80/390/EEC of 17 April 1980 on the drawing-up, scrutiny and distribution of the listing particulars to be published when securities are admitted to official stock exchange listing.

In particular, the proposal aims to solve the problem of drawing up a prospectus and getting it recognized by the Member States concerned in cases where a security is to be admitted to official listing on stock exchanges situated or operating in several Member States.

The Commission also proposes to amplify Article 25 of the Directive referred to above in order to settle problems to do with professional secrecy and with cooperation and the exchange of information between the competent authorities.

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

The Economic and Social Committee has adopted its Opinion unanimously. It approves the Commission's proposal to amend Directive 80/390/EEC, which seeks to solve the problem of recognition, by the Member States concerned, of the prospectus issued when a request is made within a given period for a security to be admitted to official listing on stock exchanges situated or operating in several places in the Community.

The Community feels that the adoption of this proposal and the proposal concerning the prospectus to be published when transferable securities are offered for sale to the public<sup>2</sup> will help towards the integration of the securities market and further the unification of the capital market in the Community.

The Committee asks the Council to adopt rapidly the two proposed Directives submitted by the Commission.

<sup>1</sup> CES 360/87.

<sup>2</sup> OJ C 355 of 31 December 1980 and C 226 of 31 August 1982.



The Committee considers that the time limit of one month for submitting applications for admission to official listing on stock exchanges situated or operating in several Member States is very short. A longer time limit must be envisaged, subject to the emergence of a significant new fact, as provided for in Article 23 of Directive 80/390/EEC.

The Committee is pleased at the addition of paragraph 7 to the first Article in the Commission's proposal, which obliges the competent authorities to cooperate with each other.

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

## **External relations**

### **Commemoration of the 30th anniversary of the Treaties of Rome—ESC joins in celebrations**

The Chairman of the Economic and Social Committee of the European Communities, Mr Fons Margot attended the ceremonies in Rome arranged by the Italian Government on 25 March to mark the 30th anniversary of the signing of the Treaties of Rome.

He was accompanied by an ESC delegation comprising the two Vice-Chairmen, Mr William Poeton and Mr José Maria Zufiaur Narvaiza and the Secretary-General, Mr Roger Louet.

The ESC delegation met the members of the Bureau of the Italian Economic and Labour Council for an exchange of views on matters including the Council's recent reform and the ESC's influence in the Community decision-making procedure now that the Single Act is about to come into force.

### **ESC Conference on the Environment in Luxembourg**

The Economic and Social Committee of the European Communities held a conference in Luxembourg on Monday and Tuesday, 30 and 31 March 1987, to mark the European Year of the Environment. The theme of the conference was 'Qualitative growth and consumption: a strategy for improving the environment'.

The conference was attended by some 300 delegates from socio-economic organizations and representatives of the local and regional authorities of the Saar, Rheinland-Pfalz, Lorraine, Luxembourg and the Belgian province of Luxembourg, as well as representatives of the Member States of the EC and young people. The aim of this meeting was to demonstrate that the problems connected with pollution, particularly water and air pollution, and waste management, transcend national frontiers and that it is often necessary to seek local solutions to global problems.

The representatives of the European institutions, economic and social interest groups and local, regional and European authorities considered the elements of a policy on quality in this area:

- (i) transparency of data, evaluation of environment policy;
- (ii) start on aligning relevant standards;
- (iii) creation of new Community-level instruments, or adaptation of existing ones, to lay the foundations for such a policy, with the emphasis on integrated programmes.

It was suggested that ERDF rules be amended to allow more resources to be channelled to cross-frontier regional and local environment projects. Alternatively, consideration could be given to the creation of a special fund.

A major educational and information campaign is a *sine qua non* for an effective environment policy.

The cross-frontier region in question must become a development model which can be the spring-board for an exemplary Community policy integrating economic, cultural and ecological aspects.

To attain this set of objectives it is necessary to arrange regular inter-regional meetings, involving the whole range of existing institutions. The Economic and Social Committee will play its part here.

To foster a better understanding of the problems, encouragement should be given to a dialogue between young people at the level of the target region.

The conference was presided over by Mr Margot, Chairman of the ESC, and Mr Jäschick, Chairman of the ESC Environment Section. Those attending included Mr Robert Kriepps, Minister in the Government of Luxembourg; Mrs Miet Smet, President of the Council of the European Communities; Mr Clinton Davis, EC Commissioner; Mrs Beate Weber, Chairman of the Environment Committee of the European Parliament; Mr Sigbert Alber, Vice-President of the European Parliament.

### **Joint meeting of EEC's Economic and Social Committee and of EFTA's Consultative Committee in Basle**

The need for translating into reality the political will for even closer ties and combined action between the EFTA countries and the European Economic Community clearly came to the fore at the 14th Joint meeting of the EEC's Economic and Social Committee and of the EFTA's Consultative Committee held in Basle on 1 and 2 April 1987.

Both Committees group representatives of employers, trade unions and various interest groups and have a consultative role with their respective institutions.



*Members of the ESC and of the EFTA Consultative Committee visit the research laboratory of Ciba/Geigy in Basle.*

The Basle meeting, attended by some 80 different delegates, was chaired alternatively by Mr Fons Margot, President of the Economic and Social Committee, and Mr Roland Spant, representative of the Central Organization of Salaried Employees in Sweden. Mr Roger Louet, Secretary-General of the Economic and Social Committee, and Mr Per Kleppe, Secretary-General of EFTA also attended the meeting.

In their discussions the participants paid particular attention to the ongoing action aimed at completing the EC internal market, as well as to the possible influence of the so-called EC Single Act, notably in relation to the new voting procedure it will introduce within the Community in the process of reducing technical barriers to trade and substantially of accelerating the work on harmonization amongst EC Member States.

The participants underlined the need for common efforts towards the removal of all obstacles to trade, thereby leading to a system of free commercial exchange. They particularly supported the idea that no discrimination towards EFTA countries should result from the completion of the EC's internal market.

### **Chairman's activities**

The Chairman, Mr Margot, met Lady Serota, Chairman of the Parliamentary Committee for European Affairs at the House of Lords, in Brussels on 5 March 1987.

Mr Margot laid the foundation stone of the extension to the European Communities' Court of Justice building in Luxembourg on 11 March.

On 13 March Mr Margot attended a seminar in Brussels organized by UEAPME (European Union of the Association of Small and Medium-sized Enterprises).

Mr Margot and Mr Louet, the Secretary-General, met Lord Plumb, the European Parliament President, in Brussels on 19 March.

On 23 March Mr Margot and Mr Louet met Mr Vincent Fean, attaché at the UK Permanent Representation in Brussels.

On the same day Mr Margot attended a meeting of the Office of Savings Banks Groupings of the EEC.

On 27 March the Chairman attended the annual general meeting of Seplis (European Secretariat of Liberal, Learned and Social Professions), in Brussels.

On 8 April the ESC Chairman attended a meeting of the European Parliament in Strasbourg which was addressed by King Baudouin of

Belgium. The Chairman was also present at the official lunch attended by the European Parliament Vice-Presidents, presidents of political groups, Belgian MPs and presidents and chairmen of other bodies.

### **European meeting on the environment in Naples**

An ESC delegation travelled to Naples on 16-18 March 1987 to study at first hand the city's environmental problems and those of the Campania region. The delegation had drawn up the Opinion on the European Communities' fourth environmental action programme. In addition, the Committee had been instructed, in connection with the European Year of the Environment, to organize a conference entitled 'Towards qualitative growth and consumption — a strategy for improving the environment'. This conference was held in Luxembourg at the end of March.

The 30-member Committee delegation was led by Mr Johannes Jaschick (Germany), Chairman of the Environment Section at the Committee and Mr John de Normann, Director of the Executive Committee of the National Council of Building Materials Producers and Study Group Chairman. The rapporteur for the Opinion was Mr Klaus Boisseree, Chairman of the German Environment Association and the co-rapporteur Mr Patrick Murphy, General Secretary of the Federated Workers' Union of Ireland.

The delegation was received in Naples by Mr Sergio Vitiello, Government Commissioner, Mr Antonio Fantini, Campania Region Chairman, and Mr Francesco De Lorenzo, Environment Minister. Mr Danilo Beretta of CISL, an ESC member, presented a report on the Naples region.

The delegation visited the Italsider works at Bagnoli and the CUMA area, and had talks with leaders of economic and social groups and the regional authorities.

### **Other activities**

ESC member, Mr Murphy, attended the European Conference on 'Biological diversity — a challenge for science, the economy and society', organized by the Agricultural Institute, the National Office for Science and Technology and the Commission of the European Communities in Dublin on 6 March 1987.

Mr Maniotopoulos, European Commission Energy Director-General, attended the meeting of the Section for Energy, Nuclear Affairs and Research in Brussels on 6 March 1987.

The Committee's Vice-Chairman, Mr Poeton, attended a seminar on 'The clean car — a challenge for Europe', held in London on 12 March and organized by the EEB (European Environmental Bureau).

Mr McLaughlin, ESC director, attended a conference on maritime cabotage, organized by the International Sea Centre at La Rochelle, France on 12-13 March.

Mr Mainetti, ESC member, and Mr Burton, from the ESC Secretariat, attended a seminar on 'Medium and long-term energy prospects' organized by the European Communities' Commission and OPEC-Oapec in Luxembourg on 17-19 March.

Mr Moreland, ESC member, attended the Conference on 'Education and training in EEC proposals', organized by the British Chamber of Commerce for Belgium and Luxembourg and the European Communities' Commission on 19 March.

Mr Staedelin and Mr Vassilaras, ESC members, attended the Conference on industrial policy organized by the ETUC and held in London on 19-20 March.

Mr Claude Laval of the ESC Secretariat, represented the Secretary-General at the FNSEA Congress (National Federation of Farmers' Unions) held in Paris on 26 March.

Mr McLaughlin, ESC director, attended the Commemoration Day of the United States' bi-centenary and the 30th anniversary of the EEC, held in Louvain and organized by the Catholic University of Louvain in Belgium on 27 March.

The Secretary-General, Mr Louet, attended the symposium organized by the European Movement in Paris on 9 April to mark the 30th anniversary of the signing of the Treaties of Rome.

Mr Poeton, ESC Vice-Chairman, attended the third series of European communication days organized by the European Institute for Higher International Studies in Nice.

The Secretary-General, Mr Louet, attended the Rome meeting of secretary-generals of national economic and social councils (10 April).

The ESC Section for Transport and Communications met on 11 March in Brussels, under the chairmanship of Mr Delourme (Belgium — Workers). Mr Herman De Croo, President-in-office of the Community's Council (Transport) and Belgian Minister for Communications and External Commerce, reviewed the evolution of the common transport policy.





## New consultations

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

**'Making a success of the Single Act. A new frontier for Europe'** (COM(87) 100 final)

(a) **'Proposal for a Council Directive amending Directive 83/189/EEC laying down a procedure for the provision of information in the field of technical standards and regulations'**

(b) **'Proposal for a Council Directive laying down a procedure for the provision of information in the field of technical standards and regulations applying to agricultural products'** (COM(87) 52 final)

**'Proposal for a Council Regulation (EEC) laying down the conditions under which non-resident carriers may operate national road-passenger transport services within a Member State'** (COM(87) 31 final)

**'Communication from the Commission to the Council on speed limits in the Community'** (COM(86) 735 final)

**'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)

**'The proposal for a Council Directive amending for the fourth time Directive 76/768/EEC on the approximation of the laws of the Member States relating to cosmetic products'** (COM(87) 74 final)

**'Proposal for a Council Decision establishing a five-year Community-wide programme of projects illustrating how actions in the environmental field can also contribute to employment creation'** (COM(86) 721 final)

**'Draft Council Decision amending Decision 74/325/EEC to extend the responsibilities of the Advisory Committee on Safety, Hygiene and Health Protection at Work to include health protection against the dangers arising from ionizing radiations'** (COM(87) 121 final)

**'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)

**'Modified proposal for Council Directives concerning limit values for discharges of aldrin, dieldrin and endrin into the aquatic environment and quality objectives for aldrin, dieldrin and endrin in the aquatic environment' (COM(86) 534 final)**

**'Proposal for a Council Decision amending Decision 86/85/EEC establishing a Community information system for the control and reduction of pollution caused by the spillage of hydrocarbons and other harmful substances at sea' (COM(87) 120 final)**

**'Proposal for a Council Directive concerning the coordination of procedures for the award of public works contracts' (COM(87) 134 final)**

**'Proposal for a Council Regulation (EEC) on the distillation and marketing of liqueur wines produced in the Community, and**

**Proposal for a Council Regulation (EEC) amending Regulation (EEC) No X/87 on the common organization of the market in wine' (COM(87) 91 final)**

**'Proposal for a Council Directive amending Directive 70/156/EEC on the approximation of the laws of the Member States relating to the type-approval of motor vehicles and their trailers' (COM(87) 109 final)**

**'Proposal for a Council Decision adopting an action programme for the training and preparation of young people for adult and working life**

# Outline programme of future work

## May 1987 Plenary Session

### *Opinions upon consultation*

- Adult training in firms (COM(86) 780 final)
- Preparation of young people for adult working life (COM(87) 90 final)
- Fourth environment programme (COM(86) 465 final)
- Good laboratory practice (COM(86) 698 final)
- Environmental programme to create employment (COM(86) 721 final)
- 11th ERDF Report (COM(86) 545 final)
- Lawnmower sound power levels (COM(86) 682 final)
- Temporary import of certain means of transport (COM(87) 14 final)
- Exemption from VAT in respect of the definitive import of certain goods (COM(87) 21 final)
- Credit institutions' own funds (COM(86) 169 final/2)
- Wheeled agricultural or forestry tractors (COM(86) 777 final)
- Road haulage (COM(85) 611 final)
- Jams (COM(86) 613 final)
- Limits of contamination permitted (COM(87) 28 final)
- Making a success of the Single Act: a new frontier for Europe (COM(87) 100 final)

### *Own-initiative opinion*

- Island-regions problems

## Subsequent Plenary Sessions

### *Opinions upon consultation*

- Economic situation in the Community
- Financing of major infrastructure projects (COM(86) 722 final)
- Social developments

Import and export of dangerous chemicals (COM(86) 362 final)  
Official inspection of foodstuffs (COM(86) 474 final)  
Toy safety (COM(86) 541 final)  
Environment action (COM(86) 729 final)  
Disclosure requirements — company branches (COM(86) 397 final)  
Publication of accounting documents (COM(86) 396 final)  
Public works contract procedures (COM(86) 679 final)  
Transparency pricing of medicinal products (COM(86) 765 final)  
Fluid fertilizers (COM(86) 704 final)  
Type-approval of motor vehicles (COM(87) 26 final)  
Publication of attestations and certificates (COM(87) 44 final)  
Community quotas (COM(86) 595 final/2)  
Fiscal competition distortions in haulage (COM(86) 750 final)  
Pan-European mobile communications (COM(87) 35 final)  
Speed limits (COM(86) 735 final)  
Cosmetic products  
Compulsory winding-up of direct insurance undertakings (COM(86) 768 final)  
Annual accounts — insurance undertakings (COM(86) 764 final)  
Egg products (COM(87) 46 final)  
Innovation centres and their networks (COM(86) 785 final)  
Building products (COM(86) 756 final/3)  
16th competition report  
Lead content of petrol (COM(87) 33 final)  
Technical standards and regulations (COM(87) 52 final)  
Road passenger transport services (COM(87) 31 final)  
Five-year JRC programme  
GSP  
Broadcasting activities (COM(86) 146 final)

*Own-initiative Opinions*

Relations between the Community and State-trading countries  
Cross-frontier labour problems  
Consequences of the Chernobyl nuclear accident

*Information reports*

Social aspects of the internal market

Development of upland areas

Training and supply of researchers in the Community

GATT

The problem of ACP countries' debt burden

Relations between the Community and Mediterranean countries



## Members' news

### **Appointment**

The Council of Ministers appointed Mr Victor Forjas Cabrera (Spain), Chairman of the Management Committee of the Spanish Cooperatives' Federation to the Economic and Social Committee, to replace Mr Larranaga Lizzaralde.





# 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)  
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Demographic situation in the Community (Information report) (Brussels 1986)  
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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:

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