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BULLETIN OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES

**European Coal and Steel Community
European Economic Community
European Atomic Energy Community**

**Commission of the European Communities
Secretariat of the Commission
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summary

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1ST PART

**DOCUMENTS, FACTS
AND STUDIES**

1. Improvement of the Common Agricultural Policy

1101. A Memorandum covering a programme for improving the CAP¹ over the period 1973-1978 was adopted on 31 October 1973 by the Commission and transmitted to the Council.

The programme is aimed at improving the market and price policies, strengthening and supplementing the socio-structural policy and supporting efforts undertaken in this field within the concept of the Economic and Monetary Union. The Commission also proposes to amplify the contribution by the CAP to other spheres such as consumer protection and the environment.

The programme entails a package of measures and action to be implemented gradually over the period in question, hence the need to take decisions and options immediately in each of the areas concerned.

While acknowledging certain well-founded criticisms of the CAP, the Commission stressed its major advantages for both the producer and the consumer. Through the CAP, intra-Community and external trade in farm products has substantially developed offering the consumer a wide choice of foodstuffs, which has expanded considerably over recent years. By interventions at outside frontiers the CAP has brought in a stability factor on the internal market, which the recent world market upheavals have clearly demonstrated. Moreover, it has helped to speed up the structural improvement of European agriculture matched by a continual increase in productivity.

Admittedly the CAP has not been able to solve all agricultural problems, such as for instance income disparities persisting in the farming sector or the collapse of the 'single market' owing to monetary events. But the Commission considers it would be unfair to load these shortcomings on the back of the CAP. These problems can only be solved by consistent and logical Community action involving economic and monetary policy and regional, social and

fiscal policy. Looking towards the Economic and Monetary Union the Commission stresses the basic objective of gradually phasing out the compensatory amounts by 31 December 1977 so as to restore the single agricultural market by then.

The Commission also stressed the need to set up the Regional Development Fund by 31 December 1973 and undertake other action in the social and fiscal field within a short time.

General Features

Market and Price Policy

1102. The Commission holds that the market and price policy, based on modern farmholdings, must continue to be the main tool of the CAP. But this policy must be improved in the light of experience. The proposed improvements which emphasize better price relationships, a certain responsibility on the part of the producers and more flexibility, will allow the Guarantee Section of the EAGGF to make substantial savings especially in the cereal sector (580 million u.a.) and the dairy produce department (470 million u.a.).

The improvements will also help to cut down the imbalances on certain agricultural markets and to streamline certain mechanisms of the joint organization of the market. The measures which the Commission proposes to take are listed further on.²

Regarding the annual Council Decisions on farm prices, the Commission thinks that these should be based more on an appraisal of objective criteria. For its part the Commission,

¹ Supplement 17/73 - Bull. EC (Full text of Memorandum).

² Point 1305.

when drawing up price proposals, will base its considerations to a much greater extent on modern farmholdings, while allowing for the supply and demand position on each market concerned.

The Commission has come to the conclusion that a more or less generalized system of direct aid for agricultural incomes would threaten to slow down structural development and provoke administrative problems in most Member States and incur excessive expenditure for public budgets. The Commission thinks that an equitable and appropriate growth of farming incomes can be ensured by the action now underway in the socio-structural field, the new moves now under discussion at Council level and those proposed in the Memorandum.

Structural Policy

1103. Emphasizing the complementary nature of the market and price policy and the structural policy, the Commission intends to supplement the existing provisions (socio-structural Directives adopted by the Council in 1972) and the current Proposals (for hill-farming and certain underfavoured zones, moves in favour of priority agricultural regions).

To this end the Commission in late 1973 will put forward a Proposal for a Directive on fostering forestry projects. The Commission also intends, early in 1974, to supplement its Proposal on producer groups with a Proposal covering joint action to encourage development and rationalization in the marketing sector and the farm produce processing sector.

Consumer and Environment Protection

1104. While emphasizing the positive aspects of the CAP for the consumer and the benefits for the consumer in the measures contained

in the Memorandum, the Commission intends to boost high quality production and monitor it effectively. Under the coordination of agronomic research, the Commission proposes to encourage research on the effect of various consumed fats on human health.

Regarding the protection of the environment, the Commission recalls that the Council in July 1973 adopted an environment action programme¹ which prescribes *inter alia* action to develop agricultural production and breeding techniques congenial to the environment and projects for protecting certain animal species, in particular migrant birds. Lastly, the measures proposed for hill-farming and the forestry projects soon to be submitted by the Commission must also be regarded against the background of environmental protection.

Practical Measures for various Agricultural Markets

1105. Under the market and price policy the Commission proposes the adoption of the following measures.

Dairy Produce

- A temporary 'co-responsibility' subscription would be levied at producer level without rebounding on the consumer. The subscription or levy would be set as a ratio of surpluses with a maximum of 2% of the target price of milk. In liaison with the trade circles concerned the proceeds from the levy would be put to action for facilitating the disposal of dairy produce on the internal market. Every farm would be granted exemption on the first

¹ Bull. EC 7/8-1105, points 1301-1309: 'Definition of a Community Environment Policy'.

10000 litres delivered to the dairy. Dairies delivering more than a set percentage of their output to intervention agencies would bear an additional levy.

- Intervention prices for butter would be cut from 176 u.a./100 kg to 153.35 u.a./100 kg. Skim milk powder intervention prices would be raised from 66 u.a./100 kg to 76.80 u.a./100 kg. In this way the butterfat solids non-fat ratio now at 58/42 would be adjusted to 50/50.

- Butter fats would be the only fats used in the dairy products sector and for ice-cream.

- Support measures for farm butter would be scaled down.

- Technical improvements will be made for greater flexibility in administering the market.

The Commission considers that these measures would offset the decline in butter consumption and for the time being would discourage production. Savings for the EAGGF by the end of the strategic improvement period can be put at 470 million u.a.

Beef and Veal

- The guide price for calves would be discontinued.

- The import system would be streamlined by replacing the 'customs duty plus levy varying according to the cut of the meat' with a single charge on imports.

- Meat production incentives would be improved.

Mutton and Lamb

- A market organization would be set up including: abolition of any quantitative restric-

tions, application of the competition rules and the introduction of diminishing compensatory amounts between the U.K. and Ireland on one side and the rest of the Member States on the other.

- The trade system with third countries would eventually be rescrutinized allowing for the Community's international obligations.

- Mutton and lamb production would be encouraged through incentives.

Cereals

- Sounder price relationships would be introduced by temporarily not raising the price of soft wheat and through a relative increase in barley and maize prices.

- The denaturing system would be gradually phased out; if need be exceptional measures would be brought in to facilitate the conversion of soft wheat into forage.

- The 'regionalization' of intervention prices would be replaced by a system of single intervention prices for soft wheat and barley.

- Intervention for sub-standard quality cereals would be dropped.

- The production refund scheme would be improved (starches etc.).

- A comprehensive and coherent stocks policy based on soft wheat would be implemented

- Technical improvements would be brought in for greater flexibility in administering the market.

According to the Commission's estimates these measures, which would help to achieve a more balanced cereal market, would also allow the EAGGF to make savings to the order of 580 million u.a. by the end of the improvement period.

Proteins

- Production of sunflower seeds would be encouraged through a relative increase in the price of sunflower compared with colza.
- The support scheme for sunflower and colza seeds would be extended to soya seed without prejudice to the current soya import system.
- Dehydration of fodder plants such as lucerne would be encouraged.
- The prices of selected vegetable fodder seeds such as peas and beans would be cut.
- A research programme would be set up to develop and produce new varieties of seeds, especially of hybrid beans and high-protein content cereals.
- All Member States would be authorized to use urea in animal feeds.
- Other protein-producing techniques would be investigated.

Oilseeds

- Regionalization of prices would be overhauled allowing the discontinuance of additional aid for colza seeds processed in Italy.
- A research programme would be set up for selected colza seed selection. As from the 1976/77 crop year aid would be granted only for colza seeds produced from selected colza.

Olive Oil

- Aid computations would be made with more regard for market developments.
- As from the 1974/75 campaign, aid would be more closely monitored.

Wine

There would be scope for distilling wine during the first two months of the campaign, on the basis of a purchase price between 50 and 60% of the guide price.

Potatoes

A joint organization of the market would be set up including the application of the competition rules and the introduction of quality norms.

2. Social Action programme

1201. The 'Social Action Programme'—its setting up had been asked at the Paris Summit in October 1973¹—was approved by the Commission on 24 October and sent to the Council the following day; the latter must decide on the proposals contained in this programme. The main guidelines of the programme were laid down in April 1973 in the form of a 'guidance' document² which can be considered as showing the way to a Europe where identity is recognized by the originality of its social character. It was conceived, not as a 'declaration of intent' but as a practical plan, spread over a welldefined period of time and which takes into account first and foremost the real conditions under which the European Community is developing so that the actions proposed are the most efficient.

The programme—its first stage is to cover the 1974-1976 period—concerns three objectives:

- (i) achieving full and better employment in the Community;
- (ii) improving living and working conditions enabling the upward equalization thereof to take place;
- (iii) increasing the involvement of the Social Partners in the economic and social decisions of the Community.

Full and Better Employment

1202. Full employment is considered one of the main objectives for concerted action in economic, financial, regional and social policies both at Community and national levels. The aim is not only to create sufficient employment for the working population but to stress the human aspect of this problem by ensuring workers' access to the jobs better suited to their individual skills and to the needs of society. This is why the Commission proposes to provide measures in its regional policy encourag-

ing new jobs; it also underlines the active role of social policy in this field by giving an impetus to the actions required, in particular:

- (i) setting up a vast recycling system enabling workers to be protected against production changes; this system provides an assured income during the recycling period;
- (ii) initiatives giving increased importance to vocational training, guidance, conversion and trade retraining; in this respect the Commission proposes to set up a European vocational training centre which could be an essential instrument;
- (iii) improved working of national employment exchanges and cooperation between these exchanges;
- (iv) improvement in means currently available for analyzing the labour market and forecasting its development;
- (v) taking into consideration problems arising from female work; the gradual establishing of equality of men and women in the labour market; measures to enable women to reconcile their family responsibilities and their aspirations to work. An 'ad hoc' group is to help the Commission in the search for guidance in this field. Among the projects are a documentation centre on women's problems and an information centre aimed at helping to change the general attitude towards women at work.

Development of the *Social Fund* is to be considered as an essential condition in implementing the Action Programme. It will be responsible for the main task of assuring appropriate qualification of the available labour force and will have the role of promoting workers readaptation programmes. The Social Fund will be increasingly concerned in future

¹ Bull. EC 10-1972, Part One, Chapter I.

² Bull. EC 4-1973, points 1201 to 1204 and Supplement 4/73 - Bull. EC.

with problems attached to certain specific categories of workers especially migrant workers and the handicapped. Particular attention will also be given to problems of old age workers, unemployed school leavers and women seeking to resume work after an interval. The priorities of the Social Fund are the object of detailed specifications.

Improving Living and Working Conditions

1203. If the guarantee of employment is a priority, the aim of all Community activity is the improvement in living and working conditions. The Commission does not intend to recommend a uniform social system in the Community but has endeavoured to lay down minimum levels of social protection capable of constant improvement. There are, moreover, in the Community certain underprivileged groups (for instance, the handicapped, old people and migrants); the improvement in the living conditions of these is a social priority.

In this connection, the Commission's programme consists of the following actions:

- (a) the gradual extension of social protection to persons not covered or insufficiently protected under the existing system;
- (b) the gradual adaptation of social security provisions to income growth;
- (c) the development, with the Member States' help of measures to remove the causes and the various aspects of chronic poverty. The Commission believes that it can help Member States to solve the problems of families or persons having an exceptionally low income or of persons not easily employable;
- (d) studies and experimental schemes concerning other socially underprivileged categories, such as old people, migrant workers, the handicapped.

On *wages and working conditions*, the Commission has prepared proposals with social progress and the equalization in the conditions of competition. These proposals concern the principle of the 40 hour week and four weeks annual paid holidays, the closer implementation of the principle of equal pay for equal work between men and women, the establishment of basic wages minima should, according to the Commission, be recognized as an objective to be reached, also the measures to improve the position of persons with very low incomes.

On asset formation, the Commission proposes to draft proposals after having obtained systematic information in this area. A survey of systems of asset formation in Member States is almost completed and will serve as a basis for proposals to be prepared by the Commission in collaboration with governmental experts and with the social partners.

The Commission attaches some importance to efforts tending to remove repetitive work in certain industries like work on assembly lines, by techniques of 'job enrichment' which remove intolerable working and living conditions.

On environment, a *Foundation for the Improvement of Living and Working Conditions* is proposed so as to better understand the problems concerned with it; it can concentrate its research on long-term problems of environment likely to favour conditions under which people will be happy to live.

Of equal importance are measures to remove dangers and nuisances in the *industrial work environment* through the establishment of a general committee for industrial safety and the extension to open cast mining and other mines of the competence of the Mines Safety and Health Commission. An Action Programme on industrial safety is envisaged for the end of 1974. Improvements are needed in statistics on industrial accidents. In the field of radiation

protection, further measures are envisaged to extend the programme established on the basis of the Euratom Treaty. Similar activities are now being developed in the framework of the environment policy to eliminate or reduce various hazards and nuisances.

The Community's concern for health is not restricted to industrial medicine problems, accident prevention and pollution control. New aspects of *public health* justify coordination, for example, in health protection for foreign workers and their families, prevention of menal and psychosomatic illness related to working and living conditions and in a wider approach to prevention and care of social diseases. The Commission will examine these areas to prepare proposals for action.

Finally, no programme for improving living and working conditions can ignore the question of social housing. This is again an area where aid must be given to certain underprivileged groups (old people, the handicapped, migrants), and pool the experience of Member States to limit costs and increase the efficiency in building social housing. The Commission proposes to establish pilot schemes of social housing followed by an Action Programme for social housing at Community level.

Involvement of Social Partners

1204. In a letter to the Council which accompanied the draft resolution on social Action Programme, the Commission stresses that no Community measure can or must be prepared or applied without the prior fullest consultations with the social partners; it reiterates the wishes expressed in this connection by the Heads of State or Government at the Paris Summit Conference. The Commission states that it will consult the social partners before the end of 1973 to consider ways for improving their involvement in the preparation

and application of the various Community measures. The Commission points out that this is all the more important since the social objectives fixed by common agreement at the Summit cannot be attained solely through social measures but must be the main concern of any Community policy.

In particular, the Commission will help to set up a European trade union institute; its task will be to help trade unions to establish training covering European affairs. As regards the increased involvement of workers in companies, the Commission has already sent two proposals to the Council:

(i) the proposed status of the European limited company¹ in June 1970 and the proposed fifth directive on the structure of limited companies² in October 1972. The Commission is now pressing the Council to take a position on these proposals as soon as possible;

(ii) the enlargement of mixed committees to encourage the dialogue and lead to agreements at European level between social partners in the search of solutions to problems arising in certain industrial sectors. The Commission hopes to set up during the next few years new mixed committees in the following sectors: sea transport, textiles, building, shipyards, foodstuffs, harbours and docks, air transport and commercial travellers. Such committees already exist in the following sectors: coal and steel, agriculture, road transport, inland waterway navigation, deep sea fishing and railways.

Priorities

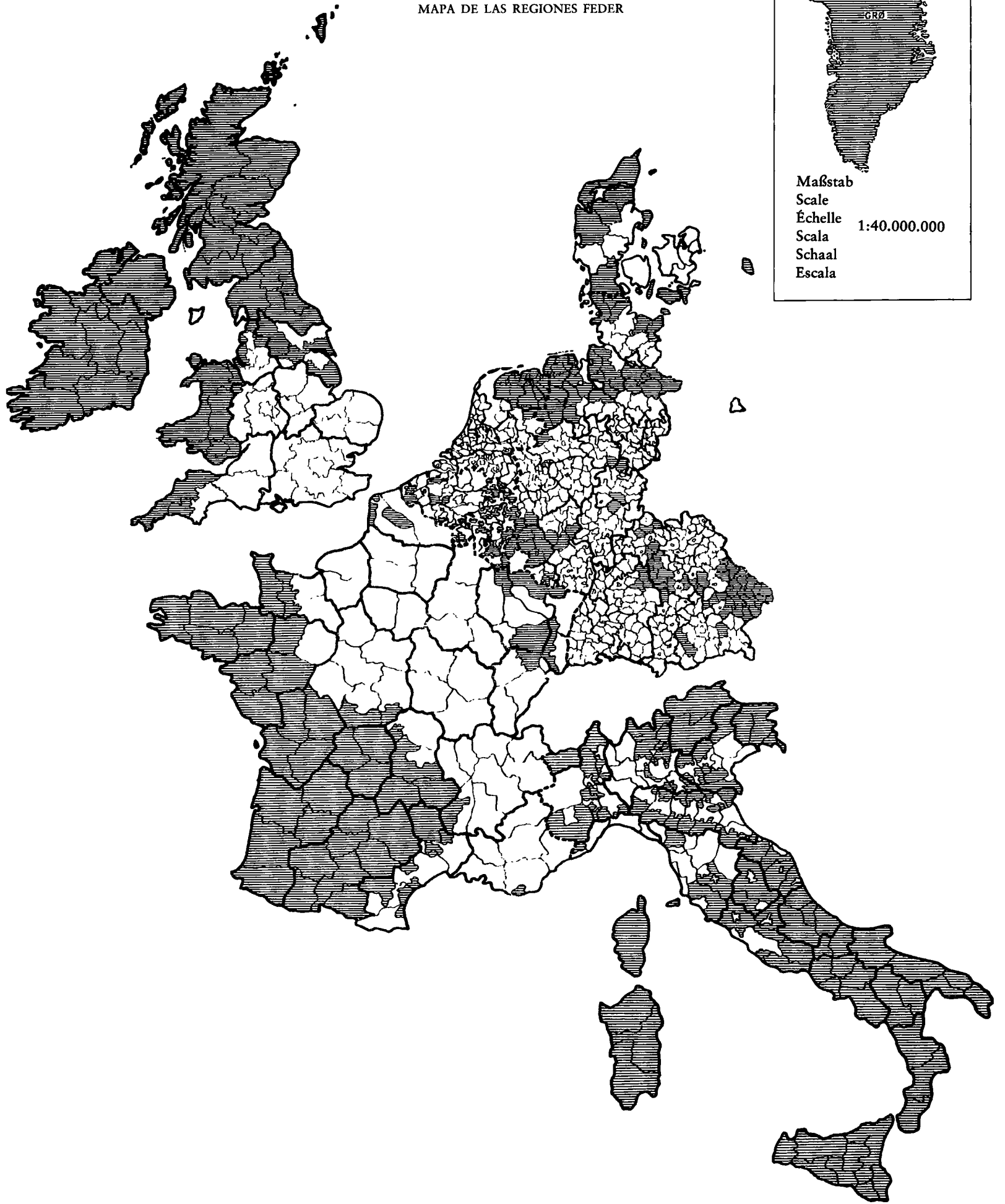
First stage

1205. The Commission has selected from this ambitious programme a number of actions

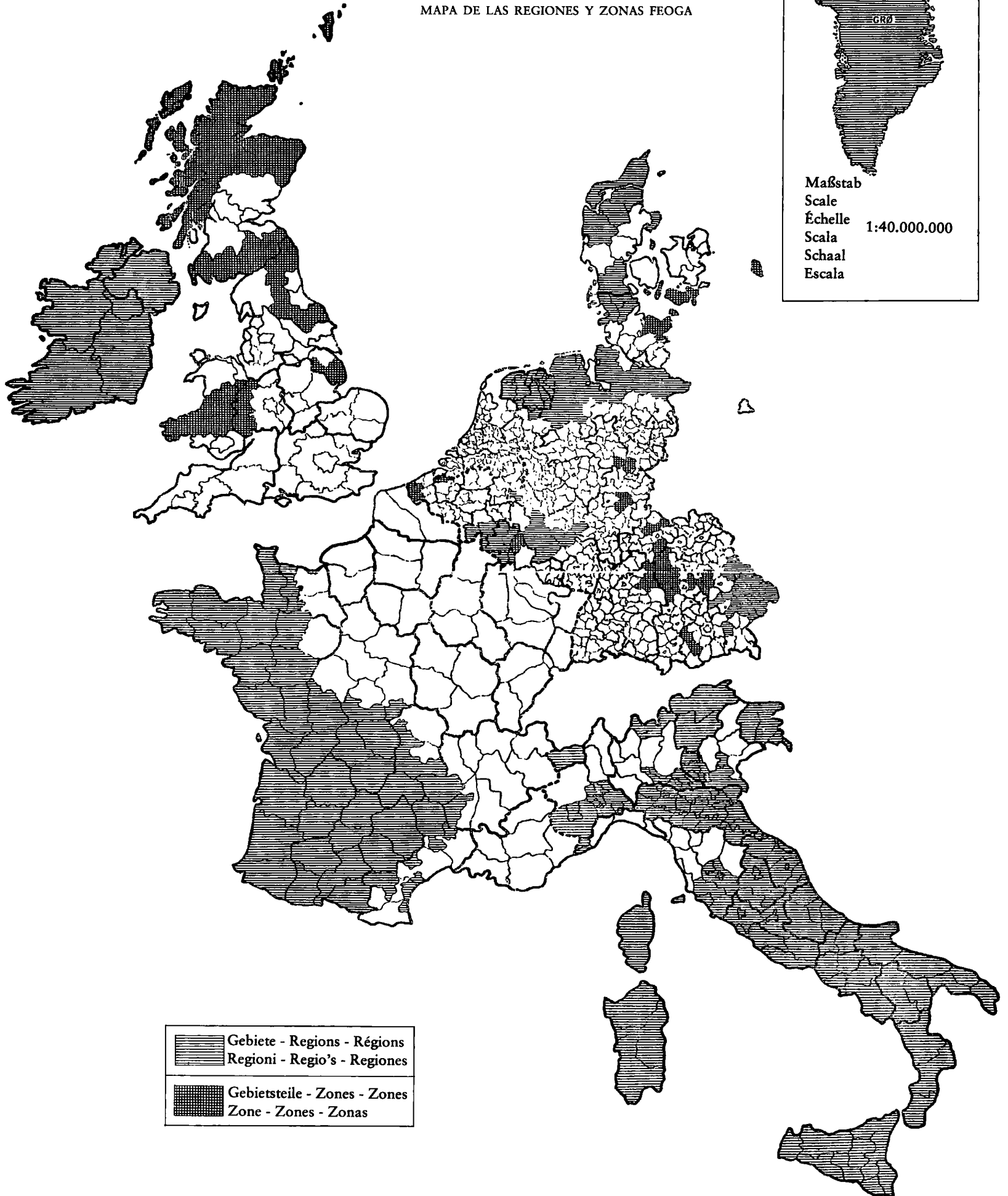
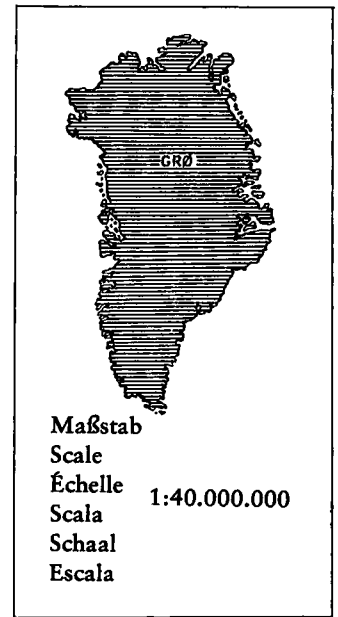
¹ Supplement 8/70 - Bull. EC.



² Supplement 10/72 - Bull. EC.

A
KARTE DER EFRE - GEBIETE
MAP OF REGIONS: ERDF
CARTE DES RÉGIONS FEDER
CARTA DELLE REGIONI FESR
KAART VAN DE EROF - REGIO'S
MAPA DE LAS REGIONES FEDER



B KARTE DER EAGFL - GEBIETE UND GEBIETSTEILE
 MAP OF REGIONS AND AREAS: EAGGF
 CARTE DES RÉGIONS ET ZONES FEOPA
 CARTA DELLE REGIONI E ZONE FEOPA
 KAART VAN DE EOGFL - REGIO'S EN ZONES
 MAPA DE LAS REGIONES Y ZONAS FEOPA



	Gebiete - Regions - Régions Regioni - Regio's - Regiones
	Gebietsteile - Zones - Zones Zone - Zones - Zonas

3. Regional policy: regions eligible for benefit under fund aid

Social Action Programme

which should be applied without delay. The top priorities are:

- (a) aid to migrant workers and to handicapped workers through the European Social Fund (Art. 4);
- (b) an Action Programme for handicapped workers in an open market economy;
- (c) a directive providing for application of the principle of equal pay for equal work for men and women;
- (d) overall application of the principle of the 40-hour week by 1975, and of 4 weeks annual paid holidays by 1976;
- (e) setting up a European Foundation for the improvement of the environment and living and working conditions;
- (f) a directive on the approximation of the Member States' legislation on mass dismissals;
- (g) setting up a European general safety committee and extension of the competences of the Mines Safety and Health Committee.

Second Stage

1206. The Commission has prepared a list of actions it intends to propose to the Council before 1 April 1974; the following points are covered:

- (i) action programme for migrant workers;
- (ii) setting up a European vocational training centre;
- (iii) protection of workers recruited through contract labour agencies;
- (iv) protection of workers' interests in particular with regard to the retention of acquired rights in the case of mergers.

1301. Gradual progress is being made with the preparation of a Community regional policy to deal with sectoral or regional imbalances. Following the Paris Summit Conference, which acknowledged a 'top priority' for this objective¹ and after the 'Report on Regional Problems in the Enlarged Community'² of May 1973 plus the Proposals made last July³ to set up a Regional Development Fund, the Commission on 11 October submitted two new Proposals to the Council.

These Proposals contain the firm list of regions and areas in whose favour the European Regional Development Fund could intervene and the list of priority agricultural regions eligible to benefit from credits out of the EAGGF, Guidance Section. These, then, are measures to apply the Proposals adopted in July by the Commission. All texts involving the Regional Development Fund must be approved by the Council by 31 December 1973, in compliance with the 'final declaration' of the October 1972 Summit Conference.

1302. In point of fact, the Commission last July adopted, simultaneously with a draft Decision to set up a Regional Policy Committee, two draft Council Regulations concerning the formation and stewardship of a European Regional Development Fund (ERDF).

In the explanatory statement supporting the Proposal concerning the Fund, the Commission put a figure on the funds proposed for running it, as from next year. The sum anticipated for 1974 is 500 million u.a.; the Commission also considered that the following order of magnitude figures could be written into the Community budget for the next two years: 750 million u.a. for 1975 and 1 thousand million for 1976.

¹ Bull. EC 10-1972, Part one, Chapter I.

² Supplement 8/73 - Bull. EC.

³ Bull. EC 7/8-1973, point 1201: 'Regional Policy: Proposals'.

The resources of the Fund, whose aid may only complement Member States own interventions, are to be spread over the various Community regions allowing for the relative sharpness of imbalances and in consideration of Community criteria. The criteria proposed by the Commission are:

- (a) heavy dependence on agricultural employment (meaning that a high percentage of the active population is employed in that sector);
- (b) heavy dependence on employment in declining industrial activities (meaning that a high percentage of the active population is employed in those sectors).
- (c) a persistently high rate of unemployment or a high rate of net outward migration.

In all cases the selected regions and areas must have a gross domestic product (GDP) per capita lower than the Community average and be benefitting from regionally targeted aid schemes.

1303. Those are the criteria underlying the list of Community regions eligible to benefit from Fund aid (Map A) on the terms of the first Proposal sent to the Council on 11 October. This is the one which draws up the definitive and unanimously adopted list and which, if need be, can also amend it later.

In defining regions and areas with *imbalances stemming from predominance of agriculture*, the Commission used the criteria already adopted in May 1971 in the proposed Council Regulation concerning EAGGF, Guidance Section interventions in priority agricultural regions.¹

But the regions in question have been selected, from among the areas benefitting from regionally targeted aid schemes, on the basis of a higher percentage, than the Community figure, of the active population being employed in agriculture. To be sure that agricultural preponderance is

the cause of a regional imbalance, the question was also asked whether the region had no 'alternative solution' in the industrial sphere, meaning whether the percentage of regional employment in industrial activity was below the Community average.

In defining regions and areas affected by *imbalances stemming from industrial change*, the Commission took account of zones affected by a textile or coal monostructure, meaning those areas where those two industries, characterized at Community level by declining employment, still employ a sizable proportion of the active population in relation to the region's industrial complex. To define monostructure in particular, the basis of 20% of employment in the coal or textile sectors has been taken.

To be certain that monostructure conditions are actually causing regional imbalance, the coal and textile regions must be suffering either from persistent relatively high unemployment (i.e. exceeding the Community average assessed at 2% of the 'labour force') or from a high rate of net outward migration.

In defining regions characterized by *structural underemployment*, the Commission took account of:

- (a) regions affected by structural unemployment, meaning those areas where for many years the rate of unemployment has reached a particularly high level both in absolute values and relative terms. The Commission holds that those conditions are met if the regional unemployment rate reaches a minimum of 3.5% of the labour force for several years and at the same time exceeds by at least 20% the average unemployment level of the whole country.

¹ OJ C 90 of 11.9.1971 and Bull. EC 7-1971, Part One, Chapter III: 'Community regional policy action in the Community priority agricultural regions'.

(b) regions with a high rate of net outward migration, i.e. at least ten per thousand head of population annually and over a lengthy period.

To allow for the especially serious cases of widespread structural underemployment, the Commission Proposal included those regions where the GDP per head is below half the Community average, this criterion superceding the above.

All these criteria have been proposed by the Commission under the terms of the Summit Conference Declaration asking the Community Institutions to set up a 'Regional Development Fund, whose intervention, coordinated with national aid, will *pari passu* with the fulfillment of the Economic and Monetary Union help to rectify the Community's major regional imbalances especially those stemming from a preponderance of agriculture, from industrial change or structural underemployment.'

For practical reasons the Commission in its regional analysis considered only territorial entities with a minimum area of 500 sq. km and a minimum population of 100 000 inhabitants. Again in the case of industrial change a further principle was followed, namely that the number employed in a declining sector should be at least 5 000.

1304. At the same time as the material referred to above, the Commission also sent the Council an application text for the proposed Regulation, quoted above, concerning *Community action in the priority agricultural regions* of the Community. The list of agricultural regions and areas (Map B) eligible to benefit from EAGGF, Guidance Section financial aid supercedes the list proposed by the Commission to the Council on 12 December 1972 for the six Member States of the Community. It was drawn up on the basis of the following criteria:

(a) a higher percentage of the active population employed in agriculture than the Community average;

(b) a gross domestic product per head at factor cost which is lower than the Community average;

(c) a percentage of the working population engaged in industry which is lower than the Community average.

It should be noted that the Community reference parameters set for 1971 were as follows:

(a) percentage of the active population employed in agriculture: 9.8%;

(b) gross domestic product per head at factor cost: 2 420 u.a.;

(c) percentage of the active population employed in industry: 43.9%.

The abovementioned list covers not only the Community regions who cumulatively meet the criteria but also concerns certain areas within these very regions. The Commission considered as 'priority' those areas showing a surplus active agricultural population even if the region embracing the 'area' is not as a 'priority'.

In the priority agricultural regions and areas established by the Commission, the EAGGF would intervene on the terms adopted in the proposed Regulation submitted to the Council on 28 May 1971.

4. Common transport policy: objectives and programme

1401. To give fresh impetus to the common transport policy: that is the objective of the Communication¹ submitted by the Commission to the Council on 25 October 1973.

The enlargement of the Community, the important developments occurring simultaneously on the economic front and in social demands, the realization that transport policy has not made any appreciable headway over recent years have all led the Commission to rethink the overall concept to provide the main guidelines for Community action in transport. This reappraisal has meant that the Commission has had to expand and add to its previous concept.

The New Framework of Community Action

1402. The efforts made since 1958 towards a common transport policy have emerged as no more than partial and limited measures, mainly in the field of market organization and harmonization of competition conditions.

But from now on there is a need to work out an overall concept to enable the Community to meet the medium and long-term needs of a developing economy and society.

The Communication outlines the overall framework into which the common transport policy will fit on the basis of a development study of that sector and also describes the objectives and principal means of attaining them.

Development Study of Transport

1403. The study made by the Commission has highlighted the importance of the transport sector to the overall economy and its heavy expansion over recent years. Certain factors, however, make it questionable to extrapolate purely and simply the trends seen in the trans-

port economy over the last decade. The expansion of the transport sector is more and more coming up against the obligatory restrictions of congestion, depletion of natural resources and social wellbeing.

The Commission fears that isolated measures taken in each Member State only result in widening the gulf between national transport policies which would consequently harden the still persisting 'compartmentalization' of national transport system. To reconcile the economic growth of transport and the quality of life, problems to be solved can only be dealt with at Community level.

Objectives of the Transport Policy

1404. As prescribed in Article 74, to attain the general objectives of the Treaty of Rome within a common transport policy, requires the gradual setting up of a coherent Community transport system able to meet the demands of the Economic Union and society at the lowest cost to the public administration. This means that to accomplish the common transport policy, a project justified up to now by the removal of barriers to the free movement of transport services, economic measures defined by the Heads of State or Government at the Paris Summit of October 1972 must now be brought in.

The common transport policy whilst keeping its own identity must be worked out in close liaison with the other Community policies which also have as their objectives the improvement of living and working conditions and the harmonious development of economies thus narrowing the gap between the different regions and making up the leeway of underfavoured regions.

¹ Supplement 16/73 - Bull. EC.

The common transport policy, so designed as a structural policy, provides basic material for developing the Community's economic space, especially as part of the regional and environment policies. It also has close ties with social, industrial or energy policy. It is moreover only as part of this whole that the common transport policy will enable the Community to satisfy the interests of users, transporters and operatives engaged in the transport sector.

Instruments of the Common Policy

1405. To attain the intended objectives, the Commission proposes to organize a Community transport system made up of two basic components.

The first is a Community transport network, the result of comparing national investment programmes for infrastructures. This will allow a choice to be made between the various possible solutions to meet transport needs. Regional, energy and environment policy requirements will have to be reckoned with here as well as the complementary character of various transport methods and techniques including the newly developed techniques.

The second component is a market whose satisfactory development will hinge on the sound design of the infrastructure systems used by the transport companies. The basic idea here is that of a market working as freely as possible, subject to certain corrective action necessitated by crises or imbalances in transport supply and demand, or in order to ensure certain public services.

Forecasts on transport supply and demand will have to be made so that the public authorities and transport companies can prepare their decisions on a sounder basis. A proper tariffication and charging scheme for the costs of infrastructure use will have to be set up for the system to run smoothly.

Working Programme

1406. The long-term working programme proposed in the Communication distinguishes between definitive measures for creating the Community transport system in tune with the development of the Economic and Monetary Union and the temporary measures needed to marshal the common transport market pending the installation of the finalized system.

The temporary measures will include action on transport capacity, prices and terms, the range of which will progressively diminish. With the decrease in national public authority interventions, it will be possible to achieve gradually the free movement of transport services.

The definitive measures cover the harmonizing of competition conditions from the social, fiscal and technological angle. They also cover transport infrastructures where a comparison procedure for national programmes will have to be finalized which will appraise them in the light of Community transport needs.

An action programme for 1974-1976 outlines the most urgent projects to be undertaken by the Community institutions. These projects will especially concern railways, ocean shipping and air transport.

Conclusion

1407. The debates within the Council will provide advice for the Commission for the measures it will propose in the near future and which it has already started to prepare. The Commission is convinced that the dialogue with the Council, the discussions with the European Parliament and the Economic and Social Committee based on the Communication will all help it to relaunch and advance a common transport policy based on the Treaty and integrating into the Economic Union.

5. Strengthening the European Parliament's budgetary powers

1501. Last June the Commission presented proposals to strengthen the European Parliament's powers in budgetary matters. Following the opinion of Parliament, the Commission amended its original proposals.

Parliament's Resolution of 5 October 1973

1502. The Commission's communication to the Council on strengthening the European Parliament's budgetary powers¹ was the object of an extraordinary session of the Parliament on 4 and 5 October 1973 in Luxembourg².

At the conclusion of the debate, the Parliament adopted the following Resolution³: embodying the Opinion on the communication from the Commission to the Council on the strengthening of the budgetary powers of the European Parliament.

The European Parliament,

- (a) having regard to Declaration No 4 of the Council annexed to the Treaty of 22 April 1970,
- (b) having regard to the ratification of that Treaty by the Parliaments of the Member States and to the debates which took place in connection therewith,
- (c) having regard to the proposals from the Commission to the Council,
- (d) having regard to its Resolution of 5 July 1973⁴,
- (e) having been consulted by the Council on 27 June 1973,
- (f) having regard to the report of the Committee on Budgets and to the Opinion of the Political Affairs Committee (Doc. 175/73).

I. Undertakings

1. Points out:

- (a) that the budgetary powers which will be conferred upon it from 1 January 1975, the date from which 'the budget of the Communities shall be financed entirely from the Communities' own resources', are insufficient;
- (b) that in April 1970 the Commission undertook to submit new proposals for an increase in these budgetary powers, and the Council agreed to consider them 'pursuant to the procedure of Article 236 of the Treaty';
- (c) that in its Resolution of 13 May 1970⁵ Parliament noted these undertakings, on the sole basis of which it recommended that the national parliaments should ratify the Treaty of 22 April 1970;
- (d) that the debates in these Parliaments revealed an almost unanimous determination to see the powers of the European Parliament strengthened 'particularly in the budgetary field, and that this determination should be taken into account;
- (e) that the new Member States of the Community were aware of Declaration No 4 of the Council aiming to increase budgetary powers 'according to the procedure provided in Article 236', and did not contest it;

2. Maintains that the budgetary powers which must be conferred upon the Parliament under the own resources systems as from the 1975 budget cannot be fully effective until legislative powers have also been granted;

¹ Supplement 9/73 - Bull. EC and Bull. EC 6-1973, points 1101 to 1103.

² Point 2402.

³ OJ C 87 of 17.10 1973.

⁴ OJ C 62 of 31.7.1973, p. 29.

⁵ OJ C 65 of 5.6.1970, p. 32.

3. Reminds the Commission that it has undertaken to submit proposals on this matter in September 1974;

II. Proposals on budgetary powers

4. Affirms that budgetary power comprises essentially the right to:

- (i) create revenue;
- (ii) approve expenditure;
- (iii) discuss and adopt the budget;
- (iv) supervise its implementation;

A. Creation of revenue

5. Recalls that Article 4 of the Decision of 21 April 1970 ratified by the Member States endorsed the principle of financial autonomy: 'from 1 January 1975, the budget of the Communities shall be *financed entirely* from the Communities' own resources;'

6. Reaffirms that financial autonomy cannot be guaranteed in the future, unless the common resources can be adapted to the needs of common policies by common procedures;

7. States that these procedures must be such as to allow the governments of Member States to refer the matter to their national parliaments as and when required to do so by their constitutions;

8. Proposes, therefore, that decisions should not be adopted by Parliament on a proposal from the Commission without the prior unanimous consent of the Council;

9. Endorses the Commission's proposal that the European Community shall only have the right to take up loans subject to a qualified majority decision of the Council and the agreement of the European Parliament;

B. Approval of expenditure

10. Recalls that, in all parliamentary democracies, Parliament alone can approve new expenditure, even when the constitution restricts the right to propose such expenditure to the Executive;

11. Considers therefore that the Commission's proposals on this matter, stipulating only a second consultation for any decision of principle with major financial implications extending over several years are:

- restrictive in scope;
- not sufficiently effective.

12. Notes, however, that the agreement of Parliament and the Council is highly desirable in this case, and should be sought wherever possible;

13. Proposes therefore that:

(a) a coordination committee should be set up with equal representation of Parliament and the Council, to seek, in the presence of the Commission, an acceptable solution in the event of failure to reach an agreement;

(b) the solution proposed by the coordination committee would enter into force after ratification (within a maximum period of 30 days from the date of its adoption by the coordination committee) by the Council by a qualified majority and by the Parliament by a majority of its members and a simple majority of the votes cast;

(c) in the event of the solution proposed by the coordination committee being rejected by the Council and/or the Parliament, the matter in dispute would—after an exchange of views between Council and Parliament in the form of a debate in plenary session—be referred again to the coordination committee;

(d) in the event of no agreement being reached at the second attempt, Parliament's Opinion, established by a majority of half its members plus one and two-thirds of the votes cast, can only be modified by the Council acting unanimously.

Unanimity cannot be achieved if even a single member of the Council abstains.

The Council must meet in public on these occasions;

C. Discussion and adoption of budget

14. Maintains that the present distinction between other expenditure and expenditure arising from the Treaties or from acts adopted in pursuance thereof is artificial and should be abolished;

15. Endorses, in the meantime, the Commission's proposal that the category of expenditure on which Parliament has the final decision, pursuant to Article 203, should be progressively extended to all expenditure not arising automatically from previous decisions with long-term implications;

16. Asserts that the distinction between the two types of expenditure should be drawn in agreement with Parliament;

17. Endorses the Commission's proposal relating to Article 203 (5a), first paragraph, and stipulating that where proposed modifications presented by the Parliament do not have the effect of increasing the total amount of the expenditure of an institution, the Council, in the final period, must, as in the transitional period, act by a qualified majority in rejecting and not in accepting the proposed modification;

18. Feels that where proposed modifications have the effect of increasing the total amount of the expenditure of an institution, the Council

must act by a simple majority in rejecting them and not by a qualified majority in accepting them;

19. Insists on formal acknowledgement of the fact that Parliament's right to adopt the budget includes the rights to refuse to adopt it and to reject the draft budget in whole or in part;

20. Requests furthermore that, insofar as this may be judged necessary, Articles 203, 204, 206 and 209 of the EEC Treaty and the corresponding Articles in the ECSC and EAEC Treaties should be amended in accordance with the principles of this Resolution;

D. Supervision of implementation

21. Points out that it has frequently deplored the inadequate auditing methods in the Communities and called for the establishment of an effective and independent external auditing body in the form of a European Court of Auditors;

22. Welcomes the Commission's proposals to this effect;

23. Asserts, however,

(a) that the members of the Court of Auditors, who must be completely independent, must be appointed in agreement with Parliament;

(b) that the Court must report to Parliament and be ready at all times to assist and advise it in the exercise of its auditing rights;

24. Welcomes the proposal to the effect that Parliament alone, on a recommendation of the Council, should in future give a discharge in respect of the budget;

Conclusion

25. Reaffirms that it cannot, under the own resources system, endorse any proposal which

does not confer real budgetary power on the representatives of the people of the Member States of the Community;

26. Requests therefore:

(a) that the Commission should review its proposals in the light of this Resolution;

(b) that the Council should not take any decisions without first consulting Parliament;

27. Instructs its President to forward this Resolution and the report of its committee to the Council and Commission of the European Communities.

The Commission's new proposals

1503. Following the Parliament's opinion, the Commission reviewed its original proposals. Compared with its communication of 6 June 1973, the one adopted by the Commission on 10 October 1973 shows the following changes:

In the first place, in the matter of form; whereas the first communication contained only a draft amendment of Treaties concerning own resources, of budgetary procedure and for setting up an Audit office, the second communication is divided into three parts:

(i) a draft amendment of the Treaties as regards budgetary procedure and the audit office;

(ii) a draft treaty concerning the creation of new own resources;

(iii) a draft declaration common to the European Parliament, the Council and the Commission on setting up a consultation procedure.

The Commission considered that amendments to Article 201 of the EEC Treaty and Article 173 of the Euratom Treaty—which govern the procedure for the creation of own resources

in the Communities—presented no urgency and might have resulted in difficult discussions in national Parliaments. For these reasons and in order not to hinder the speedy ratification of other budgetary provisions, the Commission split in two its original draft amendment of the Treaties.

As regards instruments which generate expenditure, the Commission considered that the procedure of second reading proposed in its communication on the Economic and Monetary Union was inadequate and should be replaced by an organized consultation between the Parliament, the Council and with the active participation of the Commission.

Own Resources

According to the communication of October 1973, the setting up of new own resources or the amendment in the rate of present own resources should be decided by majority vote of the members which constitute the Parliament and three-fifths of the votes cast on the Commission's proposal and after unanimous favourable opinion by the Council.

Budgetary Procedure

The new proposal differs from the previous one on four issues:

(i) Rate of Value Added Tax (VAT): according to Article 4, para. 1, second indented line of the Decision of 21 April 1970 on replacing Member States financial contributions by own resources to Communities, the VAT rate 'is laid down in the context of budgetary procedure.' The Commission proposes to define this provision by indicating that a preliminary draft decision laying down the VAT rate is to be presented by the Commission to the Council together with the preliminary draft

budget; thereafter, this preliminary draft is to be adapted by the Council or by the Parliament at each stage of the budgetary procedure in relation to amendments made to expenditure by one or the other institution.

(ii) Determination of expenditure: when the object of a proposed amendment by the Parliament is to increase the overall amount of expenditure of an institution, according to the communication of June 1973 the Council had to act by a qualified majority of votes to accept the proposal. In its communication of October 1973, the Commission considers that such proposal should be taken as accepted unless the Council rejects it by a simple majority.

(iii) Loans: the majority by which the Parliament should agree to recourse to loans is defined as the majority of members which constitute it and the majority of votes cast.

(iv) Total rejection of budget: since the signature of the Treaty of 22 April 1970, the Parliament has always maintained that its right to adopt a budget gives it the right of refusal to adopt it. The Commission had upheld this interpretation. To avoid any misunderstanding and at the Parliament's specific request, the Commission proposes to set out this right formally in the Treaty.

Audit Office

According to the Commission's communication:

(i) members of this Office should be appointed by the Council after agreement by the Assembly (no longer by common agreement by Member States Governments);

(ii) finding that a member of the Audit Office has ceased to meet the conditions required or has ceased to satisfy the obligations of his duties, should invariably be left with the Court of Justice on the request of Parliament,

the Council or the Commission (no longer with the Audit Office);

(iii) the Audit Office should be available at all times to assist and advise the Institutions and particularly Parliament when exercising its rights;

(iv) in order that the Office has a status immediately upon commencing its functions, the Council, voting unanimously after favourable opinion by Parliament, the opinion of the Control Commission and on the Commission's proposal, should provide it with a provisional status as soon as it is set up.

Consultation procedure

This procedure would be applied according to the following plan and for the adoption of Community acts of general scope having important financial implications and which do not have to be adopted by virtue of pre-existing acts:

At the time of making its proposal, the Commission would state if the measure considered is, in its opinion, likely to be the object of such consultation procedure; the Parliament could also ask for this procedure when giving its opinion. The Parliament, having first examined the Commission's proposal and adopted its opinion with a strong majority, the procedure would be applied if the Council proposed not to accept the Parliament's opinion. The consultation between Council and Parliament with the Commission's help would take place within 'a consultation committee' where members of the Council and about the same number of representatives from the Parliament would be assembled. The consultation committee would be of a political nature. Its meetings would not seek to adopt a position which commits Council or Parliament, but to obtain an agreement between the two Institutions with

active participation of the Commission. When the consultation committee considers that the Institutions' positions are sufficiently close to secure an agreement, the measure would be submitted to Parliament for a second reading, then to the Council.

Such procedure could be set up by joint resolution of the three Institutions concerned without changing the general economy of the European construction and without formally amending the Treaties' texts in an area where Member States' feelings run deep.

Statements before the European Parliament by Mr Ortoli, President, and Mr Cheysson, Member of the Commission

1504. Speaking before the European Parliament during its session of 18 October 1973, Mr *François Xavier Ortoli*, President of the Commission, presented the Commission's new proposals. In his report on the Commission's actions following the opinion expressed by the Parliament, Mr Ortoli said in particular:

'First of all, I must tell you how much importance we attached to this opinion. We considered it very promptly, and the pains we took to assess it bear out its importance in our eyes, which I referred to a moment ago. The fact that we have accepted most of your suggestions is further, equally significant, proof of the importance we attach to it. We hope you will recognize in this our respect for the quality of the work done in this Parliament, particularly following the presentation of the reports and amendments, and also the expression of our wish that this Parliament should play, with our full assistance, a greater role in the Community's institutions.

Our proposals in their present state—as amended in the light of your opinion—must be replaced in the more general context of our Community's development.

We indicated to you in the draft submitted to you in June, that, according to the Commission, the development of the European Communities should lead to Parliament being equipped with greater and greater legislative powers, but we also said that we thought that the policies adopted by the Heads of State or Government implied a moving forward in stages.

Parliament and the Council expected the Commission to very quickly submit proposals concerning budgetary powers, but it should not be forgotten that at the same time another deadline implicitly fixed, i.e. the end of 1975, and that before this date the institutions have to submit a report on European Union.

The Commission feels the preparation of this report should be an occasion for profound reflection on the operation and evolution, up to 1980 and beyond, of the whole Community system. It should be an occasion for reflection on the allocation of responsibility between the institutions. It should lead to the formulation of more ambitious proposals aimed at meeting the obligations of the Community institutions, when the entire relations between the Member States will have been transformed into a European Union.

We must therefore define together, in the near future, the nature of the future union and how Parliament will exercise its control. This is an essential task, but a difficult one.

We shall none of us flinch from this task, but does this mean that, on important points, we should modify the present institutional balance and plunge ahead before thoroughly examining the situation? Is this what we should be doing less than a year after the enlargement of our Community, when old and new members have done two things: first, consolidated⁷ for a while our institutional system, second, decided to engage in common reflection and prepare new developments for Europe?

We do not think so, and this explains why we took our leave of you just after dealing with the problem of the "last word" or codecision on what we call, in our jargon, general Community acts of considerable financial importance.

But once again, our reaction must be understood in the light of perspectives mapped out elsewhere. This approach would seem to be all the more legitimate, in that, far from threatening our future, our proposals, completed after your discussions, prepare the subsequent stages of the institutional development of the Communities.

The fact that we have not fully accepted the ideas you have expressed should not obscure the essential point, i.e. that if our line is followed, as from 1975 the European Parliament will be able to play a very important and even decisive role in budgetary procedure. This will transform its role in the whole of Community life.

Regarding our revised proposals, and leaving aside the very important question of the establishment of an Audit Board, I shall only mention a few points which, I believe, will show very clearly that if our policy is followed, the plans I am outlining have every chance of succeeding.

According to your proposals, the situation will be as follows:

"last word" as regards own resources following approval by the Council. One need only reflect that we live in a Community whose responsibilities and needs must surely increase, to realize the importance of such a power;

— "last word" as regards non-compulsory expenditure. There is nothing new about this, but the field of such expenditure would be extended;

— Parliament's increased power to modify other expenditure, since the latter will be considered to have been adopted if the Council

does not reject it, on a qualified or simple majority, as the case may be;

— confirmation of the right to reject the whole of the budget, a right which is certainly difficult to exercise, but a powerful, if not decisive means, of exposing our Community's problems if Parliament thinks it necessary.

And then there is the consultation procedure. I hope it is adopted. If it is, we must believe in it, we must have the will to make it work, and then it will make new progress possible.

If, following our joint request, and our sustained action, the Council follows this path, this dialogue you have been seeking will become a reality. There will be many changes in attitude and behaviour. This dialogue you feel so deeply about, and which I believe to be necessary, will be established between two, or even three, institutions, if you include the Commission, institutions which the States of Europe enjoins to work together and not to ignore one another, to cooperate in a climate of confidence and not perpetual suspicion.

I shall sum up what I have said because I believe it is important we should clearly see where we now stand.

We do not believe that the institutional process has stopped. We are ready, for our part, to cooperate with you, to ensure that the work required of us is actually carried out on time and that the results expected by the European Parliament are achieved.

Furthermore, we feel that one should not simply look at the individual points on which we differ, but rather that one should look at the whole of what the Commission has proposed, and then what has been adopted after the excellent work that you, Parliament, have carried out. I wish to state very clearly that if all this were to be actually adopted—and we shall do everything in our power to see that our governments adopt our proposals—this Parlia-

ment could say that it plays a much more active part in the budgetary procedure.

Your Parliament has always fought hard to maintain and strengthen its position among our institutions. Its influence and authority have continually increased. If we have not been able to agree on all the points in the very important debate on which we have spent so much time. I think we have been able to agree on the essential points, and that, in their present form, i.e. modified in the light of your discussions they herald an evolution which goes beyond the budgetary field and prepares other advancements we wish for and which we have made our objectives.'

Mr *Claude Cheysson*, Member of the Commission, with responsibilities over budget policy, then reported in more detail on how the Commission had drafted its proposals in relation to the Parliament's opinion; Mr Cheysson spoke of the proposals as a whole:

'Creation of revenue. We propose, with the full agreement of Parliament, the establishment of a truly community procedure allowing for the creation of new own resources. This procedure is such that, ministers can consult their national parliaments before addressing the Council.

As Parliament has requested us, we propose that any decision on new own resources should be an act of Parliament and not of the Council.

Finally, again following your suggestion, we are preparing a separate treaty for our proposals on this point, to amend the Treaty of Rome.

As for loans, we again followed your suggestions and provided for an increased majority to adopt it, but we maintained it as a formal proposal to the Council of Ministers, feeling that recourse to loans should be one of the normal ways for the Communities to obtain revenue.

In short, as regards the creation of revenue all Parliament's recommendations have been followed. These cover paragraphs 5-9 of the resolution.

Acceptance of expenditure. Parliament has recognized, as we ourselves indicated in our initial memorandum, that, as regards most of the expenditure arising from decisions taken previously, Community acts, pluriannual programmes, Community policy decisions, the most important questions arose, as far as the acceptance of expenditure is concerned, when community policies were defined and acts adopted which subsequently, and sometimes for a long period of time, determined the volume of expenditure by mapping out the policies to be followed by the community.

This involves, let us not avoid using the term, legislation at European level, which directs policies.

What part can Parliament play in the adoption of legislation having financial implications, i.e., most of which belongs to the legislative field? In our initial document we stressed the need for a second reading so that Parliament could be thoroughly informed of the matter before the Council was authorized to take its decisions. You felt, in paragraph 11 of the resolution you adopted, that we were being too restrictive with regard to the field of application of our proposals, and we therefore modified them in accordance with your suggestion; we now talk of Community acts of general scope having important financial implications and which do not have to be adopted by virtue of pre-existing acts.

In fact, as I said a little while ago, where financial consequences are concerned, there is a whole new field of legislation.

You gave special consideration to this idea of a second reading and, as with the consultation committee, you made it something which goes

further than what we had initially envisaged and which appears to the Commission to be of very great importance. We therefore took up the whole of your proposals on the consultation committee and clarified them.

According to our proposal, Mr President, and this is an idea which appeared in a report which you yourself submitted to Parliament a little while ago, the consultation committee would be activated at the request of the Commission or Parliament; this would mean that, when a Community act with the financial implications we have mentioned was submitted to you for examination, it would be determined whether the consultation procedure should be used or not. As you proposed, this Community act would be submitted first of all to Parliament instead of first going formally to the Council. Parliament would deliver its opinion. Again following your proposal, if the Council's opinion differed from that of Parliament, the consultation procedure would begin.

We wished to define a little more clearly the composition of the consultation committee, so as to bring out the political nature of this consultation. I would point out that, in Parliament's own view, the purpose of these consultations is not that a decision should be taken by a specially composed body, that a position should be reached, but rather that agreements should be reached between the two institutions: the Council and Parliament.

This agreement is of a political nature: the discussion too must be of a political nature. Our proposal therefore provides that the consultation committee should normally be composed of Council Members, on the one hand, and a roughly equal number of Members of Parliament on the other. In this way, we can have the political discussion we are seeking, the dialogue whose importance Mr Ortoli has underlined.

It will mean the end of legislative decisions being taken behind closed doors. It will enable Members of Parliament to know, from the very beginning of the legislative process, the conditions in which decisions were formulated and thus to report them at national level, if they so wish, then, in this meeting between Ministers and Members of Parliament, they will be what I, personally, consider to constitute a most interesting development—the comparing of national points of view on the Communities' major problems with the political views held by the various groups in this Parliament.

I feel that this involves an important innovation, which cannot help but affect the nature and even the spirit of the Council's work. The ministers will know, when they are dealing with laws having financial implications, that, in the consultation committee, they will have to defend the arguments they advance before their party colleagues, when adopting any particular position.

I therefore feel that this committee will be set up. If it is not, what will happen? Your Parliament has discussed this problem at length and, as Mr Ortoli recalled a little while ago, several suggestions were made, which were supported by most of you, about giving the "last word" to Parliament.

Finally a majority of Members of Parliament accepted a very ingenious formula, which gives the "last word" to Parliament, except in those cases where the Council has it, when voting unanimously under particularly strict conditions.

This very ingenious proposal is of limited scope and would therefore have no place in a Parliament possessing full rights; but it is what it wants for the time being. It is significant, too, that this Parliament has considered it important to express its determination to have the "last word" in a number of cases.

But all these proposals presuppose an amendment of the Treaty, and on a point which we are bound to consider fundamental.

A treaty amendment legally according legislative powers to Parliament is beyond question a major amendment. It is an amendment which touches on problems of sovereignty and which can fairly be said to have some connection with the constitutional provisions of such and such a State. Now we all know very well that such an amendment cannot be adopted at the present time.

Is it therefore advisable to present them? Is it worthwhile risking a crisis over them? Is it worthwhile giving an excuse to those who do not wish to consider the rest of our proposals to say that the major amendments to the Treaty are at present impossible, for reasons you already know? The Commission does not think so.

It was impressed by certain remarks made in Luxembourg, in the course of discussions, in connection with the problems that such modifications might cause in certain places. Above all, it feels that realism is essential if we wish to progress.

The problem is not just one of being in the right, it is also one of progressing, and this is part of our Commission's task.

Furthermore, and perhaps most important, as Mr Ortoli rightly said a little while ago, we have still a long way to go in our work of reflection, our proposals and our possibilities of extending the legislative powers of Parliament. Indeed, this is only one stage: the 1975 budget. Now, it is in that very year, 1975, that the institutions must submit their report on European Union, and when we will be able to move forward again.

This is why, on this point, as the President of the Commission has already told you, we do not feel we can agree with Parliament, and why

we prefer to take up subsequently, without previously confining ourselves within a system which is ingenious, certainly but also limited, as you will recognize, the debate on the extension of Parliament's legislative powers.

We are not, however, opposed to reviewing the Treaty, quite the reverse. Like Parliament, we feel that the governments of the Member States undertook to consider reviewing the Treaty when, in their statement of 21 April 1970, they referred to Article 236, and all our proposals concerning discussion and formulation of the budget, presupposed an amendment of the Treaty.

You already know the main points, so I shall deal with them very quickly.

There is, first of all, the "last word" expenditure of the European Parliament. This expenditure is at present limited, but we have proposed that its scope be progressively extended to all expenditure which does not automatically arise from previous decisions covering a long period.

I shall refer, if I may, to the deliberations held in this Parliament at the beginning of July. At that time you considered that this point was absolutely essential and you discussed it at length. Committee members subsequently found that the line recommended by the Commission was the right one and that the scope of Parliament's "last word" expenditure should be progressively increased in each budget so that all expenditure not automatically arising from previous decisions might actually be covered by this "last word".

At the moment, there is a type of expenditure for which you do not have the "last word" within the framework of budgetary procedure. It is described as "necessarily flowing from the treaty and acts drawn up under it". If the procedure we propose is accepted, where the overall expenditure of an institution has not been increased, your proposals can only be

annulled by a qualified majority of the Council and, where the overall expenditure of institutions has been increased, the Council will require a simple majority to overturn your proposals.

Mr Ortoli stressed, a moment ago, that the Commission's present position, which is also that of Parliament as far as total rejection of the budget is concerned, was of very great importance. We propose, in fact, as you suggested, that Parliament's right not to have to formulate the budget should be formally stated in the treaty; this gives Parliament considerable power.

It is because this power is considerable that we felt that your proposal for partial rejection lost a great deal of its importance, especially as the right to partially reject the budget already exists in the case of expenditure over which you have the 'last word', the scope of which, by the way, the Commission proposes should be considerably extended in the years ahead. Here your 'last word' gives you the right to reduce appropriations to nil, which constitutes, indeed, a right of partial rejection.

Should there be a right of partial rejection for so-called compulsory expenditure? Here, difficulties are to be feared. Generally, such compulsory expenditure flows automatically from previous acts and can not therefore be rejected partially by the Council of Ministers or by anyone else.

Let us not forget the Commission's proposals concerning controls, on which we have received broad support from Parliament.

These controls must be improved in order to enable Parliament to exercise its full rights in this connection, by placing at its disposal a sound instrument: the European Court must therefore be set up. In order to follow your recommendations, we have slightly strengthened several parts of our proposal. We should therefore have a body of very great authority and

which is completely independent, as regards its conditions of appointment, which include agreement by Parliament as regard the conditions in which the duties of its members would be terminated—without the intervention of the Commission or the Council—as regards, finally, its statute, which will be prepared, initially, with the consent and at the proposal of Parliament.

It goes without saying that the reports of this European Court will be public and that, as we have stressed in our new text, it will be at the disposal of the institutions and therefore of Parliament. It will report to Parliament, it may also assist and advise it, as Article 23 of your motion for a resolution expressly proposes.

All this must be done speedily, so that Parliament may, through its powers of control, have real supervisory rights over the life of the Communities and have a say in the financial Regulation which, in future, will be approved by you and no longer by the Council alone.

The timetable must now be rigorously adhered to. As Mr Ortoli stressed, the Commission considered your proposal as quickly as possible: on 10 October, it presented its revised proposals; on 15 October I was heard in person by the Council of Ministers, with whom the procedure has now been started. We shall insist on the urgency of the matter, and I respectfully request that nothing be done that might slow down the Council's deliberations.

The Committee has given a lot of thought not only to the written resolution but also to the opinions expressed during committee meetings, meetings of the working party and throughout discussions.

This is how we arrived at our present 'package', which incorporates all your proposals, except where major amendments to the treaty are concerned, which we consider to be premature

and at the moment dangerous. But the proposals in general are most impressive.

Let us endeavour to institute this Community procedure for the creation of new own resources; let us try to introduce these compulsory consultations, which will give us a general idea of national views and political and social forces; let us progressively increase Parliament's budgetary powers, so that everything of any consequence in an annual budget is subject to the "last word" of Parliament; let us establish the control system; let us have this European Court, which could function almost perfectly right from the start; finally, let us not risk a serious crisis; above all, let us not risk jeopardizing all the proposals we have made to you, by asking that major amendments should be made to the Treaty, which no one today thinks can possibly be accepted.

This is what we propose, and we suggest that it be implemented without delay, so that, by the time we next meet, before the end of 1975, within the framework of the report on European Union, we shall be ready, without having prematurely committed ourselves, for bolder legal proposals in the legislative field.

In 1975, we can resume our labours. I believe that the construction of Europe is a continuous process and that, as the President of the Commission said a little while ago, the progress that we can and must make now is a preparation for the future.'



2ND PART
COMMUNITY
ACTIVITIES
IN OCTOBER 1973

1. Functioning of the Common Market

Free Circulation of Goods

Tariff Economy

Tariff Quotas

2101. To meet Community commitments towards *Egypt* the Council, on 11 October 1973¹ and on Proposals from the Commission, adopted two Regulations on the opening, allocation and administration of Community tariff quotas for certain *oil products* under Chapter 27 of the CCT and refined in *Egypt*, and for other *cotton cloths* under CCT category 55.09, originating from *Egypt*. These tariff quotas are valid from 1 November to 31 December 1973.

2102. The Council also amended, on 15 October 1973,² its Regulation³ of 19 December 1972 concerning a Community tariff quota for certain *handicraft products* in order to include other products of this type and extend application of the quota to cover *Uruguay*.

2103. Lastly, by its Regulation of 26 October⁴ the Council decided to raise the volume of the Community quota for *raw unthrown silk* (CCT category 50.02) to 2 215 tonnes for 1973. This had originally been set at 1 715 tonnes on 19 December 1972⁵ and the increase has been necessitated by the emergence of new import needs.

Origin and Methods of Administrative Cooperation

2104. On 15 October 1973⁵ the Council adopted a Regulation for Community application of a Decision made on 15 June 1973 by the EEC-AASM Association Council to allow for the special position of *Mauritius* with regard to certain *textile products*. The Decision prescribes a two-year derogation in

favour of *Mauritius* over 1973 and 1974 from the concept of 'products originating'. The Association Council took this step, which concerns limited tonnages, to let the industrial sectors involved adapt their production to the conditions laid down by this definition.

2105. On 19 October the Commission authorized *France* to omit from application of this regulation, covering *Mauritius*, textile products imported into the department of *Réunion*. Such imports could in fact impair the industrialization of this overseas French department and provoke social problems.

2106. On 29 October⁶ the Council decided to extend until 31 December 1973 its Regulation of 2 April 1973⁷ on the definition of 'products originating' with regard to trade with *Austria*, *Finland*, *Iceland*, *Norway*, *Portugal*, *Sweden* and *Switzerland* i.e. the *EFTA* countries who have made Agreements with the Community.

Competition Policy

Restrictive Agreements, Concentrations, Dominant Positions: Specific Cases

Fine Imposed for Maintaining an Export Ban

2107. The Commission has adopted a Decision on the basis of Article 85 of the EEC Treaty against *Deutsche Philips GmbH*,

¹ OJ L 285 of 12.10.1973.

² OJ L 291 of 18.10.1973.

³ OJ L 291 of 28.12.1972.

⁴ OJ L 299 of 27.10.1973.

⁵ OJ L 290 of 17.10.1973.

⁶ OJ L 305 of 1.11.1973.

⁷ OJ L 101 of 16.4.1973 and Bull. EC 4-1973, point 2103.

Hamburg, whereby a fine of 60 000 units¹ of account is imposed on the said enterprise.

It considered this measure justified on the following grounds:

In the course of proceedings initiated by the Commission in 1967 against Deutsche Philips GmbH and other subsidiaries of NV Gloeilampenfabrieken in Eindhoven (Netherlands) on account of the application of export bans, the parent company declared in 1968 that it was willing to lift all export bans in respect of the Member States of the EEC and asked the subsidiaries concerned to amend their sales terms accordingly. Deutsche Philips GmbH did not, however, make the required amendments to all its contracts for, while it maintained the export ban contained in its other contracts to non-member countries, it did not eliminate this ban from its electric shavers agreement in respect of the Common Market until October 1972, and indeed only after the Commission had initiated further proceedings *ex officio* on account of this export ban and other obligations which were contained in specific price fixing and distribution agreements.

The Commission was satisfied that a relatively small fine should be imposed as Deutsche Philips GmbH can only be charged with negligence.

This Decision also establishes that the following obligations, which Deutsche Philips GmbH had imposed on its German dealers, constituted infringements of Article 85(1) of the EEC Treaty:

- the ban on exports;
- the reimport price fixing clause;
- the price fixing, the ban on horizontal supplies of wholesalers, the ban on horizontal supplies and advertising by retailers, the ban on direct supplies and the ban on reverse deliveries to the extent that they applied to trade between Member States.

*Abolition of Discrimination
with regard to Access to so-called
'National Exhibitions'*

2108. As a result of action taken by the Commission, *the European Committee of the manufacturers of machines for the printing and paper industries* (EUMAPRINT) has removed from its regulations all discrimination concerning access to so-called 'national' exhibitions; and the organizing committee of GRAFITALIA '73, the 'Mostra Nazionale dei Macchinari e dei Prodotti per le Industrie Cartarie, Grafiche e Trasformatrici' exhibition, which is being held in Milan from 6 to 14 October 1973, has amended its regulations in order to allow foreign firms to participate in this event.

At the end of last year a complaint was made to the Commission concerning the fact that, as a result of action by EUMAPRINT, the invitations to take part in GRAFITALIA '73, which had been sent to firms located in the member countries of the EEC, were withdrawn, and that firms from outside Italy with no permanent connections in that country were refused all participation in that event.

When this matter was investigated, it appeared that this refusal was based on one of EUMAPRINT's regulations which draws a distinction between 'international' and 'national' exhibitions. The only firms authorized to participate in this second category were those which were located in the organizing countries or had some connection there (premises, selling office, sole agent, etc.).

The Commission held that such a distinction constituted discrimination which was incompatible with the competition rules of the EEC Treaty; the criterion chosen had in fact, the effect of debarring from the so-called 'national'

¹ OJ L 293 of 24.10.1973.

exhibitions only Community firms not located in the organizing country which were not sufficiently large to be represented there in some way or other. Now, it is precisely to those small and medium-sized firms that exhibitions held in a foreign country are likely to offer a sometimes unique opportunity to make their products known there, and perhaps to meet there a future agent or distributor.

Authorization of a Long-Term Exclusive Supply Agreement

2109. The Commission has just authorised until 1984 the long-term agreement¹ for the exclusive supply of sewing-machine needles concluded by the *William Prym-Werke KG*, important German manufacturers of drapery articles, with the *S.A. Manufacture Belge d'Aiguilles Beka*, which belongs to the Bekaert Group, one of the main producers of draw wire products. In 1969 these companies had decided to concentrate their manufacture of domestic sewing machine needles in the Eupen factory of the Belgian company in order to set up a more automated plant in view of the greater quantities to be manufactured. It was to profit from the more favourable cost price resulting from this rationalisation of manufacture that Prym concluded this agreement with Beka.

The Commission authorized this move primarily because the agreement will allow both partners to make needles of more consistent and even better quality at advantageous prices, which in the end benefits the consumer.

Iron and Steel Concentration

2110. With the aim of rationalization the British Steel Corporation, London and the firm Arthur Lee & Sons Ltd., Sheffield are contemplating regrouping their calibrated bar

plants (the product does not come under ECSC administration) in a company to be jointly controlled, namely *Lee Bright Bars Ltd.*

This operation amounts to a concentration, in the sense of Article 86, paragraph 1 of the ECSC Treaty, of Lee Bright with British Steel and with Lee Ltd.

In this particular case scrutiny of Article 66, paragraph 2 bore on whether the founder companies would be able to ensure an artificially privileged position for themselves with regard to the supply of semi-finished products for the manufacture of calibrated bars. This was not the case.

In the United Kingdom, Lee Bright Bars Ltd. will get about a 15% share in the calibrated bar market. The product is used extensively in light engineering and the manufacture of screws. This concentration does not raise any objections under Article 86 of the EEC Treaty either.

Since the transaction complies with the criteria for authorization stipulated in Article 66, paragraph 2 of the ECSC Treaty, the Commission granted the required authorization.

Aid for Shipbuilding

2111. On 24 October 1973, the Commission decided to send the Council a proposed third Directive on aid for shipbuilding. The Proposal is motivated by the guidelines of previous Directives and is also aimed at making the Community shipbuilding industry more competitive and enabling it to do without aid.

¹ OJ L 296 of 24.10.1973.

The Commission is proposing, in particular, that the cutting down of direct aid continue by extending this principle to cover aid without ceilings up to now. A more detailed method for appraising this aid has now been finalized; it will help to check more easily whether ceilings have been respected. Moreover, the proposed Directive tends to limit aid for sales credit.

In the area of aid for investment, the Proposal prescribes that its application be coordinated especially with the guidelines of industrial policy in this sector¹. Apart from the review of aid schemes, it is anticipated that checks, case by case, on aid granted to individual investments will be made.

The third proposed Directive, to apply for four years, thus covers all direct and indirect aid in favour of Community shipbuilding.

State Aid

The United Kingdom

2112. The British Government has advised the Commission of a project for introducing temporary aid for industrial companies in Northern Ireland. It consists of a temporary (over three years) and diminishing subsidy (£ 3.50/tonne for the first year, £ 3.25/tonne for the second and £ 3/tonne for the third year) to equalize freight charges on steel. It will be paid to *companies in Northern Ireland using iron and steel products* who, through the adoption by British steel makers of new price scales complying with the ECSC Treaty principles, must from now on bear all of the carriage charges from the producing centres and consequently withstand a sudden rise in supply prices.

The total amount of the three-year subsidy will not exceed £ 650 000; it will be paid for

all iron and steel products from the ECSC, whether they are British or not.

Owing to the special situation of Northern Ireland and since such a subsidy, by its temporary and diminishing character, is geared to let the recipient companies adapt themselves to the new working conditions arising from the amended iron and steel price scales, the Commission held that it ought not to oppose application of the subsidy. The Commission did, however, specify to the British Government that the subsidy must be reserved for companies running in Northern Ireland as on 30 April 1973.

Right of Establishment, Freedom to Supply Services, Company Law

Non-salaried Activities in Finance, Economics and Accounting

2113. On 24 and 25 October 1973, the Commission arranged a meeting of Government experts to determine the minimum qualifying conditions required in future from professionals entitled to carry out the *compulsory audit* of certain companies. The discussions will be pursued at a another meeting.

In July 1970 the Commission had sent to the Council two proposed Directives 'laying down the conditions for the right of establishment and the freedom to supply services for non-salaried activities in finance, economics and accounting'². This concerns mainly the following activities: bookkeeping, auditing, fiscal advice in the three spheres concerned; financial, economic, commercial, statistical and manage-

¹ Point 2245.

² OJ C 115 of 11.9.1970 and Bull. EC 9/10-1970, point 10.

ment advice together with certain special expertise on finance, economics and accounting.

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2114. During its plenary session of 24 and 25 October the *Economic and Financial Committee* gave an Opinion on two Council proposed directives prepared by the Commission concerning the *pharmaceutical* sector. One proposal seeks to coordinate provisions laid down by law, regulation or administrative action; the other, to implement the tight of establishment and the freedom to supply services in non-salaried activities concerning retail sale of medicines. These proposals were presented by the Commission to the Council on 23 November 1972¹.

Approximation of Laws and Creation by Convention of European Law

Private Law

European patents

2115. At the invitation of the German Federal Republic, a diplomatic Conference was held in Munich from 10 September to 5 October 1973 for the adoption of a European system for granting patents.

It resulted in the *signature* on 5 October 1973 by 14 European countries of the *Convention on granting patents* set up by the inter-governmental conference² which had first met in 1969 at the invitation of the Council of the European Communities whose work had ended in Luxembourg in June 1972.

Apart from the Nine, the following appended their signatures: Greece, Liechtenstein, Norway,

Sweden and Switzerland. The Convention is open to signature by other European countries represented in Munich (Austria, Spain, Finland, Yugoslavia, Monaco, Portugal and Turkey) until 5 April 1974; Austria is likely to sign in the meantime.

Apart from the Convention the diplomatic Conference adopted an implementing Regulation and a series of Protocols and Resolutions, the most important being the Protocol on the centralization and the introduction of the European patent system and the Resolution on technical assistance to developing countries by the future European patents organization.

During the four week session, it examined some 150 proposed amendments to texts submitted. In adopting most of these proposals, the Conference did not modify in their essential structures neither the criteria for granting patents nor the granting procedure which had been prepared by the Luxembourg inter-governmental conference.

The major amendments concern the legal position of the inventor which had seen strengthened, the linguistic questions, the effects of European patents, representation at the European Patent Office and reservations which can be made by contracting States on certain criteria for granting patents.

At the request of Greece, Portugal, Spain, Turkey and Yugoslavia, the Conference, in an endeavour to obtain the accession to the Convention of as many European States as possible, accepted to extend reservations concerning pharmaceuticals and food products. Thus, States (except the Nine) have the option that European patents for chemicals will have

¹ Bull. EC 11-1972, point 10.

² Bull. EC 5-1969, Chapter IV.

³ Bull. EC 9-1972, Part One, Chapter III: 'Finalization of a European System for Granting Patent'.

no effect in their territory. According to the final text, moreover, the ten year period during which it is possible to make such reservations can be extended by five years by decision of the Board of the European patents organization.

Regarding the effects of the European patents, a new provision has been introduced in the Convention's text under which the right obtained through a processing patent extends to products directly obtained from the process.

Finally, the Conference amended slightly the Protocol's text on centralization so as to make move allowance for the difficulties experienced by national Offices due to application of the Convention on European patents. Otherwise, this Protocol is unchanged in particular with regard to the option for certain national Offices (the British Office especially) to examine applications for European patents over a period of 15 years from the date of opening of the European Patents Office; this opening could be in 1976 and a temporary Committee has already been set up to prepare for it.

For the Community's Member States, the new European system for granting patents adopted at the Munich diplomatic Conference will be complete only when the second Convention on Community patents¹ is signed. This is expected at the conclusion of an inter-governmental conference to be held in May 1974.

Environment Protection Legislation

Campaign against Water Pollution

2116. The fifth meeting of the working group on 'water legislation' (campaign against water pollution) was held on 29 October 1973; it consisted of representatives of the Commission's departments and experts from national ministries concerned with this problem.

The group had a last discussion before preparing the final list of provisions laid down by law, regulations and administrative provisions in force or planned in Member States for the campaign against surface water pollution. This definitive document should soon be sent to the Community authorities. It will enable a first comparative appreciation to be made of national legislation and its practical application in the event of alignment.

Removal of Technical Barriers to Trade

2117. On 23 October the Commission sent to the Council a proposed Directive on 'the alignment of Member States Law on pre-conditioning by mass or volume of certain *prepacked products*'.²

This proposed Directive was finalized in connection with the Council's Directive of 26 July 1971³ on alignment of Member States law concerning joint provisions for measuring instruments and metrological gauging methods. It fits into the general programme for the removal of technical barriers to intra-Community trade.

A comparative study of the law and regulation systems applicable to pre-packing in Member States shows many discrepancies not only in the technical specifications for the accurate description of actual contents in relation to the stated contents but also in metrological gauging methods to which these pre-packaged goods are subject to prior to marketing. These discrepancies between national laws compel manufacturers and packers to diversify their production in Member States markets and

¹ Bull. EC 3-1973, point 1401: 'Finalizing the Community Patent'.

² OJ C 110 of 13.12.1973.

³ OJ L 202 of 6.9.1971.

2. Economic and Monetary Union

Approximation of Laws

undergo repeated checks made under varying conditions.

Present national laws being justified by legitimate concern to protect the consumer, their alignment appears to be the only way likely to remove these drawbacks and to set up the conditions required for establishing the common market. However, the proposed Directive lays down an alignment of provisions on pre-packaging only in respect of the quantity related to tolerances; it does not solve the problems of types of packaging, materials used, or the range of masses and volumes; these will be the object of further provisions as necessary. The kind of alignment adopted is the so-called 'optional' solution used also in most of the special directives for the measuring instruments sector.

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2118. During the 24 and 25 October 1973 session, the *Economic and Social Committee* gave an Opinion on the proposed Directives concerning alignment of Member States laws on *cold water meters*, *continuous overall weighing instruments* and the *interior fitting of motor vehicles* (seat resistance and anchoring.)

Economic, Monetary and Financial Policy

The World Short-Term Situation in the Early Autumn

2201. Although the world short-term situation has remained brisk until just recently, the phase of increasingly rapid production growth apparently came to an end in the first quarter of 1973. World trade, however, developed at a fast pace. For the whole of 1973 it can be anticipated that its volume will swell by 13% as against 8.5% in 1972. This expansion was matched by a considerable rise in the cost of exports. The rise in the world rates for raw materials has been exceptionally sharp; the gentler movement seen during the summer was only temporary and gave way to a fresh upward swing during the Middle East crisis. By end September the Reuter and Moody indexes had exceeded the previous year's peaks of 95 and 48.5% respectively. Moreover, the prices for crude oil, which the above indexes do not allow for, were heavily increased by the producer countries.

A less brisk expansion of world trade is forecast for next year, seeing the less dynamic situation expected in the United States, Canada, Japan and most of the European countries. Nevertheless a 9-10% growth rate should be achieved in relation to 1973¹.

Prior Consultation when Exchange Parities are Adjusted

2202. On 29 October 1973 the Commission sent the Council a draft statement from the Member States' Government Representatives,

¹ Source: 'Graphs and Summary Notes on the Short-Term Economic Situation in the Community' - 10/73.

meeting within the Council, bearing on interpretation of the statement of 8 May 1964 covering the prior consultation procedure when exchange parities are adjusted.¹ In the words of this latest statement governments must consult one another in advance on any adjustment to the exchange parity of one or more Member State currencies; the Commission will also be a party to these consultations.

In the wake of upheavals experienced in 1971 in the running of the international monetary system, the ministers and the governors of the central banks from the ten nations sharing, within the IMF, the 'general loan agreements' made an agreement on 18 December 1971 in Washington for a new structure in the exchange relationships between their currencies. In view of the situation, the governments were free to transmit to the IMF the new definition of their rates of exchange in the form of parity (the normal IMF system) or central rates (new temporary system).

Since, as opposed to the general rule applicable to parities, the adjustment of a central rate does not entail the prior assent of the IMF, interpretation problems have arisen regarding the need for advance consultation within the compass of the Community.

In order to remove any difficulty over interpretation concerning the acts to be equated with a parity adjustment in the sense of the 1964 statement, the Commission deems that the provisions contained in it are also to apply to:

— adjustment *de jure* or *de facto* of the central rate of a Member State's currency or of the limit intervention rates declared for that currency in relation to the European Monetary Cooperation Fund;

— suspension of interventions at those limit rates,

— establishment of a new central rate or the resumption of interventions at limit rates

declared in relation to the European Monetary Cooperation Fund.'

The Monetary Committee

2203. The Monetary Committee held its 181st and 182nd meetings on 10 and 19 October in Brussels with Mr Clappier in the Chair. It got down to a detailed scrutiny of the Commission's report to the Council on the development of short-term monetary support and on the terms for pooling reserves. It forwarded its conclusions, in the form of an Opinion, to the Council and Commission.

The Short-Term Economic Policy Committee

2204. The Short-Term Economic Policy Committee held its 70th meeting on 11 October 1973 in Brussels with Mr Brouwers in the Chair. On the basis of a summary working document from the Commission departments, the Committee reviewed the revised preliminary economic budgets for 1974 and adopted an Opinion to the Commission on the conclusions of its review.

The Budgetary Policy Committee

2205. The Budgetary Policy Committee held its 55th meeting in Brussels on 16 October 1973 with Mr Firmi in the Chair. On the basis of notes from its members, the Committee reviewed the Member States' draft budgets for 1974 plus the guidelines for the 1974 or 1974/1975 budget policy written into the draft

¹ OJ 78 of 8.5.1964.

Annual Report on the Community's Economic Situation,¹ which the Commission submitted to the Council.

The Medium-Term Economic Policy Committee

2206. During its 55th meeting on 2 October 1973 in Brussels, the Committee examined the report on Regional Problems in the Enlarged Community² plus its application texts.

In its Opinion the Committee expressed comments and made proposals for enhancing the consistency of projects already underway or planned in connection with the various Community structural policies.

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2207. During the session of 15-19 October, the *European Parliament* passed a Resolution on the draft Annual Report on the Community's Economic Situation and another Resolution on the development of short-term monetary support and the terms for pooling reserves.³ *The Economic and Social Committee*, meeting in plenary session on 24 and 25 October also issued an Opinion on the draft Annual Report on the Community's Economic Situation.

Regional Policy

Preparation of a Community Regional Policy

2208. On 10 October 1973⁴ the Commission adopted two Proposals for drawing up the list of regions and areas which can benefit from interventions by the European Regional Development Fund and the list of priority farming

regions and areas which might benefit from EAGGF Guidance Section credit.

The Proposals were sent on 11 October to the Council who will rule on them. They consist of executive measures for the Proposals adopted by the Commission in July 1973⁵ on setting up a Regional Policy Committee and a European Regional Development Fund as well as on the sum of resources to be specified to run the two bodies over the next three years.

Financing New Activities

2209. Under Article 56, §2 a) of the ECSC Treaty the Commission decided to issue a redevelopment loan of 8 million FFrs. or about 1.44 million u.a. to the *Société de Panneaux de Particules du Morvan* in the French departement of Nièvre (under reserve notice conformed with by the Council).

This project to build a new plant for making aggregate panels fits into a broader plan, since the St.-Gobain industrial group intends to develop its activity in the sector of prefabricated building materials.

The intended investments will create about 180 jobs between now and end 1975 and 150 of them will be set aside for former miners.

2210. During its plenary session of 24-25 October 1973, the *Economic and Social Committee* issued an Opinion on the Communication sent by the Commission to the Council concerning the formation of a Regional Policy Committee and a Regional Development Fund and concerning the particular financial provisions

¹ Bull. EC 9-1973, point 2201.

² Supplement 8/73 - Bull. EC.

³ Supplement 12/73 - Bull. EC.

⁴ Points 1301-1304, 'Regional Policy : Regions eligible for aid from the Fund'.

⁵ OJ C 86 of 16.10.1973 and Bull. EC 7/8-1973, point 1201.

applicable to the latter. The Committee also decided to send to the Commission and Council a study which it had prepared on regional policy.

Social Policy

Social Action Programme

2211. On 24 October 1973 the Commission approved and sent to the Council a 'social action programme'¹ in line with the mandate assigned by the Paris Summit Conference in October 1972. In the statement adopted at the close of the proceedings, the Heads of State or Government had asked the Community institutions, to draw up by 1 January 1974, after consulting both sides of industry, a social action programme prescribing practical measures and the means to implement them, within the compass of the Social Fund, on the basis of the suggestions put forward by the Heads of State or Government and the Commission during the Conference².

The keel of the programme had already been laid in the spring with the 'guidelines of the social action programme'³ submitted by the Commission to the Council on 19 April 1973. Representatives of the trade unions and occupational organizations, meeting on 16 October in Brussels with Dr Hillery, Vice-President of the Commission in the Chair, had during a fifth meeting to review the programme, expressed their opinions on the list of contemplated operations and especially on the priority projects. It was agreed that the unions and occupational organizations would shortly be consulted on each one while it was being prepared.

Vocational Training and Guidance

2212. The Working Party for 'exchanges of young rural workers' reviewed on 18 October measures for improving and developing the first exchange programme. It found by and large that exchange courses run in 1974 had yielded sound results. The Working Party drew up the schedule of exchanges for 1974.

2213. Commission representatives took part in a meeting of experts organized by UNESCO on 22-26 October 1973 in Paris on *the education of foreign migrant workers* and their children. The meeting concentrated on problems arising in Europe for migrant workers and their families over reading and writing, languages, occupational training, bicultural education, family adjustment to the welcoming country and resettlement of workers into the economy of the country of origin.

Free Movement and Social Security for Migrant Workers

2214. By invitation of the German authorities a *seminar on the social security of migrant workers* was run in Augsburg on 5 October. Some hundred people attended. The seminar was organized as part of the work of the 'EEC Administrative Committee for Migrant Workers' Social Security' for the benefit of senior officers of Member States' sickness insurance institutions. Fifteen reports were presented on the problems involved in applying Community pension provisions.

After an address by Dr Hillery, Vice-President of the Commission, about migrant workers'

¹ Points 1201-1206.

² Bull. EC 10-1973, Part One, Chapter 1.

³ Supplement 4/73 - Bull. EC.

social security and the 'social action programme'¹, Mr Mayras Advocate-General at the EEC Court of Justice, expounded the general principles of the Court's jurisdiction concerning social security. The following subjects were also dealt with at the seminar: the role of data processing in applying Community social security regulations; insurance liability; eligibility for benefits; computing and disbursing benefits; appeals; measures taken under pension insurance to maintain, improve and restore earning capacity.

2215. *The Administrative Committee for Migrant Workers' Social Security* held its 133rd meeting on 16 and 17 October. The meeting was devoted to a further scrutiny of preliminary draft Decision of the EEC-Turkey Association Council for implementing Article 39 of the Additional Protocol to the Ankara Agreement. Article 39 prescribes that before end 1973 the Association Council will adopt social security provisions for Turkish workers who relocate within the Community. A draft Decision will be sent to the Council.

Social Fund, Re-employment and Re-adaptation

2216. On 9 October 1973 the Commission adopted the first *activity report of the new European Social Fund* (financial year 1972) now being studied by the competent Community authorities.

2217. *The European Social Fund Committee*, meeting in full on 25 October, issued a favourable Opinion on a package of applications for aid submitted under Article 125 of the Treaty (previous Fund) and amounting to a total of 41.8 million u.a., including 41.4 million u.a. for occupational retraining projects.

The Committee also reviewed applications for aid submitted under Article 4 and 5 of the

Council Decision of 1 February 1971 (new Fund) for a total sum of about 117 million u.a.

After its deliberations, the Committee issued its Opinion on the applications or part applications which, it felt, should get priority approval from the Commission according to credit available.

The Committee also had an initial discussion on the lessons to be learnt after one year's action by the Fund.

2218. During October the Commission decided in applying Article 56, §2 of the ECSC Treaty to contribute up to DM 38 970 000 (i.e. 10 647 540.98 u.a.) to the *readaptation expenses* for 10 072 employees hit by the closure of several *German* collieries (this includes an increase of DM 510 000, i.e. 139 344.26 u.a. on credit earmarked in 1965). It will also contribute DM 2 000 000 (i.e. 546 448.09 u.a.) to the readaptation expenses for 2 746 workers hit by the closure of several German iron and steel companies.

In the *United Kingdom*, the Commission has decided to contribute up to £ 50 000 (120 000 u.a.) for the readaptation expenses of 232 employees hit by the permanent closure of several iron ore mines and £ 172 664 (i.e. 414 393.60 u.a.) for the readaptation expenses of 687 employees hit by the closure of a steel company.

The Commission also decided to increase by 321 000 FFrs. (i.e. 57 794.20 u.a.) the readaptation credit already earmarked for employees hit by the reduced operation or closure of several iron ore mines and a pelletizing works in France.

Social Security and Social Action

2219. Under the ECSC *experimental programme* for housing modernization at a meeting

(preceded by a tour of the construction site at Hagondange, France) on 16 October the members of the international board of experts was able to compare results gained and assess whether the objectives had been reached.

2220. Under the first installment of the 7th programme of financial aid for building dwellings for mining and steel industry personnel of the Community countries, the Commission approved the following projects:

Germany: Saar miners: 878 dwellings for single people for a sum of DM 750 000.

Steel employees: 51 individual houses for a sum of DM 153 000.

Italy: Steel employees: 104 flats for a sum of 306 million Lire.

2221. Following two *mining disasters*, one in Germany and the other in Great Britain which together caused the death of 27 miners, the Commission on 17 October decided to subscribe 1 030 000 BFrs. as *aid* to the families of the victims.

Safety, Hygiene, Industrial Medicine and Health Protection

2222. The Working Party on 'aid and rescue' attached to the General Committee on Safety and Health in the Iron and Steel Industry held a meeting on 3 October in the Fried. Krupp works in Rheinhausen. Reports were presented on the running of the medical service and on aid and rescue. The group inspected the fire and rescue equipment in the fire trucks and other service vehicles and on 4 October toured the big Dusseldorf exhibition of safety, first aid and rescue equipment organized during the Congress on Industrial Safety and Health.

2223. Expert groups from the *Standing Committee on Safety and Health in Collieries* in the course of two meetings were engaged in

working out norms and joint assessment criteria for fire-resistant liquids. Subject to a few amendments, the Belgian norms were selected as joint standards. The expert group assigned to draw practical conclusions, on the site of recent disasters due to instantaneous outbursts or rock bursts, toured the Cevennes basin (France) on 25 and 26 October.

2224. Trade union 'Information Days' on *mine safety* organized by the Standing Committee were held in Newcastle-on-Tyne (Great Britain), attended by some hundred delegates. On the theme 'responsibility for safety' presentations were made by officers from the Mines Inspection, the National Coal Board and the National Union of Mineworkers. Commission representatives told the delegates of the latest projects underway in mining safety and health.

2225. On 1 October in Luxembourg a meeting took place of representatives from the institutes making up the research 'contract group' on *individual dosimetry*. The group discussed the work done in 1972/1973 which covered mainly the development of studies on neutron and photon dosimetry. The work on individual dosimetry through the production of monochromatic radiation will be completed by the year-end and the perfected apparatus will then be available for the calibrating of standard dosimeters.

Although the position regarding individual photon dosimetry is satisfactory, there are still not enough dosimeters for individual neutron dosimetry in order to check on employees regularly. Initial results have shown the need to intensify research so as to get dosimeters which can easily be used for radioprotection. A programme was drawn up to this end.

2226. Under its study programme on the special problems of applying effectively the Directives setting the Euratom *radio-protection norms* in Member States' law, the Commission

published a report on the monitoring system used by national authorities on radio-active substances exempt from the system of prior declaration and authorization.

2227. On 18 and 19 October the 'Criteria and Norms' Committee met for the first time in Luxembourg. The Committee was formed after the Council Decision of 19 July 1973 concerning the 'environment' programme, in order to assess the possibility of setting up criteria for *atmospheric pollutants*: sulphur compounds and dust. The Committee studied the pollution levels of sulphur dioxide and dust currently measured in suspension in the nine Member States. It also took a birds-eye view of epidemiological research now underway at world level. A sub-Committee was assigned to review the results of various research projects in epidemiology and toxicology.

2228. On the Commission's initiative and in liaison with the Bundesanstalt für Lebensmittel-frischhaltung (Federal Organization for the Conservation of Foodstuffs) an international colloquium was held on 24-15 October in Karlsruhe attended by 80 specialists from the Community, the United States and other European countries and by representatives from international organizations. The main point of the colloquium was the comparison of analytical methods illustrating the effects of irradiation on foodstuffs with the aim of monitoring the marketing of those foodstuffs and ensuring safeguards for the health of the population.

Environment and Consumer Protection

Consumer Protection

Meeting of Member States' Experts

2229. A meeting with Member States' experts, concerning questions affecting the consumer, was held in Brussels on 1 and 2 October 1973.

The initial meeting convened by the Commission had the primary aim of discussing, in the light of Member States' experience, protection advice and representation for the consumer with a view to the Commission drawing up a programme in this field. Participation by government experts together with the Consumer Advisory Committee is seen as necessary for efforts made to be effective. A second meeting with the Member States' experts is scheduled for next month.

Agricultural Policy

Memorandum on Improving the Common Agricultural Policy

2230. On 31 October the Commission adopted and sent to the Council its Memorandum on improving the CAP¹ over the period 1973-1978. Whilst taking stock of policy conducted up to now, the Commission proposes a balanced package of Community action both as part of the CAP and within the framework of the development of other relevant policies.

The Commission is of the view that the market and prices policy, based on modern farms, is still the main instrument of agricultural incomes policy. But this policy needs improvements in the light of experience. The market and prices policy cannot be fully effective unless it is backed up by a dynamic socio-structural policy including aid for handicapped regions and the application of Community action in respect of the economic and monetary and regional policies. All the action proposed should be implemented by 1 January 1978, the final date for restoring a unified market.

¹ Points 1101-1105 and Supplement 17/73 - Bull. EC.

Measures taken in respect of the Monetary Situation

2231. During October the Commission, in accordance with the appropriated Regulation, set the monetary compensatory amounts¹ and the differential amounts² applicable to trade. The frequency of these adjustments was slowed down thanks to a certain stabilization in the spot rates of the Lire and Sterling.

2232. The Council agreed on the principle of bringing the Italian prices nearer to the Community level by fixing, as part of the CAP, a representative conversion rate for the Lira, at a level lower than that deriving from the parity. This measure, by helping to restore market unity to be, also helps to remedy the imbalances on the Italian farm produce market.

It will be applied in two stages. For most products, it was possible to prescribe a price increase of about 4% forthwith. But the second stage, which will see a price increase of 3.5%, will be delayed until the beginning of the 1974/75 marketing year. It is to be noted that application of the principle adopted on 10 May 1973³ of setting a 1% adjustment coefficient to the intervention and purchase prices to be paid by Italy over the 1973/1974 campaign already represented a 1% rise at the start of the campaign.

Two departures from the overall scheme are provided for. In the sugar sector, the entire increase, i.e. 7.5%, will be deferred to the start of the 1974/75 campaign (1 July 1974) since the contracts between the beet growers and the sugar manufacturers for the 1973/74 campaign had already been made. Similarly in the tobacco sector, where prices and other amounts are set for a harvest as part of the organization of the market, the measures envisaged will apply only to the new crop in 1974.

The legal means for attaining these objectives is to set a representative rate, as from 1 November 1973, for the Lira by which 1 u.a. = 650 Lire. On 1 January 1974 this will be superseded by another rate (1 u.a. = 678 Lire). But for sugar, until the 1973/74 campaign closes, prices and other amounts set in u.a. will be kept at the level in Lira obtaining on 31 October and at their level on 31 December 1973 for the other products covered by a marketing year, with the new representative rates applying for tobacco not coming in until the 1974 harvest.

The provisions adopted by the Council and the Commission⁴ for the representative rates and those for sugar took effect on 1 November 1973. For the other provisions required the Commission sent the Council a Proposal on 31 October 1973.

Adjustment of prices in Italian Lire as well as the establishment of the representative rate has led to adjustments of monetary compensatory amounts⁵ and differentials⁴ applying to Italy as from 1 November 1973.

Applying CAP measures in the enlarged Community

2233. The system of 'Accession' compensatory amounts in the pigmeat, eggs and poultry meat sectors⁶ envisages the monthly adjustment of the compensatory amounts on the basis of the corresponding amounts actually applied to fodder cereals in animal feeds.

During the initial months when the provisions were applied it was found that the uncertainties caused by the possibility of monthly variations

¹ OJ L 294 of 22.10.1973 and L 300 of 29.10.1973.

² OJ L 293 of 20.10.1973 and L 299 of 27.10.1973.

³ Bull. EC 5-1973, point 2220.

⁴ OJ L 303 of 1.11.1973.

⁵ OJ L 304 of 1.11.1973.

⁶ OJ L 29 of 1.2.1973.

in 'Accession' compensatory amounts hamper trade and that there is no need to determine the amounts on a monthly basis.

In the interests of uniformity, the Council on 22 October 1973¹ decided to introduce, from 1 November 1973, a three-month period of validity for 'Accession' compensatory amounts for pigmeat, eggs and poultrymeat and to set these amounts on the same dates as the sluice-gate prices and levies.

On 30 October 1973² the Commission fixed the 'Accession' compensatory amounts for the products of the sectors in question for the period 1 November 1973-31 January 1974.

Common Organization of the Markets

Cereals and Rice

2234. On 8 October 1973³ the Commission raised from 30 to 60 days the period of validity of import certificates for basic cereals and wheat flours, groats and meal. This measure, justified by the current rise in world market prices, will enhance the supply of the Community market by giving the trade the opportunity to make longer terms commitments.

On 19 October 1973⁴ the Commission decided to lower the denaturation premium for soft wheat to the following levels:

November 1973	7.00 u.a./tonne;
December 1973	7.22 u.a./tonne
January 1974	7.44 u.a./tonne
February 1974	7.66 u.a./tonne
March 1974	7.88 u.a./tonne
April 1974	8.10 u.a./tonne
May, June, July 1974	8.32 u.a./tonne

The premium valid for the 1973/74 campaign had been set on 11 July 1973⁵; over August, September and October it was 11.79 u.a./tonne. But for the United Kingdom and Denmark it was 10.79 u.a./tonne and 17.79 u.a./tonne for Ireland. From now on new premium will be valid throughout the Community, except for Ireland where it will be increased by 3 u.a./tonne.

The Commission considers that given the stresses of the current market position, the denaturation of soft wheat used for cattle-feeding should be discouraged. By cutting the premium, the Commission hopes to encourage the use of barley. Although the main cereal substitute for soft wheat in animal fodder is maize, the Commission hopes that barley consumption will go up so as avoid substantial quantities going for intervention or export with refunds. The Commission expects to see a drop in the quantity of denatured soft wheat which could amount to 4-5 million tonnes. i.e. 50% of the quantity anticipated for 1973/74 (9-10 million tonnes). This quantity can be liberated for exports on the world market and in this way will help to stabilize prices.

As regards the EAGGF, the Commission considers that the cut in the denaturation premium will enable savings to be made of 20-25 million u.a. Should world cereal prices remain higher than Community prices the proceeds from the export levy should bring the total savings for the EAGGF up to 200 million u.a.

During October 1973¹ the Commission adopted five Regulations concerning export levies in the cereal sector.

¹ OJ L 297 of 25.10.1973.

² OJ L 301 of 30.10.1973.

³ OJ L 282 of 9.10.1973.

⁴ OJ L 293 of 20.10.1973.

⁵ OJ L 193 of 14.7.1973.

⁶ OJ L 279, L 285, L 292, L 298 of 5, 12, 19 and 26.10.1973 and L 303 of 1.11.1973.

Since the new Community *rice* harvest is marketable from 15 October and world market prices presently exceed the threshold prices for all qualities of rice, the Council on 8 October 1973¹ laid down the general rules to be applied in this sector in the event of marked disruption. When world market prices exceed the Community threshold prices by 2%, the Regulation allows certain measures to be taken to avoid disturbance on the Community rice market. One of these measures is the export levy on rice.

So as to avoid market disruption and to allow the surplus of Community rice from the new harvest to be disposed of, the Commission on 19 October 1973² made the following arrangements to be applied from the following day:

- the safeguard measures of 26 May 1973³ applicable to the export of Community rice and broken rice were discontinued;
- the period of validity of export certificates for rice was cut to 30 days;
- levies were introduced on exports of rice and broken rice; these levies were adjusted on 25 and 31 October 1973.⁴

Eggs and Poultrymeat

2235. In the egg and poultrymeat sectors, the prefixation certificates for refunds are valid until the end of the sixth month after date of issue. Considering the swift development of fodder cereal prices over recent months and their impact on egg and poultrymeat prices, it was thought worth while to watch exports of this produce more closely and to reduce the validity of these certificates from six to three months. The Commission on 26 October 1973⁵ adopted a Regulation to this end.

Sugar

2236. On 4 October 1973⁶ the Commission adopted provisions concerning the denaturation

premiums on white sugar used to feed bees. As part of the overall policy for disposal of sugar surpluses from the 1973/74 marketing year, this Regulation aims to establish a permanent tendering system providing for a denaturing premium for a certain quantity of white sugar to be used solely for bee-keeping requirements. This sugar must be denatured according to clearly specified processes and used solely for feeding bees to the exclusion of any other application.

Olive Oil

2237. For olive oil the Council made an initial review of the Commission's proposals concerning the market target prices, the intervention prices and the threshold prices, of the subsidy provisions and of certain related provisions for the 1973/74 marketing year beginning on 1 November 1973. Pending the Opinion of the European Parliament the Council deferred its decision on this matter and extended until 30 November the provisions valid for the 1972/73 campaign.

Fruit and Vegetables

2238. On 8 October 1973¹ the Council decided to improve the system applicable to certain fruit and vegetables originating from the AASM and Madagascar, the OCT and Kenya, Uganda and Tanzania, given the value of this procedure to the trade of these States and territories. This particular system, which authorizes duty-free imports into the Community was adopted on 25 April 1972⁷ and will apply

¹ OJ L 282 of 9.10.1973.

² OJ L 293 of 20.10.1973.

³ Bull. EC 5-1973, point 2223.

⁴ OJ L 298 of 26.10.1973 and L 303 of 1.11.1973.

⁵ OJ L 299 of 27.10.1973.

⁶ OJ L 279 of 5.10.1973.

⁷ Bull. EC 6-1972, point 41.

until 31 January 1975. The improvements concern the application periods of the exemptions for each of the fruits and vegetables in question.

Wine

2239. On 5 October 1973¹ the Commission adopted the arrangements for applying Council Regulation of 10 May 1973² covering the joint organization of the market in the wine sector. As in the other farming sectors the principle of raising the intervention and purchase prices to be paid by Italy by means of a corrective sum of 1% is valid and applicable during the 1973/1974 wine campaign for the subsidy in respect of private storage in Italy.

Furthermore, on 12 October 1973³ the Commission drew up the list of imported vintage white wines with a particular sulphur dioxide content and also adopted certain temporary provisions concerning the sulphur dioxide strength of wines made before 1 October 1973.

Lastly, on 24 October 1973⁴ after finding that the average price of dessert wine type AII (white) had remained for two consecutive weeks below the trigger price, the Commission granted aid for private storage of this product.

Structural Policy in Agriculture

2240. On 22 and 23 October the Council made a detailed review of the main problems on the proposed Directive on hill-farming and certain other less favoured areas⁵. The discussions resulted in some lessening of the differences between the several viewpoints.

After a brief debate on problems in Denmark over application of the Council Directive of 17 April 1972 concerning incentives to withdraw from farming and allocation of agricultural

area for structural improvement, the Council came out in favour of the Commission submitting a proposal to solve this problem along the guidelines coming from the Council.

On 31 October 1973 the Commission issued an Opinion on the draft provisions, transmitted by the *British* Government, to implement the Council Directive on modernizing farms in agriculture and market gardening. It also issued an Opinion on the draft terms, transmitted by the *French* Government for the implementation of the Council Directive on inducement to give up farming and allocate land for structural improvement.

The European Agricultural Guidance and Guarantee Fund

Guidance Section

2241. On 15 October⁶ the Council adopted a Regulation on aid from the EAGGF Guidance Section for 1973. It prescribes that a sum of 170 million u.a. will be allocated to finance projects submitted under the Regulation of 5 February 1964⁷.

The Commission adopted two Decisions on reimbursement by the EAGGF Guidance Section of premiums paid out during 1971. One Decision dated 4 October 1973⁸ concerns the uprooting of apple, pear and peach trees in *France* and the other, dated 5 October 1973⁹

¹ OJ L 280 of 6.10.1973.

² Bull. EC 5-1973, point 2220.

³ OJ L 289 of 16.10.1973.

⁴ OJ L 297 of 25.10.1973.

⁵ Bull. EC 2-1973, point 2228.

⁶ OJ L 290 of 17.10.1973.

⁷ OJ 34 of 27.2.1964.

⁸ OJ L 355 of 24.12.1973.

⁹ OJ L 297 of 25.10.1973.

covers the slaughter of cows and the non-marketing of milk and dairy produce in *Germany*.

Farm Accountancy Data Network

2242. On 23 October 1973¹ the Council adopted a Regulation to amend the Regulation of 15 June 1965² setting up a farm accountancy data network for the income and economics of holdings in the EEC. The amendments concern the use of accounting data, the field to be surveyed and the number of farm accounting operations to be considered. For yearly accounting periods beginning during 1973 and 1974, the number of farm accounting operations is 13 600; this number will be increased at the start of each of the four accounting years beginning between 1975 and 1978, finally reaching a total of 28 000.

The Council also took note of the Commission's report on the running of the farm accountancy data network.

*

2243. During its session of 15-19 October the *European Parliament* passed a Resolution on a Proposal drawn up by the Commission concerning measures to be taken in agriculture following the raising of the central rate for the Dutch florin. The *Economic and Social Committee* meeting in full session on 24 and 25 October issued an Opinion on Proposals for amending three Council Directives on respectively seed marketing, propagation materials for vines and forestry reproductive material.

Industrial and Technological Policy

Community Action Programme for Industrial and Technological Policy

2244. On 24 October the Commission adopted and sent to the Council the draft of an

initial 'action programme for industrial and technological policy.' It considered that the Council could rule on this draft by 1 January 1974 as prescribed by the Heads of State and Government at the October 1972 Conference.

In drawing up its programme the Commission, working from its Communication of 3 May 1973³ which already carried an appended draft timetable, carefully rescrutinized all the difficulties. It found that since the Memorandum on Community⁴ industrial policy submitted in May 1972, very little headway in the way of decisions had been made up to now. From these findings the Commission concluded that, considering the Community's state of development, the attainment of industrial objectives set by the Heads of State and Government in Paris would hinge in an initial stage on the Council's adopting practical proposals.

Moreover, the submission of too many additional proposals would clearly threaten to complicate the work of the Council to no purpose and delay the laying of the foundation of the base for European industry desired by the Summit Conference. The creation of this base was in fact by necessity a progressive task and the various parts, although designed in the global concept drawn up by the Commission, could only be assembled successively and by stages.

This was why the Commission was so concerned to issue, forthwith, its working schedule attached to its Communication of 3 May 1973, bearing in mind the movement of Council and Commission proceedings over the last six months and the need to spell out the priorities. The Commission had confirmed its new pro-

¹ OJ L 299 of 27.10.1973.

² OJ L 109 of 23.6.1965.

³ Supplement 7/73 - Bull. EC.

⁴ Supplement 4/70 - Bull. EC.

posals, at least for the near future, to a number of particularly urgent problems.

From this angle the Commission proposed that the programme for removing technical trade barriers be speeded up. It also asked for a precise commitment so that the Council could adopt by 1 January 1974 an action programme for the priority industrial sectors of aeronautics and shipbuilding. It also asked the Council to hold a guidance debate before the year-end on the proposed Regulation on controlling concentrations¹ and on problems arising from the development of multinational companies.

Industry

Shipbuilding

2245. On 24 October the Commission adopted a package of Proposals concerning the shipbuilding sector. They cover the following: industrial policy guidelines, a Communication to the Council on terms for action; a proposed Directive on shipbuilding; a Proposal concerning the intervention of the European Social Fund in favour of people employed in this sector. The Communication and the initial Proposals were sent to the Council, the last one will be transmitted when the Social Fund Committee has vetted it.

The reasons behind this action lie in the development of the economic situation in this sector which has its problems. Although order books are currently well filled the medium-term position turns out to be disturbing since a danger of production overcapacity is anticipated by 1980. The problems stemming from such a state of affairs would be especially detrimental to European shipbuilding since its structural position is lagging behind that of its big competitor Japan which alone provides 50% of world production.

To cope with this situation the Commission had set itself the objective of creating a basis of inducement and coordinated action in which all resources, public and private, which could help to make up the structural leeway in the industry can be used to make it competitive at world level and capable of withstanding as effectively as possible any overcapacity situation.

To gain this competitive objective the Commission is proposing to try and adjust European structures through investments and rationalization and by focussing the application of aid to encourage four-year investments. The cutting of direct aid will be progressive and more generalized than previously: a proposed third Directive concerning aid has therefore been submitted to the Council.²

The crucial structure adjustments will certainly entail changes in the quantity and quality of employment. The Commission is also proposing to exploit all the scope offered by the European Social Fund to ease the necessary changes.

It also considers that research should be activated in fields closely related to medium and small-sized shipyards and is proposing to take swift stock of needs in this area so as to define the type of action to be applied and the priorities involved.

Lastly, the Commission intends to encourage small and medium-sized European shipyards to collaborate, particularly in the selling department, so as to enable them to gear their production to market developments and expand their outlets.

¹ Bull. EC 7/8-1973, points 1401-1404: 'Control of Concentrations: Commission Proposals'.

² Point 2111.

This package of measures is based on the cooperation of all circles concerned (producers, unions, buyers, governments) and on the definition by the Commission, in constant touch with all concerned, of annual target programmes slanted towards demand, supply and employment.

Iron and Steel

Technical Research

2246. After consulting the ECSC Consultative Committee and after a confirmatory Opinion from the Council, the Commission decided under Article 55, paragraph 2c of the Paris Treaty to earmark a total sum of 2 463 190 u.a. (found from levies covered by Article 50 of this Treaty) as financial aid for research on production techniques, automation of steel processes and the processing and applications of steel. This research covers:

- *Injection of hot reformed gas into the blast furnace.* The encouraging results from earlier tests are to be supported by studying blast furnace behaviour when reformed gas and fuel oil are injected simultaneously and by determining the extreme limits for replacing coke by reformed gas.
- *Continuous smelting of pig iron.* To facilitate a broad industrial application of this method, earlier tests must be completed by certain studies on the determination of the fusion speed of scrap metal and on instantaneous percentage composition of the rough scrap melt at any given moment.
- *Optimization of tonnage steel manufacture in electric furnaces.* Research envisaged include deoxygenation tests on low-carbon steels and vacuum deoxygenation trials.

- *Automation in oxygen steelworks.* This research would include perfection of suitable probes, the preparation of a statistical model and the readjustment of plant based on the proportions of physio-chemical and kinetic measurements.

- *Basic properties of high-intensity electric arcs.* The main avenues of this research for perfecting more efficiently designed electric furnaces are: analysis of the basic properties of electric arcs and analysis of the electrode erosion mechanism.

- *Electronic monitoring of steelworks' plant.* Projects consist of research on and perfection of a continuous inspection system to anticipate and detect any technical abnormalities and thus authorize interventions during standard maintenance periods. The methods to be studied and adapted are: vibratory analysis, spectroscopic analysis of oils and the presentation of heat pattern images.

- *Automatic detection of surface flaws on cold rolled sheet:* studying the scope for using the detection and treatment on a skin-pass cage, improving detection of flaws difficult to spot and the development of an industrial prototype monitoring device for the skin-pass.

- *Loss of force in magnetic sheet.* This research will cover the dependence of the frequency coercivity field and the influence of loss under various parameters.

- *Creep test for ductile materials under uniaxial tension.* This will include the perfection of an apparatus to measure the transversal distortion of the steel section and a device to maintain a constant specific loading.

- *Methods for calculating and constructing parts subject to metal fatigue in heavy engineering.* The study programme is to supplement or amend calculating methods and procedures used for heavy plant.

Nuclear Industry

2247. On 15 October 1973¹ the Council approved certain amendments to the articles of the joint company SENA (*Société d'énergie nucléaire franco-belge des Ardennes*). These amendments need to be made in order to include the age limits for the company's executive as prescribed by a French law of 31 December 1970 and to supplement the social denomination of the joint company. The shareholders had approved the amendments at an extraordinary general meeting, but under the terms of Article 50, paragraph 2 of the Euratom Treaty, they could only take effect after approval by the Council.

Science, Research and Development, Education, Scientific and Technical Information

Science, Research and Development

Formation of European Medium-Term Weather Forecasting Centre

2248. The Agreement to set up the 'European Medium-Term Weather Forecasting Centre'² was signed on 11 October 1973 in Brussels by the representatives of the following 15 States: Belgium, Denmark, Germany, Spain, France, Greece, Ireland, Italy, Yugoslavia, the Netherlands, Portugal, Switzerland, Finland, Sweden and the United Kingdom.

The creation of this Centre means the completion of the most important project deriving from the work of the Committee of Senior Officials for Scientific Research (COST). It was the Committee's major project by virtue of its permanent character, the number of

countries sharing in it and the scale of activities and financial resources intended.

Making medium-term weather forecasts (4-10 days ahead) entails putting very intricate mathematical models of atmospheric simulation through very fast computers. These models will still require considerable research. The forecasting also means that an observation network has to be set up to cover extensive areas of the globe.

The Centre will be installed at Shinfield Park near Reading (Berkshire) in the United Kingdom and when it becomes operational will have a staff of about 120 of whom 40 will come from the universities. The Reading Centre will make a valuable contribution to international cooperation within the compass of the World Meteorological Organization (WMO).

The anticipated cost of installing the Centre—over the five-year stage before it becomes operational—has been assessed at 22 million u.a. including investments of 3.2 million. Its eventual running expenses will come out at 8.9 million u.a. p.a. It should be noted here that the preliminary study had led to an estimate of more than 200 million u.a. as the value of the project's economic benefit for agriculture, building and transport in yielding more accurate medium-term weather forecasts.

Controlled Thermonuclear Fusion and Plasma Physics

2249. An *Association Contract* was signed on 9 October 1973 between the EAEC and the United Kingdom Atomic Energy Authority in the field of controlled thermonuclear fusion and plasma physics. A similar Contract had been signed on 7 October with the *Danish Atomic Energy Commission*. These Contracts

¹ OJ L 293 of 20.10.1973.

² Bull. EC 9-1973, point 2231.

thus supplement those signed several years ago between the EEC Commission and the qualified specialized institutions in France, Italy, Germany, the Netherlands and Belgium.

Under the terms of all the Contracts, the programmes of the specialized institutions are dovetailed into the Commission's 3rd Five Year Research Programme (1971-1975), which embodies and coordinates in a joint programme practically all activities going on in the Community. The Fourth Programme is now under study.

The aim of current and future research is to build, jointly and within suitable deadlines, the necessary major experimental centres and eventually to build prototype power-generating fusion reactors, with a view to marketing them for industrial use. These reactors will in the long-term be capable of solving energy supply problems on a world scale.

Education

Mutual Recognition of Diplomas in Medicine

2250. On 22-25 October 1973 the Commission organized a hearing in Brussels, chaired by Mr Ralf Dahrendorf, on the mutual recognition of diplomas in medicine. The hearing was attended by 118 delegates from the national and European associations representing the doctors, the universities, medical students, hospitals, sickness funds, trade unions and the consumers. Thirty one observers from Member States' Governments, the Council, the Economic and Social Committee and certain other professional bodies representing other university professions were also present.

The hearing originated from the working programme¹ submitted by Mr Dahrendorf to the Commission in May 1973. The reason why the Commission decided to hold this event is

twofold: firstly, the draft Directives to ensure free movement within the Community for the professions, which the Commission laid before the Council in 1969, have yet to be decided by the latter and secondly, after the enlargement of the Community, certain relevant new factors had to be reckoned with.

To help solve these problems the Commission decided to use an exceptional procedure, namely a public hearing attended by all concerned to get a better understanding of the problems and ideas and to speed up the decision process. The medical profession was selected because its field of activity can be more easily defined than many others and because previous discussions had thrown up some very typical basic problems. But in picking out this profession the Commission did not intend to create an exclusive precedent, for every profession had its idiosyncrasies and specific problems.

The meeting discussed the following main points:

- Comparison of training and advanced training including the trend towards further post-graduate training;
- The minimum duration of training; this is covered by one of the Commission's proposed Directives;
- Qualitative controls at European level through the formation of a Consultative Committee on the training of practitioners ;
- Part-time training for specialists;
- Adaption period required for migrant doctors;
- Particular status of hospital house doctors in Italy and France;

¹ Bull. EC 5-1973, point 2237.

- Student and doctor exchanges;
- Scope for further training at European level;

The Commission is now reviewing the arguments put forward in the discussions with a view to submitting fresh material in a suitable form to the Council debates now running.

Energy Policy

2251. Problems arising over energy in the wake of events in the Near East and their repercussions were the subject of Commission Proposals, a position taken by the Council, a debate in the European Parliament—during which Mr Simonet, Vice-President of the Commission made a statement—and discussions amongst various other bodies.

Council Communiqué

2252. At the close of the sitting of 6 November 1973 the Council published the following Communiqué:

‘The Council reaffirms the resolve of the EEC Member States to contribute individually and collectively to an equitable solution of the Middle East problem as indicated in their declaration of today.

The Council, aware of the economic interdependence of Member States of the EEC has asked the Commission and the Committee of Permanent Representatives to continue to keep a close watch on the situation resulting from the shortage of oil and to report to the Council thereon’.

Mr Simonet in Parliament

2253. The problems of energy were also debated in the European Parliament on

13 November 1973. The discussion was based on two reports devoted to (a) the Commission’s Communication on initial application of the guidelines and priority action of the Community energy policy and (b) the future stock and supply situation for Community gas¹.

Vice-President Simonet took the opportunity to put the Commission’s view to the House. First of all he stressed the changes in the Community’s oil stock and supply situation which have shown how dependent and insecure we are with regard to oil. The present crisis is a glaring proof of this. All of these problems should make the Community find an overall solution to reduce our dependence regarding oil, improve security of supply and diversify sources. This overall solution would mean joint action in three directions. Firstly, we had to think about more rational use of energy. Then national and Community action would have to be taken to exploit more intensively all sources of energy available to us. This would mean, especially in the case of coal, spelling out the conditions for maintaining and if possible developing each of the Community’s major mining areas and speeding up the effort for concerted action to expand the basis of the Community’s energy supply thus making the Community largely independent of external supplies of enriched uranium. With regard to oil, Mr Simonet emphasized that it must be our implacable resolve to equip the Community with a real Community energy policy based on the conviction that the only fitting solution to the energy challenge was a Community solution. Given this resolve the Community must possess the required instruments. These were already the subject of the July 1973 Proposals to provide better advice to the public authorities on the conditions of Community stocks and supply, and concerning concertation

¹ A report on the debates will be included in Bull. EC 11-1973, under ‘European Parliament’.

between the authorities and the companies involved and covering the setting up of a joint import and export system. These Proposals will have to be regularly clarified, amplified and extended.

With regard to the situation today, Mr Simonet referred to Community Directives on the upkeep of oil buffer stocks and to measures for dealing with possible hydrocarbon supply problems. The group of national experts set up under this last Directive is meeting regularly to appraise the position and discuss action taken by the different Member States. Moreover, the Commission had submitted *new proposed Regulations and Decisions* for setting up an advice system on oil movement and for providing the Community with means of intervention which, if adopted, will ensure the smooth running of the common market. Vice-President Simonet showed he was convinced that it was possible to gradually reach a Community policy for energy and thus arrive at a solution to the problems besetting us.

Hydrocarbons

2254. The group of government experts indicated in the Council Directive of 24 July 1973 on *measures to alleviate the effects of problems in the supply of crude oil and oil products*¹, held its formative meeting on 23 October 1973. The group got down to a general discussion on the present oil position and on measures anticipated or already brought in by Member States. They agreed to hold regular meetings.

Coal

2255. On 24 October 1973 the Commission adopted a draft ECSC Decision bearing on application of the Commission Decision of

25 July 1973 concerning *coking coal and coke for the Community iron and steel industry*.² The text, prepared after talks with coal and steel producer representatives, was submitted for discussion to the Council and the Consultative Committee.

Nuclear Energy

2256. Under the mandate assigned by the Council on 22 May 1973, the *Standing Committee on Uranium Enrichment* (COPENUR) submitted its report to the Commission on 31 October 1973. The report will be sent on to the Council together with Commission Proposals for the creation of European uranium enrichment capacity in anticipation of the Council session on energy problems scheduled for 26-27 November 1973.

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2257. During its plenary session of 24-25 October, the *Economic and Social Committee* issued an Opinion on the proposed Council Regulation prepared by the Commission, which concerns trans-frontier oil and gas pipelines.

Transport Policy

Communication to the Council on the Common Transport Policy

2258. On 24 October 1973 the Commission approved and sent to the Council a Communication³ on the *development of the common*

¹ OJ L 228 of 16.8.1973.

² OJ L 259 of 15.9.1973.

³ Points 1401-1407 and Supplement 16/73 - Bull. EC.

transport policy. Aimed at relaunching this policy within the context of the enlarged Community, the Communication will serve as a basis in the immediate future for a discussion on the principles and objectives forming the framework of the proposals to be submitted by the Commission to the Council. Contact will also be made on this matter with the European Parliament and the Economic and Social Committee.

Market Access

2259. On 24 October 1973 at the request of the Dutch Government a meeting was held in Brussels between representatives from the governments and the Commission departments to examine the situation of *small shipowners* (batellerie artisanale). The Dutch delegation supported by other delegations insisted on the need to take emergency measures in this sector of inland shipping. The date of the next meeting was set for 5 February 1974.

Competition Conditions

2260. On 29 October 1973 the Commission approved the aid measures prescribed by the French Government with the aim of *reforming the structure of the French Rhine shipping fleet*. It held that these measures could be regarded as compatible with the common market by virtue of the exception clause of Article 92, para 3 of the EEC Treaty, in that they ease the economic development of that sector and that their range of effect does not deteriorate trading conditions to an extent counter to the common interest.

Social Harmonization

2261. On 4 October 1973 the Commission adopted a *Decision*¹ *refusing social recognition*

of the Swiss individual log-book in road freight haulage. The Decision was taken in application of Article 14 of the Council Regulation of 25 March 1969 amended by that of 28 February 1972, both of which cover the harmonization of certain social provisions in the field of road freight haulage. This Article indicates that, for drivers of vehicles registered in a third country not affiliated to the AETR, the Commission, on the request of a Member State, recognizes a log-book of different form from that shown in the Appendix of the Regulation of 28 February 1972, insofar as it does not differ on the basic points of the Community model. The request for recognition of the 'professional drivers motor vehicle log-book', currently used in Switzerland, was submitted by the German Government. The Commission refused recognition because the log-book departs from the basic points of the Community model especially with regard to the length of weekly driving time and the schedule of daily rest periods.

2262. On 9 October 1973 the Commission decided to send an *Opinion* to the *Danish Government*² concerning its draft Decree on enforcement of the Council Regulation of 25 March 1969 on social harmonization. Whilst making certain observations, the Commission gave a favourable *Opinion* on the draft Decree.

Transports Rates and Conditions

2263. On 11 October 1973 the Irish Government organized a meeting in Dublin at which representatives from the circles involved were able to question Commission officials on application of the Council Regulation of 30 July 1968

¹ OJ L 291 of 18.10.1973.

² OJ L 308 of 8.11.1973.

on the introduction of a system of *bracket rates* for the road haulage of goods between Member States and applying it to carriage with Ireland. The Commission and Irish Government representatives also examined the measures to be adopted to enforce *Article 70, para 3 of the ECSC Treaty*, Recommendation 1/61 of the High Authority covering the *communication and publication of scales, prices and tariff provisions* applied to coal and steel carriage and thirdly the Council Regulation of 27 June 1970 concerning the *abolition of discrimination over transport rates and conditions*. The Irish representatives asked that, in enforcing these provisions, due allowance be made for certain idiosyncrasies of the Irish transport market.

Safety in Inland Shipping

2264. As part of the steady implementation of global action for transport safety, the Commission departments, on 23 October 1973 got down to an initial discussion with government experts on the compulsory introduction, within the Community, of *technical inspections and a shipping certificate for inland waterway vessels*.

The Transport Consultative Committee

2265. During its *first meeting since the enlargement of the Community*, which was held on 4 and 5 October 1973 in Brussels, the Consultative Committee for Transport (Art. 83 of the EEC Treaty) elected Mr Woelker (Germany) Chairman and Mr Dickinson (United Kingdom) Vice-Chairman for the period 1973-74. The Committee then heard a statement from the Commission's Director-General of Transport who welcomed the Committee members on behalf of the Commission and transmitted a message from Mr Scarascia Mugnozza,

Vice-President of the Commission who was unable to meet them personally on this occasion. Describing the future tasks and function of the Committee, the Director-General highlighted the Commission's plan to associate the Committee more closely with the realization of the common transport policy of the enlarged Community.

The Committee then opened a discussion on certain features of the development of this policy, features on which the Commission wanted to know the Committee's opinion before preparing its Communication to the Council adopted on 24 October 1973. The review of matters on the agenda concerning the structural policy of transport by barge-carrying ships was deferred until the plenary session scheduled for early January 1974.

3. External relations

Mediterranean Countries

EFTA States

Signature of the Agreement with Finland

2301. The Agreement between the Community and Finland was signed¹ on 5 October 1973 in Brussels. The negotiations which opened on 13 December 1971 in Brussels had been preceded by exploratory talks begun in December 1971 after meetings at Ministerial level in November 1971.

The Joint EEC-Switzerland and EEC-Sweden Committees

2302. Two of the Joint Committees formed under the Agreements between the Community and EFTA held their second meetings in Brussels in October. The EEC-Switzerland Committee met on 17 October 1973 and the EEC-Sweden Committee on 23 October. The Committees reviewed the running of the Agreements. They were advised of the work of the Customs Committee bearing on the question of streamlining administrative formalities. They also studied the problems involved in the trade of certain products.

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2303. During its sitting of 15-19 October, the *European Parliament* passed a Resolution on the Agreement signed between the EEC and Norway.

Mediterranean Countries

Turkey

2304. During its session of 22 and 23 October 1973, the Council of the EEC approved the text of the Agreement in the form of correspondence

between the EEC and Turkey concerning *new terms for the Community system covering imports of non-refined olive oil.*

Tunisia

2305. On 8 and 9 October 1973 a second *round of negotiations* took place between a Community delegation and a delegation from the Tunisian Government. During this session it was possible to go more deeply into the matters discussed on 27 and 28 July 1973 and clarify the respective positions of both delegations regarding the various parts of the contemplated Agreement. This Tunisian delegation stressed the various points on which it considered the Community offer inadequate. Having made a preliminary assessment of the problems involved, the delegations agreed to report to their respective authorities on the headway made during the negotiations.

Spain

2306. *Negotiations* between the Community and Spain were resumed in Brussels on 18 October 1973. During this meeting in plenary session, the second since the July 16/17 meeting² both delegations clarified their respective positions. They then took stock of the negotiations up to now and were able to find that they were in agreement on certain points. After this meeting the Commission on 24 October 1973 sent the Council a Communication on the status of the negotiations with a view to the debate within the Council.

¹ Bull. EC 9-1972, Part I, Chapter I.

² Bull. EC 7/8-1973, point 2307.

Israel

2307. A second round of *negotiations* took place in Brussels on 1 and 2 October between a Community delegation and a delegation from the Israeli Government. These negotiations fit into the Community's global approach to relations with Mediterranean countries and follow on the Additional Protocol signed by both parties on 30 January 1973¹ the aim of which was to conclude a new Agreement taking effect on 1 January 1974.

This second round enabled the delegations to develop the discussion initiated on 18 and 19 July 1973² and clarify their respective positions on the content of the contemplated Agreement. After appraising the problems arising, the two groups agreed to report to their respective authorities on the status of the talks.

Egypt

2308. During a ceremony which took place on 4 October in Brussels, the contracting parties advised one another of the completion of the internal procedures required for (a) the EEC-Egypt Agreement signed on 18 December 1972 in Brussels, (b) the Additional Protocol to this Agreement necessitated by the accession of three new EEC Member States and signed on 19 December 1972, and (c) the Agreement, in the form of correspondence, on citrus fruits signed on 21 June 1973, *all to come into force*. The two Agreements and the Protocol³ thus duly took effect on 1 November 1973⁴.

2309. On 11 October the Council also adopted two Regulations on the opening, allocation and administration of Community *tariff quotas* for certain oil products and cotton cloths originating from Egypt.⁵

Associated African States, Malagasy and Commonwealth Countries to which the Community has offered Association

Opening of Negotiations to Renew and Expand the Association

2310. Following the Ministerial Conference held in Brussels on 25-26 July 1973,⁶ the negotiations between the EEC, the AASM, Malagasy, Mauritius, other African States and certain independent Commonwealth countries in fact began during a Ministerial Conference in Brussels on 17 and 18 October 1973.

The President-in-Office of the Council advised the States attending of the content of an initial set of Directives forming the basis of the Community's commitment towards the negotiations. Mr Nørgaard thus reviewed the following: the trade system; implementation of the provisions of Protocol 22 which concern safeguards for the interests of future Associates whose economies hinge to a great extent on commodity exports especially sugar; financial and technical cooperation (development of regional cooperation, the drive against under-employment, the future of the developing countries); institutional questions.

The president of the Council had declared earlier: 'We are now facing the need to reconcile your demands with the Community's political resolve and potential to meet them. On our

¹ Bull. EC 1-1973, point 2305.

² Bull. EC 7/8-1973, point 2308.

³ OJ L 251 of 7.9.1973.

⁴ OJ L 284 of 11.10.1973.

⁵ Point 2101.

⁶ Bull. EC 7/8-1973, points 1101-1106, 'Meeting between the Community and the Third World'.

side the resolve is there, but it will be expressed in proportion not only to the Community's capacity for internal action but also to its scope at world level allowing for its other international obligations. It is up to us to make practical headway in this direction. Indeed, it is only through a thorough and sustained dialogue that we shall reach mutual enlightenment on our intentions, our hopes and our possibilities.'

Mr Nørgaard then went on to say: 'We are convinced that you will realize, as we do, that the negotiations must fulfill to the greatest possible extent the quest for our mutual interests. To me it is crucial that we consider this from the outset of the negotiations for this mutuality surely represents a realistic basis for our future relations and an approach fully reflecting the sovereignty and the dignity of all the States taking part in these negotiations with the Community.'

While remembering that such mutual interests require equally mutual commitments, the Community recognizes that the contribution which it can make within a future agreement should be, as in the past, more substantial and more flexible than that which its partners the developing countries must or can make to a future agreement.

The relationships which we are discussing are essentially economic in character. Consequently the individual relationships between all our countries should help each one of you to pursue a policy of harmonious and balanced economic growth.'

2311. The States attending, whose position was put by a single spokesman for all the African, Caribbean and Pacific Ocean States, stressed certain vital requirements for their development and asked that their three declarations of 25 and 26 July be ratified as an integral part of their negotiating position on the same

grounds as the declarations which they made at the October Conference.

In his statement, the joint spokesman—Mr Namwisi Ma Koyi (Zaire), Commissioner of State for External Trade—said: 'We shall certainly encounter problems during these negotiations, but we shall also tackle them confidently because we are convinced that the present talks between the European Community and our various States form the ideal framework for working out these arrangements.' He had indicated that the African, Caribbean and Pacific groups were going to examine the possibility of forming with the Community, 'global contractual relationships, in a framework acceptable to all the developing countries gathered round this table. These relationships will have to be formed on the basis of an equitable, well designed and effective agreement.' He also emphasized the worldwide range of the negotiations about to begin, with regard to relations between the developed and developing countries.

A general feature of the Conference of 17-18 October was the flexibility and understanding of all sides when they tackled the general approach to the body of the Agreement to be negotiated. This all-round attitude, if confirmed, is likely to ease the forthcoming proceedings.

The actual negotiations started on 22 and 23 October 1973 with a session to organize and coordinate the proceedings. It was agreed that the negotiations would be held from 21 November to 14 December 1973.

The Yaoundé Convention

The EEC-AASM Parliamentary Association Conference

2312. The representatives of the *Joint Committee*, which assembles Members of the

European Parliament and their African counterparts, met in Lomé, Togoland from 26 to 31 October. They discussed current Association problems and the prospects for enlarging the Association. They again pointed out that it was the right time to set up Parliamentary institutions in the future Association. In anticipation of such an institutional structure, they hoped that representatives from the 'Associable' countries could henceforth take part as observers in the proceedings of the Parliamentary Conference and the Joint Committee. A substantial part of the debate was devoted to problems of the Sahel countries afflicted by the drought and its aftermath. The Joint Committee held that the Community should make additional financial resources from the 1974 Community budget available to the Sahel countries affected by the persistent occurrence of droughts.

Regarding the prospects for expanding the Association, the delegates voiced the hope that the EEC Council of Ministers would swiftly adopt further Directives enabling the Commission to tackle the negotiations on issues where at the moment there was no consensus within the Community, including the future trade system, stabilization of the Associated countries' export receipts and the amount and terms of financial and technical cooperation. The delegates supported the Commission's Proposal for writing EDF expenditure into the overall budget of the Community and to stop feeding the EDF through ad hoc contributions from each of the Member States.

The European Development Fund

New Financing Decisions

2313. Following the favourable Opinion issued by the EDF Committee, the Commission on 10 October 1973¹ took eight new financing

Decisions on non-repayable aid from the 3rd EDF for a total sum of 14 937 000 u.a.

The projects are as follows:

Martinique—Irrigation of the South East Region—Initial Phase: 8 585 000 FFrs. or about 1 546 000 u.a. The irrigation project is the first stage of a directly productive intervention staggered over ten years. Its final objective is the intensive cultivation of 4 000 hectares lying in the south-east of the island. Bilateral French aid is also involved in the completion of this initial stage and will bear \pm 5.9 million u.a. of the cost.

Mauritius—Extensions to the University: 7 million rupees or = 1 260 000 u.a. This is the first intervention of Community aid for the islands since it joined the Association. The University, opened in 1968, is to be extended. The financing will cover building and electric power connections, water supply and drainage as well as fixtures and fittings.

Mauretania—Building a Polyclinic at Nouakchott and Technical Assistance for Organizing the Hospital Maintenance System and the Training of Staff: 25.2 million UM² or \pm 454 000 u.a. Pending the financing of the Nouakchott National Hospital through Community aid, this intervention is a priority measure involving the building of an initial operational section in a polyclinic to be completed in the Medina of Nouakchott. It will also meet the costs over two years for technical help in training the hospital maintenance staff.

Mauretania—School Buildings: 116.6 million UM or \pm 2.1 million u.a. The project covers the building of 48 classrooms and ancillary buildings for primary schooling at Nouakchott and

¹ OJ C 88 of 22.10.1973.

² 1 UM = 1 Ouguiya.

the construction of 4 four-classroom general education colleges in districts far from the capital.

Upper Volta—Promotion of 150 Hectares of Plainland lying below Rural Dams: 158 million CAFrs. or ± 569 000 u.a. This dual project is to finance an initial stage of the development work and to improve the plainlands lying below the existing dams (irrigable area 150 hectares). It also covers the compilation of technical dossiers for carrying out the second stage. The developing plainland will be devoted to rice cultivation and market gardening.

Chad—Bridge over the Ba-ili River: 150 million CAFrs. or about 540 000 u.a. The purpose of the project is to finance an 80 m. long road bridge on the River Ba-ili and improve its approaches over 1.5 km. so as to ensure a permanently viable road link between Fort Lamy and Sahr.

The Entire AASM—Financing the Programme of AASM Participation in Trade Events over the Period 1974-75: 2 550 000 u.a. to enable the AASM to attend trade fairs in Europe and Africa. This programme involves bearing the outlay for the building and development of exhibition stands, for running trade 'Weeks' or 'Fortnights' for AASM products and for information, publicity and prospecting campaigns: it will also include the cost of training stand personnel.

Following these latest Decisions, the total commitments of the 3rd EDF now amount to 620 511 000 u.a. for 226 financing Decisions since the Fund started operating on 1 January 1971.

The Developing Countries

2314. On 25 October the Commission has sent to the Council two documents, one of

which deals with the operation of the system of generalized preferences for 1974 and the other with the implementation of the Joint Declaration of Intent concerning the development of commercial relations with certain Asian countries. In sending both documents simultaneously to the Council, the Commission wished to emphasize the close connection between the implementation of the generalized preferences for 1974 and the implementation of the Joint Declaration of Intent.

Generalized Preferences

2315. These preferences are an important Community instrument for cooperation with developing countries as a whole. In fact they greatly helped to facilitate the negotiations for the enlargement of the Community when it was a question of the problems of the developing countries in general and the Commonwealth countries in particular.

This explains the importance of the system which the Community will implement from 1 January 1974, the date on which the three new member states will end their own systems and begin to apply the Community system.

The Commission is proposing for 1974 certain important improvements to the existing system of preferences. These improvements correspond to the guidance given by the Conference of Heads of State or Government held in Paris in October 1972. Some of these improvements are linked to the Joint Declaration of Intent concerning the developing countries in Asia.

Joint Declaration of Intent appended to the Accession Treaty

2316. The Declaration was annexed to the Treaty of Accession and confirms the will of the European Community to strengthen the

trade relationship with the Commonwealth countries of Asia, taking into account the interests of other countries in the region. The Commission is particularly conscious of the immediate problems posed for these countries by the effect of the alignment of the tariffs of the new member states, especially Britain, to the Common External Tariff which begins on 1 January 1974.

In the document dealing with the implementation of Joint Declaration, the Commission identifies the specific problems arising in trade between these countries and the Community. The Commission recalls what has already been proposed within the framework of the generalized preferences and has submitted to the Council proposals for additional measures in favour either of products already included in the system or of new products.

Food Aid

2317. On 4 October 1973¹ the Council decided on emergency aid for the victims of the recent flood disaster in *Pakistan* and on emergency food aid for the drought victims in *Ethiopia*.

The aid for Pakistan amounts to 20 000 tonnes of cereals and 3 000 tonnes of skim milk powder to be delivered CIF Karachi except for certain consignments of milk to be flown in. Aid for Ethiopia amounts 5 000 tonnes of cereals to be delivered CIF African port of unloading and 120 tonnes of skim milk powder to be distributed through the International Committee of the Red Cross.

2318. The Commission took part in a study mission involving various likely donors of food aid for the *Sahel* region. The aim of the mission was to investigate the quantities and conditions for fresh interventions in this region in 1974.

Other Non-Member Countries

The United States

Official visit by the President of the Commission

2319. At the invitation of President Nixon, Mr François-Xavier Ortoli, President of the Commission, paid an official visit to the United States from 30 September to 20 October 1973. Mr Ortoli was received on 1 October at the White House where he had talks with President Richard Nixon and Secretary of State Mr Henry Kissinger. The talks concerned mainly the relations between the Community and the USA under their different aspects, multilateral trade relations in the GATT framework, the 'declaration of principle' under discussion, relations between the USA and Europe and the international monetary system reform.

At the conclusion of these meetings, Mr Ortoli stated:

'Two and a half years ago my predecessor, President Malfatti, came here on the eve of major decision by the Community of Six: its enlargement; he said that after this enlargement the Nine would be ready to commit themselves to world trade negotiations. This has in fact happened.

Today, the Community of Nine is also on the eve of important internal developments and is ready to play its full part in the major negotiations taking place.

By the end of the year I expect to see a new surge forward by the Community through the application of the Paris Summit decisions. These decisions are the ones necessary to

¹ OJ L 279 of 5.10.1973.

enable us to fulfill our economic and monetary union in 1980. I have said so here and I stressed the fact that the Community, already an active partner in world trade policy, was beginning to speak with one single voice in monetary matters and had just shown its political importance at the recent Copenhagen Conference.

It is in this way that we discover and bring out our European identity: mutually and through our joint efforts. The European identity has a meaning all its own. It seeks to oppose no one. On the contrary, it makes it possible to think jointly and to have a constructive dialogue with our partners and with the United States in particular. We have spoken about this at length with the president and Mr Kissinger, in the context of discussions now taking place and which must lead to the reaffirmation of our common goals.

This declaration will be important, also important will be the decisions to be taken in the near future; I shall mention the main ones:

— The success of the world trade negotiations launched in Tokyo following the initiative on the part of the Community, the United States and Japan; we await with much interest the final vote of your Congress on the Trade Bill;

— Rapid progress in the negotiations for the reform of the international monetary system. The agreement of the United States and of Europe will be decisive for a return to stability without which nothing solid can be built in other spheres.

— A deeper commitment on the part of all the rich countries, Europe and the United States and other industrialized countries towards the developing countries.

Our talks on these subjects were frank, concrete and constructive. I am grateful to President Nixon for having made them possible and I hope they will contribute to the clarification and

closer relations of trust and friendship between the United States and Europe.¹

President Ortolí also met the Under-Secretary of State, Mr Kenneth Rush, Mr William Fullbright, Chairman of the Senate Foreign Affairs Committee and other personalities of the Administration.

During his visit President Ortolí, on 1 October at the UN headquarters had an official meeting with Dr Kurt Waldheim, Secretary-General of the United Nations.

Sir Christopher Soames in Talks

2320. The seventh round of *regular high level consultations* between the Commission and the United States Administration took place in Washington between 29 and 31 October. The discussions were led by Sir Christopher Soames, Vice-President of the Commission, and Mr William Casey, the American Under-Secretary of State for Economic Affairs, respectively.

The two sides engaged in a full exchange of views on developments in Community/United States relations, both towards each other and towards third countries. Following a review of general policy issues since the last official meeting in March,² the discussions focussed primarily on:

— Trade policy matters in the light of current and future GATT negotiations. The two sides discussed the prospects for a speedy start to constructive discussions in the Multilateral Trade Negotiations and ways to get the most out of the preparatory talks for these negotiations.

— Issues of common interest in the agricultural, industrial and energy sectors.

¹ Point 2335.

² Bull. EC 3-1973, point 2329.

State Trading Countries

2321. On 8 October 1973 the Commission sent to the Council a Communication on *cooperation agreements* signed between Member States of the Community and countries in Eastern Europe.¹

In recent times these agreements have developed considerably. They show the desire on the part of Member States for closer links with countries in Eastern Europe in a more modern form. Trade between Member States of the Community and Eastern countries is now decided mainly through such agreements. This is why the Community cannot be disinterested in the negotiation of these agreements and in their practical application.

In the first place, it is important to prevent that through such agreements the balance of reciprocal advantages both between the Member States and trading partners of Eastern Europe should be disrupted. Also, it is important that the Community should dispose in the years ahead of efficient intervention and coordination instruments enabling it to sustain the competition of its other trading partners, in markets of Eastern countries in particular.

The Commission has therefore proposed to the Council that henceforth it should be decided that within the Community there should be regular information with a procedure of prior consultation for coordination of actions contemplated in the matter. The Commission, moreover, proposes that a revision clause be included in Member States agreements to take into account present or future common policies.

Regarding the scope for entire Community participation in a cooperation policy, the Commission proposes that a meeting should be held shortly by a group of highly qualified experts responsible for preparing with the least possible delay, a report on ways and means to arrive at satisfactory solutions.

Latin America

2322. The Joint Group on trade matters, set up during the third *meeting* (1972) of representatives of *Latin American* countries and the *Community*, held its first meeting on 26 October 1973. In accordance with its mandate and in the light of the working document sent to the Community last June¹ the working group studied in particular the questions arising between the Community and Latin American countries on technical functioning of general preferences and trade expansion. After a second meeting in November, the Joint Group is to report to the fourth meeting of Ambassadors scheduled for the end of 1973.

2323. Mr Borgonovo Pohl, *Minister for Foreign Affairs of Salvador*, visited the Commission of the European Communities on Tuesday 2 October 1973. He was received by Sir Christopher Soames, Vice-President of the Commission. The talks centered on the relations between the European Community and Salvador. The Minister stressed the importance of these relations for his country and for the Central American Common Market; he hoped for closer contacts between the European Community and Salvador. He also mentioned the interest on the part of his Government in the possible setting up in Salvador or in one other country of the Central American Common Market of a Commission seminar to acquaint the authorities and economic agents of these countries with the general preference tariff system applied by the Community in favour of developing countries.

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2324. During its session from 15 to 19 October 1973, the *European Parliament* passed a Resolution on 'relations between the European Community and the USA' and another Resolution 'on the military coup in Chile.'

¹ OJ C 106 of 6.12.1973.

² Bull. EC 6-1973, point 2335.

Commercial Policy

Preparation and Implementation of the Common Commercial Policy

Trade Agreements: Renewals, Derogations and Authorizations

2325. On a Proposal from the Commission, the Council, on 22 October 1973,¹ authorized the tacit renewal of certain Trade Agreements made by Member States with third countries (3rd instalment 1973).

Joint Import Systems

2326. The Commission sent in a Memorandum to the Council laying out the main lines which it will follow in setting up a *joint import system for textile products*.

The Memorandum reiterates certain facts such as: the rather uneven breakdown of the textile import charges between Member States; outstanding national disparities between import schemes; the too rigid allocation of imports into national quotas when such imports are made under Community agreements; applications shortly to be implemented of commercial policy measures deriving from the provisions of an 'all-fibres multilateral agreement' now under negotiation within GATT.

The Memorandum stresses the need to ensure the smooth running of the common market for the products concerned and therefore the achievement, albeit gradual, of free movement in the textile sector. Regarding the Community administration of quantity quotas or self-limiting ceilings, the Memorandum illustrates the relevant guidelines contemplated by the Commission when it prepares its practical Proposals for submission to the Council.

The guidelines cover mainly the introduction and gradual enlargement of a Community reserve, the annual increases, varying from case to case, of Member States pro rata shares allowing for the relative lightness of their imports and greater flexibility between the contributions.

Sectoral Problems

Commodities and World Agreements

FAO Commodities Committee

2327. The *FAO Commodities Committee* (United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization) held its 48th session in Rome from 8 to 19 October 1973. Representatives of 58 members of the Committee, observers from 11 other members of FAO and of 17 international organizations (including the EEC) participated in this meeting. The main points considered were: international agricultural adjustment; the proposal made by Mr Boerma, the FAO's Director-General, to ensure sufficient stocks of basic foodstuffs in the world; the intensive intergovernmental consultations on Commodities prescribed in an UNCTAD resolution, from the angle of market access and price policy; product problems.

Sugar

2328. The United Nations Conference on Sugar, held in Geneva from 10 September-13 October 1973 resulted in a *new International Sugar Agreement* which, however, includes no economic provisions. It will be the framework for preparing negotiations for a new Agreement in 1974.

¹ OJ L 301 of 30.10.1973.

Scientific and nuclear agreements

2329. A contract was signed on 9 October between the *Community* and the *United Kingdom Atomic Energy Authority* in the field of controlled nuclear fusion and plasma physics.¹

International Organizations

The Council of Europe

2330. The Commission was represented at the second part of the regular session of the Council of Europe's *Consultative Assembly*, held from 25 September to 2 October 1973 in Strasbourg. The main feature was a statement by Mrs Golda Meir, Israel's Prime Minister, on the crucial problems facing that country. Two other political issues also came up for debate: the improvement of East-West relations in Europe and the transatlantic talks now underway. Both the above were introduced by a report from the Danish Conservative Member, Mr Oestergaard. As usual the Assembly also discussed social, economic and legal issues and questions of human rights. Apart from the usual subjects of the environment, transport, education and land development, the main topics were:

- the banning of any publicity material for tobacco and alcohol;
- integration of migrant workers into the society of the welcoming country;
- freedom of expression and the role of the artist in European society;
- the law of the sea and current developments in international humanitarian law in the light of the 25th anniversary of the Universal Declaration and the 20th anniversary of the Council

of Europe's European Convention on the Rights of Man.

The following Ministers spoke to the Assembly:

Mr Kirchschräger, Austrian Minister for Foreign Affairs and Chairman of Ministers' Committee of the Council of Europe, Mr Genscher, Federal German Minister of the Interior, Mr Lidbom, Swedish Minister without Portfolio and President of the EFTA Council, Mr Westerterp, Minister of Transport and Waterways for the Netherlands.

2331. On 8 and 9 October 1973, the 'Six' *Working Party* of the Council of Europe which includes the six permanent representatives to that body from Denmark, France, Italy, Sweden, Switzerland and Turkey all visited Brussels. The Working Party set up by the Ministers' Committee of the Council of Europe last May is appraising the Council's future role and will make its report to the Council's 53rd session scheduled for December 1973. In carrying out its assignment the 'Six' Working Party contacted several international organizations including the Community by virtue of its enlargement.

The group was received by Mr François-Xavier Ortoli, President of the Commission. A working meeting was also held at Commission department level, during which the following matters were discussed:

- basic principles of cooperation between the Council of Europe and the Community; the complementary nature and assignment of tasks;
- the proper measures for ensuring effective cooperation and coordination between the Council of Europe and the Community, when programming and implementing activities;
- the scope and resources for extending certain Community works to the Member States of the Council of Europe not members of the Community.

¹ Point 2249.

The Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development

2332. The Commission was represented at the 38th session of the OECD *Trade Committee* which looked at major developments on the commercial policy front. The Committee noted that international commerce was affected by a number of factors not stemming directly from the commercial policy. It decided to have informal discussions on this subject at regular intervals. The Committee also went on with its work on the protection clause for regional difficulties and on State purchases.

The North Atlantic Assembly

2333. The Commission was represented at the nineteenth *Annual Meeting* of the North Atlantic Assembly—embracing some 150 delegates from the NATO countries—held in Ankara on 21-27 October 1973 and winding up in Istanbul on 30 October. The Commission representative attended the plenary session and followed very closely the preparatory proceedings of the Assembly's Political and Economic Committees. Special attention was paid to the final report of the 'Committee of Nine' on Euro-American relations, which was prepared in 1972 and 1973. Many reports presented by the Political, Military, Economic, Scientific, Technical and Education—Cultural Affairs—Information Committees were approved. Many resolutions were passed and recommendations made at the close of the session.

General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade

2334. The *Trade Negotiations Committee* (CNC) established by the Ministerial Declaration of 14 September in Tokyo¹ held its first

meeting on 24-26 October in Geneva. Mr O. Long, Director-General of GATT was appointed Chairman.

At this preliminary stage, when some countries; for instance the United States, did not dispose of effective negotiating powers, the Committee's first job was to outline a programme of preparatory analytical work and set up the appropriate structures to undertake it.

On the first point a consensus of agreement emerged to make a start with the following projects:

- on tariffs: collation of the latest available data and determination of the year to serve as a basis for the tariffs of the participating countries, etc.
- on non-tariff matters: follow-up of studies on certain already selected subjects,
- on agriculture: updating of basic information and analysis of international market developments,
- a study on the special sector of tropical products.

On the question of structures, the Committee broke up without taking a decision. The Community in fact would have liked to see the projects assigned according to an institutional structure based on the pattern existing during the preparatory period or even during the previous negotiations, with a distinction to be made between industrial and agricultural products. Other delegations, however, did not want to follow the old patterns or apportion the tasks so precisely.

Mr O. Long intimated that as Chairman he would convene the CNC at 'technical level' in order to tackle the preparatory work in such a way that there would be no need at this stage

¹ Bull. EC 9-1973, points 1101-1106: 'The GATT Ministerial Conference in Tokyo'.

4. Institutions and Organs of the Communities

Diplomatic Relations

to take a firm stand on structures or prejudice each delegation's basic position.

The United Nations

2335. During his trip to the United States early in October and before meeting President Nixon, Mr *Ortoli*, President of the Commission paid an official visit to the Secretary-General of the United Nations, Dr *Kurt Waldheim* on 1 October 1973 at the UN headquarters in New York. Their talks focussed on international economic problems and progress made in the sphere of European integration.

Diplomatic Relations of the Community

2336. On 19 October 1973,¹ the President-in-Office of the Council and the President of the Commission received H.E. Ambassador Jens Mogens Boyesen who presented his credentials as Head of the *Norwegian* Mission to the European Communities (EEC, ECSC, EAEC).

The new Ambassador succeeds H.E. Jahn Brochmann Halvorsen appointed to another post.

On 31 October 1973, the Council and Commission recognized the appointment of H.E. Ambassador, Jules A. Razafimbahiny as Representative of the *Malagasy Republic* (Madagascar) to the Community (EEC). The new Ambassador, who succeeds H.E. Armand Razafindrabe, assigned to another post, was received by the President-in-Office of the Council and the President of the Commission on 16 November 1973.²

¹ OJ C 93 of 8.11.1973.

² OJ C 103 of 27.11.1973.

European Parliament

Part Session of 4-5 October

2401. On 4-5 October 1973 the European Parliament¹ held a special session² to discuss its budgetary powers. After the Commission had submitted its new Proposals³ on 6 June 1973 and Parliament, on the basis of an interim report from the Budgetary Committee, had adopted an initial position⁴, the House now held a budgetary debate on the overall relationships between the Community States, on the assignment of authority and the institutional balance between the various bodies, as well as on the democratization of the Community.

The following items were also on the agenda: the President's statement on events in Chile and a Resolution motion thereon, improvements in the Council's decision-making procedure, Question Time and the transfer of funds in the 1973 Community budget.

Strengthening Parliament's Budgetary Authority (4-5 October)

2402. The Chairman of the Budgetary Committee, Mr *Spénale* (S, France) submitted a

¹ The reports on the sittings of the European Parliament were prepared from the German edition of 'Information' published by the Parliamentary General Secretariat. The nationality and Political Group of members speaking in the debates are mentioned in brackets after their names. The Political Groups are abbreviated as follows: C-D = Christian Democrats, S = Socialists, L = Liberals and Allied Groups, C = European Conservatives, DEP = Group of Progressive European Democrats, COM = Communists and Allied Groups (SF, Ind. Sin.).

² The complete texts of the Resolutions passed during the special sitting are reproduced in OJ C 87 of 17.10.1973 and the detailed record of the sitting is contained in OJ Annex 166.

³ Supplement 9/73 - Bull. EC.

⁴ OJ C 62 of 31.7.1973, see also Bull. EC 9-1973, point 2407.

report on the Commission's Communication to the Council concerning the strengthening of Parliament's budgetary authority.

Two different approaches emerged from the debate. The first, primarily supported by the Socialist Group, urged the decisive qualitative advance for democratic control of the Community through the European Parliament to be attained by 1.1.1975. Should budget issues fail to be settled between the Council and Parliament then the House should have the final say. The Chairman of the Socialists, Mr *Vals*, France, like the rapporteur, stressed the fact that in a democratic Community, the budgetary power must be vested in the democratically legitimate body; namely, Parliament. This was a basic issue and the Community must decide by 1975 whether it wanted to develop into a real Union with democratic institutions or become a free-trade area. The Chairman of the Budgetary Committee also advocated that from 1975 the annual VAT rate could, if necessary, on a proposal from the Commission and with the Council's approval be raised by Parliament from 1 to 2%.

This proposal went far beyond that of the Commission which had asked for a joint decision between the Council and Parliament. The House should be brought into all deliberations and discussions. A second reading procedure should apply for all basic decisions which had noteworthy financial repercussions. In its Proposals, however, the Commission did not allow the House to have the last word on budgetary issues.

Against the Budgetary Committee, the Political Committee had come out in favour of a new budgetary procedure whereby matters at issue between Parliament and the Council would be referred to a Conciliation Committee. The rapporteur for the position of the Political Committee in a consultative capacity, Mr *Kirk* (C, Great Britain) pointed out that such concili-

ation committees existed in the USA, Great Britain and West Germany and as a final authority could settle most contested issues. It would be better to coerce the Council into a real dialogue rather than trying to demand at this stage final decision authority for the House.

The views of the Political Committee were extensively shared by the Conservative, Liberal and EPD groups. For the Christian Democrats, Mr *Aigner* (Germany) advocated a procedure whereby Parliament would actually share in legislative acts and could not be just pushed aside after a second reading: the Christian Democrats were urging that Parliament have the final say over budgetary issues. But sharing in legislative acts was a different matter. In that case, the House could not claim the right to the final say in raising the Community proportion of VAT from 1 to 2% for this decision would rest with the Member States' Parliaments. Regarding legislative acts Mr *Aigner* recommended a procedure to push the Council into the dialogue with the Community.

The House agreed that the control of budget management should in future be vested in a European Court of Auditors. Mr *Gerlach* (S, Germany) recommended that this Court of Auditors be afforded the right to act on its own initiative over budgetary matters.

Mr *Ortoli*, President of the Commission, reminded the House of the Commission's position expressed at the July sitting and thanked the House for the worthwhile collaboration in committee work.

After a two-day debate, Parliament passed a modified Resolution on the strengthening of its budgetary powers from 1975. The Resolution did go further than the Commission's Proposal but did not give the House absolutely the last word on passing budgets nor grant it the right to raise the percentages of Community VAT as proposed by Mr *Spénale*. Both of Mr *Spénale*'s demands were taken out of the

Resolution with the agreement of the Conservatives, the Christian Democrats and the EPD Group. The great majority of members supported this moderate Resolution; only the Communists voted roundly against it since it was not 'democratic' enough. Seven Dutch and French Socialists led by Mr *Spénale* abstained because the Resolution was too weak after the 'amputations.' The remainder of the Socialist Group supported the Resolution, even though their spokesman, Mr *Radoux* (Belgium) spoke of a defeat for Parliament since the Group had from the start urged that the value of a Resolution, albeit watered down, on strengthening the House's budgetary powers should not be diminished by a rejection.

The EPD Group welcomed approval of the Resolution in its modified form since it did in fact strengthen the budgetary powers. The majority of the House moreover endorsed the logic of the Budgetary Committee rapporteur who had demonstrated the inalienable form of democratic control for the final construction of the European Union but the majority also postulated that it was not realistic either to anticipate completion of the Union in the Eighties or, regarding the arrangements for own resources, to claim as from 1975 the last word on budget issues with three quarters of the votes, as Mr *Aigner* (C-D, Germany) had underlined.

In its resolution the House affirmed that the budget should primarily include the right to create revenue, approve expenditure, discuss and adopt the budget and supervise its application. Financial autonomy could not in the long run be guaranteed unless the common resources could be adapted to the needs of common policies by common procedures. Parliament rejected by a majority the proposal that the House with the consenting agreement of the Council could raise the Community's share of VAT from 1% to a maximum of 2%. But the House did agree the Commission's Proposal that the Community

should only have the right to take up loans subject to a qualified majority decision of the Council and the agreement of the European Parliament. Regarding approval of expenditure the House considered that the Commission's Proposals for a second consultation between the House and the Council were restrictive in scope and not sufficiently effective.

The Resolution proposed the formation of a Coordination Committee to be made up jointly of Members of the House and the Council to seek in the presence of the Commission an acceptable solution in the event of failure to reach agreement. The solution proposed by the Coordination Committee would come into force if ratified within a period of 30 days by the Council by a qualified majority and by Parliament by a majority of its Members and a simple majority of the votes cast. If the Coordination Committee's solution was rejected by both bodies, it would again be referred to the Committee. If no agreement was reached at the second attempt, Parliament's Opinion, established by a majority of half of its Members plus one and two-thirds of the votes cast should only be modified by the Council acting unanimously. Unanimity could not be achieved if even a single Member of the Council abstained. The House urged that on these occasions the Council must meet in public. Many speakers had objected to a Coordination Committee which worked behind locked doors thus compromising the public nature of the budget debate.

The House further maintained that the present distinction between other expenditure and expenditure arising from the Treaties or from acts adopted in pursuance thereof was artificial and should be abolished. The Resolution also called for the establishment of an effective and independent auditing body in the form of a European Court of Auditors, who should be appointed in agreement with Parliament and would report regularly to the House. Parlia-

ment alone, recommended by the Council, should in future give a discharge in respect of the budget.

Events in Chile (4 and 5 October)

2403. Supported by the Political Groups the President expressed his horror over the trial of political prisoners in Chile. On behalf of the House he also unreservedly endorsed the step taken by Mr Waldheim, Secretary-General of the United Nations, in requesting the Chilean Government to refrain from putting Louis Corvalan, Secretary-General of the Communist party of Chile, on trial and in announcing that he would take similar action over similar cases.

On behalf of the Non-affiliated Members (PCI, Ind. Sin., PCF and SF) Mr *Amendola*, Mr *Ansart* and Mr *Dich* submitted a Resolution motion on the EEC's attitude to events in Chile. On a proposal from the President, the House decided to refer this document to the Political Committee.

Council Decision Procedure (5 October)

2404. Mr *Broeksz* (S, Netherlands) tabled on behalf of the Socialist Group a motion for a Resolution and vote by urgent procedure on the measures adopted by the Council to improve its decision process.¹

In its Resolution the House expressed its dissatisfaction with the initial set of practical measures taken by the Council to improve its decision-making procedures and the House asked the Council to fix a date by which it will take effective measures.

Question Time (5 October)

Questions to the Council

Space Conference of 31 July 1973

2405a. To the question from Mr *Couste* (EPD, France) the President-in-Office of the Council, Mr *Nørgaard*, said that the European Space Conference was set up in April 1974 to take over all European action in the field of space flight. He pointed out that the Agency would considerably ease the completion of space exploration projects since because of the capacity and substantial financial resources required comprehensive collaboration was needed. The Community as such had not signed the Agreement on 24 September in Washington between NASA and ESRO on European participation in the American space programme.

Migrant Workers

2405b. To the question from Lord *O'Hagan* (Independent, Great Britain) the President-in-Office, Mr *Nørgaard*, said the Council would soon decide on Commission Proposals for alleviating problems in the situation of migrant workers. He reminded the House that the Council on 9 November 1972 had asked the Commission to collate details of foreign workers and their families with that of their national counterparts. The Commission was now in the process of carrying out this study.

Report on European Union

2405c. The President of the Council in reply to Mr *Radoux* (S, Belgium) said that the Council had not yet compiled any report on European Union. Up to now Member States

¹ Bull. EC 7/8-1973, point 2400.

had exchanged ideas on this question but the Council would keep to the 1975 due date.

Questions to the Commission

Accountancy and Company Practices and Procedures in the proposed European Company

2405d. To the question from Sir Derek Walker-Smith (C, Great Britain) Mr Gundelach, Member of the Commission, announced that the Commission had useful discussions with the Working Parties of sworn auditors of the EEC. Some practical issues had to be clarified and the Commission would then advise the competent Parliamentary Committees. The preparation of the proposed Directives was primarily involved with company law.

Munich Patent Office

2405e. Mr Gundelach, Member of the Commission, said in reply to the question from Mr Brewis (C, Great Britain) that the European Patent Office would not be a Community agency. It was to be an independent body supervised by an advisory committee of representatives from the signatory States. As an observer the Commission would try to bring as much influence to bear as possible. Mr Gundelach could not quite dispel the concern of many British M.P.s that the Office with its high administrative costs could not prepare projects and documents in English just as swiftly as material in other languages. The M.P.s claimed that patent questions were dealt with more rapidly and less expensively in Great Britain.

Study on the Community Economy

2405f. The President of the Commission, Mr Ortoli, replying to the question from Mr Leonardi (Non-affiliated, Communist, Italy) said that a summary of this study

would be transmitted to the House. Particular aspects were now being scrutinized to determine whether they could serve for further Commission projects.

Manufacture and Marketing of Aerosol Glues — Injurious Effects on Health — Community Action to prevent Manufacture and Marketing of Aerosol Glues

2405g. Member of the Commission, Mr Gundelach, replying to these three points raised by Mr Müller, Mr Walkhoff and Mr Kater (S, Germany) said that the marketing of aerosol glues had stopped throughout the Community on the recommendation of the European Association of Manufacturers of Glues and Adhesives. This occurred after survey results from the USA had indicated chromosome damage with deformities in the newborn. To the question whether the aerosols glues could assume bigger proportions than the thalidomide case, Mr Gundelach could not yet adopt an official position. He announced that at the end of the month a meeting would be held with government experts on the question of health risks in enamels, glues and similar products.

For the moment as in all areas where no joint EEC Directives were in effect, only the governments were responsible for banning marketing. The Commission could not therefore ensure that aerosols still circulating or in stores would no longer be sold. There was in fact a proposed Directive, but this had to do only with the packaging of aerosols and not with the contents.

Transfer of Funds to the Community 1973 Budget

(5 October)

2406. On the basis of a report from Mr Terrenoire (EDP, France) on the transfer of

funds from one chapter to another within Section III—Commission—of the EEC budget for the financial year 1973, the House passed a Resolution without debate adopting the Proposal for a fund transfer of 1 499 000 u.a. from Chapter 98 'Provisional appropriations not allocated' to Chapter 26 'Expenditure on research, surveys and consultations' of Section III of the budget of the European Communities.

Part Session of 15-19 October

2407. The main features of Parliament's part session of 15-19 October in Strasbourg were economic and monetary questions, Question Time, the report of the Chairman of the Foreign Ministers' Conference on political cooperation and relations between the EEC and the USA. The following other matters were on the agenda: changing Parliament's procedural rules, the submitted draft of the 1974 Community budget, the coup d'état in Chile and the Middle East conflict, the third Directive on sociétés anonymes, the Commission Communication on action taken on Opinions delivered by Parliament, regional policy, the EEC-Norway Agreement, the cooperation Agreements with State-trading countries, Spain's entry into the EEC, the application of the generalized preferences system, agricultural matters.

The House ratified the appointment of members of the Danish delegation from the Folketing, Mr *Christensen*, Mr *Dalsager*, Mr *Jakobsen*, Mrs *Nielsen*, Mr *Dich*, Mr *Bro*, Mr *Thomsen*, Mr *Federspiel*, Mr *Guldberg* and Mr *Petersen*.

The formerly non-affiliated delegates Mr *Amendola*, Mr *Cipolla*, Mr *D'Angelosante*, Mr *Fabbrini*, Mrs *Iotti*, Mr *Leonardi*, Mr *Marras*, Mr *Sandri*, (Italian Communist Party), Mr *Ansart*, Mr *Bordu*, Mr *Lemoine* (French Communist Party), Mrs *Carettoni-Romagnoli* (Italy, Independent Left Wing) and Mr *Dich*

(Denmark, Socialist People's Party) founded on 16 October the new Communist and Allied Group (SF, Ind. Sin.).²

Regional Policy

(18 October)

2408. Mr *Delmotte* (S, Belgium) submitted a report on the Commission's Proposals for (i) a Decision to set up a Regional Policy Committee, (ii) a financial Regulation for special provisions to be applied to the European Regional Development Fund, and (iii) a Regulation establishing a European Regional Development Fund. In his statements, Mr *Thomson*, Member of the Commission, tried to rebut the contention that the criteria prepared by the Commission for the allocation of resources from the future Regional Fund and the wide-ranging map of the favoured regions would lead to a 'watering-can concept.' The criteria were so flexible that the Commission could reserve the greatest aid density for the priority regions. Regional imbalances within particular countries would have to be taken into account.

In the debate it came out clearly that the majority of delegates wanted a stronger social orientation of the Fund, wanted resources to be focussed on the most underdeveloped regions and wished to see measures applied to slow down an excessive growth of the conurbations and promote the Community's outlining regions. The *Delmotte* report therefore advocated a European solidarity in favour of the regions where the balance was the most heavily disturbed.

¹ The full text of the Resolutions passed by the House during the October sitting is reproduced in OJ C 95 of 10.11.1973 and the full text of the debates is printed in OJ Annex 167.

² Point 2426.

The Group spokesmen showed less conviction than Mr Thomson that the Commission could interpret the criteria sensibly in the interests of the poorest regions. The Christian Democrat speaker, Mr *Mitterdorfer* (Italy), pointed out that in its Proposal the Commission was leaving the Chair of the Regional Policy Committee to the Council and contenting itself with the secretariat; the Committee would then scarcely allow the Commission to interpret the criteria with a free hand. Mr *Mitterdorfer* recommended a policy which would stem from individual regions and give them scope to take initiative. The Socialist spokesman, Mr *Wieldraaijer* (Netherlands) advocated that Fund resources be entirely allocated to the most severely underdeveloped regions. The Liberal spokesman, Mr *Johnston* (Great Britain) asked for a Regional Fund directed by Social policy objectives. The representative of the European Conservatives, Mr *James Hill* (Great Britain) regretted the inadequate endowment of the Fund with two thousand million u.a. over three years, as proposed by the Commission; such a modest Fund would have to be set aside for the most impoverished regions.

The spokesman for the EPD Group, Mr *Lenihan* (Ireland) made the conciliatory proposal of reserving the more substantial part of the Fund for the most severely underdeveloped regions, while a smaller percentage could be allocated to the remaining regions. This part of the Fund could then be allocated according to certain quotas, since in the last analysis the Commission's Proposal also came to quota allocations, even though it officially evaded them. In any case, it would be wrong to sprinkle the total Fund over a third of the EEC population and half of the Community area. Mr *Cipolla* (Italy), the Communist spokesman, said that a monetary union was unthinkable as long as the regional disparities in the EEC were growing instead of shrinking. Up to now the rich areas had been getting richer and the poor getting

poorer. Lady *Elles* (C, Great Britain) the rapporteuse for the Social Affairs and Employment Committee, said that the report and the Resolution motion clearly showed that up to now not enough attention had been given to the human and social side. Regional Fund aid should not be standardized but diversified according to individual regions. Mr *Nolan* (EPD, Ireland), rapporteur for the Budgetary Committee, said that the regional policy was the keystone of Community policies and urged that the Community unemployment figures be taken as the criterium for allocation of funds.

The House found itself not in a position at this sitting to give the Opinion requested by the Commission; no less than 34 Amendments were tabled on the report and the Resolution motion. The House will therefore not be able to give its Opinion before the November sitting in Strasbourg.

Strengthening Parliament's Budgetary Powers (18 October)

Commission Communication

2409. The President of the Commission, Mr *Ortoli*, declared that in its present Communication on action taken on Opinions delivered by Parliament the Commission would show how it had complied with Parliament's Opinion on the question of strengthening the House's budgetary powers.

Mr *Ortoli* and Mr *Cheysson*, Member of the Commission responsible for budgets pointed out that the attempt to grant the House the last word in all budgetary matters already by 1975 would only result in the House's budgetary powers not being amplified. Mr *Ortoli* and Mr *Cheysson*, who were commenting on the new Commission Proposals for expanding

Parliament's powers, drew attention to the fact that the House would play a leading role in the realization of future Commission proposals. They also stressed the value of the proposed new Court of Auditors for budgetary control. Mr Cheysson urged the House not to try and press its claim to the final say on budget matters. Such a proposal could not be carried through unless the Treaty was amended and it was known that such an adjustment just after the enlargement would not be ratified by the Assemblies of Member States. To claim everything or nothing now would thus only provoke a new crisis which would help nobody.

The Commission's new Proposals were critically taken up by the House. The Chairman of the Budgetary Committee, Mr *Spénale* (S, France) spoke of keen disappointment and bitterness. The Liberal spokesman, Mr *Bangemann* (Germany) regretted that the Commission was steering clear of the political contest with the Council. Because nobody was prepared to fight for the democratic rights of the European bodies public opinion was all the time losing interest. The Christian Democrat Chairman, Mr *Lücker* (Germany) would also have opted for the contest and reproached the Commission with dodging the encounter. A formal amendment to the Treaty during the switchover to own resources was necessary anyway so that it was simply a question of the content of the amendment. Mr *Lücker* suggested that a consultation procedure be set up between the House and the Council in the deliberations on the Proposal so that the Commission was not the Council's sole interlocutor when the latter was examining both of the Proposals.

Political Cooperation (17 October)

2410. The Danish Foreign Minister, Mr *Andersen*, Chairman of the Foreign Ministers'

Conference, submitted the second report on political cooperation. He emphasized that headway had been made in political cooperation, even if it was not always acknowledged. The Luxembourg Report explicitly stated that the construction of the Political Union must be carried out on a democratic basis. This was a fundamental pronouncement since according to the Treaty of Rome only democratic States could join the Community. The compilation and acceptance of the second report was, he said, a major step forward. The deadline had not been kept but regarding the Paris Summit Conference, the procedure for improving political cooperation had been amplified. The second report traced the prospect of a European Union in which the goals of political cooperation have remained unchanged. The present Report embodied a reciprocal obligation for consultation on the major issues of international politics. It was also confirmed that Foreign Ministers were meeting more often; the number of colloquies between the Foreign Ministers and members of the Political Committee was to be doubled. A flexible form for the procedure should enable European M.P.s to become quickly acquainted with matter being discussed within the compass of political cooperation, enable them to get additional information and make their position known to the Ministers through a dialogue. The Second Report also enjoined the Political Committee to draw the Ministers' attention to foreign policy proposals and approved resolutions. Political cooperation had also proved useful in the deliberations on Euro-American relations. There were as yet no spectacular results but experience and developments had shown that the Nine were prepared to exploit this framework to reach the goal they had set themselves; namely, a free and democratic Union.

The Chairman of the Political Committee Mr *Girardo*, (C-D, Italy) said the Second Report amounted to progress but in many

present day spheres, primarily in the Near East conflict, there were still far too many differing views among Member States. It was right that the dialogue in the Political Committee with the Chairman of Foreign Ministers' Conference was soon to be resumed. Lord *Gladwyn* (L, Great Britain) said that Europe must prove her neutrality in the Near East conflict and things should not go so far that one of the countries at war suffered a total defeat. Sir *Tufton Beamish* (C, Great Britain) said he hoped that in future the Chairman of the Foreign Ministers Conference would make clearer statements on current foreign policy questions. Mr *Federspiel* (L, Denmark) said it was a strategic task of the Foreign Ministers to define a 'European identity' vis-à-vis the big powers.

Council Communication on Relations between the Council and Parliament (17 October)

2411. The President-in-Office of the Council, Mr *Nørgaard*, the Danish Foreign Minister, read to the House a Communication on the Council Decisions of 15 October 1973 concerning the improvement of relations between itself and Parliament. He announced that he had handed to the President of Parliament a text containing the measures which the Council had agreed at its Luxembourg meeting. These improvements primarily cover four points: Council participation in the work of Parliament; the answering of written and oral questions; Parliamentary involvement in the conclusion of trade agreements; the procedure for consulting Parliament.

The Council had decided to answer written and oral questions insofar as they fell within its competence. The Council had two months in which to answer written questions; unhappily this deadline had not always been observed,

but it had now been decided to speed up the answer procedure and, where possible, reply within a shorter time. Regarding Question Time, the Council agreed that should the House desire a debate on a given Council answer, the latter would cooperate within the bounds of its jurisdiction. The Council took a keen interest in the oral questions and debates.

In making trade agreements, the Council President, when the negotiations had been concluded but before actual signature of the agreement, would consult the House through the competent Parliamentary Committee on the results of the negotiations. After signature of the agreement but before it came into force, the wording would be submitted to Parliament. The President of the Council considered this formula to be a major step forward in improving relations between the Council and the House.

The Council President announced that the consultation procedure was to be speeded up. Parliament's opinion was to be requested in the shortest possible time at the most one week after the Commission's Proposals were received by the Council. The Council intended to scrutinize the Commission proposals only on receipt of Parliament's opinion insofar as this was forthcoming in a reasonable time. Moreover, the Council had already laid down internal procedures for considering the House's opinions and was now engaged in trying to improve this procedure.

Regarding Council participation in Parliament's work, the Council was endeavoring to attend all Parliament's sittings. The Council would be represented at all the major debates and in some cases participate.

The practice of the annual statement by the President of the Council was to be improved. It could be given each year in February and contain both a survey of the past year's activi-

ties and an outline of action for the new year. The text of the statement would be given in writing to members of the European Parliament; the President could then confine himself to a short oral presentation and answer any question that might crop up. In conclusion, the President declared that the Council wanted a continuous dialogue with the House and wished to discuss all problems concerning the Community's development and Europe's future.

The Chairman of the Political Committee, Mr *Giraud* (C-D, Italy) said he agreed with the Council President's statements, especially concerning Parliament's participation in trade agreements. Mr *Kirk* (C, Great Britain) on behalf of his Group wanted the assurance that the House would be consulted before trade agreements were ratified and after they were signed. Sir *Tufton Beamish* (C, Great Britain) asked the Council President whether he was competent to answer foreign policy questions, or if not, to whom should one turn; this primarily applied to the present Middle East conflict and the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe. In reply, the Council President said that in his capacity as President-in-Office he could not answer that question but that Mr Andersen, Chairman of the Foreign Ministers Conference would do so in his report on political cooperation.

Question Time (17 October)

Questions to the Council

Section 15 of the Paris Summit Conference Communiqué

2412a. Mr *Taverne* (Non-affiliated, Independent, Great Britain) wanted to know whether Section 15 of the Paris Summit Communiqué authorized the Council to resume consideration of the project for instituting elections to the

European Parliament by universal suffrage or whether it interpreted this section as a mandate to do nothing. The Chairman-in-Office of the Council replied that Section 15 of the Paris Summit Communiqué expressly assigned the Council and Commission the brief to take practical measures for strengthening the House's budgetary powers and improving relations between the institutions. This was quite independent of the date in which under Article 138 Parliament was to emerge from universal suffrage. The Council was acting upon this brief. But it had not yet come to any decisions on elections, and took the view that this problem would have to be examined separately from application of Section 15. Mr *Taverne* regretted the Council's inactivity over the question of elections and asked whether the Council could guarantee that Parliament's proposals would be considered. Mr *Jahn* (C-D, Germany) asked what requirements must be met for a directly elected Parliament to be able to act effectively. The Council President said that this was one of the many problems and that the procedures were complex, so that he could not give an exhaustive answer. Mr *Dewulf* (C-D, Belgium) mentioned the Council's special Working Party engaged on the problem of direct elections and wanted to know how many times it had met and whether the Council was proposing to intensify the efforts of that group. Mr *Patijn* (S, Netherlands) enquired about the Working Party's results. The Council President replied that the group had met frequently but he could not quote the exact number of meetings. Moreover, it was difficult to report on results because there was no common viewpoint on the matter. But when the corresponding report was submitted the matter would be discussed in the House.

2412b. The questions from Mr *Noè* (Italy, C-D) on plants for manufacturing aircraft power units in the Community and from Lord *O'Hagan* (Non-affiliated, Independent

Great Britain) concerning Community Social policy, were answered in writing since both questioners were not present at the sitting.

Questions to the Commission

The EEC-AASM Association

2412c. Mr *Armengaud* (L, France) wanted to know from the Commission whether it still intended to adhere to its Memorandum of 4 April 1973 as a basis for the forthcoming negotiations. Sir Christopher *Soames*, Vice-President, replied that the Commission set great store on upholding the Yaoundé Convention and extending it; its achievements would be preserved and the views set out in the Commission's Memorandum of 4 April still applied. Mr *Dewulf* (C-D, Belgium) recalled the renewal of the International Sugar Agreement, from which the Community had excluded itself and the repercussions of this. Sir Christopher said that the questions did not concern the Sugar Agreement but the Yaoundé Convention. To a further question from Sir Douglas *Dodds-Parker* (C, Great Britain) Sir Christopher said that in these negotiations it was a question of finding a satisfactory solution for the Associates and 'Associables.'

Opening of Public Contracts

2412d. Mr *Durieux* (L, France) wanted to know what steps the Commission intended to take to oblige Member States to open their public contracts effectively and put an end to the practice of indirect support for advanced technology industry. Mr *Spinelli*, Member of the Commission, said that this situation could not be settled solely through prohibitions. Regarding the nine Member States a fresh start had to be made. The Commission supported the opening of public contracts and wanted to improve and supplement the regula-

tions. A certain exclusiveness in public contracts was explained by the fact that many technologically important industries were not yet competitive. A common short-term economic policy and the creation of the Economic and Monetary Union were therefore important since they would ease the gradual opening of public contracts. Mr *Baas* (L, Netherlands) asked whether the short-term economic policy of Member States did not run counter to opening contracts. Mr *Jahn* (C-D, Germany) enquired which Member States had opened up the public works contract market. Mr *Spinelli* replied that no State had completely opened up its public contracts and in reply to a further question from Mr *Leonardi* (Comm., Italy) said that the aspect of public contracts concerned with military purposes was beyond the Community's present terms of reference.

Publication in the Official Journal of the European Communities of Announcements of Public Works Contracts

2412e. Replying to Mr *Broeks* (S, Netherlands) Mr *Gundelach*, Member of the Commission, said that publication of announcements of public works contracts in the Official Journal was required in application of Directives 71/305/EEC and 72/277/EEC. It was hard to make a final assessment of the application of these Directives. There were still loopholes, but they could be eliminated through talks and recommendations. If this were not enough the Commission would consider legal measures and intervene. Mr *Fellermaier* (S, Germany) wanted to know whether the invitations to tender turned into actual contracts and how they were nationally allocated. On this point Mr *Gundelach* said the Commission needed still more details before reporting to Parliament. To the question from Mr *Baas* (L, Netherlands) on assessment criteria for awarding public works contracts, Mr *Gundelach* said he would reply in writing.

*Transition to the Second Stage
of Economic and Monetary Union*

2412f. Replying to the question from Mr *Radoux* (S, Belgium), Mr *Haferkamp*, Vice-President of the Commission, stated that the dates for completion of the Economic and Monetary Union (31.12.1980) and for transition into the second stage (1.1.1974) could in the Commission's opinion be maintained. But this did not mean bringing into force on the same day everything that went to make up the second stage; creation of the Economic and Monetary Union was a continuous process. The Commission was closely following the Council proceedings and, if need be, would submit alternative proposals at the right time.

*Memorandum from the Indian Government
concerning the Joint Declaration of Intent
annexed to the Treaty of Accession —
Joint Declaration of Intent
annexed to the Treaty of Accession*

2412g. In reply to both these questions from Sir Douglas *Dodds-Parker* (C, Great Britain) and Sir Tufton *Beamish* (C, Great Britain) Sir Christopher *Soames*, Vice-President of the Commission, said that talks were being held with the countries mentioned in the Declaration and the Commission would be transmitting proposals to the Council. Sir Douglas *Dodds-Parker* pointed out that increased imports of semi-manufactured goods from India in the years ahead could help reduce the migrant worker requirements. Mr *Dewulf* (C-D, Belgium) asked whether there had been any point in the Community keeping out of the International Sugar Agreement. Sir Christopher replied that the Commission was disappointed that the Council could find no joint attitude towards this. Replying to Mr *Fellermaier* (S, Germany), Sir Christopher said he hoped that the negative example of the Council regarding the Sugar Agreement would not be repeated for the agreements on other raw materials.

**Draft of the General Community Budget
for 1974**

(17 October)

2413. The President-in-Office of the Council, Mr *Nørgaard*, presented the draft of the general Community budget for the financial year 1974.

Compared with the Commission's preliminary draft the 1974 draft budget was trimmed by 1 thousand million u.a., thus bringing it down to 5 thousand million u.a. All the same the budget could again be swelled if the Council by the end of the year took a decision on writing in the Regional Fund, for which the Commission had requested an endowment of 500 million u.a. The 1974 budget at precisely 5 025 thousand million u.a. came out at 2.1% below the 5 134 thousand million approved for 1973. On account of the new price movements on the cereal, pigmeat, egg and milk markets, the Commission had trimmed its original estimate for the EAGGF, Guarantee Section, for 1974 from 3.8 thousand million to 3.5 thousand million. 325 million u.a. were earmarked for the Guidance Section. 130 million u.a. had been allocated for food aid as against 48 million in 1973. 327 million u.a. were earmarked for the Social Fund, covering 167 million for the new and 60 million for the old Fund; the Commission had actually requested 410 million u.a. for the new Fund. During its November sitting Parliament will deal in detail with the budget as trimmed by the Council.

The President of the Council took the opportunity of dealing with the Commission's Proposals and Parliament's Opinion on strengthening the House's budgetary powers, all of which the Council would scrutinize forthwith. In this connection possible joint improvements ought to be considered for the practical inter-institutional cooperation involved in reviewing future draft budgets. This was the last budget to be financed partly by own resources and partly by Member States' financial contributions. Moreover, it represented the first at

tempt to realize some of the major guidelines on budgets from the Paris Summit Conference. The rapporteur of the Budgetary Committee, Mr *Rafton Pounder* (Great Britain) spoke of the importance of the European Social Fund which must be guaranteed to run smoothly. The Council's commitments were inadequate since the budget had been considerably cut and the Regional Fund left out. By and large, it must be said that the Council had veered too far from the preliminary draft, particularly in the case of research projects.

Anti-Inflation Policy — Report on the Economic Situation in the Community (16 October)

2414. Mr *Artzinger* (C-D, Germany) spoke on behalf of Mr *Lücker* (C-D, Germany) to the Oral Question on anti-inflation policy which the latter had put to the Council and Commission on behalf of the Christian Democrats. Mr *Artzinger* said it was now time to set up joint institutions and instruments and put them to work. An Economic and Monetary Union required the solidarity of all Member States and the European Parliament would have to charge the Council and Commission with inactivity under Article 175 of the Treaty if the existing coordination measures were not rigorously applied.

Mr *Haferkamp*, Vice-President of the Commission responsible for economic and monetary policy offered little hope for quick results in the fight against inflation. He feared that higher inflation rates than over the last twenty years would continue. At Community level he urged stronger solidarity between Member States. The brake had to be put on the internal volume of money and public expenditure. We had to try and maintain a high level of savings through interest and fiscal policy measures and channel a substantial part of new investments into the least developed

regions. Externally we had to keep up the joint action to prevent undesired influxes of capital and if need be toughen the regulations. Furthermore, the exchange rates of six Community currencies had to be kept within the agreed margins and the required conditions be created for all the Member States to rejoin the joint system. Mr *Haferkamp* also recommended that the obligation for priority consultations on parity changes be recast so that any kind of exchange rate adjustment required a Council opinion. Mr *Haferkamp* protested vigorously that the Commission had not expressed the opinion that the present set of instruments and the existing assignment of responsibility would suffice for the second stage although they had proved inadequate for the first stage of the Economic and Monetary Union. In certain important sectors the stage of mere coordination of economic policy must be left behind and genuine responsibilities at Community level must be taken over and exercised. Regarding the monetary policy the Commission had proposed the strengthening of support and the pooling of part of the national foreign exchange reserves, and lastly there was the proposal to set up a Regional Fund.

The President-in-Office of the Council, Mr *Haekkerup*, the Danish Minister of the Economy, replied that the inflation dangers were not underestimated by the Council and all Member States were pursuing a policy slanted towards abating the price rises. But there were still such great national variances in the economic situation and in the instruments that it was difficult to bring in blanket measures at Community level and apply the same methods to everyone. The House decided to examine both oral questions and the Report on the Economic Situation in the Community in a joint debate.

Mr *Bousch* (EPD, France) the rapporteur of the Economic and Monetary Committee speaking about the annual Report on the Economic

Situation of the Community, said that despite problems economic intergration had advanced but much effort was needed to achieve economic and monetary union. Sir Brandon *Rhys Williams*, the spokesman for the European Conservatives, warned against a tougher policy of restrictions; above all, the granting of credit for investments must not be slowed down in the less developed Community regions. Sir Brandon advocated the swift endowment of the European Monetary Cooperation Fund with real powers in order for it to evolve into a European central Bank. Mr *Yeats* (EPD, Ireland) voiced the disappointment of his Group over the poor results of the anti-inflation policy. Neither the Commission nor the Council had been able to give the House grounds for hope that the inflationary situation would improve. The Socialist spokesman Mr *Lange* (Germany) reproached the Council with seeking solutions based on the smallest common denominator. He asked the Commission for an effective regulation on stability and not just a non-binding directive. Mr *Burgbacher* (C-D, Germany) said that rather than overdo the restrictions on granting credit, 'investment payments' would help to dampen demand in the short-term and expand capacity in the medium-term. The Communist spokesman Mr *Leonardi* (Italy) rejected all conventional restrictive policies for the situation could not be remedied by the traditional short-term recipes but only by structural changes. For the Liberal and Allies Group, Mr *Guldberg* (Denmark) warned against the wrecking of economic freedom by inflation. Mr *Notenboom*, (C-D, Netherlands) rapporteur for the opinion of the Budgetary Committee, urged that Member States adhere more closely than before to the Community recommendations.

Mr *Haferkamp*, Vice-President of the Commission, confirmed the view that too much money was chasing too little goods when he stated that the equivalent value of central banks' currency reserves by mid-1973 and within 2½ years

had risen from 78 thousand million to 150 thousand million u.a., whilst the period 1960-1969 had seen an annual increase of no more than 2 thousand million. This worldwide liquidity surplus would set clear limits on measures within the EEC. All the same the Community had regained some credit policy autonomy by its decision on joint floating and through its own intervention system. On this basis more had been done in the last six months to curtail liquidity than had been achieved by the lengthy debates in the past. The initial result of this policy was that the pace of monetary depreciation was no longer sharpening but was gradually beginning to diminish even if this was still no occasion for great optimism.

The President-in-Office of the Council, Mr *Haekkerup*, pointed out the dangers of inflation for the Community economy. It must be resisted more effectively. Measures at national level would have to allow for Community requirements.

In its Resolution the House affirmed that over the past year the Council's conjunctural policy recommendations were again only partially observed. The House asked the Council for a decision to extend and strengthen the decision-making and executive powers of the Community institutions in the field of economic policy. It also urged the Commission to put forward a draft Regulation on stability, economic growth, a high level of employment and balanced external trade. Inflation could only be effectively combated if the public authorities also shared the responsibility for prices and incomes trends. The House also urged the Community action to overcome the public fatalistic attitude towards inflation.

Adjustment of Short-Term Monetary Support (19 October)

2415. Mr *Arndt* (S, Germany) submitted on behalf of the Commission the report on the

adjustment of short-term monetary support and the conditions for the progressive pooling of reserves. The rapporteur pointed out that swift development of the Monetary Fund was a precautionary move. The Council and Commission had to decide in favour of strengthening the Fund. Mr Arndt said he hoped that the pooling of reserves would help to get the immobilized Monetary Union on the move again. Mr Artzinger (Germany) spokesman for the Christian Democrats regretted that the Commission had not backed up its Proposal on monetary reserves with proposals to strengthen the institutions; 'the Commission clearly fears a change in the Treaty as the devil fears holy water.' The Socialist spokesman, Mr Harmegnies (Belgium) also advocated the coordination of economic policies be tightened.

In its Resolution the House considered it desirable that Member States deposit 20% of their monetary reserves in the European Monetary Fund on 1 January 1974. The House also urged that 'the strengthening of the European Monetary Fund should also lead to a strengthening of the Community's powers of decision in matters of economic policy.' This applied in particular to monetary, financial and exchange rate measures. Before further deposits over this 20% were considered, the Community's responsibilities in the field of economic policy must be further strengthened.

The Vice-President of the Commission, Mr Haferkamp stressed the importance of the Monetary Fund not only for monetary policy but especially from the general political standpoint: to surrender such a substantial proportion of national substance in the form of monetary reserves to Community stewardship would give evidence both at home and abroad of the Community's existence and action capacity.

Relations between the European Community and the United States

(18 October)

2416. Mr Fellermaier (S, Germany) laid before the House a report on EEC-USA relations. He stressed that individual issues, such as soya beans for instance would have to be appraised from the angle of overall relations and not regarded in isolation. He announced that a delegation of European M.P.'s led by President *Berkhouwer* would shortly be resuming the Strasbourg contacts made in May 1973 with Members of the United States Congress. During those talks the Parliamentary delegation would focus attention onto the issues of energy policy, international trade in agricultural products, development policy and multinational companies.

The Socialist Group's spokesman, Mr Corterier (Germany) said that differences over individual questions should not overshadow the 'community of interests and destiny' with the United States. Western Europe must certainly speak with one voice if Dr Kissinger's words were not to turn out to be true that Europe bore merely a regional responsibility as against the global responsibility of the USA. The Christian-Democrat spokesman, Mr Boano (Italy) also urged that through our unified behaviour, the USA would be deterred from the temptation to manipulate any discords between the European countries. Sir Christopher Soames, Vice-President of the Commission, pointed to considerable improvement in EEC-USA relations over recent months. The opening session of GATT in Tokyo had come off very well; hopefully Congress would soon ratify the Trade Bill; in the meantime, we could push on with the technical discussions in Geneva.

For the Liberal and Allies Group, Lord Gladwyn (Great Britain) described EEC-USA relations as one of the key factors in the construction of

Europe. For the European Conservatives, Mr *Thomsen* (Denmark) supported the report and called on Europe to finally speak with one voice in the world. For the Communist and Allies Group, Mr *Sandri* (Italy) said he was concerned over certain tendencies in the USA to impede the liberalization of trade and the Euro-American dialogue must be regarded against the background of worldwide discussion. Mr *Van der Hek* (S, Netherlands) reminded the House that the creation of world economic order would be achieved only by international cooperation and not by pursuing 'single-state' interests.

In its Resolution the House stressed the basic common interests of the EEC and the USA in the sphere of economic relations and particularly with regard to trade, monetary stability, cooperation in development problems and supplies of energy and raw materials. In view of the growing international demand for energy, the Resolution reacts positively to the American suggestion for a new form of cooperation between the major energy-consuming nations, covering the development of new sources, avoidance of waste, a policy on reserves and the problem of environmental damage through the use of energy.

The Resolution also calls for a common attitude towards drafting international agreements for world agricultural trade and a list of rules of good conduct in trade. These should 'among other things, prevent unpleasant surprises in the supply of agricultural primary commodities.' The House urged that the dialogue with the USA be intensified but that no new institutions were necessary for this purpose. Parliament emphasized the importance of direct parliamentary contacts in this connection. The House was also of the opinion that an EEC-USA dialogue must inevitably run up against certain foreign policy and security policy issues which did not yet lie within the direct sphere of responsibility of the Community institutions.

The Resolution called for a coherent Community policy towards the United States which while allowing for the special features of individual problems is nevertheless determined by an overall political approach.

EEC-Norway Agreement (18 October)

2417. Mr *Thomsen* (C, Denmark) submitted a report on the Agreement signed between the EEC and Norway. The rapporteur regretted that Norway did not belong to the Community and said he was disappointed that the Community in respect of trade relations had done so little for Norway.

The House unanimously approved the Agreement with Norway which took effect on 1 July 1973 and at the same time called for a further development of EEC-Norway relations. The House approved the Community's fishery concessions and considered that the import regulations for aluminium imports represented 'a compromise which is fair and reasonable to both parties.'

Mr *Lange* (S, Germany) for his Group regretted the Community's lack of generosity over aluminium. The Community had failed to recognize that Norway had no hope of competing with the Community in that field. Mr *Dich* (Communist and Allied Group, Denmark) thought that Norway had obtained the same advantages from the Agreement as had Denmark without losing sovereignty or being drawn into the EEC inflation. Mr *Dich's* comments were rebutted by the Danish Members, Mr *Christensen* (S) and Mr *Guldborg* (L). Sir *Christopher Soames*, Vice-President of the Commission, also pointed out that Denmark would never have attained free trade for her farming exports without full Membership of

the EEC. He told the House that the Agreement with Norway was running splendidly and the Joint Committee was already at work.

The Middle East Conflict (17 October)

2418. The Chairman of the Liberal and Allies Group, Mr *Durieux* (France) spoke to the Resolution motion on the Middle East conflict which he had moved with Group Chairman *Lücker* (C-D, Germany), Mr *Vals* (S, France), Mr *Kirk* (C, Great Britain) and Mr *Bourges* (EPD, France).

Mr *Durieux* asked for a meeting of the Foreign Ministers Conference to be convened on this issue. Mr *Blumenfeld* (C-D, Germany) also called for a unified Community stand. Lord *Reay* (C, Great Britain) felt that Europe was not directly involved in the conflict but indirectly concerned with it. For the Socialists, Mr *Vals* (France) called for an immediate cease-fire, early negotiations and a lasting peace.

As opposed to the declaration of the Foreign Ministers Conference of 13 October, the Resolution made no reference to the United Nations November 1967 Resolution. A communist Amendment, related to it and tabled by Mr *Ansart* (France) was rejected by a Parliamentary majority as was Conservative Amendment which referred to the United Nations but did not directly derive from the UN Resolution.

In its Resolution the House urgently called for an emergency meeting of the Conference of Foreign Ministers, so that the Community's good offices might be offered with a view to bringing about a cease-fire followed by early negotiations, either direct or indirect, such as may guarantee a lasting peace.

Military Coup d'Etat in Chile (17 October)

2419. Mr *Bertrand* (C-D, Belgium) spoke to the Resolution motion on the military coup d'état in Chile which Mr *Lücker* (C-D, Germany) and four other Group Chairmen had moved. He spoke of the removal of the democratic government based on free elections. A military junta was now reigning which shrank from nothing. In the Resolution reference would expressly be made to the friendly and constructive relations with the Latin American Parliament which the Chilean M.P.s had formerly attended. Mr *Bertrand* in conclusion stressed that what counted most in the Resolution was the restoration of human rights.

In its Resolution the House called for the swift restoration of the democratic régime, basic human rights and freedoms in Chile, an immediate stop to the military régime's repressive measures against Chilean citizens and consideration of political measures, that could be taken by the Community to re-establish a democratic and constitutional régime.

Cooperation Agreements with State-Trading Countries (18 October)

2420. Mr *Jahn* (C-D, Germany) spoke to the Oral Question with debate on cooperation agreements with State-trading countries which he had put to the Commission in company with Messrs *Artzinger*, *Bertrand*, *Burghbacher*, *Früh*, *Girardo*, *Härzschel*, *Martens*, *Mursch*, *Noè*, *Notenboom*, *Pêtre*, *Schuijt* and *Springorum*. Mr *Jahn* pointed out that bilateral cooperation agreements, running beyond 1980, were liable to hinder the achievement of European Union, if not actually prevent it. Mr *Jahn* stressed how overbidding and over-

favourable credit conditions could distort competition and he advocated some binding principles at Community level.

The Question provoked the resistance of the Communist Members of whom the spokesman Mr *d'Angelosante* (Italy) pointed out that Political Union was still a distant hazy goal which could not be imperilled by cooperation agreements. Mr *Patiijn* (Netherlands) for the Socialists said that current agreements had little effect on the political Union. He asked for a common approach in interest policy towards the State-trading countries. Mr *Klepsch* (C-D, Germany) for his Group wanted a summary relationship between the credit terms which the EEC was granting to the Eastern European States, industrial and developing countries. The crucial point was what attitude the Commission, as a member of the Council President's delegation to the Cooperation and Security Conference, would take.

Sir Christopher *Soames*, Vice-President of the Commission, said that the Commission saw no grounds for granting State-trading countries more favourable conditions than other industrial or developing countries of the EEC. The previous consultation procedure proposed by the Commission to the Council concerning cooperation agreements with State-trading countries included credit terms because varying credit terms could lead to competition distortions between Community countries.

The information procedure referred to the negotiations of the joint committees set up as part of the cooperation agreement. Sir Christopher emphasized that the Commission in no way opposed cooperation agreements between Member States and Eastern States but that tensions would almost inevitably arise if the Commission had not been advised in advance. Insofar as agreements between EEC countries and State-trading countries contravened the trade policy obligations of the EEC

Treaty, the Commission would invoke Treaty infringement procedure under Article 169. This had already been done in one case. The question of agreement duration was not of such great consequence and he recommended that a revision clause be put in as was the case in the German-Soviet Agreement.

Spain's Entry into the Common Market (18 October)

2421. Mr *Bordu* (Communist, France) spoke to the Oral Question without debate on Spain's joining the EEC which had been put to the Commission by the Communist Members, Mr *Ansart* (France) and Mrs *Iotti* (Italy). He described the current regime as a Fascist dictatorship, oppressing every democratic freedom and that it was therefore impossible to even think of Spain joining the EEC. He wanted to know whether the Commission was supporting membership for Spain.

Sir Christopher *Soames*, Vice-President of the Commission, said the question of Spanish membership was a purely hypothetical one. The negotiations for a free trade agreement were based on Article 113 of the EEC Treaty and had nothing to do with EEC membership.

Agricultural Matters (18 and 19 October)

Olive Oil Prices

2422. With the support of some delegates from other Groups the Communist members succeeded against Commission opposition in getting the House to postpone its Opinion on setting olive oil prices for 1 November 1973-31 October 1974 (the de Koning report on olive oil prices) until the November sitting so that these

prices were put off the agenda of the Agricultural Ministers' meeting of 22-23 October in Luxembourg. Mr *Cipolla* (Communist, Italy) based his motion on the fact that it was not all that important to fix the prices on the set date. The levels of these prices must be discussed in detail since they had a crucial bearing on the life of some regions. The Parliamentary Agricultural Committee, however, had not found time for this discussion. A Resolution motion from the Agricultural Committee lay before the House which approved the Commission's price Proposal but which regretted that the Commission had omitted to link its proposals with others for improving the system of producer aid. Mr *Thomson*, Member of the Commission, in a short speech had opposed an adjournment on the report since the olive oil prices had without fail to be set by 1 November 1973.

Agricultural Measures following Revaluation of the Dutch Florin

2423. Mr *Héger* (C-D, Belgium) submitted a report on a Regulation on measures to be taken in agriculture following revaluation of the central rate of the Dutch florin. Every parity change in the Community was a step backwards for the CAP. Mr *Héger* described the struggle against inflation by means of re- and devaluations as very dangerous. Mr *Pounder* (C, Great Britain) who put the opinion of the Budgetary Committee expressed the same concern as the rapporteur. Mr *Lardinois*, Member of the Commission, did not dispute the need to revalue the florin, but asked whether it would not have been preferable to have done so at the same time as the Deutsch Mark. The Commission approved the Dutch compensatory measures.

In its Resolution passed unanimously the House approved the Commission's Proposal on the

agricultural measures related to the revaluation of the Dutch florin, but emphasized that 'the revaluation of the central rate of the florin appeared to have been decided unilaterally and arouses justifiable apprehension among some of the partners.' The House regretted once again the non-existence of an Economic and Monetary Union, a fact which endangered the achievements of the agricultural common market. The House also regretted that the amount of the cost to be borne by the EAGGF, Guarantee Section, of part of the aid granted by the Dutch Government, could not be based on more objective estimates. It was recognized that the proposed system of compensatory payments did not act to the detriment of the consumer regarding prices of agricultural products, and it was also acknowledged that the producers were only partially and temporarily compensated for this loss of revenue. The House allowed that the system was a simple one and would avoid the introduction of compensatory payments in Benelux.

Coordination of Safeguards in Connection with Mergers between Sociétés Anonymes (Joint stock companies)
(17 October)

2424. Mr *Héger* submitted a report on the third Directive for coordinating safeguards which for the protection of members and others are required by Member States of companies in the sense of Article 58, para 2 of the Treaty in connection with mergers between sociétés anonymes.

Parliament again postponed its opinion on the revised Commission Proposal for a third Directive on coordinating safeguards in mergers between sociétés anonymes. The House could still not agree on workers' rights when their occupation was at risk owing to mergers.

In its revised Proposal the Commission simply prescribed that each party can ask the public authorities to mediate if negotiations between company bodies and employee representatives cannot reach agreement on a social programme for re-employment and in considering the interests of the worker.

The Legal and Social Committees of Parliament opposed the worker's right of veto against mergers in the case where despite state mediation no agreement emerged. Mr *Gundelach*, Member of the Commission, maintained that an arbitration procedure was feasible in which nobody would have the right of veto. Mr *Brugger* (C-D, Italy) also warned against a one-sided veto but opposed the appointment of a public arbitrator who would have to determine whether when a merger materialized or not the workers' interests were compromised to a greater or lesser degree. Mr *Federspiel* (L, Denmark) warned against introducing an arbitration procedure into a Directive on the alignment of national company law since such a binding procedure did not exist at all in every Member State. He recommended the matter be left to mediation. The rapporteur, Mr Héger, pointed out that a proposal to bring in an arbitration procedure could only be introduced into the wider framework of the Regulation on the European joint stock company.

Mr *Broeks* (S, Netherlands) referred to the actual different position of workers and shareholders in mergers. This different position must be counterbalanced by a clear right of veto for the workers against mergers without adequate re-employment arrangements.

On a proposal by the rapporteur, the House decided to refer the proposed Directive to the Legal Affairs Committee as the responsible body with the Social Affairs and Employment Committee acting in an advisory capacity.

Change in the Rules of Procedure (16 October)

2425. On the basis of a report from Mr *Jozeau-Marigné* (L, France) on changing Rules 33 and 41 of the Rules of Procedure concerning the quorum in plenary sittings and committee respectively, the House decided to amend Rules 33 and 41 as follows: a Parliamentary quorum was constituted if a third of actual existing Members were present and a Committee could validly deliberate and vote if a third of its actual sitting Members were present.

2426. Mr *Vernaschi* (C-D, Italy) submitted a report on amendment to Rule 36, para 5, of the Rules of Procedure on the required minimum strength to form a Group. The Legal Affairs Committee recommended Parliament that a minimal number of ten Members be required for the formation of a Group, provided they came from at least two Member States.

Mr *Cortier* (S, Germany) tabled an Amendment for his Group according to which a Group could be formed with not less than ten Members provided they came from at least three Member States. In its Resolution the House accepted this Amendment.

By this change in the Rules of Procedure the European Parliament enabled the Communist Members to form a Group.

Council

In October the Council held two meetings on general matters and agriculture.¹

¹ For the various items examined by the Council during its sessions, see the Chapters of this Bulletin on the various questions dealt with.

257th Session—General Matters
(Luxembourg, 15 October 1973)

2427. Chairman: Mr Nørgaard, Minister for External Economic Affairs of Denmark

Commission: Mr Ortolí, President; Sir Christopher Soames, Vice-President; Mr Borschette, Mr Thomson, Mr Cheysson, Mr Gundelach, Members.

Member States Governments were represented by: Mr Van der Meulen, Ambassador, Permanent Representative (Belgium); Mr Nørgaard, Minister for External Economic Affairs, Mr Christensen, Secretary of State for Foreign Economic Affairs (Denmark); Mr Apel, Parliamentary of State for Foreign Affairs (Germany); Mr Deniau, Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, responsible for cooperation (France); Mr Fitzgerald, Minister for Foreign Affairs, Mr Keating, Minister for Industry and Trade (Ireland); Mr Moro, Minister for Foreign Affairs, Mr Pedini, Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs (Italy); Mr Thorn, Minister for Foreign Affairs (Luxembourg); Mr Van der Stoep, Minister for Foreign Affairs, Mr Brinkhorst, Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs (Netherlands); Mr Davies, Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster, Mr Wood, Minister for Overseas Development (United Kingdom).

In compliance with paragraph 15 of the Declaration on the Paris Summit Conference, the Council has decreed a series of measures for improving its relations with the European Parliament; the texts are published hereunder:

Practical measures to improve relations between the Council and the European Parliament

I. Written and oral questions

The Council is anxious to establish as close a dialogue as possible with the European Parliament and accordingly

— confirms its decision to reply to all written questions and expresses its intention to reply henceforth to all oral questions put to it;

— is prepared to take all steps necessary to improve or speed up the procedure for preparing replies to written and oral questions.

For this reason:

— *as regards written questions*

the Council has already adopted internal measures enabling it to reply to such questions within a period of less than two months;¹

— *as regards oral questions*

. As far as oral questions under Rule 47A of the Rules of Procedure of the European Parliament are concerned, if at the end of question time, Parliament wished to hold a debate on the basis of a reply given by the Council, the latter would, within the limits of its powers, contribute to that debate.

. As far as oral questions under Rule 47 of the Rules of Procedure of the European Parliament are concerned, the Council reaffirms the importance it attaches to this procedure which hitherto has given satisfactory results and enables well-prepared and detailed debates to be held on questions of interest to both Institutions.

¹ The Council recommends that these internal measures should be supplemented or amended by the following provisions:

— not later than fifteen days after receiving the question the Secretariat will submit to the Working Party on General Affairs a preliminary draft reply, or explain to the Working Party why it has not been possible to prepare such a preliminary draft;

— the Working Party on General Affairs may debate questions which do not call for a factual reply;

— at the end of a period of five weeks from the date on which the question is received, or following a third reading by the Working Party on General Affairs, all draft replies are to be included on the agenda of the Permanent Representatives Committee;

— at the end of each month, the Secretariat will give the President a list of any questions involving delays in replies together with an explanation for the delays;

— where appropriate, a provisional reply may be given.

II. Relations with the European Parliament in the field of trade agreements¹

Further to the Resolutions adopted by the European Parliament on 13 February 1973, fuller participation by the European Parliament in the field of trade agreements could be envisaged along the following lines;

— prior to the opening of negotiations concerning a trade agreement with a third country, and in the light of information supplied by the Council to the appropriate parliamentary committees, a debate could, where appropriate, be held in the European Parliament;

— when negotiations are completed, but before signing of the agreement, the President of the Council or his representative would confidentially and unofficially acquaint the competent committees with the substance of the agreement;

— bearing in mind the European Parliament's interest in trade agreements concluded by the Community, the Council would acquaint the European Parliament with the content of such agreements, after their signing and before their conclusion.

III. Procedure for consultation with the European Parliament

(a) Referral

1. The General Secretariat will circulate Commission proposals immediately to the persons designated by the delegations.

2. On the day following such circulation, the General Secretariat will initiate a written procedure to be completed by the end of one week.

Under this written procedure, members of the Council will be asked if they wish to consult the European Parliament, it being understood that their replies will prejudice neither the legal basis on which the act in question will be adopted, nor the question of whether consultation will be requested on either a mandatory or optional basis.

If a delegation submits an observation, the item will be included, in the usual way, on the agenda of a meeting of the Permanent Representatives Committee.

3. If no delegation has submitted observations within the above period, the Council's decision is adopted and consultation could be requested in a letter signed by the Secretary-General of the Council and worded as follows:

'On ... the Council decided to consult the European Parliament on the Commission proposal ... and instructed me to forward to you this request for consultation ...'

(b) Taking account of the Opinion of the European Parliament

(1) Subject to the provisions of the following paragraph, the Council intends, except where matters of urgency are involved² and in compliance with its obligations, to examine Commission proposals submitted for the purposes of consultation to the European Parliament only when the latter's Opinion has been received, provided that the Opinion is delivered within an appropriate period of time which, in certain cases could be laid down by common agreement.

This does not prevent the Council from holding policy discussions upon receipt of an important proposal or communication from the Commission.

(2) The Council has adopted an internal procedure designed to ensure that Opinions given by the European Parliament are taken into consideration at every stage of the examination of the proposals to which they relate.

The Council proposes that any differences between the draft report to the Permanent Representatives Committee or the Council and the Opinion delivered by the European Parliament be pointed out either in the text of the draft report itself or, if necessary, in a separate paper.

(3) In addition to the procedure currently applied (the outcome of an exchange of letters between the Council and the European Parliament, the Council proposes that the procedure for informing the European Parliament on the action taken on its Opinions should be supplemented. To this end, it recommends that the President of the Council should declare himself ready to meet the President of the European Parliament at regular intervals, and at least four times each year, in order to examine, *inter alia*, action taken by the Council on the Parliament's Opinions.

¹ The Council noted that the Commission had—on its own initiative and responsibility—stated in paragraph 9 of its communication on practical measures to strengthen the powers of control of the European Parliament and to improve relations between the European Parliament and the Commission, that it would 'keep the competent parliamentary committees informed of the progress of negotiations of trade agreements.'

² In such cases, the Council would contact the European Parliament.

IV. *Participation by the Council in the proceedings of the European Parliament*

In order to satisfy the European Parliament's request that the Council should be able to attend certain particularly important debates on current problems, the Council has decided that, in principle, it will be represented at important debates, and where appropriate, take part in those debates.¹

The annual report could be delivered in February and contain (as in fact the Council had envisaged in 1964), first a review of activities in the preceding year, and secondly, information on the projects which the Council intended to implement during the current year.

In accordance with the practice followed in recent years, the report could be circulated in writing to the Members of the European Parliament and the President could confine himself during the debate to a brief presentation of the report and to replying to any questions put to him.

Concerning the strengthening of the European Parliament's budgetary powers, the Council heard a report by Mr Cheysson, Member of the Commission, on the Commission's proposal amended in accordance with the European Parliament's opinion. The Council has asked the Permanent Representatives Committee to report back as soon as possible.

The Council has prepared the position which the Commission adopted during the ministerial conference of 17 and 18 October 1973 in Brussels and which grouped on the one hand the Community and its Member States and, on the other hand, the AASM, some Commonwealth countries and certain other States.² It adopted, in particular, the Decision authorizing the Commission to open negotiations with these States. Directives adopted by the Council concern the system of trade, financial and technical cooperation, the rules governing the right of establishment and to give services, foreign payments and movement of capital. Directives concerning the setting up of provisions under Protocol 22, Chapter III can be issued at a later date in the light of observations made during the negotiations.

The Council has finally adopted the Regulation on the application of Decision 46/73 by the EEC/AASM Association Council on trade relations with Mauritius, amendment of EEC Regulation 2733/72 concerning a Community tariff quota for certain handmade goods and the EAGGF 'Guidance' Section's participation for 1973. It has adopted the Decision approving the amendment of the statutes of the joint company 'Société d'énergie nucléaire franco-belge des Ardennes' and authorized the Commission to extend further until the end of 1976 the Euratom-OECD Agreement on the library of calculation programmes of the Nuclear Energy Agency.

In the context of the Convention on Food Aid, the Council adopted Decisions on the conclusion of Agreements for supplies between the EEC and Jordan, Morocco, Ruanda, Senegal, Somalia, Tunisia and Yemen as well as Bangladesh, Upper Volta, Mali and Malta. In the context of the Convention on Food Aid in the form of milk products, the Council adopted the Decisions on the conclusion of Agreements between the EEC and Bangladesh, Jordan, Egypt and Ruanda. The Council finally adopted the Decisions on cooperation between the EEC and the International Committee of the Red Cross on food aid.

The Council was consulted under Article 5, para. 1 of the Commission's Decision 3/71/ECSC on additional financial interventions by Member States for the coal industry in 1972.

It adopted the Regulation amending the Regulation within the meaning of Article 72 on the official's status as regards sickness insurance for the European Communities officials.

¹ Contributions to the debates by the President of the Council could be worked out according to the same procedure as that applied for the Colloquium.

² For the list of the countries concerned see Bull. EC 7/8-1973, point 1101.

258th Session—Agriculture

(Luxembourg 22 and 23 October 1973)

2428. *Chairman: Mr Frederiksen*, Danish Minister of Agriculture.

Commission: Mr Lardinois, Member

Member States Governments were represented by: Mr *Lavens*, Minister of Agriculture (Belgium); Mr *Ertl*, Minister of Agriculture, Mr *Rohr*, Secretary of State for Agriculture (Germany); Mr *Chirac*, Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development (France); Mr *Clinton*, Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries (Ireland); Mr *Ferrari-Agradi*, Minister of Agriculture, Mr *Cifarelli*, Under-Secretary of State for Agriculture (Italy) Mr *Ney*, Minister of Agriculture (Luxembourg); Mr *De Zeeuw*, Director-General, Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries (Netherlands); Mr *Godber*, Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food (United Kingdom).

The Council has examined in detail the main problems which have arisen on the proposed directive on mountain and hill farming and farming in other underprivileged areas; this enabled opinions to come closer on some questions. It was agreed that discussion will be continued at a next session.

Regarding olive oil, the Council made a preliminary examination of the Commission's proposals on prices, on aid and other relevant provisions for the 1973/1974 marketing year. Since the European Parliament is not called upon to give its opinion in the matter until its November session, the Council has postponed its decision until next session and has decided therefore to extend the provisions applying to the 1972/1973 campaign until 30 November.

The Council has noted the Commission's report on the working of the EEC information network for agricultural accounts and has adopted the Regulations amending Regulation

EEC 79/65 as regards coverage and the number of agricultural accounts to be taken into consideration for this network.

The Regulation amending the Regulations laying down general rules for granting aid for flax and hemp and concerning compensatory amounts in the egg, poultry and pigmeat sectors were finally adopted by the Council. It also adopted the Decision authorizing the tacit renewal of various Trade Agreements concluded by some Member States with third countries. It has agreed the text of the Agreement in the form of an exchange of letters between the EEC and Turkey concerning the new terms of the unrefined olive oil import system in the Community and decided to consult the European Parliament concerning this Agreement and the Community Regulation which will apply.

Commission**President Ortoli's Visit to the United States**

2429. At the invitation of President *Nixon*, Mr *Ortoli*, President of the Commission, made an official visit to the United States from 30 September to 2 October 1973.¹

President Ortoli's Official Visit to the Netherlands

2430. Mr *François Xavier Ortoli*, President of the Commission, went to The Hague on 22 October; he was received by H. M. Queen *Juliana* at the 'Huis den Bosch' castle. Mr *Ortoli* also met Mr *den Uyl*, Prime Minister

¹ Point 2319.

of the Netherlands and all the Ministers responsible for European affairs.

Visit to Bonn by the President of the Commission

2431. Pursuing his consultations with Member States Governments, President Ortolí went to Bonn on 17 October; where he met Chancellor *Brandt*. The talks, also attended by the Minister for the Economy and the Minister for Agriculture, Mr *Friderichs* and Mr *Ertl*, bore mainly on the decisions to be taken before the end of the year so as to meet the deadlines set by the 'Summit'.

Court of Justice

Constitution of the Court

2432. The Court of Justice of the European Communities elected its President during its session of 9 October 1973 and proceeded to constitute its chambers and to appoint an Advocate-General for each chamber.

Mr *Robert Lecourt* was re-elected President of the Court for three years (from 7 October to 6 October 1976).

As from 7 October and for three years the chambers of the Court are:

First chamber: A. *Donner*, President; R. *Monaco*, F. *Mertens de Wilmars*, C. Ó *Dálaigh*, Judges; J. P. *Warner*, G. *Reischl*, Advocates-General.

Second chamber: Mr *Sørensen*, President; P. *Pescatore*, H. *Kutscher*, A. J. *Mackenzie Stuart*, Judges; A. *Trabucchi*, H. *Mayras*, Advocates-General.¹

During a solemn session on 9 October, the Court gave homage to Mr *Karl Roemer*, the retiring Advocate-General and doyen of the Court. Mr *Gerhard Reischl* succeeds Mr *Roemer* and was then sworn in.

New Cases

Case 170/73—Miles Druce & Co. Ltd., High Wycombe vs. the Commission

2433. Further to Cases 160 and 161/73, the firm Miles Druce filed with the Court of Justice an appeal against non-action on the basis of Article 35 of the ECSC Treaty to show that the Commission, because of its implicit decision refusing to take the provisional protective measures asked for by Miles Druce, had failed in its obligations under this Treaty.

Case 171/73—Commission Official vs. the Commission

2434. This appeal is for the grant of foreign indemnity.

Case 172/73—The Commission vs. the Italian Republic

2435. On 9 October 1973, the Commission filed an appeal with the Court against Italy to show that the latter, by collecting dues on loaded goods imported by sea from Member States and landing and loading dues on goods imported from Member States or exported to them by air, had failed in its obligations under the EEC Treaty.

Case 173/73—The Italian Republic vs. the Commission

2436. The Italian Government appealed against the Commission on 11 October 1973 for

¹ OJ C 93 of 8.11.1973.

cancellation of the Commission's decision of 25 July 1973 concerning Article 20 of Italian law 1101 of 1 December 1971 on the restructuring, the reorganization and conversion in the textile industry.

Case 174/73—The Commission vs. the Italian Republic

2437. On 17 October 1973, the Commission filed an appeal with the Court of Justice to show that Italy, having failed to make the provisions required by law, regulation or administrative action in good time has failed in its obligations under Article 18 of Regulation 534/69 on harmonization of provisions in social matters in the road transport sector.

Case 177/73—Commission Official vs. the Commission

2438. This concerns an appeal for payment of indemnity for reinstallation.

Case 178/73—Belgische Staat & Groothertogdom Luxemburg vs. M. Pieter Mertens, Kontich, e.a.

Case 179/73—Belgische Staat & Groothertogdom Luxemburg vs. Mr Victor Bloch, Antwerp

2439. In two penal proceedings filed by the Belgian State against economic operators—the Belgian State and the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg are plaintiffs—concerning frauds in the cereal sector, the Brussels Appeal Court filed a request on 30 October 1973 for preliminary ruling on the interpretation of Articles 2 and 7 of Regulation 729/70 on financing the common agricultural policy and of Council's Decision of 21 April 1970 concerning own resources of the Community in order to ascertain whether the Belgian State and the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg rather than the Community should be plaintiffs in these cases.

Judgements

Case 43/72—Firma Merkur-Aussenhandels GmbH, Hamburg, vs. the Commission

2440. On 10 July 1972 a German firm filed with the Court of Justice a request for damages against the Commission for failure in giving service since it had not included goods processed from barley in the list of products for which compensatory amounts are laid down due to the temporary widening of fluctuation margins in currencies of some Member States.

In its Decree of 24 October 1973, the Court of Justice rejected the appeal as unfounded

Case 5/73—Balkan-Import-Export GmbH, Berlin, vs. Hauptzollamt Berlin-Packhof

Case 9/73—Firma Carl Schlüter, Osnabruck, vs. Hauptzollamt Lorrach

Case 10/73—Firma Rewe-Zentral-AG, Köln, vs. Hauptzollamt Kehl

2441. In several suits before German tax tribunals, the validity of Regulation 974/71 on measures concerning the economic policy to be followed in the agricultural sector as a result of the temporary widening of fluctuation margins in currencies of some Member States and the validity of several execution provisions are contested. Moreover, the applicants contested the right of the Federal Republic to free the exchange rate of the D. Mark.

In its Decree of 24 October 1973, the Court turned down all the arguments put forward against the regulations in question. It also stated that 'neither Articles 5 and 107 of the EEC Treaty, nor the Resolution of 22 March 1971 by the Council and representatives of Member States' Governments concerning the attainment by stages of the Economic and

Monetary Union can be interpreted as constituting on their own prohibition for Member States to modify the parity of the exchange rate of their currency other than by establishing a new fixed parity liable to being invoked by those coming under national jurisdiction.'

Case 12/73—Mr Claus W. Muras, Buchholz, vs. Hauptzollamt Hamburg-Jonas

2442. The Hamburg Finanzgericht filed with the Court of Justice on 21 February 1973 a request for a preliminary ruling on the interpretation to be given to Article 15 of Regulation 121/67 on the common organization of markets in the pig meat sector and to the wording 'products of a fair, average and marketable quality' in Article 6 of regulation 1041/67. The Finanzgericht also requested the Court for its opinion on tariff classification of 'saussages, dried.'

In its Decree of 9 October 1973, the Court ruled that 'conformity of products, the object of a request for export restitution, to quality standards laid down in Article 6 of Regulation 1041/67 must be assessed on the basis of criteria in force in the Community and a product which cannot be marketed in the Community's territory under normal conditions and under the description appearing on the application for restitution would not come within these quality criteria.' The Court also gave its judgement on the tariff classification of the above-mentioned product.

Case 34/73—Ditta Fratelli Variola, SpA, Trieste, vs. Amministrazione delle Finanze italiana

2443. Under a ruling by the Trieste Tribunal a request had been filed with the Court of Justice for a preliminary ruling on the interpretation of the wording 'tax of equivalent effect' within the meaning of Articles 9 et seq. of the EEC Treaty, Articles 18 and 20 of Regulation 19 and Articles 18 and 21 of Regulation

120/67 on the common organization of markets in the cereal sector, with regard to administrative duties, statistical duties and landing taxes perceived by Italy on imports of cereals from third countries.

In its Decree of 10 October 1973, the Court decided on the wording 'tax of equivalent effect'; it stated that a tax applied to imported goods only because they are landed in national ports is a tax of equivalent effect as customs duty and, therefore, prohibited on cereal imports; it decided that there is immediate application in the juridical system of Member States of the above mentioned provisions of Regulations 19 and 120/67, this application opposes any national law amending the date from which these provisions apply.

Case 35/73—Mr Ludwig Kunz, Amsterdam, vs. Bundesversicherungsanstalt für Angestellte, Berlin

2444. The Bundesversicherungsanstalt had asked the Court of Justice on 28 February 1973 to give its preliminary decision on the interpretation of Article 22 of Regulation 3 on social Security for migrant workers. This article concerns the grant of benefits in kind for sickness insurance to holders of pensions and of private income.

The Court of Justice, by its Decree of 11 October 1973, ruled that 'this article must be interpreted in such way that the holder of pensions due by virtue of legislation in several Member States has no right to benefits in kind at the expense of the State of the territory where he resides when the legislation of that State does not provide for such benefits.'

Case 39/73—Rewe-Zentralfinanz GmbH, Köln, vs. Direktor der Landwirtschaftskammer Westfalen-Lippe, Münster

2445. The Oberverwaltungsgericht für das Land Nordrhein-Westfalen had filed on 9 March

1971 a request for a preliminary decision on whether the expression 'taxes equivalent effect as import customs duties' (Article 13, para 2, first phrase of the EEC Treaty) covers also administrative taxes collected under the phytosanitary control carried out on vegetables when they enter the territory of a Member State and come from another Member State.

By its Decree of 11 October 1973, the Court stated 'must be considered as taxes of equivalent effect as customs duties the fees imposed for reasons of phytosanitary control of products when they go over the border and which are determined according to relevant criteria and which are not comparable with those for fixing the fees applying eventually to similar national products. The administration's activity of the State for upholding a phytosanitary system imposed in the general interest cannot be regarded as a service given to the importer and of a nature to justify the collection of a fee.'

Case 110/73—Mr Gerd Fiege, Bad Pyrmont, vs. Caisse régionale d'assurance maladie de Strasbourg, Strasbourg

2446. On 22 March 1973, the French Supreme Court of Appeal applied to the Court of Justice for a preliminary decree on the interpretation of the Community Regulation on social security of migrant workers with regard to the transfer of disablement pensions and particularly concerning the rights to benefits of a Member State national and recognized by an Algerian fund after Algeria had obtained her independence but prior to its specific exclusion of the territories to which Regulation 3 applies (under Regulation 109/65), a deletion which occurred 'without prejudice to acquired rights.'

By its Decree of 10 October 1973, the Court considers that the fact that such rights were recognized by an Algerian fund after independence does not remove the obligations of the French social institutions. These remained

committed for territories mentioned with France in Annex A of Regulation 3 until the date they were erased on France's initiative even if these institutions were informed of the transfer request after Regulation 109/65 came into effect.

Case 157/73—Mr Erich Freitag, Nürnberg, vs. Hauptzollamt Fulda

2447. The Hessen Finanzgericht applied on 7 August for 1973 the Court of Justice's preliminary decision on the conditions for calculating customs value, this question arose through a dispute between a German solicitor who had imported for account of a limited company being constituted aluminium siding from Canada, and the Fulda Customs Office which demanded an additional duty from the importer.

By a decision reached on 23 October 1973 this case was removed from the Court's register since the Hessen Finanzgericht had advised that it had been settled at national level.

Case 160/73 R and 161/73 R—Miles Druce & Co. Ltd., High Wycombe, vs. the Commission

2448. A British firm filed with the Court of Justice on 31 August 1973 two requests for preliminary protective provisions against the repurchase of the capital shares of the firm by another company. The requests had been filed on the basis of Article 39 of the ECSC Treaty.

By Decision of 11 October 1973, the President of the Court rejected the requests in question.

Economic and Social Committee

2449. The 114th plenary session of the Committee was held on 24 and 25 October 1973

in Brussels under the Chairmanship of Mr Lappas, its President. Mr Thomson, Member of the Commission responsible for regional policy, attended part of the meeting. During the session, the Committee prepared eight opinions and one survey.

In a communication to Committee members, the Chairman announced the setting up of an ad hoc group by the office to examine the future role of the Committee in the European Communities institutions in the context of their development. This group consists of its President, the Vice-Presidents, Presidents of the three groups and three members from the new Member States; it must prepare a report which will form the basis of the position to be adopted by the Committee.

Opinions given by the Committee

Opinion on the *'draft decision by the Council on setting up a Committee of regional policy'*, on the *'proposed financial regulation for special provisions applicable to the European Fund for Regional Development'* and on a *'proposed regulation by the Council on setting up a European Fund for Regional Development.'*

2450. In the presence of Mr Thomson, this opinion was prepared on a report by Mr Ventejol (France, workers) and adopted unanimously except for two abstentions. The Committee was opposed to the fragmentation proposed by the Commission and on the contrary is in favour of a concentration of aids in regions where standards of living are well below the Community's average; the main criterion used in determining these regions is the gross interior product per inhabitant. The Committee has considered, moreover, the coordination of activities of the regional development fund and other Community Funds, in particular the EAGGF. It considers that the action of the

regional development fund should not be limited to a complement of political action but should cover also major schemes of the Community. Finally, the Committee requested that social and professional bodies might participate at all levels in setting up and applying regional policy. On behalf of the Commission, Mr Thomson acknowledged the need for consultation with social partners and local authorities; he stated that this question is to be discussed when the fund is set up because the development of regional policies implies new ways of thought and therefore an evolution in public opinion towards which the Economic and Social Committee can contribute largely.

Opinion on the *'Annual Report on the Community's economic situation'*

2451. By this opinion prepared on Mr Malterre's report (France, various activities) and adopted unanimously with ten abstentions, the Committee has approved as a whole the analysis of the Community's economic situation at the end of the summer of 1973 and the outlook for 1974. It shares, in particular, the Commission's view that measures of economic policy must have as high priority objective the lessening in inflationary pressure. According to the Committee, however, the fight against inflation should not be carried out by means of a 'sharp deflation' leading to a recession and increased unemployment. To slow down the rhythm in price increases, the Committee considers that expansion in overall demand and wage increases should be contained within the bounds of the capacity in production growth. It also notes, however, that it is difficult to ask the social partners to moderate their claims for safeguarding purchase power; a clear cut economic policy is essential. According to the Committee, budget equilibrium depends on the brake being applied to increased public expenditure rather than on higher fiscal revenue.

Opinion on the '*proposed Council regulation on oil and gas pipelines crossing borders*'.

2452. In this opinion based on a report by Mr Bonomi (Italy, employers) and adopted unanimously, the Committee considers that the text proposed by the Commission does not go into sufficient details and that the application of the proposal for opening to third parties the access to the oil and gas pipelines would meet with considerable administrative difficulties.

It suggests, therefore, that the Community restricts its interventions in the field to regulations of future installations.

Opinion on the '*Council proposed Directive for the coordination of certain provisions laid down by law, regulation or administrative action concerning provisions for non-salaried activities in the retail sale of medicine*'.

2453. This opinion prepared from the report of Mr Ramaekers (Belgium, various activities) was adopted with a strong majority. The Committee wonders if these proposals correspond to the present situation in the new Member States. Taking into consideration the extremely varied regulations depending on the Member States, a possible harmonization in this field should be gradual. So as to avoid psychological and social problems. The Committee suggested also conditions for setting up dispensaries.

Opinion on the '*Council proposed directive amending the Directive of 14 June 1966 on marketing beet seed, fodder plant seeds, cereal seed, and seeding potatoes, the Directive of 30 June 1969 on marketing oil seed and fibrous plant seed and the Directive of 29 September 1970 on marketing vegetable seed and the common catalogue of varieties and species of agricultural plants*' on the '*Council proposed directive amending the Directive of*

9 April 1968 on marketing reproductive vegetative vine material' and on the '*Council proposed second directive amending the Directive of 14 June 1966 on marketing reproductive forestry material*'.

2454. This opinion was prepared on the proposal by Mr Wick (Germany, employers) and adopted unanimously. The Committee approved these proposals for simplification whilst expressing the hope that the Commission will avoid an exaggerated perfectionism in the harmonization of national laws.

Opinion on the '*Council proposed directive on the approximation of Member States laws concerning weighing machines with running totals*'.

2455. The Committee unanimously adopted this opinion based on the report by Mr Lecuyer (France, various activities) and which approves the proposed Directive.

Opinion on the '*Council proposed directive on the approximation of Member States laws concerning the interior layout of motor vehicles (resistance of seats and of their anchoring points)*'.

2456. In its opinion based on the report by Mr Masprone (Italy, employers) and unanimously adopted, the Committee considered that the different aspects of the safety problem in interior layout of motor vehicles should be resolved generally.

Opinion on the '*Council proposed Directive on the approximation of Member States laws concerning cold water meters*'.

2457. By this opinion based on the report by Mr Lecuyer (France, various activities) and unanimously adopted, the Committee approved

the proposed directive. According to the Committee, the removal of technical obstacles in this sector calls also for standardization of the equipment and testing methods.

2458. The Committee has moreover unanimously decided to send to the Commission and to the Council its survey on 'the application of a common regional policy'. This document is a basis for opinions the Committee will be called upon to give on the subject and underlines the need to place immediate actions in a long term concept of guidelines for regional policy.

European Investment Bank

Bonds issued

2459. The European Investment Bank has concluded a contract for a 60 million dollar bond issue.

The bonds have been underwritten by an international banking syndicate.

The bonds will have a maximum term of 15 years and will bear interest at 8% payable annually. They will be offered to the public at 99½% and will have a yield of 8.06%, calculated on the basis of their total lifetime. Redemption will be in 15 annual installments by purchase on the market at prices not exceeding par. Bonds not purchased will be redeemed at par at term. Advance redemption of the entire issue is authorized as from 1978 at a decreasing premium.

Application will be made to list the bonds on the Luxembourg, Milan and New York stock exchanges.

2460. Moreover, the European Investment Bank issued a bond loan for 1 500 million

Belgian francs. It has been underwritten by a syndicate of Belgian banks.

The bonds will carry a nominal interest rate of 7.75%, payable annually, and will be offered for public subscription at 98.25%. The yield of the bonds on the basis of the issue's total life of 12 years will be 8.03%.

The issue is redeemable by repurchase at rates not exceeding par. Bonds not purchased will be redeemable at 101% at term on 7 November 1985. The European Investment Bank reserves the right to redeem at par all bonds in circulation between 7 November 1978 and 7 November 1984.

Application will be made to list the bonds on the Brussels and Antwerp stock exchanges.

This loan is the European Investment Bank's eight public issue in Belgium.

Loans Granted

Italy

2461. The European Investment Bank has granted a loan of the equivalent of 18 000 million lire (24.3 million u.a.) to SAIPEM S.p.A., of the ENI Group as a contribution to the financing of two semi-submersible platforms for hydrocarbon exploration at sea. SAIPEM specializes in drilling work on hydrocarbon prospecting and exploitation, pipeline laying and the assembly of petroleum extraction plant.

The platforms, built by a shipyard in the Federal Republic of Germany, are each about 105 meters high and weigh 12 000 tonnes. They were designed according to the most advanced techniques, they can be used in waters up to 300 meters deep with great safety and stability in the most difficult condi-

tions. The two platforms have their own equipment to exclude all risk of water pollution. The acquisition of the new platforms will add to the experience and fairly limited technical resources of European companies in an area which is assuming ever-increasing importance in the Community's energy supplies.

The total cost of building and commissioning the platforms is estimated at 46 000 million lire. The EIB's loan is guaranteed by the ENI.

United Kingdom

2462. The European Investment Bank is to lend 14.7 million pounds sterling (30 million u.a.) to the British Steel Corporation at rate of interest of 8½% per annum for the Corporation's investment programme on Teesside.

The Corporation's development strategy includes the construction of a modern complex capable of producing more than 12 million tonnes of steel a year on the bank of the Tees. Part of the development is the commissioning of new burden preparation facilities.

The project will stabilize employment and provide jobs in a development area where unemployment remains above the national average. It will also create additional temporary local employment during the construction period.

This is the second EIB loan operation with borrowers in the United Kingdom.

Financing Community Activities

Strengthening the Budgetary Powers of the European Parliament

2463. Following the Opinion issued on 5 October by Parliament, the Commission amended certain points in its initial draft.¹

Multiannual Financial Forecasts 1974-1976

2464. In accordance with the Decision of 21 April 1970, the Commission has prepared the financial forecasts on income and expenditure of the Community budget till 1976 based on figures of the 1974 preliminary draft.

These forecasts were completed and adopted after the Council had fixed the 1974 draft budget on 21 September, so as to take amendments into account.

These amendments covered in particular operating expenses and expenses of the Social Fund; they resulted in a reduction in overall expenditure from 6 500 million u.a. to 6 394 million u.a. in 1975 and from 7 174 million to 7 064 million u.a. in 1976.

The Commission approved the estimates on 22 October and sent them to the Parliament and to the Council.

During the three years in question, overall anticipated expenditure shows an increase of 16% in 1975—taking into account for 1974 the 500 million u.a. for the Regional Fund which, for the record, have been written into the draft budget — and of 10% for 1976.

The increase in 1975 is due mainly to financial requirements for social action, expenditure related to developing countries and budgeting the EDF.

The relative importance of the overall EAGGF expenditure (Guarantee and Guidance) in relation to the total is 69% in 1974, 63% in 1975 and 59% in 1976. This reduction is due to foreseeable developments of new policies by the Community (Social policy, Regional Fund and developing countries).

On own resources, assuming the application of a uniform VAT from 1975 and, through this,

¹ Points 1501-1505.

the integral financing of the budget from these resources the Community VAT rate would be 0.38% for 1975 and 0.41% for 1976.

Related to the total, the various own resources are for 1975: customs duty 47%, VAT 40%, agricultural levies 13%; for 1976: customs duty 44%, VAT 43%, agricultural levies 13%.

Amendments to the 1974 Draft Budget

2465. As a supplement to the general draft budget of the European Community for the 1974 financial year, established by the Council on 21 September 1973 and sent to the Parliament on 5 October 1973, the Commission, following revaluation of the central rate of the Dutch Florin on 17 September 1973, transmitted to the Council on 19 September, a proposed Regulation on measures to be taken in the agricultural sector.¹ This Regulation provides for the participation of 8 500 000 u.a. by the Community for aid granted to Dutch farmers by the Netherlands Government, to be financed from the EAGGF Guarantee section credits.

Following this Proposal, an amendment to the 1974 draft budget is absolutely necessary: the 8.5 million u.a. must be added to credits currently written into the 1974 draft budget. The Commission therefore sent on 31 October 1973 to the budget authority the relevant corrective letter; this should enable the Council and the Parliament to take this into account in the context of the budget procedure now in progress.

Own resources

2466. The Advisory Committee on own resources held its ninth meeting on 22 October 1973. The Committee examined the half-yearly reports sent in by the various delegations under Article 13, para. 3 of Council Regulation

2/71 and took note of the Opinion of the Committee on Budget Policy on the document concerning the 1974-1976 financial provisions.² The Committee also examined the situation of own resources paid during June and July 1973 on the basis of the tables showing, in particular, the calculation of divergences between estimates and actual figures.

A mission from the Commission's departments was received by the Irish Administration as part of the auditing operation prescribed under Article 14 of Regulation 2/71.

In compliance with Article 35 of the financial Regulation, the Commission sent to the Council and to the Budget Committee of the European Parliament a report on the application of the budget. This report stressed the point concerning the application of new provisions on Community financing mentioned in the financial Regulation.³

ECSC Loans

2467. In October 1973, the Commission contracted a loan for 300 million Lux. Frs. (equivalent to 6 million u.a.). This is a private loan over 12 years at 8% per annum.

It made several private investments in Sw. Frs. for durations of five to seven years. The total amount of these investment is 190 million Sw. Frs. (equivalent to 46.5 million u.a.). Rates vary from 6.75 to 7.25% per annum.

As a result of these operations total loans contracted by the ECSC from the start of its activities now amount to 1 439.3 million u.a.

¹ Bull. EC 9-1973, point 2217.

² Bull. EC 9-1973, point 2491.

³ Bull. EC 4-1973, point 2416.

5. Political Cooperation

Statement on Cooperation made to the European Parliament

2501. Addressing the European Parliament, the President-in-Office of the Foreign Ministers Conference on European Political Cooperation, Mr Knud Børge Andersen, the Danish Foreign Minister, made a statement 'on the efforts made towards progress in political unification' during the session of 17 October. It was the third yearly communication on political cooperation to be heard by Parliament. In this statement, Mr Andersen said:

'People often talk of the slowness, the snail's pace, of the development of political cooperation but when I look back and re-read the two corresponding reports which my predecessors presented in 1971 and 1972 it seems to me on the contrary remarkable how rapidly developments are taking place in reality. Each report made to this assembly has thus been able to record considerable progress.

The first dealt with the Luxembourg Report, the fundamental document on which European foreign policy cooperation is based.

The second report dealt with the involvement of the applicant states in this cooperation and with the European Summit Conference in Paris which set landmarks for the development of the Communities in the present decade.

And today, Mr President, I therefore have the opportunity to give a further account of a considerable progress in our work: the new report on European political cooperation.¹

I would first like to give a short description of another matter of great importance for the building of Europe. I am thinking here of the three new Member States—including my own—which finally entered the European Communities on 1 January this year. This major event, seen superficially, was without consequence for polit-

ical cooperation, since the Nine had been concerned in cooperation at all levels, at ministerial level and at other official levels and had been taking part in the work since early 1972. But it was only formal membership which removed the temporary, provisional element from participation by the new countries and established links with economic cooperation within the framework of the Paris and Rome Treaties, as appears now, Mr President, in Paragraph 12 of the Second Report. I shall return to this subject later.

From this time too the acting Chairman has attended this assembly and its Political Affairs Committee and will also be meeting, later today, representatives of parliamentary life and of public opinion from all Nine Member States.

The Luxembourg Report, i.e. Report No 1, states, as we know, that these contacts have been established to give a democratic character to the construction of political union. This consideration appears to me to be of fundamental importance, and for that very reason I feel there are also grounds to underline that this democratic character can only be ensured if membership of the European Communities pursuant to the Rome Treaty is limited to countries with democratic views. This situation, Mr President, is in my opinion of some consequence for the desired image of this Community.

Second Foreign Ministers Report concerning Political Cooperation over Foreign Policy

The most important progress during last year in the field of political cooperation has been, as I stated before, the elaboration and adoption of the Second Report which I assume you are familiar with. The formal obligation to produce such a report is laid down in the original Luxembourg Report. According to the original

¹ Bull. EC 9-1973, Point 1, Chap. 2, Documentation Annex.

Luxembourg Report the new report shall contain an assessment of the results obtained through consultations and it shall be presented in the course of late 1972. Clearly this deadline has been exceeded but paradoxical though it may sound I believe that this is an indication of progress and not of sluggishness in cooperation. At the Summit Conference held in Paris in October 1972, at which the deadline was extended until 30 June this year, the Heads of State or Government were in fact in a position to extend the scope of the contents of this Second Report so that it also contained a description of methods which could make it possible to improve political cooperation. So whereas in 1970 one only dared to hope for a modest report on the state of affairs, it was possible in 1972 to expect with certainty a progress report in the true sense of the word. This development is reflected in the structure of the Second Report, their being, as we know, an appendix with a description of the results obtained: in my opinion, Mr President, this was worth waiting half a year extra for.

The elaboration of the report itself has been very thorough and takes consideration of Parliament's own very useful contribution, and I would like to take this opportunity of thanking Parliament for this contribution. After being prepared at government administration level, first by a group consisting of European liaison officers in the foreign ministries of the Member States, the so-called "Group of correspondents", and then the Political Committee—i.e. the political directors—it was approved with some minor alterations first by the foreign ministers, and subsequently, via a written procedure, by the Heads of State or Government.

In comparison with the original Luxembourg Report the Second Report is characterized by the underlying theme of European union. But the objective of political cooperation is unaltered. The main concern is to obtain regular information, regular consultations and harmonization of the positions of the Member States, the

second concern is harmonization of their attitudes and the third is joint action where this appears possible and desirable. As you can see this is a very flexible formulation, the advantage of which is that, without excluding later progress, on which states may agree, avoids setting targets which could appear unrealistically high or remote at the present time. My view, Mr President, is definitely that this pragmatic way of proceeding will prove in the long run to be the most fruitful.

As you will see the Second Report contains an obligation to consult on important topics affecting political cooperation. For this reason Part II (11), of the Report states that as far as this question is concerned each country accepts as a general rule that it will not finalize its position without having consulted its partners within the framework of political cooperation.

As you will see this commitment is only valid as a general rule. This formulation naturally takes into account the special situations in which each country may find itself.

As regards the topics to be discussed under the consultation commitment these are defined in the Second Report as the topics which might affect Europe, or Europe's interests—in our continent and outside it—and also Europe's interests in fields where a joint attitude is necessary or desirable. The specification of the topics which are contemplated here will have a positive effect by concentrating the work on problems of direct importance for the Nine.

The report also confirms the increased frequency of the meetings of foreign ministers which was laid down in the Summit Conference communiqué. This intensification has proved to be a true reflection of practical needs: the ministers have already held four meetings in 1973 and we shall in all probability be holding one more. The increased number of meetings of the Political Committee is also confirmed in the report.

One stipulation of special interest and importance for this assembly concerns the doubling of the number of colloquies between the foreign ministers and members of the European Parliament's Political Affairs Committee. This, in combination with the flexible procedure which has gradually been evolved for these colloquies, signifies that Parliaments members can become acquainted quickly with items which are being discussed within the framework of political cooperation, can ask for extra information, and inform the ministers of their views in a completely informal and confidential dialogue.

In this connection it should be noted that the Second Report enjoins the Political Committee to draw the ministers attention to proposals on foreign policy which have been adopted by the European Parliament.

As you will know a special section of the Second Report deals with relations between the machinery for political cooperation and for economic cooperation between EEC countries. It is maintained that political cooperation in the form of discussing foreign policy problems at inter-governmental level is distinct from the Community activity based on the legal obligations which the Member States have entered into in pursuance of the Rome Treaty; it is additional to that. Both forms of cooperation aim at contributing towards the development of the process of European unification.

On the other hand the report takes into account the fact that problems may have often both a political and economic aspect which should both be taken into consideration. The report lays down for this an information and hearing procedure under which firstly it is guaranteed that the Council shall receive a submission of the joint conclusions on political cooperation which are of interest for the work of the Community and secondly it shall be made possible for the EEC institution to be informed of the political aspects of problems which are under examination within

the framework of the Community. This shall be done by way of a report compiled by the political cooperation system. Conversely a representative of the Commission, as was already the case under the original Luxembourg Report, takes part in discussions of such questions arising within the political cooperation system which affect the activities of the Community.

It is not only in the procedural field, Mr President, that there has been progress in political cooperation. Since the Dutch Foreign Minister made his report here in Parliament the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe has, as we all know, become a reality. Both in the very lengthy, not always particularly simple, preparatory discussions in Helsinki and in the conference itself—the second stage of which as you know has just begun in Geneva—the ability and volition of the Nine to harmonize their attitudes has provided good solid proof of the value of cooperation on foreign policy. In my opinion the Nine were responsible to a great degree for the fact that the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe was arranged in a way which makes thorough discussion of all topics possible and thus increases the prospects of the one thing which is of interest: concrete results. It is therefore hardly an exaggeration to say that the Nine have made a decisive contribution to the hitherto successful progress of the Conference. One of the reasons for this, Mr President, has undoubtedly been that the Member States have sufficiently harmonized their points of views and there was never any uncertainty about where the Nine stood and what they stood for while at the same time they avoided any form of regimentation and any form of enslavement to specific formulas. This is my opinion is the the best example of European harmony and European cooperation.

Relations between the United States and Europe

Political cooperation has also shown itself to be particularly useful as a framework for the very

topical discussions on the relations between Europe and the USA. As far as the Community is concerned we started active discussion of this question in March of this year. Dr Kissinger's speech in April naturally endowed the subject with increased relevance. In the course of the summer the Nine Member States elaborated an introductory declaration to be made by the European Community and its Member States on the one hand and the USA on the other during a possible visit by President Nixon, and after a long series of Euro-American dialogues in New York in combination with the opening of the 28th General Assembly of the United Nations, during which I, among others, in my capacity as Chairman of the European Conference of Foreign Ministers had a dialogue with the American Secretary of State, Dr Kissinger, to find out his initial reactions to our draft declaration, this draft has now become the subject of negotiations between members of the EEC Political Committee and American officials. These negotiations are taking place in Copenhagen and the second stage is due to take place tomorrow.

Certain things about this development seem to me to be of particular significance and of particular importance.

The first lies in the fact that the Nine, in relation to the USA, have been capable of evolving a joint attitude which takes account of their desire to constitute a distinct entity and the wish to maintain the close link which binds the Nine to the USA. Subsequently the USA can be in no doubt that its European friends and allies wish to show, openly but at the same time with resolution and harmony, how they regard the future of transatlantic relations.

Secondly, the obtaining of this joint attitude by the Nine, rather than involving a strain on their mutual relations, has had a most positive effect in giving an impulse to the examination of what we call European identity. At this stage I would only like to say that the Nine consider-

ed that it was time to set to work defining the general ideals, principles, and objectives which the Nine acknowledge and which they want to try to observe and promote partly among themselves and partly in international politics. It goes without saying that the construction of the Community, the maintenance of the EEC as a group of democratic countries, and frankness in relations with the outside world constitute very central elements in these relations. I could go on to mention many concrete things in which European political cooperation has proved its value but I believe that I would be giving a truer picture of the situation if I restricted myself, as I have tried to do, to the main lines.

The Second Report, the new report, has still only been in force for a lesser number of weeks than the number of months during which there has been political cooperation between the Nine. It will therefore be realized that a reading of the report cannot be based on any impressive results obtained so far since it is a completely new report. But developments and the experience acquired have already shown that the Nine have the volition to make the most of the framework which has been created, and to attain the objective which it has set itself: a free and democratic European union.'

Declaration by the Nine on the Situation in the Middle East

2502. The gravity of events in the Middle East has led the Governments of the EEC Member States to discuss the situation in the light of political cooperation. Member States' Foreign Ministers issued the following Communiqué on 13 October 1973;

'The nine Governments of the European Community, greatly concerned over the resumption of hostilities in the Middle East appeal to those concerned to stop the fighting. The cease-fire which would spare the people suffering from the war from further tragic ordeals,

must at the same time open the way to real negotiations on an appropriate basis so that the conflict may be settled in compliance with all the provisions of Resolution 242 adopted on 22 November 1967 by the Security Council.'

The political consultations went on during the following weeks in the light of developments in the Middle East situation.

On 6 November the Foreign Ministers, on the basis of a draft finalized by the Political Committee, adopted the text of the following declaration:

'The Nine Governments of the European Community have continued their exchange of views on the situation in the Middle East. While emphasizing that the views set out below are only a first contribution on their part to the search for a comprehensive solution to the problem, they have agreed on the following:

(1) *They strongly urge that the forces of both sides in the Middle East conflict should return immediately to the positions they occupied on 22 October in accordance with Resolutions 339 and 340 of the Security Council. They believe that a return to these positions will facilitate a solution to other pressing problems concerning prisoners-of-war and the Egyptian Third Army.*

(2) *They have the firm hope that, following the adoption by the Security Council of Resolution No 338 of 22 October, negotiations will at last begin for the restoration in the Middle East of a just and lasting peace through the application of Security Council Resolution No 242 in all of its parts. They declare themselves ready to do all in their power to contribute to that peace. They believe that those negotiations must make place in the framework of the United Nations. They recall that the Charter has entrusted to the Security Council the principal responsibility for international peace and security. The Council and the*

Secretary General have a special role to play in the making and keeping of peace through the application of Council Resolutions Nos. 242 and 338.

(3) *They consider that a peace agreement should be based particularly on the following points:*

(i) *the inadmissibility of the acquisition of territory by force;*

(ii) *the need for Israel to end the territorial occupation which it has maintained since the conflict of 1967;*

(iii) *respect for the sovereignty, territorial integrity and independence of every state in the area and their right to live in peace within secure and recognized boundaries;*

(iv) *recognition that in the establishment of a just and lasting peace account must be taken of the legitimate rights of the Palestinians.*

(4) *They recall that according to Resolution No 242 the peace settlement must be the object of international guarantees. They consider that such guarantees must be reinforced, among other means, by the despatch of peace-keeping forces to the demilitarized zones envisaged in Article 2(c) of Resolution No 242. They are agreed that such guarantees are of primary importance in settling the overall situation in the Middle East in conformity with the Resolution No 242, to which the Council refers in Resolution No 338. They reserve the right to make proposals in this connection.*

(5) *They recall on this occasion the ties of all kinds which have long linked them to the littoral states of the south and east of the Mediterranean. In this connection they reaffirm the terms of the Declaration of the Paris Summit of 21 October 1972 and recall that the Community has decided, in the framework of a global and balanced approach, to negotiate cooperation agreements with those countries.'*



3RD PART

**INFORMATION
AND SOURCES**

1. From Day to Day

From Day to Day

3 September 1973

3101. Taking advantage of the enlargement of the European Community, the Common Market footwear industry has changed its Liaison Committee (CLEIC), formed in 1958, into the *European Confederation of the Footwear Industry* (CEC). This body now groups together the manufactures associations of Belgium, Denmark, France, Germany, Ireland, Italy, the Netherlands and the United Kingdom. The CEC will be the spokesman for the Community footwear industry at international level and will devote itself to developing and promoting the industry at Community level.

4 September 1973

3102. The *European Telecommunications Conference*, which goes on until 14 September, opened in Leon (Spain). Its basic objectives are to improve technical services and the relationships of the twenty-six countries taking part.

5 September 1973

3103. In London a report on the United Kingdom's entry into the Community and on economic relationships with the developing countries was presented to the press. The report was drawn up by the *Select Committee on Overseas Development* directed by Sir Bernard Braine (Conservative). The report claimed that instead of taking a global approach regarding aid to the developing countries, the Community had followed regional criteria by aiding a limited number of countries, namely the Former French colonies in particular. Moreover, in allocating the aid the Community should have reckoned with the needs of the countries concerned rather than with their ability to submit financially viable projects.

These remarks led the writers of the report to prod the British Government into taking action to modify on this issue, if the Government did not wish the Commonwealth nations (especially the Asian countries) to find themselves, with regard to the aid they are receiving in a less happy situation than they enjoyed before Great Britain joined the Common Market. The basis of the association would obviously expand if the Commonwealth countries, who had the option of doing so, decided to join as well. But the Committee Members (both the Marketeers and anti-Marketeers) went further than that. They wanted the association policy to represent no more than a *transition stage* towards a genuinely global development policy.

Great Britain's actions will have to prove the sincerity of the British Government's intentions when it claims that its accession to the EEC must also be in the interest of the most impoverished countries.

6 September 1973

3104. Addressing the Danish Parliamentary Committee responsible for Community issues, Mr *Nørgaard*, the Danish Minister for External Economic Affairs, declared that the Danish Government was opposed to the Treaty of Rome being amended to strengthen the controlling authority of the European Parliament and that in any case any possible minor amendments on this point should have the assent of the Danish Parliament.

3105. By 4 922 000 votes against 4 452 000, the British TUC approved a motion in Blackpool reaffirming its opposition to Great Britain's entry into the European Community. So British union delegates will not share in the proceedings of the European institutions, in particular the Economic and Social Committee.

Mr *Feather*, the retiring General Secretary who is also President of the European Confederation of Trade Unions, stated that this decision would be taken amiss by the Community trade unions who see it as a British refusal to join them in correcting the defects of the EEC. The various unions are still keeping their right to be represented when they consider there are grounds for it. Some of the big unions, in particular the miners and metal workers, are already represented in certain EEC institutions.

7 September 1973

3106. The American authorities have lifted the bulk of the restrictions, decided last June and later relaxed, on exports of soya beans, vegetable or animal oil and other cattle feeds. From 8 September contracts will be fully discharged. But exports will still be subject to the granting of licenses up to 1 October when all restrictions will be lifted.

3107. As part of the programme of official contact with the Governments of all Member States, Mr *Ortoli*, the President of the Commission, met the President of Ireland, Mr *Erskine Childers*, her Prime Minister, Mr *Liam Cosgrave*, and other Irish leaders. Their talks bore mainly on regional, agricultural and social policy. Mr *Ortoli* tried to reassure his hosts concerning the allocations for Ireland from the European Regional Development Fund, and he stressed the interaction of various Community policies for sectors from the angle of aid for the underfavoured regions.

The Irish Minister for External Affairs, Mr *Fitzgerald*, said:

'We have here life on a human scale, a personalized approach to problems and a sense of caring that can lighten human burdens. These qualities, and the Christian values underlying them, are at this time overshadowed by the

events in Northern Ireland, some of which have overflowed into our part of the country. But notwithstanding the present cruelty and viciousness of these few, Ireland has something to offer Europe, and Ireland will play her full part in the building of a worthwhile socially just society in our continent.'

3108. Mr *Jørgensen*, the Head of the Danish Government, made a private visit to Brussels. On the occasion he also talked with Mr *Ortoli*, President of the Commission. The discussions were basically intended to take stock of achievements in the programme set by the Paris Summit. The programme is to be entirely completed between now and the end of the year, i.e. during Denmark's half-year of Council Presidency.

9 September 1973

3109. Chancellor *Willy Brandt* received the Aspen (Colorado) Institute Prize as a tribute to his lifelong devotion to the principles of freedom for the human personality. In 1971 the Prize was awarded to Jean Monnet.

3110. In Interlaken, Switzerland, Mr *Lardinois*, Member of the Commission, responsible for agriculture, expressed his views to the General Assembly of the European Confederation of Agriculture. He appealed to the Nine to have done with the polemics over the European commitment of certain Member States. In his view the construction of Europe could not go on without political agreement and this could not be confined to agriculture either: 'parallel integration in other sectors is the pre-requisite for consolidating what has been achieved and for future development. The real problems facing Europe will not recede because of the polemics over the future of the common agricultural policy.' On this issue, Mr *Lardinois* defended the basics of the policy

applied up to now: 'the price and market policy which we have followed has resulted in a spectacular development of trade both within the Community and with third countries. The introduction of a common structural policy will help to speed up the improvement in the growth of incomes.'

Moreover, it was wrong to attribute the rise in the cost of living to the agricultural policy for it had helped to stabilize the prices of foodstuffs and in the current world market situation it was working more to the consumer's than to the producer's benefit. Mr Lardinois felt, however, that improvements were possible and necessary for certain quarters, by which he meant restoring the balance of several markets, cutting down the costs of the EAGGF and streamlining market organization.

10 September 1973

3111. According to Mr *Richard Butler*, Vice-President of the National Farmers Union of Great Britain, 'there can be no question of abandoning either the basic principles or even the mechanisms' of the CAP which was working better than was often claimed. But to improve it further still, British farmers were preparing a report with some suggestions.

3112. The 19th assembly of the North Atlantic Treaty, which will run until 14 September, opened in Brussels. Mr *Jean Rey*, former President of the Commission, as Honorary President of the Belgian Atlantic Association, opened the proceedings. He stressed the role of the European Community and the Atlantic Alliance for peace in world: 'To belong to one and the other means pursuing conflicting but complementary aims. This is why one does not have to be a bad European to be a good Atlantist, nor be a bad Atlantist to be a good European.'

Mr *Luns*, the Secretary General of NATO, said that Europe and the United States were 'condemned to succeed' in their relations. 'Thanks to a larger unit,' Mr Luns said, 'a point of view that is more clearly European is beginning to emerge. It may be that this phenomenon is engendering a regrettable climate of *rivalry and competition*. Furthermore, he went on, the problem is becoming all the more acute at present in that the growing unification of Western Europe and the affirmation of its own personality are becoming evident primarily in the economic sector, whereas we still have nothing to compare with this either in the sphere of its political unity or in the domain of its military strength. *This lack so far of political unity is likely to prove a grave obstacle to finding a solution to the problems that are posed between Western Europe and the United States, thus aggravating the dangers of discontent and feelings of frustration*'.

3113. In Copenhagen, Mr *Simonet*, Vice-President of the Commission responsible for energy questions, talked over the energy programme of the Nine with Mr *Jensen*, the Danish Minister for Energy and Trade, and with Mr *Haekkerup*, the Minister for the Economy. For Mr Simonet this was the start of a tour of the European capitals.

12 September 1973

3114. The Belgian Premier, Mr *Leburton*, and the Foreign Minister, Mr *van Elslande*, met the Dutch Prime Minister, Mr *den Uyl*, and the Foreign Minister, Mr *van der Stoep*, in Brussels. The meeting was one of the regular contacts between the Belgian and Netherlands Governments.

Regarding European affairs, both Governments hoped that the *decisions taken by the Paris Summit* would be carried out within the dead-

lines laid down. They held that accomplishment of the Economic and Monetary Union must go hand in hand with increased powers for the European Parliament. They also considered that Benelux must be intensified and decided that a government conference assembling the three partners would be held during 1974.

3115. The Commonwealth Parliamentary Association Conference opened in London. After the official opening speech by *Queen Elizabeth*, Mr *Heath*, the British Premier, said that Britain was determined to see that the Community showed itself both helpful and understanding regarding the real and permanent interests of the Commonwealth nations.

13 September 1973

3116. The Executive Committee of the *European Federation of Metallurgists* (FEM) decided to affiliate the great majority of British metal-lurgy unions, representing a total of 1.4 million workers. The Committee appointed Mr David Fowler as Assistant Secretary of the FEM.

17 September 1973

3117. The General Secretaries of the French and Italian Communist Parties, Mr *Georges Marchais* and Mr *Enrico Berlinguer*, had talks during which they affirmed the resolve of their parties to contribute 'to the construction of a democratic Europe of workers and peoples.' Mr *Marchais* and Mr *Berlinguer* also reaffirmed the commitment to 'encourage the dialogue and understanding between the Communist Parties and Socialist Parties of western Europe, and between the democratic forces of the Left.'

18 September 1973

3118. In her speech from the throne at the opening of the States General session, *Queen*

Juliana of the Netherlands spoke of European policy, saying:

'The Government wants to see a European Community founded more on the wellbeing of its citizens, vested with extensive powers and genuinely democratic structure and following an open policy allowing for the interests of the developing countries.

At the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe and during the forthcoming negotiations on the reciprocal and balanced reduction of military forces in central Europe, the Government will strive to reach special and firm agreements on the broadening of contact between the peoples of Europe and a real sealing down of military confrontation. A note will give all the necessary attention to curbing the armaments race and deliberately cutting down the role of nuclear weapons.

The Government considers that an active dialogue is required between the United States and Europe on their future cooperation. The Government intends to stimulate concertation within NATO concerning the possibilities for easing tension between the East and the West and promoting respect for the rights of man throughout the lands covered by the Treaty. Continuance of all the current assignments of the Dutch armed forces is more and more encountering financial difficulties. Within NATO the Government has raised the issue of a better allocation of assignments between Member States. Proposals on the size and shape of the Netherlands' defence over the years ahead will be laid before you towards the end of the year in the form of a note on defence.'

19 September 1973

3119. Mr *Georges Pompidou*, President of France, made an official visit to China during

which he had talks with President *Mao Tse-Tung*, the Prime Minister, Mr *Chou En-Lai*, and other Chinese leaders.

At a Press Conference during his visit to China, Mr Pompidou speaking of Europe's attitude towards the super-powers, said:

'France does not favour any hegemony. Our attitude and especially that of General de Gaulle, was hostile to the hegemony of one country. Were it a dual or even triple hegemony arising here, there or anywhere our attitude would be the same. We support neither the hegemony of others nor one of our own, since we are aware that it would be overambitious. Europe is a considerable force but we do not believe that, for western Europe, the future lies in the quest for hegemony, neither do we believe it to be the underlying interest of others.'

The Communiqué issued at the close of the official talks had this to say concerning Europe:

'Both parties have examined the situation in Europe. China supports the efforts made by the European peoples to preserve the independence, sovereignty and security of their respective countries and on this basis to unite in order to preserve their joint security. Faithful to her alliances France is pursuing a policy aimed at easing tension and promoting understanding and cooperation between all the peoples of the continent and at the same time directed towards building a real European Union between the nine Member countries of the European Economic Community.'

3120. One of President *Nixon's* close colleagues said that the President was hoping to concentrate on domestic American problems until the end of the current session of Congress and that the date of his next trip to Europe was now very uncertain.

A few months ago, Mr Nixon had declared that 1973 would be the 'year of Europe' and had anticipated a tour in October without giving

any further details. It is now believed in Washington that the President will not come to Europe before next year.

26 September 1973

3121. In his address to the United Nations General Assembly, *Chancellor Willy Brandt* speaking of European unification had this to say:

'National selfishness is no protection, far from it: it thwarts any form of solidarity which in the last analysis is the soundest guarantee of natural and legitimate national interests.

We should not speak of 'young' nations or 'old' nations. It is more realistic to call them young and old nationalisms.

Ours, in Europe, are old although several centuries are but little historically speaking. But believe me, the mad dream that a nation's destiny can be fulfilled only through an unbridled nationalism has gone forever. We have learnt painfully that there must be more sensible, more truthful ways of live for nations and that indeed there are: namely by respecting the principle of good neighbourliness.

The States of western Europe have decided to found the first regional community which is more than a traditional alliance but which does assume subservience to any ideology. Our goal over this decade is to reach economic and monetary union, and unification of social regional and, as the times require it, security policy.

The fact that the Federal Republic which I represent is a member of the United Nations strengthens Europe's presence there. We are convinced that this benefits others as well.

The European Community can become an example of economic success and social balance. It intends to be a power free of any imperialist claims. The European Union will be a power for peace and open towards the world.

In her constitution the Federal Republic has declared her readiness to relinquish a part of her sovereignty to supra-national institutions and she has put international law before national legislation with regard to directly applicable law. This means that the sovereignty of individuals and nations can be guaranteed only within big communities and that the national State can in today's world no longer claim to embody the sense and fulfillment of history.'

3122. During a press conference, the American Secretary of State, Dr *Henry Kissinger*, spoke of 'the draft Declaration of principle between the United States and the European Community and its Member States', adopted on 10 November in Copenhagen by the Foreign Ministers of the Nine. Mr Kissinger had this to say:

'With respect to the Declaration that the European Nine have developed, and that was presented to me yesterday on behalf of the Nine, by Foreign Minister Andersen of Denmark, let me say that the United States recognizes that this first attempt by Europe to speak with one voice on a political matter in transatlantic relationships is an event of the greatest significance. The United States in the post-war period has consistently supported the emergence of a European identity, and we therefore welcome the fact that Europe has now organized itself well enough so that it can speak to us with one voice. It may be that in historical retrospect, this meeting of the European Nine in Copenhagen will be seen as one of the decisive events of the post-war period. At the same time, the United States, of course, reserves the right to its own opinion with respect to the outcome of these deliberations. They were not presented to the United States on a "take it or leave it" basis. They were presented to us in a spirit of partnership as the opening of a dialogue.'

27 September 1973

3123. During his press conference, the French President, Mr *Georges Pompidou*, took a position on several features of European policy. In reply to the question whether a European Union was more than a Community and whether it would be a stage on the way to a kind of European State, Mr Pompidou said, 'It is a question of adjectives. European Union or European Community can mean the same thing, but it so happens that the Community is called "Economic" and the European Union of which we have defined the main lines at the Summit Conference, does not carry that adjective. Consequently, it transcends, it will transcend the economic problem and that must mean that it will emerge on the political level. That is the most difficult part, of course. We are six, and now nine States with different traditions, different conditions and different habits and it is not easy to harmonize policies. There will be no real European Union until the day when there is a European Policy and believe me, contrary to what people think, France is not against it, anything but. *And if, for instance, it is held that to develop more swiftly, political cooperation must, from time to time, not too often, but certainly regularly, be handled at top-level and only at top-level, I myself support this and am prepared not only to take the initiative but also discuss it with our partners.* If we actually succeed in getting a European policy towards all the others, all the third countries, then the way will be open.

With regard to democratic control, well, that is a difficult business. Every time solutions are proposed, their inadequacy is easily seen. I will simply put it this way: that as long as there is no real European executive, there can be no real European Parliament. This does not reduce the scope for development of the Strasbourg Parliament's action but it does

mark the boundaries within which Parliament's action must be contained.'

Asked about the question of European defence, Mr Pompidou said: 'I gave an answer just now and will not say any more. The day we have a European policy, there will inevitably be a problem of European security and therefore defence. But we must not put the cart before the horse. For the moment the efforts by each of our countries, be they alone or within the Atlantic Alliance, are finally converging to help Europe's security. Thus as I have already said, this security is also tied to the United States alliance and therefore the presence of American troops in Europe. That is obvious and does not contradict any Gaullist or non-Gaullist formula: but the question of an independent, genuinely independent and self-sufficient European defence is not for today.'

1 October 1973

3124. During the first reception at the Brussels Embassy of the People's Republic of China, senior Chinese officials declined to make any comment on possible representation to the Community.

2 October 1973

3125. In an interview with 'Le Monde' Mr Aldo Moro, the Italian Foreign Minister, asked about the present state of 'inter-European' relations, said:

'Thinking of the great common heritage but at the same time of the long series of clashes and strife underlying the history of the European nations, we cannot fail to be gratified at the level of agreement which the post-war generations, including our own, have managed to reach.

Of course, we must go on striving for better mutual understanding. To get the best from our common aims and prospects, there is still a long way to go. In the realm of the Community in particular, even if an agreement is natural and necessary, we must see that it applies outside any ideologies and to the practical options as they arise. A European reference system with its own force of attraction is becoming more and more imperative to take the place of national disciplines linked merely for the sake of expediency.

This process is neither swift nor simple. But let us try and move forward with great concern for balance and great respect for everyone. Essentially we must all reach the goal together.'

3 October 1973

3126. President Kekkonen authorized the Finnish Government to sign the Free Trade Agreement with the European Communities.

3127. During the visit to Paris of Mr Giovanni Leone, President of Italy, Mr Pompidou, President of France, recalled that at his press conference of 27 September¹ he had said he supported regular meetings 'at the highest level' in the Community. But the French Government did not want to take this initiative alone. Mr Leone and the Italian Foreign Minister, Mr Aldo Moro, paid 'careful attention' to this suggestion.

4 October 1973

3128. The Annual Conference of the British Labour Party rejected almost unanimously Great Britain's admission to the Community

¹ Point 3123.

on the terms negotiated by the Conservative Government. They also decided that the Party should continue its boycott of the European Parliament.

11 October 1973

3129. The new China Press Agency has opened an office in the European Community.

3130. After the meeting in Paris on 27 and 28 September between a delegation from the German Social Democrat Party (S.P.D.) and leaders of the U.D.R., the Secretariat of the French Socialist Party decided to protest to the S.P.D. executive. Mr *Georges Sarre*, the national Secretary of the Socialist Party, explained: 'When Chancellor Brandt and President Pompidou meet, they act within the framework of diplomatic relations and as Heads of State or Government. But when the German Social Democrat Party, despite our firm representations, surrenders to the invitation of a reactionary party, our main opponent, we consider that it is acting not only inappropriately but also unjustifiably from the angle of international solidarity.'

3131. The principal Members of the Federal German Government met on Thursday at Dinklage, Lower Saxony, to try and determine the Federal Republic's line of action for the forthcoming negotiations within the EEC on *reforming the common agricultural market*. The 'agricultural cabinet' which besides Chancellor Brandt, includes the Minister for Foreign Affairs, the Minister of Finance and Economy, began, on the terms of Mr Grunewald, Deputy Spokesman of the Bonn Government, to review ways to reform the common agricultural market but without jeopardizing its principles. The 'cabinet' meeting will wind up today.

Mr Helmut *Schmidt*, the Federal Minister of Finance, more or less defined the Federal Republic's position even before the meeting opened. In an address given in Milan, Mr Schmidt rebutted a 'renationalization' of the common agricultural policy but asked for a 'closer control' of the Commission's expenditure in all sectors including the CAP. Although he did not refer directly to the financing of the common agricultural market, the Finance Minister did suggest the creation of a 'European Financial Commissioner' and the introduction of medium-term financial programming for the EEC.

He stressed the fact that the new resources for the EEC coming as from 1975 from a breakdown of various national VAT revenue should be limited and not exceed 1% of the proceeds of this tax in the various Member Countries.

Lastly, Mr Schmidt asked for closer surveillance of expenditure decided by the Commission and the Council and also condemned the use of 'budgetary extensions.'

13 October 1973

3132. The British Prime Minister, *Edward Heath*, used his closing speech to the Conservative Party conference at Blackpool to launch a proposal that the Heads of Government of the Nine should attend an EEC summit meeting once or twice a year. Their aim would be to provide strategic direction to the Community's external and internal policies and lift discussions above the level of administrative controversies.

17 October 1973

3133. Mr *Malagodi*, Chairman of the Italian Liberal Party, made a speech in Milan in which he declared that on a proposal by the Italian Liberals, the Liberal Internationale had decided to lay before its Congress in Florence in 1974

some firm projects for relaunching political Europe.

The European League of Economic Cooperation on the initiative of Mr *Jean Rey*, former President of the Commission, has put out a report in Brussels which advocates reforms in the working of Community institutions.

23 October 1973

3134. Mr *Giovanni Leone*, President of Italy, accompanied by the president of the Council, Mr *Mariano Rumor*, made an official visit to the Netherlands. In a speech on Dutch television, Mr Rumor said:

'Italy and the Netherlands are in complete agreement on the basic objectives. Both countries are therefore continuing to act in close harmony in pursuing the construction of Europe, both at political level and from the angle of Community integration so that the Europe of Nine may finally reach the stage of full economic and social integration. To succeed, we consider it necessary to keep to the main lines laid down at the Paris Summit last October, especially with regard to regional policy and the Economic and Monetary Union.

On the first point the Summit decided to set up a Regional Development Fund scheduled to become operational by 31 December 1973. On the second point, it was agreed that during 1973 the necessary decisions would be taken for transition into the second stage of the Economic and Monetary Union on 1 January 1974, with the aim of accomplishing the Union by 31 December 1980 at the latest.'

3135. The General Secretary of the OUA (Organization for African Unity), Mr *Nzo Ekangaki*, who on his return to Brussels attended the opening session of the EEC-AASM negotiations over Protocol 22, said that 'the

real beginning of discussions with Europe on the basis of a joint front is a huge step forward and a milestone on the way towards complete African unity. The importance of Brussels for the OUA lies in the fact that by negotiating a mutual economic destiny we are laying the foundations of an African economic integration which is a sine qua non of African unity.' Mr Ekangaki added: 'We were very happy with the current climate in Brussels of close cooperation and active collaboration with the Caribbean and Pacific regions.'

24 October 1973

3136. During his official visit to France, Prince *Juan Carlos*, the successor designate of General Franco, was received by President *Pompidou*. During his meeting with the French President, the Prince affirmed that Spain must 'inevitably collaborate towards the big continental project of our time: the formation of a politically and economically integrated Europe.'

26 Octobre 1973

3137. Mr *Jean Rey*, former president of the European Commission, issued a stirring call to France to abandon its negative approach to European unity and resume the leadership of Europe which it exercised 20 years ago.

It was obvious, Mr Rey said, that a community of 250 million inhabitants which already accounted for 40 per cent of world trade, was called upon to play a leading role in the world affairs.

What was lacking, in his view, were two things and one of them was a mechanism of decision. The European Economic Community in its first years was something which had to be negotiated. Now it no longer needed to be

negotiated but to be governed. Yet nothing had changed since 1952. The mechanism of the Community was still a mechanism of negotiation.

The second defect was the absence of political will. If Europe wanted to be something, it depended on Europe alone. The prophetic spirit of the 1950s was lacking.

Yet the progress in the past five years, since General de Gaulle's veto of 1967, was enormous. 'But we have great need of France, its imagination, its political wisdom, and we feel it is a little too preoccupied with its own international affairs', Mr Rey said. The French attitude to Europe recently had been rather negative. Two great European creations, the Council of Europe and the Community, had been due to French initiative.

'But', Mr Rey went on, 'when one wants to elect a European Parliament by direct suffrage, or introducing majority decisions in the Council of Ministers, France opposes it. I appeal to France to resume the leadership of Europe. It was uncontested 20 years ago. Why should she not resume it tomorrow? I say this in a spirit of hope, not of criticism.'

30 October 1973

3138. On the occasion of the State opening of the new Parliamentary session, *Queen Elizabeth* of Great Britain speaking to both Houses, said that the United Kingdom 'will play its full part in encouraging the development of the European Community in compliance with the programme laid down at the Summit of October 1972.'

3139. During his official visit to Belgium, the President of Italy, Mr *Giovanni Leone*, talked with Mr *Ortoli*, President of the Commission, and with the Permanent Representatives of the Member States. He presented to Mr

Ortoli and the Ambassadors a 'Declaration' by which Italy reaffirmed the basis of her European policy.

Mr *Leone* first welcomed the 'initial progress made towards transforming the Common Market into an authentic Community of peoples' and stressed that the Community would 'of necessity have to be extended further and further at political level' by making a 'decisive qualitative forward leap'. The President then described, as follows, Italy's position in the present circumstances with particular reference to the decisions which must be taken between now and the end of the year:

'We take as our reference the programmed charta for the years ahead, as laid down by the Paris Summit Conference last year. This laid down the transition to the second stage of the Economic and Monetary Union, with all its consequences and implications for coordination and convergence of short-term economic policies and monetary policies as well as the interrelated regional, social, industrial, scientific, technological, energy and environment policies which are involved in intensifying integration with regard to the start of a major effort at Community level in the sectors. Here I would stress the particular significance, not only for Italy alone but for the Community as such, of intense social and regional policy action at Community level. In the Europe we want to build, social justice, the right of dignity and security in employment and human fellowship must take pride of place.

To accomplish this programme, Italy considers that the European Parliament must share more closely and directly in the legislative activity of the Community. Italy would like to see Parliament 'elected as soon as possible by universal suffrage.' At the same time, the Community would have to move forward 'along the road of constant searching for joint positions in the big international dialogue.'

2. Published in the Official Journal

Published in the Official Journal

This tabulation covers the numbers of the Official Journal published during September 1973

European Parliament

1973-1974 Session

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Annex 165
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Minutes of proceedings of the sitting of Tuesday, 18 September 1973
C 83, 11.10.1973

Oral Question 75/73 with debate by Mr Bertrand on behalf of the Political Affairs Committee to the Council of the European Communities: Meetings of the Council and of the Foreign Ministers of the Member States
C 83, 11.10.1973

Minutes of proceedings of the sitting of Wednesday, 19 September 1973
C 83, 11.10.1973

Question Time

Questions put to the Council of the European Communities:

— 79/73 by Sir Douglas Dodds-Parker: Relations between the People's Republic of China and the Community

— 80/73 by Sir Tufton Beamish: Need for a Political Secretariat

— 82/73 by Mr Noè: European Committee on Research and Development

— 86/73 by Mr Cousté: Relations between the EEC and COMECON

— 95/73 by Mr Laban: Council Meeting in Tokyo

Questions put to the Commission of the European Communities:

— 70/73 by Mr Schmidt: Transport costs incurred for part-sessions of the European Parliament in Strasbourg

— 71/73 by Mr Müller: Other expenditure incurred by holding part-sessions of the European Parliament in Strasbourg

— 72/73 by Mr Fellermaier: Review of the Decision of 8 April 1965 on the provisional location of certain institutions and departments of the Community

— 73/73 by Mr Lautenschlager: Advantages of concentrating the Community institutions at a single centre

— 74/73 by Mr Seefeld: Proposals for concentrating the institutions of the European Communities at a single centre

— 81/73 by Lord Reay: Location of the Commission and the Parliament

— 83/73 by Mr Behrendt: Annual report by the Commission on the location of Community bodies

— 84/73 by Mr Spénale: Budgetary implications of butter exports to the USSR

— 85/73 by Mr Brewis: Cereal harvest 1972 and 1973

— 87/73 by Mr Van der Hek: Application of the system of generalized preferences to East European countries

— 88/73 by Mr Springorum: Information on computer programmes

— 89/73 by Lord O'Hagan: Harmonization of professional qualifications

— 92/73 by Mr Yeats: Food supplies and needs inside the EEC

Oral Question 91/73 with debate by Mr Vals on behalf of the Socialist Group to the Commission of the European Communities: Statements made by the French Minister of Agriculture

Resolution on an amendment to Rule 7 (1) and (5) of the Rules of Procedure of the European Parliament, concerning the election of the President and Vice-Presidents of the Parliament and an amendment to Rule 41 (5), concerning elections for the Bureaux of the committees; and on a corresponding amendment to Rule 35 (6), concerning the voting procedure in the case of appointments

Oral Question 78/73 with debate by Mr Scott-Hopkins on behalf of the European Conservative Group to the Commission of the European Communities: Supplies of soya beans and other proteins for animal feeds

Opinion on the proposal for a Directive concerning the harmonization of the laws of the Member States with regard to coffee and tea extracts and their substitutes, including chicory and blends based on these extracts

Opinion on the proposal for a Directive on the approximation of Member States' legislations on aerosols

Opinion on the proposal for a Directive amending the first Council Directive on the establishment of certain common rules for international transport (carriage of goods for hire or reward)

Opinion on the proposal for a Directive amending and supplementing certain directives following the enlargement of the Communities

Minutes of proceedings of the sitting of Thursday, 20 September 1973
C 83, 11.10.1973

Resolution on draft rectifying and supplementary budget 2 of the European Communities for the financial year 1973

Resolution on draft rectifying and supplementary budget 3 of the European Communities for the financial year 1973

Resolution on draft rectifying and supplementary budget 4 of the European Communities for the financial year 1973

Opinion on the proposals

I. for a Regulation amending Council Regulation (EEC) 859/72 on the treatment to be accorded to certain fruit and vegetables originating in Associated African States and Madagascar or in the Overseas Countries and Territories

II. for a Regulation amending Council Regulation (EEC) 860/72 on the treatment to be accorded to certain fruit and vegetables originating in the United Republic of Tanzania, the Republic of Uganda or the Republic of Kenya

Opinion on the proposal for a Regulation amending Regulation (EEC) 2721/72 relating to the supply as food aid of skimmed-milk powder

Opinion on the proposal for a Regulation concerning the importation into the Community of certain agricultural products originating in Turkey

Opinion on the proposal for a Regulation temporarily and partially suspending the autonomous duty in the common customs tariff on almonds of subheading 08.05 A II

Annex to the minutes of the sitting of 20 September 1973: Draft supplementary and amending budget 4 of the European Communities for the financial year 1973 modified by the European Parliament

Minutes of Proceedings of the sitting of Thursday, 4 October 1973
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Minutes of Proceedings of the sitting of Friday, 5 October 1973
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Resolution on the measures taken by the Council to improve its decision-making

Opinion on the Communication on the strengthening of the budgetary powers of the European Parliament

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Questions put to the Council of the European Communities:

— 104/73 by Mr Cousté: Space Conference of 31 July 1973

— 105/73 by Lord O'Hagan: Migrant workers

— 107/73 by Mr Radoux: Report on European Union

Questions put to the Commission of the European Communities:

— 102/73 by Sir Derek Walker-Smith: Accountancy and company practices and procedures in the proposed European Company

— 103/73 by Mr Brewis: Patents Office in Munich

— 106/73 by Mr Leonardi: Study of the Community economy

— 112/73 by Mr Willi Müller: Manufacture and marketing of aerosol glues

— 113/73 by Mr Walkhoff: Injurious effects of 'aerosol glues'

— 114/73 by Mr Kater: Joint action to prevent the manufacture and marketing of 'aerosol glues'

Resolution on a proposal to transfer appropriations from one chapter to another within Section III 'Commission' of the budget of the European Communities for the financial year 1973

Written questions and replies

Written Question 642/72 by Mr Memmel to the Commission of the European Communities

Subject: Obstacles to imports of Bavarian milk into Italy (Supplementary Answer)
C 85, 13.10.1973

Written Question 716/72 by Mr Vredeling to the Commission of the European Communities

Subject: Common agricultural policy
C 85, 13.10.1973

Written Question 73/73 by Mr Vredeling to the Commission of the European Communities

Subject: Difficulties connected with milk supplies from Bavaria to Northern Italy
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Written Question 75/73 by Mr Vredeling to the Commission of the European Communities

Subject: Supersonic aircraft
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Written Question 98/73 by Mr Vredeling to the Commission of the European Communities

Subject: Vocational training for migrant workers
C 85, 13.10.1973

Written Question 108/73 by Mr Jahn to the Commission of the European Communities

Subject: Approximation of legislation on postal charges
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Written Question 113/73 by Mr Vredeling to the Commission of the European Communities

Subject: Administrative costs in the hop sector
C 85, 13.10.1973

Written Question 127/73 by Mr Dewulf to the Commission of the European Communities

Subject: Harmonization of EEC/USA trade statistics
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Written Question 135/73 by Mr Mursch to the Commission of the European Communities

Subject: Hindrances to traffic in goods and services caused by customs strikes
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Written Question 142/73 by Mr Hougardy to the Commission of the European Communities

Subject: Frauds at the expense of the EAGGF
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Written Question 144/73 by Lord O'Hagan to the Commission of the European Communities

Subject: Legal status of migrant workers
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Written Question 147/73 by Lord O'Hagan to the Commission of the European Communities

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Written Question 152/73 by Mr Cousté to the Commission of the European Communities

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Written Question 155/73 by Mr Cousté to the Commission of the European Communities

Subject: Legislation relating to chiropractic
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Written Question 162/73 by Mr Seefeld to the Commission of the European Communities

Subject: Variations in road traffic speed limits
C 85, 13.10.1973

Written Question 233/73 by Sir Douglas Dodds-Parker to the Commission of the European Communities

Subject: Increase in sales of milk and dairy products
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Written Question 234/73 by Mr R. Johnston to the Commission of the European Communities

Subject: Community Alcohol Regime
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Written Question 237/73 by Mr Corona to the Commission of the European Communities

Subject: Representation of the 'Commission de Concertation Permanente des Organisations de Défense des Exploitants Familiaux' on the advisory committees
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Written Question 238/73 by Mr Della Briotta to the Commission of the European Communities

Subject: Community contributions to the raising of cattle of the brown Alpine breed
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Written Question 239/73 by Mr Scott-Hopkins to the Commission of the European Communities

Subject: Production and consumption of cereals, cows in milk, heifers in calf — 1973/74
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Written Question 93/73 by Mr Cousté to the Council of the European Communities
 Subject: Implementation of a common policy on international fishery questions
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Written Question 199/73 by Mr Dewulf to the Council of the European Communities
 Subject: Exchange rates used in implementing the budget
 C 87, 17.10.1973

Written Question 236/73 by Mr Spénale to the Commission of the European Communities
 Subject: Brief to negotiate agreements with the Mediterranean countries
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Written Question 527/72 by Mr Vredeling to the Commission of the European Communities
 Subject: Staffs of the customs services of the Member States
 C 89, 25.10.1973

Written Question 156/73 by Mr Cousté to the Commission of the European Communities
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Supplementary Answer to Written Questions 527/72 and 156/73
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Written Question 666/72 by Mr Wohlfart, Mr Ariosto, Mr Della Briotta, Mr Gerlach, Mr Giraud and Mr Vredeling to the Commission of the European Communities
 Subject: Building loans to European officials
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Written Question 10/73 by Mr Vredeling to the Commission of the European Communities
 Subject: Prices of agricultural land in Ireland and Denmark
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Written Question 60/73 by Mr Jahn to the Commission of the European Communities
 Subject: Powers of the European Communities in the area of environmental protection
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Written Question 66/73 by Mr Cousté to the Commission of the European Communities
 Subject: Sale of EEC butter stocks to the USSR
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Written Question 90/73 by Mr Girardin to the Commission of the European Communities
 Subject: Italian Memorandum on EEC employment policy
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Written Question 99/73 by Mr Vredeling to the Commission of the European Communities
 Subject: Schooling of migrant workers' children
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Written Question 112/73 by Mr Vredeling to the Commission of the European Communities
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Written Question 115/73 by Mr Vredeling to the Commission of the European Communities
 Subject: Export of Spanish oranges to the Netherlands
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Written Question 121/73 by Mr Vredeling to the Commission of the European Communities
 Subject: Production of margarine in the Soviet Union
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Written Question 123/73 by Mr Vredeling to the Commission of the European Communities
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Written Question 124/73 by Mr Vredeling to the Commission of the European Communities
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 C 89, 25.10.1973

Written Question 129/73 by Mr Cousté to the Commission of the European Communities
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 C 89, 25.10.1973

Written Question 134/73 by Lord O'Hagan to the Commission of the European Communities
 Subject: Minimum income of aged persons in Member States
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Written Question 157/73 by Mr Cousté to the Commission of the European Communities
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Written Question 168/73 by Mr Cousté to the Commission of the European Communities
 Subject: Liaison office in Japan and other South-East Asian countries
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Written Question 170/73 by Mr Cousté to the Commission of the European Communities
 Subject: Harmonization of names of branded pharmaceuticals
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Written Question 177/73 by Mr Girardin to the Commission of the European Communities
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Written Question 179/73 by Lord O'Hagan to the Commission of the European Communities
 Subject: Participation of European Parliament in formulation of social policy
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Written Question 183/73 by Mr Müller to the Commission of the European Communities
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Written Question 94/73 by Mr Vredeling to the Commission of the European Communities
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Written Question 139/73 by Mr Seefeld to the Commission of the European Communities
 Subject: Carriage of goods by sea to third countries
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Written Question 159/73 by Mr Brewis to the Commission of the European Communities
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Written Question 163/73 by Mr Baas to the Commission of the European Communities
 Subject: Blockade of Belgian and French waterways
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Written Question 178/73 by Mr Cousté to the Commission of the European Communities
 Subject: Harmonization of the conditions for mergers of undertakings within the Community
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Written Question 188/73 by Mr Jahn to the Commission of the European Communities
 Subject: Discharge of waste water into Community estuaries and coastal waters
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Written Question 260/73 by Mr Cousté to the Commission of the European Communities
 Subject: Creation of the European Institute for the Protection of the Environment
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Written Question 325/73 by Lord O'Hagan to the Commission of the European Communities
 Subject: Coverage of the European Parliament by ORTF
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Informations

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— PE/8/A German-speaking Administrators,

— PE/9/A Dutch-speaking Administrators,

published in the Official Journal of the European Communities, C 17 of 22 February 1972
 C 82, 9.10.1973

Council and Commission

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Regulation (EEC) 2633/73 of the Council of 1 October 1973 temporarily and partially suspending the autonomous duty in the Common Customs Tariff on almonds of subheading 08.05 A II
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Regulation (EEC) 2671/73 of the Commission of 27 September 1973 altering the monetary compensatory amounts
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Regulation (EEC) 2672/73 of the Commission of 1 October 1973 fixing the levies on cereals and on wheat or rye flour, groats and meal
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Regulation (EEC) 2676/73 of the Commission of 27 September 1973 fixing the rates of the refunds applicable from 1 October 1973 to sugar and molasses exported in the form of goods not covered by Annex II to the Treaty
L 275, 2.10.1973

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L 276, 3.10.1973

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L 276, 3.10.1973

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L 276, 3.10.1973

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Interim Agreement between the European Economic Community and Turkey consequent on the Accession of new Member States to the Community
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Regulation (EEC) 2692/73 of the Commission of 3 October 1973 fixing the premiums to be added to the levies on cereals, flour and malt
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L 278, 4.10.1973

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Regulation (EEC) 2696/73 of the Commission of 2 October 1973 establishing the standard average values for the valuation of imported citrus fruits
L 278, 4.10.1973

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L 278, 4.10.1973

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L 278, 4.10.1973

Regulation (EEC) 2699/73 of the Commission of 3 October 1973 amending the amounts applicable as compensatory amounts for cereals and rice
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Regulation (EEC) 2700/73 of the Council of 4 October 1973 amending Regulation (EEC) 2721/72 on the supply of skimmed-milk powder as food aid
L 279, 5.10.1973

Regulation (EEC) 2701/73 of the Commission of 4 October 1973 fixing the levies on cereals and on wheat or rye flour, groats and meal
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Regulation (EEC) 2702/73 of the Commission of 4 October 1973 fixing the premiums to be added to the levies on cereals, flour and malt
L 279, 5.10.1973

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L 279, 5.10.1973

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L 279, 5.10.1973

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L 280, 6.10.1973

Regulation (EEC) 2716/73 of the Commission of 5 October 1973 fixing the premiums to be added to the levies on cereals, flour and malt
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¹ This section concerns information on the execution of projects financed by the European Development Fund.

In the light of the technical difficulties in translation, during the present internal organization of the Community, and the transitional measures of the Act of Accession which, on the one hand, exempt the new Member States from the financial contribution to EDF and, on the other hand, do not confer on their nationals the right to participate in the execution of EDF projects, these texts are only being published in the German, French, Italian and Dutch editions. Nevertheless, for the information of our readers we include the texts of the French edition.

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— Corrigendum to OJ L 269, 26.9.1973: published in OJ L 280, 6.10.1973
— Corrigendum to OJ L 262, 19.9.1973: published in OJ L 283, 10.10.1973
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— Corrigendum to OJ L 292, 19.10.1973: published in OJ L 293, 20.10.1973
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Notice of invitation to tender for the delivery fob of common wheat flour pursuant to Commission Regulation (EEC) 2679/73 of 1 October 1973
C 79, 2.10.1973

Notice of a standing invitation to tender for the purpose of determining denaturing premiums for white sugar for feeding bees (7/1973)
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Notice of the standing call for tender of the l'Azienda di Stato per gli interventi nel mercato agricolo (AIMA) for the transfer of pears withdrawn from the market to the distillation industry
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Notice from the Office Belge de l'économie et de l'agriculture (OBEA) of invitation to tender for the costs of delivery of 2 000 metric tons of skimmed-milk powder to Bangladesh as food aid
C 91, 30.10.1973

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