

Bulletin
of the
EUROPEAN
COMMUNITIES
Commission

No **6**
1975
8th year

The Bulletin of the European Communities gives details every month (eleven numbers per year) of the activities of the Commission and of the other Community institutions. It is edited by the Secretariat of the Commission of the European Communities (rue de la Loi 200, 1049 Brussels) in the official languages of the Community and also in Spanish.

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The Supplements are published separately as annexes to the Bulletin. They include the official texts of the Commission (communications of the Council, reports, proposals) of the documents published under the double responsibility of the Council and of the Commission. The Supplements are not published in Spanish.

BULLETIN OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES

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

**Commission of the European Communities
General Secretariat
Brussels**

**no. 6
1975
8th year**

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2/75 Stocktaking of the common agricultural policy

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*4/75 Statute for European companies (amended proposal for a
regulation)

5/75 Report on European Union

*6/75 Development and raw materials—Problems of the moment

* In preparation.



1ST PART
EVENTS AND
STUDIES

1. The Commission's report on European Union

European Union

1101. In response to the request from the Heads of Government,¹ the Commission, on 25 June, adopted its report on European Union,² which it addressed to the President-in-Office of the European Council, Mr Liam Cosgrave, the Taoiseach of Ireland. A copy of this report, analysed below, was sent to the Presidents of all the Community institutions.

1102. Alive to the changes which have come about following the 1972 Summit Conference, since when the economic crisis and changes in international relationships European integration has come to a standstill, and has even regressed and although the time is not yet ripe for setting out precise aims, the Commission feels that some consideration as to what European Union might consist of is neither premature nor meaningless; the same view was taken by the Heads of Government, who at their meeting in Paris last December confirmed 'their 'desire to agree as soon as possible on an overall concept of European Union'.

Although the Commission fully recognizes the need for, and value of, efforts by the Member States and worldwide cooperation, it believes that a real European Union is the right context in which to achieve the aspirations of peoples desiring at once security and change and to regain together the independence we have lost alone; no new action can be taken otherwise.

Union will be impossible unless there is a return to the basic principle underlying the Community—that of conferring competence on common institutions in areas where Europe's prosperity, progress and influence in the world would thereby be enhanced.

The Commission is convinced that Union can only emerge from a wide-ranging political debate. But simply debating the nature of Union will not be enough to bring it about. It is through quick responses given without constraint to the problems of the day, within the

framework of the existing Treaties, that the Community will be able to advance towards that Union which is the ultimate objective of all we are doing today. In preparing for the future, we must make maximum use of the resources of our existing institutions, which must be reinvigorated and made more democratic with all possible speed. The early election of the European Parliament by universal suffrage will be a shot in the arm for the Community.

Nature and scope of European Union

1103. On the terms of the Paris Declaration of 1972, *all* of the relations between the Member States are to be transformed into a European Union. The Commission holds that this definition must embrace those areas which can now or later be the arena for systematic and permanent cooperation between all the Member States (within the Community framework, under the political cooperation arrangements, etc.).¹

The need for coherence in exercising the competences of the Union led the Commission to contemplate a *single organization*, which, however, does not mean that matters, according to their nature, cannot be dealt with within the Union by different legal methods or regulations.

Certain *general principles*, values common to all the Member States, often affirmed for that matter in the existing Treaties and in the official statements from meetings of Heads of Government, form the basis of the Union. Stamped with a *legal and geographical coherence*, which

¹ Summit Conference in Paris (19-20 October 1972), Copenhagen (14-15 December 1973) and Paris (10 December 1974).

² The complete text of this report is reproduced in Supplement 5/75 — Bull. EC.

means that its institutions discharge their authority in each area within their province, for all of the Member States the Union will be the international manifestation of European identity defined by the Copenhagen statement of 1973.

The need to ensure the political cohesion of the Union will probably mean vesting it with more extensive competences than those now exercised at European level. But as in the Communities at present, the tasks assigned to the Union will be *only those which the Member States cannot effectively accomplish*. The areas of Union competence will be determined in its Act of Constitution, the others will still be attributed to the Member States.

There will be a certain number of *exclusive competences* of the Union, which will include an area already under the exclusive competence of the Community, namely commercial policy.

Between the exclusive competences of the Union and those attributed to the Member States, there remains an intermediate zone where *concurrent competences* of both can coexist. The Union will act as the need arises; the Member States remain free to act in those areas where the Union has not intervened. This is what has happened, in the Communities today, in respect of the common agricultural policy.

Lastly, the Union should command certain *potential competences*. Their discharge by the Union could not apply at the outset, but when the time is ripe, and would then require the explicit consent of the Member States, and this, in the major instances, would mean either using the respective constitutional procedures or approval by the national Parliaments. The Governments would agree in the Act of Constitution that these competences might be discharged at the right time by the Union and would undertake to refrain from any moves which might impede this development.

The process of transferring certain competences to the Union must not, for all that, prevent greater *decentralization*. Furthermore, certain decisions of the Union would have to be shaded according to specific regional, national or local conditions.

The need for action and experience of the present Treaties, the admittedly cumbersome procedures for harmonizing national laws via directives, the short-comings of plain policy coordination methods, all justify vesting the Union's institutions with such *direct powers* of decision and control, in discharging its competences, as the Community presently disposes over narrower fields. This does not rule out the use of the *directive* as an instrument, which can be retained by the Union for affairs where binding rules can be confined to basic issues.

The Union's institutions should also command greater *resources for financial initiative* than those now available, and enjoy a *judicial function* to be developed from the present responsibilities of the Court of Justice.

Lastly, matters may arise where it is not yet possible or necessary to vest the Union with individual powers. In this case, systematic cooperation within the Union could serve.

Substance of the Union's Competences

1104. The Commission's report endeavours to deal with questions of major political significance for the future of the Union.

The construction of an integrated economic and social unit

The Union must continue working for the primary Community objective: economic and monetary union.

In monetary matters, the eventual achievement of monetary union is still a precondition for pursuing internal economic integration and for ensuring the Union's cohesion towards the world at large. The ultimate objective must therefore be to bring monetary policy within the Union competence. One way of doing this would be to take the coordination of economic policies and the Community exchange system a stage further, while at the same time gradually developing a new monetary instrument peculiar to the Community, issued by the Union's monetary authority and initially used solely for transactions between central banks. The responsibility for introducing the new monetary instrument would be entrusted to the EMCF, a forerunner of the future monetary authority, with the necessary political control being exercised by the institutions of the present Community.

In the budgetary field, if the Union is to play a really worthwhile role in managing the economy and reforming structures, it will have to have a larger budget which is sufficiently flexible to allow of prompter responses to changes in the needs of the Union as a whole. The increase in expenditure from the Union's budget ought not in itself to speed up the rate at which public spending as a whole is growing. Frequently it will make possible economies in national budgets and a more rational utilization of resources. As regards financing the Union budget, the objective should be a system of own resources—a fair system, and an equitable one from the point of view both of the burden on national economies and from the social point of view.

As regards improving economic structures and eliminating economic disequilibria, direct action by the Union should be desirable where new problems arise directly at Community level. The Union should also be in a position to finance schemes or policies which are specifically common in nature. This type of action should wherever possible gradually supersede the

method of financing national programmes carried out by the Member States. A key area for direct economic intervention is that of regional policy and town and country planning. Research policy could be another.

In social affairs, the Union should primarily play its part in inducing steady harmonization, and in some instances, act directly. National and regional authorities will thus be free to act autonomously in many sectors.

The Union will also have to steadily apply uniform schemes of minimum social welfare, which would not prevent the Member States from setting more ambitious objectives. In certain areas (migrant workers for example) the Union could carry out jointly financed policies via direct legislation. In others (working conditions and industrial democracy) scope for Union legislation would speed up and facilitate the development of new values common to the European company. Lastly, by strengthening its own financial action (in unemployment benefits), the Union could act directly to rectify the most serious disequilibria.

Foreign policy

The need to ensure, when dealing with the outside world, that the common policies pursued inside the Union are effective and that Europe can take the place it deserves means that a common foreign policy of the Union must be developed, a policy which must be a final objective meaning direct responsibility for the Union institutions.

There will of course be some issues which will be left entirely to the competence of the Member States, but many of these will come under the *concurrent competence* of the Member States and the Union. The Union will exercise this only as the need arises, which means that for a very long time and perhaps indefinitely the

competence might be exercised only by the Member States. But thought must be given at the outset to extending the competence of the Union in respect of cooperation agreements, international investments, credit policy, etc. and in certain spheres connected with economic integration... Likewise, as already sanctioned for the Communities by the 'AETR' judgment, the Union must have competence on the same issues and similar powers *vis-à-vis* the outside world to those relating to its internal development. Moreover, development policy will be one of the privileged forms of the Union's integrated action. Furthermore, the Union must play the role implied by its international personality in such activities as regular diplomatic contacts and moves towards specific international action. Just how this common policy is to be reflected and find practical application in diplomatic activity in foreign capitals and international organizations will also be a matter for study and implies that the Union, where need be, might well establish its own diplomatic representation.

Defence

As the Commission sees it, it is impossible to discuss any real European Union without raising the question of defence. However, an integrated defence policy can only be considered if progress is made in foreign policy and in enhancing the ability of the Community to act as one. Defence should therefore be regarded as a potential competence. Meanwhile the Union should tackle certain urgent problems like the arms industry, and regardless of when the Treaty establishing the Union comes into force, regular consultations should be held on questions of defence.

Protecting human rights

The democratic character of European Union means that protection of human rights is a

cornerstone of the new political edifice and the operation of its institutions. A list of specific rights should accordingly be embodied in the Act of Constitution and, in extending what can already be done in the Community, an open right of individual appeal should be provided against any act whose adoption infringes those rights.

The institutional structure of European Union

1105. The Commission has not yet felt able to make really concrete suggestions in this area. The solutions eventually adopted will depend on developments of which it is now difficult to assess the consequences, notably the direct election of the European Parliament. The Commission has therefore examined a number of approaches as a contribution to future discussions.

The institutional system of the Union will have to be based on a single structure, covering all the fields of competence given to the Union, each function being exercised by the same organ in whatever field. European Union will not dispose of the need for a dialogue between institutions responsible for the common interest and institutions representing national interests, which has been the feature of the Community. If the institutions of the Union are granted extensive powers of their own, the elected European Parliament must be given greater powers. At the same time, the legislative and governmental functions of the Union will have to be defined in a more rational manner.

However, the setting up of a complete institutional structure from the outset does not mean that the structure itself must be definitive. The aim would be to set up the political organs required to enable the Union, over a period which will be rather long, gradually to assume effective responsibility in its various fields of competence.

As for the organization of legislative and executive power, the Commission feels that the choice between the various possible options is of a primarily political nature. However, it feels that the most suitable model once European Union was fully under way would provide for a governmental organ to be a collegiate body, whose members would be independent of the national governments, absorbing all the executive functions of the Council and the executive and administrative functions of the present Commission and its power of initiative.

For the legislative branch, a bicameral system seems indispensable (Chamber of Peoples and Chamber of States, the latter designated by the national governments). However, the Commission feels that during a short transitional period there should be an additional institution—the Committee of Ministers—in which the representatives of the governments would have a seat and whose duties would include taking part in the procedure by which certain decisions of the European Government were adopted. The Heads of Government would play a crucial role as progress was made towards Union.

Lastly, mindful of the Court's Opinion of 15 July 1974, the Commission is assembling a number of Proposals on the judiciary, and the review of legality and institutionality within the Union.

To reach European Union

1106. The Union will begin exercising its new competences only gradually over a fairly long period; the Commission would prefer not to set deadlines in advance, since it considers that the implementation of new common policies will depend largely on considerations of realism and of political balance. The definition of these new competences and changes in the institutional system would nevertheless have to be made from

the outset, which means that the Union would have to be based on an act of constitution set down in the form of a new Treaty ratified by the Parliaments of all the Member States.

How should the new Treaty be produced? The Commission would prefer not to answer this question for the moment. It will wait and see how the political debate on European Union develops and for the moment has confined itself to setting out two possible formulas: either the new Treaty would be drafted by a conference of representatives of the Member States or this would be entrusted to an elected European Parliament working on the basis of a mandate from the European Council containing general guidelines. In any event, the whole process will have to emerge from a new attempt to reactivate common policies on the basis of the existing Treaties.

2. Greece requests Community membership

Greece

1201. On 12 June, Greece, the first country to be associated with the EEC (the Athens Agreement dates from 1961) made a formal application to join the European Communities. This was set out in letters from the Greek Premier, Mr Konstantin Karamanlis, to Mr Garret Fitz-Gerald, the then President of the Council. The application was accompanied by several other diplomatic steps.

Presentation

1202. The Greek Government presented its application for Community membership and made statements thereon in Athens and Brussels.

Athens

1203. When he addressed the President of the Council, the Greek Premier, Mr Karamanlis, also declared in a communication to the Ambassadors of the Nine:

'Greece belongs, wishes to belong, to Europe, wherein lies her geopolitical position, her history and her tradition, which is the fountainhead of your countries' common cultural heritage.

What my Government has done today is simply the natural conclusion of the policy which I had mapped out fifteen years ago. The first stage of this policy culminated in the Athens Agreement, the first Association Agreement made by the European Economic Community.

The policy went into abeyance because of the dictatorship. Today, with democracy restored, Greece is voicing her wish to take what she feels is her rightful place in democratic Europe. At all events, the arrangements, set up by the Association Agreement were always designed, both by the Community and ourselves, as a provisional system in anticipation of membership.

Our request to join the Community is based on the developing relationships between Greece and the Community countries, and on the strength of the Greek economy's ability to integrate with the European economy. The Greek Government feels that

the Accession Agreement should provide for a five-year adaptation period, as stipulated for Great Britain, Denmark and Ireland.

Let me emphasize that Greece does not desire Community membership solely on economic grounds. Our request is inspired primarily by political considerations, considerations which focus on consolidating our democracy and the future of our country. The Greek people have faith in the mission of Europe, which for its achievement assumes that we must speed up the processes of unification already at work.

Greece wants to help towards unification and I think she can do so.

So I would ask your Governments to consent to our request and initiate the necessary procedures so that Greece may become a member of the European Communities.¹

1204. In a broadcast and televised message concerning the Greek Government's request for membership, Mr Karamanlis described it as an event of signal historic importance. He emphasized that it was inspired by the ideal of a united Europe to which Greece would contribute as far as she could.

The Accession negotiations would be hard and long, but Mr Karamanlis was convinced that the obstacles would be overcome and that by its acts democratic Europe would prove its political resolve to consider Greece as an inseparable member of Europe.

Brussels

1205. Again on 12 June, Ambassador Stephan Stathatos, Greece's Permanent Representative to the EEC and Head of his country's Mission to the ECSC and Euratom, handed the Greek Government's application to Mr Brendan Dillon, the Permanent Representative of Ireland, the country then chairing the Council of the Communities.

¹ Provisional translation.

On this occasion Mr *Stathatos* said:

'At this very same moment the Prime Minister of Greece, receiving the Ambassadors of the Member States in Athens, is conveying to them that our application is inspired by our firm and considered conviction that the development of the Greek economy as well as the evolution of our economic and commercial relations with the Community in the framework of our Association do allow us now to contemplate Greece's Accession to the Community for the near future.

But beyond economic considerations our application is based on the firm attachment of the Greek people and its Government to the European Community with which we share the same ideals and aspirations.

It is based on the ideal of a united Europe to which we aspire to become a fully-fledged member so as to contribute positively and actively to the attainment of its noble goals and objectives.

It is based on our earnest desire to consolidate democracy in Greece within the broader democratic institutions of the European Community of which Greece politically, economically and culturally forms part.

It is in this spirit that my Government submits its application for membership, convinced that it will be given careful and favourable reception and consideration by the Nine Governments, the European Commission and the European Parliament.'

1206. In his reply, Mr *Dillon*, the Chairman of the Permanent Representatives Committee, said:

'Barely a week after the referendum in the United Kingdom, the Community is again in the presence of an event of considerable historical significance.

In the light of the statements made by your leaders since Greece's return to the ideals which inspired those who negotiated the Athens Agreement, this event, already foreseen in the Preamble and Article 72 of that Agreement, comes as no surprise.

Despite the "freeze" which affected it for seven years this Agreement has already enabled us to go a long way towards achieving a customs union between Greece and the Community. From 1 July next, this customs union will cover a very large proportion of our trade. But considerable progress remains to be made in other areas, particularly as regards common policies.

In making this application, your Government proposes to move from its present position as an Associate to that of a Member State with all the rights and duties which that implies under the terms of the Treaty.

It is now a matter for the Council, having consulted the Commission, to take a decision on this application.'

1207. On 12 June, President *Ortoli* of the Commission received Mr *Stathatos*, Greece's Permanent Representative to the EEC, who officially informed him of his country's action.

Community Reactions

1208. Already on 12 June, the *Commission Spokesman* declared that the Commission could not but be favourably impressed by the fact that a European State wanted to take part in the construction of Europe. The Commission, which under the terms of the Treaty, is to give its Opinion on Greece's application would carry out its tasks with an open mind.

1209. At its meeting of 24 June, the *Council* agreed to acknowledge the letters in which Mr *Karamanlis*, the Greek Prime Minister requested Community membership for Greece. The Council also asked the Commission for its Opinion on this application.

1210. At the meeting of the Joint EEC-Greece Parliamentary Committee in Athens from 25 to 28 June,¹ the development of the Association and Greece's application for membership were treated in statements by Mr *Garret FitzGerald*, the President of the Council and Mr *Scarascia Mugnozza*, Vice-President of the Commission.

1211. Mr *FitzGerald* said it was a privilege for him to represent the Council of the European Communities at this meeting of the Joint Parlia-

¹ Point 2334.

mentary Committee, the first since democracy was restored in Greece. The Council had been closely watching the course of the political situation in Greece since the events of 1967, and he had been deeply moved by the tribulations of the Greek people.

The Community most heartfully welcomed the restoration of democracy in Greece and the 'reactivation' of the Athens Agreement. In this connection, Mr FitzGerald mentioned the developments in several spheres since the 'freeze' had been lifted from the Association Agreement. He referred to the decisions on harmonizing agricultural policies (especially for wine, fruit and vegetables), the Community's tariff policy towards non-member countries, the problems of financial aid and the possibility for Greece to maintain or introduce customs duties on imported industrial products (even from the Community) in order to protect her new industries. These measures had been adopted fairly quickly as a result of the climate of friendship and mutual understanding which had permeated the early years of the Association and which had now been regained.

With regard to Greece's application for Community membership, presented on 12 June, Mr FitzGerald said that, at its meeting in Luxembourg on 24 June, the Council of the Communities had asked the Commission for its opinion on Greece's request and decided to hold a preliminary debate thereon during September. The Council President indicated that he was empowered to say that Greece's application to become a fully fledged member of the Communities, now that democracy had been restored in Greece, had been warmly welcomed.

Mr FitzGerald did not give details on the time which might be needed for negotiations and ratifications, nor on the possible duration of the transitional period.

1212. Vice-President *Scarascia Mugnozza* of the Commission said he was glad to rejoin

Athens after the eight-year break in the meetings of the Joint Parliamentary Committee brought about by the dictatorship.

He felt that this meeting came at a doubly propitious hour: democracy was restored in Greece and she had just lodged her request for Community membership.

Speaking of the future, Mr *Scarascia Mugnozza* said concerning Greece's application, on which the Council had asked for the Commission's opinion, that this would be presented lucidly, fairly and with a searching appraisal of all the problems involved. He hoped that the procedure would be as short as possible, but stressed the need for a thorough scrutiny of the documentation so as to reach complete agreement within the Community. Work now in hand within the Association must go ahead, especially in respect of harmonizing agricultural policies and on financial aid for Greece.

The Vice-President pointed out that the affairs of Greece could be studied only against her own background, meaning the Mediterranean. Here he alluded to the parallel or divergent economic, and political, interests of the Mediterranean States.

He concluded that, in the light of this, we must try to solve the problems in the interests of Europe itself; and Europe's option could not be purely an economic one; it must also and primarily be political.

3. Raw materials, development and the United Nations

Raw materials, development, UN

1301. The Community's concepts, facing the problems of raw materials and of the developing countries, which had already been set out in a Communication of 22 May,¹ were treated in three new papers laid before the Commission in June.

The first of these Communications, transmitted on 5 June, was drawn up with an eye on the Seventh Special Session of the United Nations General Assembly (to run from 1 to 12 September). It analyses how the Community can help to solve the problems arising from a new international background. The other two, on 'product agreements' and 'stabilizing export earnings', of a more technical cast and presented on 13 June, give added point to the Commission's proposals in its May paper on the 'raw material problems in relations with the developing countries'.

These four papers, making up a set,² offer an overall concept, whose importance and political scope cannot be underestimated. They mirror an approach which would increasingly take in separate problems (raw materials, the developing countries, energy), whose interrelationship, pleaded by the developing countries at the Paris Preparatory Meeting in April,³ is steadily gaining recognition.

The Community, Cooperation and Development

1302. In drawing up this Communication, the Commission's main concern was to collate, in consistent and serviceable form, all the various constituents of Community and national policies representing mechanisms of economic cooperation to serve development, for the purpose of thereby defining a package of action and guidelines capable of specifying and spelling out against the background of UN work in international economic cooperation both the Community's role and Member States' unity of action.

Since the start in 1960 of the first United Nations Development Decade, international economic cooperation is gaining more and more significance in the work of the United Nations family.

The tendency is steadily growing to include such activities in programmes each of which is more structured than the previous one. Thus a clear-cut and detailed programme: International Development Strategy, adopted on 24 October 1970, stands at the head of the Second Development Decade.

Moreover, since the Sixth Special Session of the General Assembly in New York in April 1974 two new factors—the 'statement' defining the rules for a 'new international economic order' (to supersede the old power ratios), which emerged in practical guise as an 'action programme'⁴—have put their weight and scope behind the aims and objectives of international development strategy, which is to be tailored to those rules and that programme.

Three major features are in sight between now and the end of 1975:

- (i) a halfway appraisal and assessment of international development strategy by ECOSOC (the United Nations Economic and Social Council) at its meeting from 2 July to 1 August;
- (ii) the Seventh Special Session of the General Assembly, to convene in New York from 1 to 12 September;
- (iii) the Thirtieth Regular Session of the General Assembly, to open on 16 September.

Since the three meetings are closely interwoven and it is of paramount importance that they be approached consistently and with clearly defined

¹ Bull. EC 5-1975, points 1402 to 1405.

² Treated in Supplement 6/75 — Bull. EC.

³ Bull. EC 4-1975, points 1401 to 1409.

⁴ Bull. EC 5-1975, points 1301 to 1303.

basic options, which are the only guarantee for united action by the Member States, and the only way in which the Community can play an active role and make a positive contribution. Both of these are in accordance, not only with the responsibilities stemming from its very existence, but above all with its inherent political and economic interests, within the new vista of international economic relations and the new power relations deriving from these.

The Commission's main aim in its Communication is to delineate in solid and realistic terms what the Community can contribute. The Commission emphasizes the need for an 'overall approach', since the various cooperation mechanisms complement each other, but one which is shaded, in the sense that the various avenues of cooperation do not appeal equally to all categories of the developing countries, when it comes down to their peculiar problems.

Seen in this light, the Commission feels that the areas suggested for a Community contribution do comprise a balanced complex of themes attuned to the preponderant concerns of the developing countries. Apart from raw materials which will be examined further on,¹ these are:

International Trade

1303. Two lines of action are open to the Community:

(i) The *generalized preferences*: here the Community can point to its resolve to maintain and enhance its programme, in accordance with the Council Resolution of 3 March 1975.²

(ii) The *multilateral trade negotiations*: here the Community can confirm its intention to pay very special attention to the interests of the developing countries by considering their needs and individual economic situation.

This approach should emerge in:

(i) priority tariff and non-tariff treatment for tropical products;

(ii) joint quest for appropriate solutions to tailor the proportion of tariff cuts, or stagger them more effectively to meet the specific needs of the developing countries;

(iii) a special effort on the tariff side to substantially reduce the protection of added value for first-processing products;

(iv) consideration for the interests and problems of the developing countries in arrangements concerning food aid and market stabilization.

In this connection the Commission stresses the need to match measures affecting import arrangements with commercial cooperation projects, especially in respect of trade promotion. Experience has shown that it is not enough to formally open up markets to boost the developing countries' exports; they must also be given, especially the least favoured, the means to exploit the chances offered them.

Industrial Cooperation

1304. Here there are ample possibilities for speeding up the industrialization of the developing countries. It is still relatively uncharted territory, but may form a fruitful field of collaboration and concertation for all the interests involved.

A special effort should be made to integrate firms and entrepreneurs into industrial cooperation in a way which meets the interests of the developing countries. To this end the Community and the Member States should show that they are determined to cooperate with the gov-

¹ Point 1306.

² Bull. EC 3-1975, point 2318.

ernments of the developing countries, mount information, promotion and concertation projects, foster investment and other outside assistance and improve the terms for transferring technologies, while insisting on congenial conditions for outside firms and entrepreneurs.

At the same time, the Community must be alive to the consequences for those structures, if certain industries are remarshalled towards the developing countries. Hitherto reluctance to invest abroad has been due, for one thing, to fears that decisions to invest would act as a brake on the internal growth of the investing country. In so far as there is prolonged economic stability, the Community will be able to joint actively in industrial redeployment, which, moreover, will materialize in transferred growth of this or that industry, and not of entire sectors.

Transfer of Financial Resources

1305. The 'International Development Strategy' set clear-cut objectives for the transfer of real resources. From 1972, total transfers from the developed countries should amount to at least 1% of their GNP. In the case of the developing countries, since 1974, the Member States have been the prime source of *public development aid* and total transfers, thus taking over the longstanding role of the United States. Taken together, nevertheless, total transfers are still short of the target of 1% of GNP (0.87% in 1974), while the proportion of *public development aid* is still only 0.4% of GNP against the target of 0.7%.

So the Commission is calling on the Member States to reaffirm publicly their resolve to reach this target as swiftly as possible.

The Commission also emphasizes the need to rechannel the flow of public aid for the least favoured countries; and to rechannel aid or channel it more effectively according to *sector*,

so that in future more consideration is given to food aid requirements and the development of rural areas.

In the same vein, the problem of certain developing countries *running into debt* should be carefully considered case by case and lead to improved aid terms, notably through a higher proportion of donations, so that the terms can be better suited to the circumstances peculiar to each recipient country.

Regarding more effective use of available financial resources, the Commission is suggesting that the Member States and the Community launch an international project to build the structures needed to promote and materialize three-way *cooperation drives* dovetailing the surplus capital of the oil countries with the know-how and perhaps extra financial support of the developed countries.

Lastly, the Commission recommends positive stances within the *international financial institutions* and in liaison with the work to reform the international monetary system whenever the developing countries are to be afforded financing mechanisms more closely tailored to their needs, plus a more even share in decision-making.

Regularizing the Raw Materials Markets

1306. This matter has already been treated separately in the Communication to the Council of 22 May,¹ and the Commission proposes to take up the main recommendations in it. These were clarified in the two new Communications presented on 13 June.

Briefly the Community must define an overall approach towards adopting a lucid and constructive policy in respect of the claims of the

¹ Bull. EC 5-1975, points 1402 to 1405, and Supplement 6/75 — Bull. EC.

developing countries. This could be given shape by the following objectives: fair and profitable prices, which will not fluctuate too much, and will ensure a long-term balance between production and consumption; diversification of production and the development of raw materials processing in the developing countries themselves; stable export earnings for those countries; special treatment for the most impoverished lands; stability of raw material supplies for the consumer countries.

Seen from this set of Communications, the Commission would be actually mounting a 'tritych' to regularize the raw material markets.

Agreements by Product

1307. In one of its Communications which describes 'product agreements to limit excessive price fluctuations', the Commission thinks that such *specific agreements* should be made for *certain products*, on terms to be examined in detail.

The Commission feels that the existing agreements (for tin, cocoa, coffee, sugar, wheat and olive oil) have not always worked satisfactorily. This is possibly because they were designed solely to protect producers' interests in times of surplus. A broader policy perspective should help to improve operations. With this in mind, the Commission made proposals, within the framework of GATT, for agreements involving certain 'temperate zone' farm products.

The Commission believes that now is the time to define, through studies, those instances where it seems feasible to extend product agreements to cover raw materials. On this premise, such agreements could well be designed so as to accommodate the mutual interests of producers and consumers, with all that that implies in respect of joint stewardship and shared burdens.

After an initial investigation, the Commission finds that only a few products lend themselves to such agreements: *copper, zinc, lead, cotton and wool*. The lines of agreements could focus on the following two concepts:

- (a) Agreements with buffer stocks, managed jointly by exporters and consumers, with or without fixed maximum and minimum prices (probably the safest).
- (b) Agreements based on some kind of financial machinery (probably cheaper and very flexible, allowing combination with other arrangements).

Stabilizing Export Earnings

1308. The Commission has also proposed to the Council 'international action to stabilize export earnings' in which all the industrialized nations should participate, including state-trading countries and other countries with sufficient resources.

Defining the coverage of this scheme, actually introduced in the Lomé Convention, raises a ticklish problem with several possible solutions. The choice of countries to benefit could be based simply on selecting the products; another approach would focus the resources onto the poorest countries.

Mindful of the intolerable instability of export earnings for *the poorest developing countries*, the Commission suggests, as the initial approach, a scheme covering this category of recipients and *products which are of special value to them*. Since there is no ready-made list here, which fits the aim and requirements of the contemplated arrangements, the final selection of products will have to wait for a more detailed study of each case.

As to how the arrangements would work, this could be based on the formulae adopted in the Lomé Convention, to wit, application for re-

4. Energy: International and Community facets

Raw materials, development, UN

newable five-year periods; payment of reimbursable transfers free of interest; setting minimum dependence and fluctuation thresholds.

Compensatory IMF Financing

1309. Finally, the link-up between stabilizing export earnings from exported raw materials and international agreements is not enough to solve all the difficulties of export earnings which might confront the developing countries. So the Commission is thinking in terms of introducing a 'last resort', through the international community, in the form of compensatory IMF financing.

The IMF has successively set up three mechanisms for urgent use:

- (i) compensatory financing;
- (ii) the extended fund facility;
- (iii) the oil facility, due to expire at the end of 1975.

Without reducing IMF credit facilities for all IMF countries faced with sharp leaps in the prices of their imports of raw materials, these arrangements could be improved by:

- (a) increasing the scope of compensatory financing (larger amounts, easier access, lower rates, etc.);
- (b) turning the oil facility, or even all specific assistance from the Fund, into a 'raw material facility' of benefit in particular to the developing countries whose earnings from the sale of raw materials had dropped through no fault of their own.

An arrangement of this kind would be:

- (a) a second resort for developing countries qualifying for the international action to stabilize export earnings;
- (b) a first resort for the other developing countries.

1401. Energy problems, in their dual international and Community guise, are back in the limelight.

With the developments¹ since the April Preparatory Meeting in Paris,² the whole energy question hangs together, in various stances taken, with the raw material problems and relations with the developing countries, as, in fact, the developing countries would have it.

Against this background, the Commission, on 13 June, sent the Council three Communications on (i) 'the future of the dialogue begun at the Preparatory Meeting in Paris', (ii) 'the main foci of a policy for the development of energy resources in the Community and within the larger framework of international cooperation', and (iii) 'Community financing of the energy policy.'

Dialogue between the Oil-producing and Oil-consuming Countries

1402. In the Communication on 'the future of the dialogue begun at the Preparatory Meeting in Paris' from 7 to 16 April for the International Energy Conference, the Commission stressed that though this Meeting did not reach firm conclusions, the door is still open for the work to be resumed.

This was already evident in the final Communiqué from the Paris Meeting.³ The many contacts since made have shown that all concerned are eager to prepare for the dialogue to go ahead. This came out clearly at the international meetings between the industrialized nations which were held in Paris during the week of 25 to 30 May: the Governing Board of the International Energy Agency and the OECD Council of Ministers.⁴

¹ Bull. EC 5-1975, points 1401 to 1408.

² Bull. EC 4-1975, points 1401 to 1409.

³ Bull. EC 4-1975, point 1407.

⁴ Bull. EC 5-1975, points 1407 and 1408.

So, believing that the Community ought to make its own contribution to efforts in this direction, the Commission communicated its ideas to the Council.

In its Communication to the Council the Commission first states its views on the method to be adopted; the great thing is to agree to seek practical solutions to the outstanding problems; this would simplify efforts to work out the best way to run the dialogue.

So, in the tripartite dialogue between the industrialized, producer and other developing countries, equal attention should be paid to raw materials, development and energy. The position adopted at the European Council in Dublin should be amplified accordingly.

In its Communication, the Commission goes on to propose that a certain approach be adopted in several basic areas.

Raw materials

1403. The Commission reiterates the substance of the Communication of 22 May to the Council, in respect of the 'raw material problems in relations with the developing countries which export raw materials'.¹

Energy

1404. The mutual dependence of energy producers and consumers means that positive international concertation is a must. This first entails a joint study of the world energy outlook and the effects of various possible or already adopted policies.

A permanent setting for the dialogue should allow it to proceed effectively.

The Commission feels that the Community should call for cooperation between energy-ex-

porting and importing countries to develop along the following lines:

- (a) *exchange of information* on all matters to do with the production, consumption, operation, conservation and development of alternative energy sources;
- (b) *identification of the key energy problems for which the parties share responsibility:*
 - (i) stable and reasonable prices,
 - (ii) optimum use of resources and related economic activities,
 - (iii) development of substitute energy sources,
 - (iv) rational use of energy;
- (c) *industrial, technical and financial cooperation:* here the problem is to develop industrial activities linked to energy so as to avoid duplication and to direct the distribution of the oil-exporting countries' investment in such a way as to satisfy their economic ambitions and desire for profitability.

This cooperation, which will be mainly a matter for the business world, should cover transfer to the energy-exporting countries of equipment, techniques and know-how relating to oil and gas and other sources of energy.

Financial cooperation must necessarily cover the profitability and security of surplus funds invested by the oil-exporting countries in the industrialized countries. The Commission considers that a code of conduct in matters of investment should be drawn up.

Development policy

1405. Here the Commission reiterates the message of the Communication laid before the Council on 5 June, which spells out the Com-

¹ Bull. EC 5-1975, points 1402 to 1405, and Supplement 6/75 — Bull. EC.

munity 'philosophy' on cooperation and development policy, pending the Seventh Special Session of the United Nations General Assembly to run from 1 to 12 September 1975.¹

International Cooperation in Developing Energy Resources

1406. The Communication on 'the main foci of a policy for the development of energy resources in the Community and within the larger framework of international cooperation' was also presented to the Council on 13 June. It has already been debated at the Council meeting of 26 June.

Community policy on developing resources

1407. The Commission considers that the '1985 objectives' of Community energy policy, adopted by the Council on 17 December 1974,² will not be attained without a massive effort in investment. This can be reckoned at 180 000 or 240 000 million u.a. over the next ten years, depending on whether the Community's dependence on 'foreign' energy is to be reduced to 50 or 40%. So a policy must be designed which will foster investments in alternative energy and safeguard them for what they contribute to security of supply.

The Community policy for developing energy resources must therefore be mounted on two bases.

(a) The adoption of *specific measures* as incentives or support for producing forms of energy recognized as vital to security of supply. There are provisions in the Treaties allowing for incentives such as loans, loan guarantees, interest subsidies, reimbursable subsidies, support for technical and scientific research, guarantees of marketing outlets and subsidies. Community interventions through these instruments amount-

ed to 570 000 000 u.a. in 1974. The Commission also sent the Council various Proposals to consolidate them, i.e. authorizations to contract Euratom loans to finance nuclear power stations; support for hydrocarbon prospecting projects of joint interest. Community financial action must be intensified and to ensure that it is consistent, the Commission will present an annual target financing programme of Community energy policy.

(b) The possibility of setting up a *safety net* as an extra defence against a partial or inordinate fall in the price of imported oil. This would be based on the assessment of a safeguard level for the Community energy market. The Commission feels that this minimum defence must be established on the strength of economic criteria, i.e. as a function, in the long term, of the cost of developing the source of energy covering the baseload, which, for the Community, means nuclear energy.

This safeguard level, determined by a factor internal to the Community, would not be a source of confrontation with the producer-countries. As matters stand, setting the level and the choice of a mechanism take second place to adopting specific incentives.

Broader international cooperation

1408. Solidarity in developing resources will show different features within broader international cooperation;

(i) It might be to the Community's interest to help in carrying out projects of common interest

¹ Points 1301 to 1305, and Supplement 6/75 — Bull. EC.

² Bull. EC 12-1974, point 1202.

not necessarily entailing the participation of all the countries cooperating.

(ii) The question of the minimum safeguard price for imported oil cannot be tackled globally for all of the consumer countries; allowance must be made for their idiosyncrasies of supply on the basis of a regionalized approach.

Priority must also be given to saving energy.

International cooperation must evolve a finely balanced package of advantages and obligations, in general terms and for each individual partner country.

Community Financing of Energy Policy

1409. The relevant Communication from the Commission to the Council, which accompanied the two previous papers, is in line with the two Resolutions adopted by the Council on 17 December¹ on the '1985 objectives', and on 13 February² concerning the means to attain them.

The main lines set out by the Commission are:

(i) to attain the objectives set, the effort on the part of companies must be backed up by the public authorities;

(ii) considering that 15% of the sum to be invested over the next decade represents the contribution from the Community in the shape of loans to attain the said objectives, and reckoning with the needs of research and specific projects, then the Community will have raised roughly 3000 million u.a. a year (10% as budgetary operations; 90% in the form of loans including EIB transactions);

(iii) here the more intensive Community effort must be mounted on a consistent and homogeneous platform which could take the form of a 'target financing programme' (a policy document

drawn up each year by the Commission) to be transmitted to the Community institutions and agencies concerned. The Council would be asked to acknowledge this as the Commission's line of advance in Community financing of energy policy.

¹ Bull. EC 12-1974, point 2266, and OJ C153 of 9.7.1975.

² Bull. EC 2-1975, point 2257, and OJ C153 of 9.7.1975.



2ND PART
ACTIVITIES
IN JUNE 1975

1. Functioning of the common market

Customs union

Common Customs Tariff

2101. On 16 June,¹ the Council amended the Regulation of 28 June² concerning the CCT in order to renew for six months, i.e. until 31 December 1975, application of the current CCT duties for two sub-headings: 78.01 A II (unwrought lead, other) and 79.01 A (unwrought zinc). This has been done pending the result of the renegotiation on the basis of Article XXVIII, paragraph 1 of GATT.

Tariff economy

Suspensions

2102. On 16 June,³ the Council, acting on a Commission Proposal, adopted a Regulation temporarily suspending autonomous CCT duties for a certain number of *farm products*, largely for the benefit of the processing industries. The relevant duties have been partially or totally suspended for varying periods. For most of them, these are renewals of suspensions already in effect from 1 July 1975 to 30 June 1976, or for a duration set in relation to the interests of Community production.

Tariff quotas

2103. On 24 June,⁴ the Council adopted two Regulations on opening, allocating and administering Community tariff quotas for:

(i) 30000 head, at 4% duty, of *heifers and cows*, other than those intended for slaughter, of

certain mountain breeds (first tranche 19000 head with a reserve of 11000);

(ii) 5000 head, at 4% duty, of *bulls, cows and heifers*, other than those intended for slaughter, of certain Alpine breeds (first tranche 3425 head with a reserve of 1575). These two quotas are valid for the period 1 July 1975 to 30 June 1976.

2104. On 26 June,⁵ the Council adopted a Regulation on opening, allocating and administering a Community tariff quota for *apricot pulp originating in Israel*. This quota, provided for in the EEC-Israel Agreement, was opened 'pro rata temporis' from 1 July to 31 December 1975, with a quota volume of 75 tonnes.

2105. On 24 June,⁶ the Council adopted a Regulation on opening, allocating and administering a Community tariff quota for *rum, arrack and tafia originating in the ACP States*. This quota, with exemption from customs duties for the ACP States, applies from 1 July to 31 December 1975.

Community monitoring of imports

2106. To honour the Community's obligations towards Israel, the Council, on 26 June,⁵ adopted a Regulation from a Commission Proposal to establish Community monitoring of imports of certain products originating in Israel.

¹ OJ L 157 of 19.6.1975.

² OJ L 172 of 22.7.1968.

³ OJ L 156 of 18.6.1975.

⁴ OJ L 163 of 26.6.1975.

⁵ OJ L 165 of 28.6.1975.

⁶ OJ L 166 of 28.6.1975.

Customs value and taxes of equivalent effect to customs duties

2107. On 11 June,¹ the Council amended its Regulation of 19 June 1970 concerning the 'place of introduction to be taken into consideration', under the Council's basic Regulation on the customs value of goods.² Based on arrangements for carriage through Switzerland and Austria, the Regulation draws conclusions from the situation created by the Council's Regulation of 14 April³ in respect of freight transport between Berlin and the Community and vice-versa.

2108. On 27 June,⁴ the Commission adopted a Regulation setting up a system of *standard average values for determining the customs value* of imported apples and pears. The Regulation lays down the principle that the Commission will periodically set the values applicable to the products concerned for the collection of CCT duties. In the main, this procedure stems directly from the system now in effect for assessing the customs value of citrus fruits. But until the end of the transitional period provided in the Treaty of Accession, these values will vary according to the customs territory to be taken in determining customs value.

Customs arrangements for the free movement of goods

2109. On 11 June, the Community and Austria signed an Agreement to *simplify the formalities in respect of goods traded between*

(a) the EEC and

(b) Greece and Turkey,

when goods are reshipped from Austria. Since the Agreement provides for administrative cooperation between the customs authorities, the trade will gain more extensively from the advan-

tages of being able to regroup, split up, warehouse or re-consign goods in transit through Austria.

Rules of origin and methods of administrative cooperation

2110. On 11 June, the Commission adopted a Regulation⁵ defining the term 'originating products' in applying tariff preferences granted by the EEC for *certain products of the developing countries*. This had to be done because it was decided on 7 May⁶ to include certain products (under headings 09.04 and 15.07 of the CCT) in the generalized preferences scheme.

2111. On 26 June,⁷ the Council adopted a Regulation on waiving the definition of the term 'originating products' to allow for the special circumstances of *Mauritius* in respect of certain products of the *textile industry*. The waiver is valid for the period 1 July to 31 December 1975.

Internal common market

Free movement of goods

Removal of technical barriers to trade

2112. In June, the Council adopted three Directives on removing technical barriers to trade.

¹ OJ L151 of 12.6.1975.

² OJ L148 of 28.6.1968.

³ OJ L102 of 22.4.1975 and Bull. EC 4-1975, point 2104.

⁴ OJ L165 of 28.6.1965.

⁵ OJ L153 of 13.6.1975.

⁶ Bull. EC 5-1975, point 2316.

⁷ OJ L168 of 1.7.1975.

One, adopted on 24 June¹ concerns approximation of Member States' laws on *continuous totalizing weighing machines*. The fifteenth to be adopted by the Council in respect of measuring instruments, this Directive is a highlight of Community efforts to harmonize national legislation and thus facilitate the movement of such instruments, inside the Community.

These are little known to the layman since only industrial technicians and specialists use them extensively. Yet they are also employed in business; totalizing weighing machines, for instance, are used with conveyor equipment in loading or unloading ships, lorries, trucks or other modes of transporting bulk freight. The overall weight of a consignment can be reckoned accurately without loss of time or any break in flow.

2113. At its meeting of 26 June,² the Council adopted another Directive on motor vehicles, relating to the *reverse and speedometer*. The Directive forbids Member States to bar the sale, movement or use of motor vehicles which comply with the relevant specifications in the annex to the Directive.

2114. On 24 June,³ the Council amended its Directive of 27 June 1967³ on the *classification, packaging and labelling of dangerous substances*.

Free movement of individuals

Right of establishment and freedom to offer services

2115. On 16 June,⁴ the Council adopted two Directives on measures to facilitate the effective exercise of the right of establishment and freedom to offer services in respect of various activities (ex ISIC Division 01 to 85) and of itinerant activities. Both Directives carry temporary measures.

The first covers a whole *range of economic activities*, in particular:

- (i) shipbuilding,
- (ii) manufacture of railway equipment,
- (iii) manufacture of aircraft and space equipment,
- (iv) certain auxiliary transport activities,
- (v) a number of recreational services such as sporting activities, games, circuses, amusement parks etc...,
- (vi) a number of personal services such as domestic services, laundries, dry-cleaning and dyeing, beauty salons, photographic studios, maintenance and cleaning of buildings or accommodation, or funeral undertakers.

The second Directive concerns the purchase and sale of goods by *itinerant* vendors and hawkers, the sale of goods in covered markets from permanent fixtures and in open-air markets, and sundry itinerant economic activities.

The Directives will facilitate mobility without prejudice to national regulations in respect of general, trade or occupational experience and skills. They stipulate that performance of the activity over a certain number of years in the country of origin shall fulfill the conditions required of nationals. Likewise, they carry provisions concerning the mutual recognition of proofs of good repute and financial solvency, when such are required by the authorities of the host country from their own nationals.

The Member States are to put the necessary arrangements in hand to comply with the two Directives by 19 December 1975.

¹ OJ L 183 of 14.7.1975.

² OJ L 195 of 25.7.1975.

³ OJ L 196 of 16.8.1967.

⁴ OJ L 167 of 30.6.1975.

Commercial and economic law

Price legislation

2116. The Working Party on price legislation met in Brussels on 23 June. Its activity includes regular discussions on national pricing regulations, their economic impact, and any effects of disparities between them on the common market.

At the meeting of 23 June, the group reviewed the present state of national pricing regulations, and recent action taken by certain countries to control prices (freezing etc.). It was decided to amplify, consolidate and update the current inventory of national regulations on the strength of data sent in by the national authorities and to study certain particular questions in greater detail.

The group also discussed the scope for harmonizing arrangements in respect of price advertising. This will be dealt with again at the next meeting of the group, which also looked at possibilities of conducting price surveys.

Competition policy

Restrictive agreements, mergers, dominant positions: specific cases

The Commission acts against an agreement

2117. On 3 June,¹ the commission adopted a Decision ordering *Haarden- en Kachelhandel*, an association taking in most of the Dutch manufacturers, importers, wholesalers and retailers of *stove and heaters*, not to invoke certain clauses of the agreement between its members, for the

agreement has been found to infringe Article 85 of the EEC Treaty.

The agreement imposed a collective and reciprocal obligation to observe exclusive sales and resale price maintenance. It extended to over 90% of the Dutch market and made a major contribution to consolidating existing distribution structures and market shares in the trade in heating appliances, much of the market being supplied by imports from other Member States.

The members terminated the agreement with effect from 1 January 1973. But two court actions were still pending; these had been instituted by the *Haarden- en Kachelhandelbureau* in 1969 and 1971 against a wholesale and a retailer who had not complied with certain clauses of the agreement, particularly by selling to non-recognized firms or to firms excluded from the distribution network. The defendants, who had been called upon to pay fines under the agreement, had refused to do so. After proceedings commenced in the Dutch courts, they each filed complaints with the Commission, and the court at Haarlem decided to adjourn the proceedings pending before it, until a decision had been given by the Commission.

The Bureau is henceforth required to refrain from attempting, whether by legal or by other means, to collect fines imposed for alleged infringements of the agreement committed while it still applied. Apart from condemning an agreement covering the entire territory of a Member State and reinforcing the barriers between national markets, the Commission decision establishes that an arbitration clause in a restrictive agreement may be caught by Article 85 where it hinders firms from establishing a position on the market by competitive effort.

¹ OJ L159 of 21.6.1975.

Concentration in the steel industry

2118. With a Decision under Article 66 of the ECSC Treaty, the Commission, on 4 June, authorized Korf Stahl AG, Baden-Baden, Von Moos Acier SA, Lucerne and Sacilor SA, Paris, to form Aciéries et Laminoirs du Rhin SA (ALR).

This new firm, to be installed in Ottmarsheim (Alsace) will operate a foundry and rolling mill with an annual wire rod output capacity of some 400000 tonnes. The finished product will be marketed by the parent companies, who will retain full business autonomy in selling both the new joint subsidiary's output and their own wire rod production.

State aid

Belgium

2119. On 17 June,¹ the Commission adopted a Decision concerning *general aid* provided for under the Belgian Law of 17 July 1959, which brought in and coordinated measures to *foster economic expansion* and the creation of new industries. The Decision, which does not question the actual arrangements, requires the Belgian Government to advise the Commission in advance of any major applications.

On 11 March 1974,² the Commission had invoked the procedure of Article 93(2) of the EEC Treaty in respect of the 1959 Law, as one of its moves with regard to all the existing general aid schemes in the Member States.

In so doing, the Commission's premise was its position of principle whereby existing general aid schemes in the Member States, which do not specify the geographical sectors or zones to benefit, cannot be deemed compatible with the common market, unless those Member States agree, on the terms of Article 93(3) of the EEC

Treaty, to advise the Commission in advance of the elementary programmes which they may have to draw up for certain sectors or branches of industry, or, failing this, to notify the Commission of specific operations to aid one company or another, insofar as such moves are of major relevance to trade and intra-Community competition.

The Belgian Government had therefore been asked to comply with the prior notification procedure in respect of implementing the Law of 17 July 1959, the other Member States having accepted this as far as their general aid schemes were concerned. Since there had been no official reaction to the Commission's request on the part of the Belgian Government, the Commission on 17 June decided to close the procedure under Article 93(2) but still asked for prior information on implementing any major arrangements under the 1959 Law.

Denmark

2120. The Commission decided not to raise any objections to application by the Danish Government, of a draft law setting up a Fund to support, over a certain period of time, companies in difficulty owing to the short-term economic trend.

The Fund's initial resources will consist of a State contribution of Dkr. 200000000 (about 25000000 u.a.) and it will be run for a temporary period ending on a date when economic activity can be expected to recover, i.e., 1 July 1976.

Its aid will take the form of loans at market rates, and guarantees on loans or capital contri-

¹ OJ L177 of 8.7.1975.

² Bull. EC 3-1974, point 2116.

butions to the firm concerned agreed by third parties. In each particular case, such commitments may not normally exceed Dkr. 25 000 000 (about 3 000 000 u.a.) with a maximum duration of eight years.

Aid will be granted only to companies of key importance for economic activity and employment and which, apart from the problems they are facing due to short-term economic conditions, are seen to be structurally viable.

The Commission has always held that aid cannot be allowed to rescue companies except insofar as it fits in with clear-cut restructuring programmes, and its sectoral or regional application is sufficiently distinct for the Commission to assess its effect on structures and intra-Community trade. The Danish aid scheme does not meet these requirements.

But the Commission felt that it should make allowances for the unprecedented economic and social circumstances now affecting most of the Member States and especially Denmark. The Commission therefore thought that there was good reason to make an exception, on a temporary basis, and allow aid schemes like the Danish plan to be applied, since, over a limited period, they could be deemed compatible with the common market as 'aid to remedy a serious disturbance in the economy of a Member State' under the derogation of Article 92(3b) of the EEC Treaty.

So the Commission decided not to oppose the planned scheme, provided it was advised in advance, and in compliance with Article 93(3), of major applications (aid to companies with more than 300 people on the payroll or with a yearly turnover exceeding 10 000 000 u.a.), with the proviso that the situation be reappraised before 1 July 1976, in respect of any improvement in Denmark's economic and social conditions.

Commission Decisions in connection with the motor industry

2121. Dealing over recent months with several national aid measures for the motor industry, in particular for Citroën in France, for British Leyland in the United Kingdom and to relieve redundancies in the Volkswagen group in Germany, the Commission finally concluded that these subsidies were not incompatible with the common market, in accordance with Article 92(3) of the EEC Treaty.

To facilitate the merger between *Citroën* and Peugeot, the French authorities were planning to grant a loan of FF 1 000 million (via the Economic and Social Development Fund) at 9.75% over 15 years.

The subsidy planned for British Leyland is more complicated insofar as it means using a total of £900 000 000 consisting of a guarantee worth up to £200 000 000 backed by a £200 000 000 holding in the company's nominal capital, and a long-term loan of £500 000 000 at the standard market rate.

Owing to the difficulties besetting the Volkswagen group, the German Government decided not to revitalize the company directly with public subsidies, but to adopt a three-year programme financed by a budget of DM 210 000 000 and intended to mitigate the social repercussions on various regions from the planned reorganization.

2122. The Commission examined the objectives and the means involved in each case. Its consistent policy regarding subsidies from the public authorities to particular companies has been that such moves may be justified insofar as the subsidies go to firms where reorganization would indicate that in the long run they can successfully meet competition.

This was the deciding factor in the Commission's conclusion that the subsidies for Citroën and

British Leyland did not alter trade conditions to an extent prejudicial to the common interest and that it therefore had no objections against the overall economic cost of these measures.

But since the practical applications of the various stages of planned reorganization can only be defined as the overall plan advances, the Commission asked the French and British Governments to advise it in good time of each stage.

The Commission was also pleased to note that action planned by the German authorities was to remedy, solely through specific regional projects, the troubled social situation in certain regions in the wake of Volkswagen's reorganization.

The company being restructured will not itself receive any public subsidy. The Commission therefore informed the German authorities that it had no objection to the measures contemplated and asked them to submit a report on the results of implementing the programme over the year.

Fiscal policy and financial institutions

Taxation

Indirect taxes

Levies on manufactured tobaccos

2123. On 16 June, the Commission proposed to the Council that the first stage in harmonizing levies on manufactured tobaccos be once again extended for twelve months, i.e. until 30 June 1977. The Council had granted the first one-year extension on 25 June 1974.¹ Its Directive of 19 December 1972,² amended a year ago, stipulated that by 1 July 1975, the Council must adopt the special criteria applicable to the struc-

tures of excise duties on cigarettes, during a second phase which should start on 1 July 1965.

It was already evident last year that the enlargement of the Community was complicating the setting of satisfactory criteria to enable levy harmonization to proceed further (for instance in deciding on the ratios between the specific component and the *ad valorem* component of the tax). These problems are still there and the talks between national experts came to the conclusion that the anticipated timetable could not be met; hence the new Proposal by the Commission for a year's extension.

Tax Exemptions for travellers: Proposal withdrawn

2124. On 9 June, the Commission elected to withdraw the Proposal for a third Directive on harmonizing laws, regulations and administrative provisions in respect of turnover taxes and levies gathered from the travelling public. This had been laid before the Council on 22 September 1972.³

The Proposal, which had gained favourable Opinions from the European Parliament and the Economic and Social Committee, was withdrawn owing to the divergent views of the Member States' delegations within the Council, which were so much at variance that it seemed unlikely that the Directive would ever be adopted. The Commission is now examining any necessary action which should be taken, bearing in mind obligations on the Member States deriving from the Directives on tax exemptions for travellers, adopted by the Council on 28 May 1969⁴ and 12 June 1972.⁵

¹ OJ L180 of 3.7.1974.

² OJ L303 of 31.12.1972.

³ OJ C113 of 28.10.1972 and Bull. EC 10-1972, point 24.

⁴ OJ L133 of 4.6.1969.

⁵ OJ L139 of 17.6.1972 and Supplement 7/72 — Bull. EC.

2. Economic and monetary union

Fiscal policy

Value-added tax

2125. On 20 June,¹ the European Parliament passed a Resolution on the state of progress in adopting the sixth Directive concerning the harmonization of Member States' laws relating to turnover taxes—common VAT scheme: uniform basis. The new proposed Directive, which would harmonize VAT, had been put by the Commission to the Council on 29 June 1973.²

Economic, monetary and financial policy

The French franc returns to the Community Snake

2201. At the meeting in Luxembourg on 16 June, chaired by Mr Ryan, Ireland's Minister of Finance, the Council was pleased to record the progress made towards restoring, *'de jure'*, the French franc to the Community exchange system, known as the 'snake'.¹ The Council heard statements on this from Mr De Clercq, the Belgian Finance Minister, on behalf of the countries working within the 'snake' and from the Chairmen of the Central Banks' Governors Committee and the Monetary Committee. The Council will reappraise the question of the French franc's formal return to the 'snake' at its next meeting scheduled for 10 July 1975.

Statements by Ministers after the Council meeting indicated that guidelines were offered so that technical work on certain suggestions in a French memorandum presented in May (mainly re-adjustments to credit and the settlement arrangements) can be actively followed up. This means that functional problems arising from the Community exchange scheme should be cleared up in time for the French franc to rejoin the 'snake' on 10 July.²

Coordinating economic policies

2202. During the Council meeting of 16 June on economy and finance, Mr De Clercq, Belgium's Finance Minister, made a statement on the conclusions to be drawn from the meeting of the International Monetary Fund Interim Com-

¹ Point 2421.

² Supplement 11/73 — Bull. EC.

¹ Bull. EC 5-1975, point 2201.

² Which has in fact happened.

mittee, in Paris on 10 and 11 June, which had examined certain *international monetary* problems, such as the allocation of quota increases among the industrialized countries and the proposed amendments to the IMF Articles, especially the exchange system and the future of gold. The Council agreed that when it met on 10 July, it would start preparations for the next meeting of the Interim Committee to be held at the end of August.

Taking a working paper presented by Vice-President Haferkamp of the Commission, the Council discussed the Community's *current economic situation and problem*. The debate brought out a number of pointers which the Commission will bear in mind when drawing up its Communication on the economic situation in the Community and the budgetary policy guidelines for 1976, which the Council will appraise on 10 July as part of the second annual review stipulated by the Decision on achieving a high degree of convergence between Member States' economic policies.¹

Economic Situation

2203. The Community countries are at present in a phase of transition and adjustment of economic trends, in which the development of the various indicators shows some differences.² The decline in economic activity which began in the middle of last year turned out to be more pronounced and longer lasting than had been generally expected. In terms of capacity utilization and employment the situation is now the most unfavourable ever experienced by the Community. Unemployment and the number of workers on short time are increasing in all the member countries. It is not certain that the downward movement of economic activity has already reached its lowest point, but it can be stated with some confidence that the recessionary trends which are a feature of demand and

production are steadily becoming less pronounced. Signs of an improvement in the economic climate are still few and far between and are not yet conclusive. Although domestic demand has been steadier in the last few months, foreign demand has fallen appreciably, under the influence of a recession which has developed simultaneously in all the industrial countries. The deficit in the trade balance and in the balance of payments of the Community has shrunk at a surprisingly fast rate, as a result of the weakness of economic activity and helped by an improvement in the terms of trade. Clear differences nevertheless persist between member countries on the domestic front. The rise in producer prices and also in import prices has eased. But the improvement has been much less marked at the consumer price level; since the beginning of the year, however, the rise in consumer prices has slowed noticeably in some of the Community countries, but in two other member countries, on the other hand, it has accelerated strongly.

At the moment it is difficult to evaluate with any great precision the favourable elements and the accompanying dangers in the economic outlook for the rest of this year. Certain autonomous factors, such as an end to the rundown of stocks and especially the measures both global and selective which have been introduced to revive the economic situation, are basic conditions which allow the hope that a gradual recovery of economic activity in the Community will be seen beginning next autumn. An appreciable stimulus should come in particular from the tendency in member countries for interest rates to fall, from the general relaxation of monetary policy, and also, in those countries with a balance of payments surplus, from the expansionary influence of budgetary policy. On the other

¹ OJ L63 of 5.3.1974.

² Source: Quarterly Survey 2/1975 on the *Economic Situation in the Community*.

hand, it is not yet known when and to what extent consumers and investors will abandon their present cautious approach. The contribution expected from the recovery of exports to non-member countries will be fairly limited at least until towards the end of the year. In these circumstances real gross domestic product of the Community in 1975 as a whole is forecast to be scarcely as high as the previous year's level.

The upturn in demand and output which should become evident in the second half of the year will not result in the near future in a significant improvement in the labour market situation. The delay before the revival of activity affects employment will be longer than usual on this occasion, given the extraordinarily wide margins of spare capacity and the structural changes which must take place. The rise in consumer prices will continue at a rate which varies considerably from country. Although inflationary trends are easing in some countries, the rise in prices and costs will scarcely slow down in annual average terms in the Community as a whole; not until towards the end of the year is the rise in consumer prices likely to be brought down to a rate of around 10%. The substantial improvement recorded up until now in the Community's balance of payments could come to an end on the assumption that a stronger growth of imports of raw materials and semi-finished goods will occur.

Monetary Committee

2204. In June, the Monetary Committee met three times, with Mr Oort in the chair:

- 205th meeting in Paris, 9 June; the Committee discussed certain features of the EEC narrower currency margins scheme;
- 206th meeting in Luxembourg, 17 June; the Committee dealt with the monetary and financial

sides of the Council's draft Decision authorizing the Commission to issue Euratom loans to finance nuclear power stations; then, as one of its regular summary reviews, it examined monetary policy in Ireland; lastly, after the IMF Interim Committee and Council meetings in June, the Monetary Committee briefly debated the main problems involved in reforming the international monetary system;

- 207th meeting in Brussels, 27 June; prepared the day before by a deputies' meeting, this was entirely devoted to a debate on international monetary problems, which led to finalizing a Community position on the question of amending the IMF Articles (revision of quotas, future of gold, and the exchange system). This was set out in an Opinion to the Council, which was adopted at the close.

2205. The *Working Party on Securities Markets* met in Brussels on 3 and 4 June, chaired by Mr D'Haeze. As part of its regular appraisal of the national and international capital markets, the group reviewed the market trends over the first quarter of 1975. It also put the finishing touches to its study on ways to shelter fixed-income security holders from inflation. Finally, it laid down the work programme for its forthcoming study on safeguarding international financial assets against inflation and exchange risks.

Economic Policy Committee

2206. The 15th meeting of the Economic Policy Committee was held in Brussels on 4 June, with Mr Malinvaud in the chair. In carrying out its assignments, the Committee initially discussed the problem of indexing both oil and raw material prices. It then took a hard look at recent short-term economic trends in each Member State. The Committee was pleased to see that the external accounts in those

countries running heavy deficits were levelling up, and highlighted the extreme uncertainty affecting the scale of recovery anticipated in those countries whose payment balances were in surplus, a recovery which was apparently beginning to show.

Regional policy

Financing Operations

European Regional Development Fund

2207. The European Regional Development Fund became operational at the end of June. Since adoption by the Council, on 18 March,¹ of the Regulation creating the Fund, it has in fact taken several months to clear up certain budget problems² and prepare the installation of administrative bodies.

First Meeting of the Fund Committee

2208. The Fund Committee, made up of Member States' representatives and chaired by a Commission representative, met for the first time in Brussels on 30 June and 1 July. Its first task will be to give an opinion on draft decisions to grant aid from the Fund.

The Committee was also to issue opinions on its internal working rules, the implementary regulation on the calculation of aid provided for in Article 4(2a) of the Fund Regulation, and the form in which applications for aid and the Fund disbursements should be submitted to the Commission.

The Committee gave a unanimously favourable opinion on the texts presented by the Commis-

sion, subject to slight amendments on certain points. So Member States are now in a position to file official applications for aid from the European Regional Development Fund.

Applications for aid from Italy

2209. The Italian Government had previously sent the Commission a summary recapitulation of its applications for aid from the Fund; these bear on projected investments and plans to modernize farming infrastructures and develop tourism. The applications which have come in are now being vetted by the appropriate Commission departments.

Redevelopment

2210. Under Article 56(2a) of the ECSC Treaty, and subject to a confirmatory Opinion from the Council,³ the Commission has decided to grant an industrial redevelopment loan of about 2 400 000 u.a., with entirely subsidized interest, to the *Société nouvelle de roulement (SNR) (France)* for building a plant at Alès in the industrial district of Mazac, which will manufacture bearings. The loan was requested solely for the first tranche of the programme which, by virtue of its size, (\pm 12 800 000 u.a.) will be split into two tranches.

The new plant will create 550 jobs, of which 320 come under the first tranche. Miners in the Cévennes coalfields will have first call on 146 jobs.

¹ OJ L73 of 21.3.1975.

² Bull. EC 4-1975, points 2402 and 2448.

³ OJ C 152 of 18.7.1975.

Regional Policy Committee

Formation of the Committee

2211. The Regional Policy Committee, formed by the Council Decision of 18 March,¹ held its first meeting on 7 and 8 July. Mr C. Noë, Ministerialdirigent at the German Ministry for Economic Affairs was elected Chairman, with Mr M.F. Doyle, Deputy Assistant Secretary in the Department of Finance, Ireland, as Vice-Chairman. The internal working rules were adopted.

The Committee then got down to an initial discussion on the outline of programmes referred to in Article 6 (4) of the Council Regulation of 18 March on creating the Fund. A working Party has been assigned to prepare the material involved. The Committee also formed a Working Party on programme studies.

Social policy

The Council and social problems

2212. Several Commission Proposals, which fit into the Social Action Programme,² were examined by the Council at a meeting on 17 June dealing with social affairs. The Council agreed a number of them and will adopt them at a later date.

Also approved was the Recommendation on introducing the *40-hour week* and *four weeks holiday with pay*, throughout the Community; the latest application date was set at 31 December 1978.

The Council also gave its agreement on making aid from the Social Fund available for specific operations to facilitate *employment* and the

geographical and occupational mobility of *young people under 25*, with priority for young people seeking their first job. The Council will rule by 30 November on a Proposal concerning Fund aid involving sectors of activity or regions severely affected by unbalanced employment. Lastly, it was agreed in principle to go ahead with Community financing for action to *combat poverty*.³

The Commission's Proposal concerning *equal treatment for men and women at work*, in respect of job opportunities, occupational training and guidance and other working conditions,⁴ will be reexamined at the Council's next meeting on social affairs.

Finally, the Council acknowledged a Commission Communication on *employment* and asked the Commission to keep up its work to develop the concertation of national employment policies, strengthen collaboration between national employment services and implement its research programme on employment forecasts, particularly manpower statistics.

Employment

Standing Committee on Employment

2213. On 3 June, the Standing Committee on Employment, chaired by Mr O'Leary, Ireland's Minister of Labour, held its seventh meeting, attended by government and Commission representatives and delegates from both sides of industry; Vice-President Hillery was representing the Commission.

¹ OJ L73 of 21.3.1975.

² Supplement 2/74 — Bull. EC.

³ Bull. EC 1-1975, point 2217.

⁴ Bull. EC 2-1975, point 2209.

⁵ Bull. EC 4-1975, points 1101 to 1105.

Based on working documents prepared by the Commission departments, the discussions centred on the young unemployed, and action to improve the situation; the other topic was illegal immigration.

The Commission summarized the work done by its departments to activate the guidelines set out at the Social Conference of 16 December 1974,¹ in respect of organizing joint meetings between employers and employed, at European level and by sector of activity. The meeting also tackled the problem of combining employment policies; work now being done and projects to be developed were both discussed. Lastly, the Committee appraised measures now in hand to ensure equal treatment between the sexes in respect of jobs, occupational training and guidance and working conditions.

Social Fund, reemployment and readaptation

Social Fund

2214. On 2 June, the Commission formally approved the *granting of aid from the Social Fund* (first tranche 1975), which it had agreed on 23 April.²

2215. Meeting in full session, on 19 June, the Social Fund Committee vetted some forty *applications for Fund aid*, submitted by Italy, France, the United Kingdom, Ireland and Germany. Some concern readaptation projects for agricultural and textile workers (Art. 4); others are for the unemployed or underemployed in the less-developed Community regions (Art. 5); others again are for training workers to meet the needs of technical and industrial progress.

2216. Lastly, on 26 June, the Commission decided to grant financial aid to carry out several

pilot projects as preparation for action by the Fund.

Readaptation Measures

2217. In applying Article 56(2) of the ECSC Treaty, the Commission decided in June to contribute towards the cost of retraining workers hit by the partial or permanent closure of companies in the coal or iron and steel industries of three Member States.

In the *United Kingdom* two credits for a total of £53 500 were made available for 474 workers hit by reduced activity in two steel companies. In *West Germany*, aid of DM 4 970 000 was granted for 2 670 workers when a coking works and a colliery closed down. In the *Netherlands*, a credit of Fl 700 000 was opened for 331 workers hit by the closure of six Martin furnaces.

Vocational training and guidance

2218. An end-of-training meeting took place in Brussels on 4 and 5 June for young employees in cooperative credit and savings institutions; this was the first time that training had been organized for young people in this sector. Young agricultural workers who had completed three to six months training in a Community country other than their own, gathered together for a final meeting on 20 June.

Social security and social action

2219. At a meeting in Brussels on 10 and 11 June, the experts agreed the text of a report assigned to them in order to update and amplify the study on financing *social security in agricul-*

¹ Bull. EC 12-1974, point 1307.

² Bull. EC 4-1975, point 2214.

ture, in response to the Council's request of 26 November 1970. The report will be treated in a Commission Communication to the Council.

2220. The gradual introduction of machinery to *adapt social security benefits* to increasing prosperity in the Member States (an objective of the Social Action Programme) was discussed at a preliminary meeting on 16 June, attended by government representatives.

Living and working conditions

2221. Under the second tranche of the seventh programme of aid to finance *low-cost housing* for personnel of the mining and steel industries, the Commission approved the following projects:

- Belgium (coal and steel; first and second tranche): 161 dwellings for a total of Bfrs 32200000;
- Germany (coal): 319 dwellings (DM 2390000);
- Ireland (steel): 60 dwellings, for a sum of £120000;
- Denmark (steel): 8 dwellings (Dkr. 320000);
- Netherlands (coals): 60 dwellings for a sum of Fl. 480000.

Industrial and occupational relations

2222. A Working Party made up of employers' and workers' representatives, formed by the Joint Committee on harmonizing working conditions in the *coal industry*, met on 5 June to discuss the Commission's Proposal on introducing the 40-hour week and four weeks' holiday with pay, a Proposal which has been favourably received.

2223. At the request of the European Metalworkers Federation, on 23 and 24 June a Working Party reviewed the employment situation and working conditions in the *data processing* and *shipbuilding* industries.

2224. On 26 and 27 June, the Joint Committee on social problems in the fishing industry examined social conditions in non-industrialized fishing and safety problems involving seamen and ships.

Health protection

2225. The *Advisory Committee on Safety, Hygiene and Health Protection at Work*, formed by the Council on 27 June 1974,¹ met for the first time in Luxembourg on 26 and 27 June. Made up of government representatives with direct responsibility for inspections and checks, and representatives of workers' organizations and employers' associations specially qualified in industrial safety, the Committee's job is to follow the development of safety and accident prevention, in all sectors of the economy except the extracting industries (which fall within the provision of the Mines Safety and Health Commission) and the sectors connected with nuclear energy.

Those taking part expressed satisfaction that the Committee had been formed and stressed its importance; it was decided to set up three Working Parties to cover the concertation of rules for safety and hygiene, coordination of research on accident prevention and the role of management and labour in preventing accidents. It was also agreed that the Commission's three Working Parties on safety and industrial medicine would carry on.

¹ OJ L185 of 9.7.1974.

2226. The *Steel Industry Safety and Health Commission*, meeting in Luxembourg on 12 and 13 June, adopted its sixth annual report (on activities in 1974) and the conclusions of the Working Parties on the following: accident investigation; rescue and first aid; tapping of pig-iron in blast furnaces.

2227. The Working Party on health in iron ore mines was invited to tour several mines in Sweden. The group met representatives of the Swedish Mines Association, to which all the Swedish ore mines belong. Commission officials described the Commission's social research work and the role of the Mines Safety and Health Commission.

2228. Data on the disaster at the Lens-Liévin colliery on 27 December 1974, when forty-two miners lost their lives, were studied on 10 June by the Working Party on inflammable dust, attached to the *Mines Safety and Health Commission*. The group felt that it was too early to promote joint action against dust explosions, in particular by developing the 'deflagration' explosion. The group will define measures to be suggested to the Mines Safety and Health Commission, when it gets the answers to the standard questionnaire designed for the purpose, as recommended by the MSHC.

2229. Within the exchange of experiences between the operators of nuclear power stations and the Commission departments, those in charge of the radiation protection departments of the major nuclear power stations in the Member States and Switzerland, met on 6 June in Luxembourg, to examine the problems of applying radiation protection in their installations. The discussion bore mainly on specific radiation protection problems arising from temporary staff in the nuclear stations, who carry out maintenance work and repairs, on the dosimetry applied there and how to improve its accuracy and sensitivity.

2230. From 2 to 6 June the Coblenz Institute of the Bundesanstalt für Gewässerkunde and the Commission ran a technical seminar on biological techniques for evaluating the *quality of water*. Some forty hydrobiologists from the laboratories of all the Member States attended the seminar, the first of its kind. The Coblenz Institute had selected the stretches of river water to be checked: a big river, the Main, with various types of urban and industrial pollution, and the river Kahl, whose flow was observed from source to confluence with the Main. The results of this work should enable biological evaluation techniques to be harmonized on a European scale for the quality of running water and should facilitate a Community policy against water pollution.

Paul Finet Foundation

2231. On 20 June, the Paul Finet Foundation Committee held its last meeting of the school year 1974-75. It reviewed 319 applications and made 196 grants. Up to now, the Secretariat has received 6890 applications and made 4843 grants for a total of Bfrs 38 974 460. With these grants, 1055 of the 2873 youngsters assisted have meanwhile successfully completed their secondary, university or vocational studies. The grants go to the children of ECSC industrial workers who have died in an industrial accident or from an occupational disease.

*

2232. Meeting on 25 and 26 June, the *Economic and Social Committee* gave its Opinion¹ on the 1974 Social Report and the Proposal concerning Social Fund action in favour of structural readaptations.

¹ Points 2449 and 2450.

Environment and consumer protection

Environment

Second Community Action Programme on the Environment

2233. On 20 June, the Commission sent the Council a Communication containing its 'initial reflections on the second Community Action Programme on the Environment'. The Commission will present the new programme at the end of 1975, so that the Council can adopt it in 1976.

The Commission feels that environment policy over the next five years (1976-1980) should follow three main avenues:

- to ensure that action taken during the first Programme be continued (campaign against pollution and nuisance, enhancing the quality of the environment) and, if need be, intensified;
- to put more emphasis on anticipatory and preventive action; national programmes to be coordinated and policies to be harmonized on the basis of joint long-term thinking;
- to counter all forms of wastage, the concomitant of expansion, and strengthen the links with development policies for third world countries.

The Community signs the Paris Convention for the Prevention of Marine Pollution from Land-based Sources

2234. On 23 June, the Chairman of the Permanent Representatives Committee and the Director of the Commission's Environment and Consumer Protection Service, on behalf of the Community, signed the Paris Convention for the

Prevention of Marine Pollution from Land-based Sources (pollution of the seas from the land).

It was initialled in Paris on 22 February 1974, at the close of a diplomatic conference attended by representatives from seventeen countries, the Community as such, the Council of Europe, the OECD and the United Nations Environment Programme.¹ The Convention was open until 30 June 1975 for signature by the contracting parties.

Protecting the Rhine from chemical pollution

2235. On 13 June, the Commission laid a draft Decision before the Council authorizing the Commission to take part in negotiations for a Convention to protect the Rhine from chemical pollution.

This Agreement, now being discussed within the International Rhine Commission, needed some improvements before the Community could sign it. The Commission stressed that consistent action must be taken to prevent pollution of Community waters and implement Member States' commitments in respect of the environment.

*

2236. During the part-session of 16 to 20 June, the *European Parliament* passed a Resolution on pollution of the Rhine.²

Directives, Decision and Resolution on the Environment

2237. On 16 June, the Council formally adopted two Directives which it had approved on 7 November 1974,³ concerning: (i) the

¹ Bull. EC 4-1974, point 2219 and 11-1974, point 1206.

² Point 2415.

³ Bull. EC 11-1974, points 1202 and 1204.

required quality of *surface waters for the abstraction of drinking water* in the Member States, and (ii) the *disposal of waste oils*.

On 24 June,¹ the Council formally adopted:

(i) 'a Decision establishing a common procedure for the reciprocal exchange of information between the surveillance and monitoring networks based on data relating to *atmospheric pollution by sulphur* compounds and suspended particulates', and

(ii) 'a Resolution concerning a revised list of second category pollutants to be studied as part of Community Action Programme on the Environment.'

Consumer Protection

Consumer Consultative Committee

2238. The Consumer Consultative Committee, meeting in Brussels on 27 June, took a hard look at consumer problems deriving from the common agricultural policy; the Committee felt there was an urgent need to investigate distribution channels.

It warmly welcomed the consumer protection programme adopted by the Council on 14 April.² Consideration was also given to new regulations concerning new chemicals, consumer credit, misleading advertising, product liability and the recycling of waste. The next meeting will be on 13 and 14 October.

Agricultural policy

Agriculture and the negotiations with the Mediterranean countries

2239. At its meeting of 23 and 24 June, the Council agreed in principle on certain measures for the organization of markets on which the agricultural concessions depend in the context of the overall Mediterranean approach. These measures concern in particular the processed fruit and vegetables sectors, citrus fruit and out of season fruit and vegetables, and wine.

Processed fruit and vegetables

2240. The Council agreed to

- liberalize trade with non-member countries in products in this sector;
- apply a system of minimum import prices for *tomato concentrates* and a system of import licences;
- maintain until 31 December 1977 national measures on *citrus fruit juices* apart from grapefruit juices, the Council deciding before the end of that period on the arrangements to be introduced subsequently. If no decision is taken before the date mentioned, the previous arrangements will still apply;
- maintain until 31 December 1977 national arrangements for *prunes*;
- exclude from the scope of the new system trade with third countries in *processed potatoes* with a view to including them in a common organization of the market for all potatoes, the Council having to adopt the Regulation concerned before 31 December 1975;

¹ OJ C 168 of 25.7.1975.

² Bull. EC 4-1974, points 1301 to 1304 and OJ C 92 of 25.4.1975.

- extend to all quantities of *oranges for processing* the processing premium provided for in the Council Regulation of 18 December 1969;¹
- introduce a system of import certificates as provided for in the Council Regulation of 17 January 1975.² Issue of the certificate would, however, take place only 5 working days after the request was filed and the period of validity would be restricted to 75 days.

The list of products covered by this system, amendments to which would be decided on by the Council in accordance with the voting procedure laid down in Article 43(2) of the Treaty, would be as follows:

ex 20.02 C	peeled tomatoes
ex 20.06 B	peaches
ex 20.07 B	tomato juice
20.02 A	mushrooms
ex 08.12	prunes (applicable from 1 January 1978)
20.02 G	peas; beans in pod
ex 08.10 A	raspberries
ex 08.11 B	
ex 20.03	
ex 20.05 C	
ex 20.06 B	pears
ex 20.06 B	

The Council also agreed to introduce

- *supervisory arrangements* under the Council Regulation of 19 December 1969³ in respect of a list of sensitive products, with the exception of products covered by the system of import certificates;
- the possibility of applying a system of *floor prices* for imports, as envisaged in the Commission's proposal for a Regulation already submitted to the Council. The products to be covered

by this system would, however, have to be determined by the Council, at a later date, as and when necessary.

As regards *tinned pineapple*, the Council agreed to adopt the Regulation introducing a system of production aid for tinned pineapple, to be granted by the Member State on whose territory the tinned pineapple is produced. Production aid will be granted only to those processors who undertake to pay a minimum price to pineapple producers, the level of which will be established by the Council.

Finally, the Council noted that

- following the introduction of a system of trade with non-member countries, the Commission undertakes to keep the situation in the processed fruit and vegetables sector under surveillance, in particular as regards the influence of the cost of the basic product, and to take all the necessary measures to overcome any difficulties;
- if difficulties should arise in the fruit and vegetable processing industries following the introduction of this system, assistance from certain Community financial instruments (the Guidance section of the EAGGF, the European Regional Development Fund) could be envisaged, provided that the action proposed by the Member States falls within the scope of the regulations governing the said instruments.

Fresh fruit and vegetables

2241. As regards *oranges and small citrus fruits* (mandarins, clementines, etc.) the Council agreed to amend the Council Regulation of

¹ OJ L324 of 27.12.1969.

² OJ L25 of 31.1.1975.

³ OJ L19 of 26.1.1970.

9 December 1969¹ (from the entry into force of the Mediterranean agreements) as follows:

- an increase of 11% in the amount of the marketing premiums for the 1975/76 marketing year in keeping with the increase in basic and purchase prices, which gives the following amounts:

(u.a./100 kg)

Moro, Tarocco, Ovale, Belladone, Navel, Valencia Late	7.8
Sanguinello	6.7
Sanguigno, Bionde comune	4.4
Mandarins	6.7
Clementines	3.9

(on the other hand the maintenance of the reference prices at the levels fixed for the 1974/75 marketing year).

- for the following marketing years, the updating of the marketing premiums by adjusting them by a percentage not greater than the variations in basic and purchase prices of the products considered.

It was also agreed to amend the Council Regulation of 18 May 1972² involving, as from the implementation of the new system of marketing premiums for oranges and small citrus fruits, the limitation of any increase in reference prices to a percentage not greater than the difference between that adopted for the increase in the basic and purchase prices and that adopted for the increase in marketing premiums.

The Council also recommends strengthening the *system of reference prices* in this sector.

To this end, the Council agreed to amend the Council Regulation of 18 May 1972² by including provisions affording the possibility of levying a compensatory tax on products in respect of which a reference price is fixed not only, as laid down under present arrangements, when entry prices for such products are below the reference price on two consecutive market days, but also when, for a certain period, entry prices are alternately above and below the reference price.

As regards *lemons*, the Council agreed to

- amend the Council Regulation of 9 December 1962³ (as from the entry into force of the Mediterranean agreement) by introducing, for the 1975/76 marketing year, a marketing premium for lemons of 4.7 u.a./100 kg (1.2 u.a. for there not being a contractual price and 3.5 u.a. for transport costs not having been included in the reference prices);
- amend Article 23(2) of the Council Regulation of 18 May 1972² to offset, for that part of the 1975/76 marketing year still to run after the entry into force of the Mediterranean agreements, the non-inclusion of transport costs in the reference prices for lemons;
- review the situation for subsequent marketing years in the light of the results of the study to be carried out by the Commission on the situation on the market in lemons in the Community and to take appropriate steps with a view to remedying any difficulties which might occur in respect of the disposal of that product either in its fresh state or after processing.

As regards *aubergines, avocados and fresh pineapple*, the Council noted that the Commission had undertaken to follow market trends for

¹ OJ L 318 of 12.12.1969.

² OJ L 118 of 20.5.1972.

³ OJ L 318 of 18.12.1969.

these products and that it would either take or propose to the Council appropriate measures should these products encounter marketing difficulties in the Community.

Wine

2242. In the case of wine imported from the Maghreb countries, when a quantity submitted to customs does not observe the reference price,

- the customs authorities are obliged to apply the full duty to this quantity. This obligation will be included in a Council Regulation based on Article 43 which will also prescribe the necessary document together with the practical rules enabling the customs authorities to apply this measure by simply comparing figures.

In order to enable the customs authorities to operate in such a manner, the document in question should consist of a certificate similar to that used for Emmenthal cheeses certifying that the free at frontier price has been observed. Also, the concept of the free at frontier price should be defined in an implementing regulation adopted in accordance with the Management Committee procedure. Finally, the free at frontier price could be supervised in accordance with the same principles as those applied for the rules governing the value for customs purposes.

- the customs authorities shall notify the Commission immediately in the event of the full duty being applied (telex);

- the Management Committee shall examine cases where the full duty has been applied and notification given so that, if such cases are found to be significant, a Commission decision can be taken by the Management Committee procedure to:

- apply the compensatory tax on all imports originating in a country in accordance with Article 9 of the Council Regulation of 28 April 1970,¹

- and/or reestablish the full duty on all imports originating in the said country.

Any measures decided upon will be reviewed monthly.

As regards imports from other non-member countries which have undertaken to comply with the reference price pursuant to Article 9(3) of the same Council Regulation¹ and which are not eligible for tariff preferences, the present arrangements will be strengthened in the following ways:

- when a quantity submitted for customs clearance does not observe the reference price, the customs authorities shall immediately inform the Commission of the cases established (by telex).

- the Management Committee shall examine the cases established so that, if such cases are found to be significant, a Commission decision can be taken by the Management Committee procedure for the purpose of applying the compensatory tax laid down for each consignment imported from the country in question, in accordance with Article 9 of the Council Regulation of 28 April 1970.¹

Any measures decided on will be re-examined monthly.

New version of Article 33a concerning special distillation—Where the volume of existing stocks in the Community, plus the volume of imports of wine from Algeria, Morocco and Tunisia, causes disturbance on the Community market, a special distillation operation for table wines shall be carried out; it shall be confined to producers' organizations.

This distillation will be carried out at a price which will ensure that producers are compensated.

¹ OJ L99 of 5.5.1970.

Table 1 — *Relative value of agricultural exports from certain Mediterranean countries to the Community*

(Year: 1972 — Value: 1000 u.a.)

	Morocco	Tunisia	Algeria	Spain	Malta
Total exports 100%	444 201	198 377	789 515	1 853 254	39 426
including farm products	261 259	67 824	45 187	726 832	2 133
%	58.8	34.2	5.7	39.2	8.0
Products covered by the Agreements now running and by negotiation Directives	207 810	62 132	36 870	486 066	2 133
% of those products in relation to agricultural exports	79.5	91.6	81.6	66.9	43.2

The Council, acting on a proposal from the Commission and in accordance with the voting procedure laid down in Article 43(2) of the Treaty, shall adopt general rules for the application of this Article before 1 August 1975.

Implementing rules, and in particular the decision relating to the special distillation operation, shall be adopted in accordance with the procedure laid down in Article 7 of Regulation 24.

In an interpretative statement, the Council agreed to recognize that Article 33a does not derogate from Article 14. Consequently, since each of these two operations (safeguard clause and special distillation) is designed to meet specific and particular conditions, recourse to one does not preclude recourse to the other.

The following *details of the special distillation operation* are to feature in the Proposal for general rules to be adopted by the Council under Article 33a(2) of the Council Regulation of 28 April 1970.¹

Criteria for establishing measures:

- Definition of the concept of 'Available stocks';

(i) the findings of the estimated balance sheet for the marketing year;

(ii) where appropriate the findings of the amended estimated balance sheet.

- Criteria for evaluating disturbance of the market:

When the market price for red wine which is comparable and in competition with wine from the Maghreb countries remains, for two consecutive weeks, lower than the activating price.

The volume of wine benefiting from special distillation will be determined in keeping with the text of the new Article 33a in the context of the implementation procedures to be proposed by the Commission.

Technical aspects of special distillation:

- The types of wine benefiting from special distillation:

Wine which is in direct competition with Maghreb wines.

- Machinery for allocating quantities of table wines to be distilled to producers' associations:

The quota will be calculated on the basis of the volume of red wine of more than 11° strength as

¹ OJ L99 of 5.5.1970.

compared with the total volume produced by each of the producer associations.

- Price which will be paid for wine delivered for special distillation:

Activating price.

Measures in connection with the monetary situation

2243. Following up its effort to *codify texts* applicable to agriculture, the Commission adopted a Regulation,¹ which took effect on 1 June, and which codifies the application terms for monetary compensatory amounts, the first of which date from 1 May 1973.² This time certain minor amendments were made to the content of the text. In particular, as from 1 July, certain exemptions in applying compensatory amounts were allowed for small consignments of an entirely non-commercial nature and for products carried in travellers' personal luggage. This will streamline the system.

In view of the trend of certain currency rates, the monetary compensatory amounts were adjusted for the *lira* from 9 June and the *British and Irish pounds* from 23 June.

Common organization of the market

2244. Besides the modifications to the common organization of the markets, affected by the 'overall Mediterranean approach', the Council adopted measures concerning olive oil, wine and fisheries and set the derived prices of oilseeds for the 1975/76 marketing year. It also appraised the situation on several markets, notably for wheat, sugar, milk, beef and veal, and eggs and poultry. The Council noted the status of work on the proposed Regulation³ setting out certain measures to rationalize horticultural production under glass and concerning organization of the market for beef and veal.

2245. On 12 June, the Commission sent the Council Proposals for codifying the Community rules in respect of *cereals*. This involves the fourth⁴ set of Regulations on codifying the Council's derived agricultural law.

2246. The Commission took certain measures in the *sugar* sector in respect of long-term contracts. It had proved necessary to ensure, as far as possible, secure outlets for Community-produced sugar. Multi-annual supply contracts made by Community operators with certain non-member countries and running over several marketing years are an effective way of doing this. So a standing tender⁵ has been opened to determine export refunds for white sugar going to Iran and Morocco; this is a new form of undertaking in the sugar sector.

The Council adopted a Regulation⁶ on the advance application of the threshold price for *olive oil* (146.96 u.a./100 kg) for the 1975 marketing year, which begins on 1 November 1975. This, together with the measures⁷ adopted by the Commission⁷ concerning the suspension from 23 to 30 June 1975 of advance-fixing, proved necessary to stabilize the Community olive oil market. The difficulties stemmed from a fall in consumption, the level of stocks still held by producers, the number of recent applications for import licences, which far exceeded normal Community needs and the existing relationship between world and Community prices.

2247. For *wine*, the Council extended the time for the distillation operation approved on 21

¹ OJ L 139 of 30.5.1975.

² OJ L 146 of 4.6.1973.

³ Bull. EC 4-1975, point 2246.

⁴ Bull. EC 2-1975, point 2232.

⁵ OJ L 173 of 4.7.1975.

⁶ OJ L 164 of 27.6.1975.

⁷ OJ L 163 of 26.6.1975.

April¹ from 55 to 69 days, since the wine market was not yet completely rebalanced as a result of the original Regulation. On 25 June, the Commission proposed to the Council some measures to adapt the wine-making potential to the needs of the market. These are amendments to the Proposal of 5 November 1974 to modify the basic Regulation for the wine sector which take account of the Council's Resolution of 21 April 1975 on the new guidelines for balancing the table-wine market.²

2248. As regards *seeds*, the Commission added³ twelve new varieties to the list of early, semi-late and late varieties of English raygrass, which will be put on the market for the first time during the 1975/76 marketing year.

2249. The Commission adopted several Regulations⁴ to boost exports of *milk products*, particularly skimmed-milk powder exported under long-term contract. Again in respect of skimmed-milk powder, the Commission will continue to apply the measure stipulated in the Council Regulation of 21 January 1975,⁵ i.e. to sell at cut prices for delivery to the developing countries.

In view of the trend in prices and because of swollen stocks of Emmental and Gruyère cheese, aid of 1.24 u.a. per day and per tonne may be granted for private storage between 15 June and 15 October.⁶

2250. Under the special import arrangements for calves and young *cattle* for fattening,⁷ the Commission, on 5 June, authorized import licences to be issued for the first monthly volume of 5 000 head, out of an overall volume of 22 500 head of mountain breeds (from Austria and Yugoslavia). The appropriate German agency issued import licences for 600 head out of the 1 300 intended for Germany, with the remaining 43 700 head from the stipulated total of 45 000, to go to Italy.

2251. The recovery in the *pigmeat* rates, seen throughout the Community since mid-May, continued through June, so that the current market price for the standard quality of pig carcasses is now 11.6% above the current base price (976.50 u.a./t) and even 2.8% above the base price valid from 1 August 1975 (1 060.00 u.a./t).

2252. The Council introduced on 24 June,⁸ temporary arrangements for private storage of certain *fishery products*. This involves preserves (tunny, fillets of cod and coalfish) where the market is coloured by a freak downward trend in prices and by problems of disposal which have led to surplus stocks. A heavy clearance could worsen matters. Private storage subsidies have therefore been granted over five months to producers, processors and wholesalers in respect of Community preserves held on 15 May. The arrangements may be prolonged if the market situation does not clear up.

The protection measures applied in France to imports of tunny-fish for industrial processing were extended until 1 October.⁹

Harmonization of laws

2253. On 23 June,¹⁰ the Council adopted three Decisions concerning farm, garden and forestry seeds and plantlings. They involve the

¹ Bull. EC 5-1975, point 2231.

² Bull. EC 4-1975, point 2238.

³ OJ L93 of 15.4.1975 and L161 of 24.6.1975 and Bull. EC 3-1973, point 2232.

⁴ OJ L142 of 4.6.1975.

⁵ Bull. EC 1-1975, point 2233 and OJ L149 of 10.6.1975.

⁶ OJ L154 of 14.6.1975.

⁷ Bull. EC 4-1975, point 2247.

⁸ OJ L165 of 28.6.1975.

⁹ Bull. EC 5-1975, point 2236.

¹⁰ Bull. EC 9-1972, point 64 and OJ L164 of 27.6.1975.

equivalence of field inspections made in the Community and in certain non-member countries on seed-producing crops and potato seeds and plants.

2254. On 25 June, the Council amended the Directives on marketing beetroot seeds, fodder plants and cereals, potato plantlings and oil- and fibre-plant seeds (by laying down new conditions for the free movement of such seeds in small packs), and on the marketing of 'forestry reproductive material'. On the last item, it set the terms of admission for a new category of base material (known as controlled material) and prepared to draw up a common catalogue of marketable base material.

The procedures of the Standing Veterinary Committee as featured in the various acts adopted by the Council as from October 1968¹ in respect of veterinary legislation were extended for six years.² The Commission will meanwhile report to the Council on how they are working.

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2255. During the part-session of 16 to 20 June, the *European Parliament* passed a Resolution³ on the Commission's Communication to the Council in respect of the 'stocktaking of the common agricultural policy'.⁴

Industrial and technological policy

Industry

Iron and Steel

Revised Estimates: 15% Drop in Production

2256. For the period June-September 1975, Community steel output will decline by about 15% compared with the same period last

year. That was the main feature of the revised forward steel programme decided by the Commission on 17 June, in the light of market trends, on which the ECSC Consultative Committee had given its opinion on 13 June.⁵

The revised forward programme⁶ shows that fall in demand for steel is actually the heaviest ever recorded during earlier recessions, since orders from users have shrunk by 34% over the first four months of 1975. The fall-off in demand is matched by a 25 to 35% softening of prices in the internal Community market, and this figure is higher still in respect of exports. In these conditions, the steel industry had to steadily cut production, which caused higher temporary unemployment.

The revised forward programme is a target plan; it was drawn up after lengthy consultation with producers', workers' and users' representatives on the strength of the 'Communication to undertakings' approved by the Commission in April and published in the Official Journal.⁷

Addressing the ECSC Consultative Committee,⁸ Mr Spinelli of the Commission pointed out that the Commission had opted not to announce a state of 'manifest crisis' since the Treaty required it to take 'indirect' measures before falling back on 'direct' action.

The new estimates count on a steel output of 42 800 000 tonnes, which amounts to a decline of 7 750 000 tonnes or 15% compared with the same period last year (see Table). The pro-

¹ Bull. EC 12-1968, point 68.

² OJ L 172 of 3.7.1975.

³ Point 2403.

⁴ Supplement 2/75 — Bull. EC.

⁵ Point 2453.

⁶ OJ C 143 of 26.6.1975.

⁷ Bull. EC 4-1975, point 2254, and OJ C 100 of 2.5.1975.

⁸ OJ C 130 of 21.5.1975 and Bull. EC 5-1975, point 2238.

Table 2 — *Actual consumption of steel and production of crude steel over the period June-September 1975*

(in millions of tonnes)

	June-September	Germany	France	Italy	United Kingdom	Netherlands	BLEU	Denmark and Ireland	Total
Actual consumption	1974	14.00	8.00	7.20	7.10	1.30	1.80	0.80	40.20
	1975	12.95	7.40	6.20	7.00	1.30	1.55	0.65	37.05
Production	1974	17.87	8.09	7.73	7.50	1.82	7.33	0.20	50.55
	1975	13.90	7.30	6.60	7.20	1.55	6.05	0.20	42.80

gramme shows that users' and dealers' stocks will have to be heavily cut to rebalance supply and demand, hence the need to reduce steel output below the fall in actual consumption. The social side of the problem was also considered. As against other times of the year, the summer holiday period offers a chance to cut down production with less adverse effects on employment.

Moreover, the Decision of 16 May¹ requiring companies to send in their production forecasts to the Commission every month together with the figures for crude steel actually produced should enable those companies to make one of their forecasts even 'in midstream'.

Technology

Nuclear industry

Management and storage of radioactive waste

2257. At its meeting on 26 June to deal with problems in research, the Council adopted a Community programme on the management and storage of radioactive waste.²

The need for such a programme was emphasized as part of the Community Action Programme on the Environment and it consists of a five-year indirect action (by means of contracts) to be carried out in the Member States with a financial contribution of 19 160 000 u.a. from the Commission. The aim is to develop and perfect jointly a management plan to deal with the mounting quantities of radioactive waste which will be generated by a heavily expanding electro-nuclear industry, to ensure throughout the various stages that the public and the environment are fully protected.

The programme provides for action on two complementary lines:

- (i) technological work to solve certain problems arising from processing, storing and disposal of medium and high-activity waste and from the separation and recycling of long-life waste, with special emphasis on disposal in suitable geological terrain;
- (ii) work to define an overall legal, administrative and financial framework for the manage-

¹ OJ C130 of 21.5.1975 and Bull. EC 5-1975, point 2238.

² OJ L178 of 9.7.1975 and C153 of 9.7.1975.

ment and storage of waste, and to lay down a first set of guiding principles in this connection.

Nuclear safety

2258. At the same meeting of 26 June, the Council discussed technological problems of nuclear safety broached in a Commission Communication.¹ The debate revealed a broadly positive stance towards adopting a draft Resolution to intensify and speed up cooperation between Member States at Community level in this sensitive area; the Council hopes to pass the Resolution before the summer recess.

Technical iron and steel research

2259. On 11 June, the Commission formally approved the granting of subsidies for a sum of 15056185 u.a. to carry out sixty-three steel research projects, and 451687 u.a. to cover the expenses of disseminating the results, and ancillary charges.

The financing of these subsidies had received a favourable Opinion from the ECSC Consultative Committee² and a conformatory Opinion from the Council.³

These projects extend over a wide range of activities to meet technological demands in the Community iron and steel industry. They cover: the continued working of indigenous raw materials; widening the options in raw material consumption (replacing scrap metal by sponge-iron or pig-iron) in steelmaking; more flexibility in substituting various forms of energy; lowering production and processing costs; improving inspection and the quality of steel products; and studying the use of steel in the building and engineering industries.

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2260. Meeting on 25 and 26 June, the *Economic and Social Committee* approved a study on 'exploiting telecommunication resources, and correlation between transport and telecommunications'.⁴

Science, research and development, education, scientific and technical information

Science, research and development

The Council and research problems

The council meeting on research problems, chaired by Mr Keating, Ireland's Minister for Industry and Commerce, took place on 26 June. The following two subjects were examined:

Energy research

2262. Seven delegations approved a four-year energy research and development programme to run from 1 July 1975, on the strength of the Commission's proposals presented to the Council on 8 January 1975.⁵ The programme covers research on energy economy, production and use of hydrogen, solar energy, geothermal energy and systems analysis for the construction of models. The proposal had been amended on the recommendation of CREST in March 1975⁶

¹ Bull. EC 2-1975, point 2242.

² Bull. EC 3-1975, point 2445.

³ OJ C 112 of 21.5.1975.

⁴ Point 2452.

⁵ Bull. EC 1-1975, points 1301 to 1308.

⁶ Bull. EC 3-1975, point 2242.

to raise to 59 000 000 u.a. the total financial resources (originally planned as 55 000 000 u.a.)

The programme would be reappraised before the end of 1976 so that any resulting modifications could be put in hand by early 1977 at the latest.

It would also be agreed to open a first budgetary tranche of 12 000 000 u.a., confined to the first stage of the programme (i.e. from 1 July 1975 to 31 December 1976), and to take a decision on opening the second tranche when the programme had been reappraised.

At this point, the German Delegation reserved its position; it will inform the Council whether, after another review by its Government, it can see its way to agree; if it cannot, the matter will be referred back to the Council. The Italian Delegation also had a reservation on this point.¹

Scientific and technological policy

2263. The Council took note of a statement by the Belgian State Secretary on the status of preparations for a common policy on science and technology. He pointed out that the Community was half way through the preparatory period stipulated in the Council Resolutions of 14 January 1974² for mounting a common policy on science and technology. The preparations include a comparison and review of Member States' national policies and of their aims so as to set common objectives.

The Belgian State Secretary stressed that comparison of national research policies should be speeded up and given a realistic cast, focussing on certain sectors as advocated by CREST at its meeting of 10 January 1975.³ He also alerted his colleagues to the problems arising from the sheer number and sometimes the ill-defined terms of reference of the various groups and committees with responsibility for the Community's scientific research.

Owing to the size and complexity of the subjects broached, the Council agreed to consider the possibility of a fresh meeting before the end of the year, working from a comprehensive paper which the Commission would present in October.

Scientific and Technical Research Committee

2264. The Scientific and Technical Research Committee (CREST), chaired by Mr Schuster met in Brussels on 16 June and Luxembourg on 27 June.

In Brussels, CREST got down to a broad discussion concerning the role of the JRC in Community research and development policy and the Commission's draft proposal for action on the controlled nuclear fusion and plasma physics programme.

Regarding the JRC, the Committee felt it was imperative to amend the service regulations for scientific and technical staff so as to gain more mobility. It also called for an accurate assessment at regular intervals of the results of the JRC's research work.

Concerning *controlled thermonuclear fusion*, the Committee, without questioning the value of the JET (Joint European Torus) project, did have some misgivings over the scale of finance required. Even so, it urged that everything be done to ensure the success of the JET project, particularly in the matter of selecting the site.

On 27 June, CREST resumed the work begun in May⁴ to review the competent Commission

¹ Since both delegations lifted their reservations, an agreement was reached at the Council's meeting of 15 July.

² Bull. EC 1-1974, points 1401 to 1405.

³ Bull. EC 1-1975, point 2246.

⁴ Bull. EC 5-1975, point 2243.

departments' draft proposals for research programmes on *protection of the environment and reference materials and methods* (CBR). The Committee set down a number of observations for the definitive versions of the proposals which should be sent to the Council in July; CREST will give a final Opinion on this in September.

The Committee also approved the principle of action to coordinate research work in the Member States on the future of the major *conurbations*. A proposed programme will be laid before the Council at the end of 1975, but a meeting of national project directors is already planned for December 1975.

CREST also gave a favourable Opinion on the work programme for *scientific and technical information and documentation*, including the relevant budget for 1976. The next meeting is set for 25 and 26 September.

European Research and Development Committee

2265. The CERD (European Research and Development Committee) met in Brussels on 30 June with Mr Danzin in the chair. It reviewed a provisional report on the study 'Europe + 30' and gave a favourable Opinion on it. The Committee stated its position concerning the resources to be applied in equipping the Community with a long-term projection agency, the desirable independence of such a body, and the need to consider the twin objectives of forward studies and social assessments in technology as connected limbs of the same problem. The next meeting of the CERD will be in Brussels on 2 October.

Pollutants and cancer

2266. Together with the International Cancer Research Centre (ICRC), the World Health

Organization (WHO) and the Belgian Ministry for Health and Family Affairs, the Commission ran a seminar in Brussels, from 9 to 12 June on pollutants and cancer.

With Professor P.N. Magee (UK) in the chair, some seventy of the world's leading specialists studied tests for quick advance detection of delayed toxic effects of chemicals in the environment, and the action of carcinogenic chemicals, from which it should be possible to define Community moves to counter them, as part of the environmental protection programme.

Joint Research Centre

General Advisory Committee

2267. The JRC Advisory Committee met in Brussels on 17 June. The proceedings bore mainly on a proposed new 'medium-term' revision of the multiannual programme, whose substance the Committee had examined last March,¹ and which consolidates the proposal now being discussed within the Council.² The principle of regular revision had been approved by the Council when it adopted the multiannual programme in 1973.

The current proposal mirrors the way in which the tasks to be accomplished are constantly evolving and the concern to enhance the consistency of JRC activities. Anticipating the main avenues for the future, the proposal is based largely on the recommendations of the Advisory Committees on Programme Management (ACPM) and covers some ten research targets.

The General Advisory Committee (GAC) approved the proposed guidelines, particularly the desirability of realigning the objec-

¹ Bull. EC 3-1975, point 2244.

² Point 2268 and Bull. EC 12-1974, point 2259.

tives. Among other comments, it stressed the value of more intensive work on reactor safety and the important question of controlling fissile material; the Committee hoped that the relative emphasis laid on activity under the objectives of 'hydrogen production' and 'plutonium and transplutonium elements' and between the indirect action programmes and the direct action on 'standards and reference material' would be reappraised.

Finding that the current procedures for revising and updating programmes had broken down, the GAC felt they should be amended to align the decision-making level with the actual importance of the modifications, thus investing the system with a modicum of flexibility. Lastly, the Committee attached special significance to the question of JRC staff mobility and called for firm proposals on this from the Commission in the course of the year ahead.

Multiannual programme

Revision of the Multiannual Programme

2268. At the Council meeting of 26 June on research, eight delegations agreed on new proposals relating to the review of the JRC multiannual research and training programme and to new activities for the Petten Establishment.

The German Delegation said it was unable, at this juncture, to agree on these proposals and entered a reservation on them. It stated that it would announce as soon as possible whether it could change its position on this subject. If it could not, this item would be entered afresh on the Council's agenda.¹

The arrangements which met with the approval of eight delegations consisted of the following aspects:

- review of the allocations for the objectives of the JRC multiannual programme, with no

change in activities. In order to compensate for the effects of inflation, the maximum amount of the expenditure commitment for the multiannual programme would be increased to 216 000 000 u.a.;

- revision of certain objectives within a constant total sum (essentially technical adjustments);
- preparation of future JRC programmes (for which purpose an appropriation of 900 000 u.a. is provided to cover expenditure in 1975 and 1976);
- new activities to be undertaken at the Petten Establishment, i.e. research into high temperature materials and standards and reference materials. The additional resources involved under these programmes would be 5 200 000 u.a. and 70 staff (some of which are covered in the 1975 budget).

Advisory Committees on Programme Management (ACPM)

2269. The Advisory Committee for direct action on '*standards and reference materials*' and indirect action on '*materials and reference methods (Community Bureau of References)*' met at the JRC's Petten Establishment on 17 and 18 June with Professor Becker in the chair.

It reviewed in detail work done under the head of direct action at the Ispra JRC in 1974 and over the first six months of 1975 and examined organic chemistry projects being prepared for the Petten Establishment; the Committee also ruled on the main lines to be followed in the next few months. After noting the status of work under CBR indirect action, the ACPM approved new projects in various technical sectors. The next meeting is scheduled for 4 and 5 November.

¹ Since this reservation was lifted, the Council was able to reach agreement at its meeting of 15 July.

2270. The ACPM for 'research on the environment', meeting Ispra on 27 June with Professor Passino in the chair, devoted most of its time to discussing the status of work in the form of direct action by the JRC and on the main lines of the future programme.

With regard to indirect action, the Committee issued a favourable Opinion on a research proposal within the project for a 'data bank on chemicals likely to contaminate the environment'. The next meeting will be on 23 September.

Education and training

Education Committee

2271. The Education Committee met on 4 June, chaired by Mr O'Laoghaire (Ireland). It went on with its review of the draft report¹ which it will present to the Council at the end of June. The text could not be approved owing to the reservation in general terms expressed by one of the delegations. The meeting of Education Ministers, originally scheduled for the end of the month, will take place at a later date.

Doctors

2272. Since Denmark has lifted its reservation on the various texts concerning the mutual recognition of diplomas and the right of establishment for doctors, agreed by eight Member States on 10 and 11 February,² the Council formally adopted them³ when it met on 16 June.

Thus two Directives were adopted. One provides for the mutual recognition of diplomas, certificates and other medical qualifications and contains arrangements to facilitate effective exercise of the right of establishment and the free-

dom to offer services; the other aims at coordinating laws, regulations and administrative provisions concerning the activities of doctors.

At the same time, the Council adopted two Decisions, namely, to form an Advisory Committee on Medical Training and a Committee of Senior Public Health Officials respectively. This package of measures is consolidated by two Recommendations on Luxembourg nationals holding doctors' diplomas awarded in non-member countries, and on doctors' house training.

Energy policy

Preparing and implementing a Community energy policy

2273. During June, several Community bodies adopted positions on various features of energy problems. The Commission appraised all the energy problems when it met on 11 and 25 June; several Communications were adopted and laid before the Council; the Energy Committee discussed some of these points on 18 June; then, at its meeting on energy problems on 26 June, the Council, without reaching firm decisions on all the material, set out certain guidelines.

¹ Bull. EC 5-1975, point 2247.

² Bull. EC 2-1975, points 1201 to 1204.

³ OJ L 167 of 30.6.1975 and C 146 of 1.7.1975.

Commission

2274. At its meeting of 11 June, the Commission adopted three Communications to the Council,¹ on:

- (i) *the future of the dialogue between the oil-producing and oil-consuming countries* begun at the Paris Preparatory Meeting last April;²
- (ii) *the main foci of a policy for the development of energy resources* in the Community and within the larger framework of *international cooperation*;
- (iii) *Community financing of energy policy*.

2275. On 24 June a Communication was sent to the Council on '*introducing summer time into the Community*'.

Removing time disparities in the Community (the United Kingdom, Ireland and Italy currently apply summer time and France has decided to introduce it in 1976) would fit in with the policy of saving energy, apart from other advantages like streamlining international transport timetables. So the Commission feels that all the Member States could adopt summer time for a period to be established by joint agreement.

2276. Lastly, on 25 June, the Commission agreed the guidelines submitted to it on the *short-term (1976-1977) energy-saving targets*. The public authorities should apply certain measures to cut down waste and uneconomic use. These were explained verbally to the Council by Mr Simonet on 26 June.

Energy Committee

2277. The Energy Committee, chaired by Vice-President Simonet of the Commission, met on 18 June. The discussion ranged over aid to the coal industry, short-term energy saving and the problem of setting the period of summer time

in the Community. The Committee is scheduled to meet again on 4 July.

Council

2278. At its meeting of 26 June, the Council debated the various matters on its agenda, but except on one particular point (cutting down oil consumption) no decisions were taken, largely owing to differences of opinion between national delegations. The discussions covered the following matters:

Development of resources and Community financing of energy policy

2279. After a preliminary review of two Communications from the Commission³, the Council delegated the Committee of Permanent Representatives to ascertain, in the light of the discussion, whether it was advisable to hold a Council meeting before the end of July or early in the autumn to adopt the necessary guidelines.

Saving energy

2280. The Council passed a Resolution setting a target to *reduce Community oil consumption by 9% as compared with 1973*. The Resolution also took note of the guidelines which the Commission is planning to present to sustain the effort to *save energy in 1976 and 1977*.⁴ Once again stressing the importance it attaches to this, the Council instructed the Committee of Permanent Representatives to appraise the draft Resolution which the Commission is to present. In the same vein, it considered the value

¹ Points 1401 to 1409.

² Bull. EC 4-1975, points 1401 to 1409.

³ Points 1406 to 1409.

⁴ Point 2276.

of establishing coordinated Community, and possibly European, summer time.¹ The Council thought that this was mainly a question for the Transport Ministers, but assigned the Committee of Permanent Representatives to weigh up the pros and cons from the angle of saving energy.

Hydrocarbons and nuclear energy

2281. Lastly, the Council debated various questions on hydrocarbons, including support for joint prospecting projects, financing technological development projects and export and import arrangements, and on nuclear energy, involving Euratom loans to finance power stations.

Sectoral problems

Hydrocarbons

Cutting down oil consumption

2282. In its relevant Resolution, the Council approved 'the target set, namely to reduce the consumption of oil within the Community in 1975 to 500 000 000 tonnes, i.e., a reduction of 9% as compared with 1973', and asked the Member States to take all appropriate steps.

Support for joint hydrocarbon prospecting projects

2283. The Council's exploratory debate focussed on possible suitable conditions for such a scheme, geographical boundaries, and the guarantees which should hedge such support in respect of products drawn from potential deposits. The Council delegated its appropriate authorities to carry on their work along the lines mapped out so that it can take a decision on this proposal at the earliest opportunity.

Financing technological development projects

2284. The Council took note of a Commission Communication explaining that the sum of 25 000 000 u.a., initially set aside in 1973 for a scheme of Community support for technological development projects in the hydrocarbons sector was now inadequate for Community requirements in view of the considerable changes since 1973, especially in the cost of technological development in the hydrocarbons sector. The Commission plans to propose a heavier budget appropriation to be written into the 1976 budget.

Joint Arrangements for imports and exports

2285. There was a comprehensive debate in the Council on introducing joint arrangements for importing and exporting hydrocarbons, at which the delegates explained their viewpoints. After this, the Commission stipulated that, in the light of particulars forthcoming from certain delegations, it might have to revise the substance of its Proposal.

Nuclear energy

Financing nuclear power stations

2286. The Council indicated that it was favourably disposed to the Commission's Proposal which would allow the latter to float Euratom loans with the aim of financing the construction of nuclear power stations. The Council felt that a Community effort in this direction was in order, and indicated that it would rule on this Proposal at the earliest opportunity, on which the *European Parliament* gave its Opinion on 19 June.²

¹ Point 2275.

² Point 2407.

Transport policy

Functioning of the market

2287. On 4 June, a meeting chaired by the Commission took place between Member States' senior officials to discuss the *future organization of transport markets* in the Community.

This meeting with the national authorities follows on a number of talks with representatives of the occupational and socio-economic bodies concerned and with a group of university professors. In the light of the various discussions, the Commission will lay Proposals before the Council by the end of the year.

Harmonization

2288. On 12 June, the Commission decided to send a letter to the *Italian* Government indicating that certain subsidies granted for the financial year 1974 by the Regional Council of Lombardy to companies responsible for running regular road passenger services did not impair trade between the Member States and that the Commission had therefore no objections to make.

2289. The *British* Government was also informed, on 23 June, that the Commission had no objections to a clause in the 1974 Railways Bill, which provided for subsidies to firms for laying sidings, thus making it easier for them to ship by rail. The Commission felt that this aid did not impair trade between the Member States. But it would still like to get further information from the British government on the results.

Infrastructures

2290. At a meeting on 24 June with Member States' experts, broad agreement emerged on the scope and methodology of a *forward study on freight transport needs* for 1985 to 2000. The Commission is now corresponding with the national delegations to obtain their formal financial commitment. The work itself should begin before the end of the year, which would yield results by the end of 1977.

2291. On 30 June, the Commission sent to the Council its second report on transport *infrastructure expenditure accounting and use* in respect of carriage by rail, road and inland waterway. This report compiled in accordance with the Council Regulation of 4 June 1970 uses the figures for 1972 sent in to the Commission by the Member States.

Ocean and air transport — port problems

2292. At its meeting of 24 June, the Council reviewed a Proposal for a Decision on opening negotiations in respect of the United Nations Convention on a *Code of Conduct for Liner Conferences*. The Proposal, presented by the Commission, would prepare, by appropriate contacts with non-member countries, especially the developing countries, the Community's accession to the Convention, through reservations and amendments which would make it compatible with the provisions of the EEC Treaties. The matter is now being studied by the appropriate authorities in the Council who will advise it of their conclusions.

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2293. During the part-session of 16 to 20 June, the *European Parliament* gave its Opinion

3. External relations

Transport policy

concerning a Commission Proposal to the Council on putting into effect the European Agreement on the work of road vehicle driving crews (AETR)¹ and passed a Resolution on speed limits in the Community.² The AETR was also dealt with in an Opinion of the *Economic and Social Committee* when it met on 25 and 26 June.³

Multilateral negotiations

Trade Negotiations Committee

2301. Several meetings of some of the Groups or Study Groups within the Trade Negotiations Committee met in Geneva during June.

Non-tariff measures

2302. The *Study Group on Subsidies and Countervailing Duties* met for the first time from 3 to 6 June. There was a discussion in general terms on the various questions arising in both areas and on the special problem of differential treatment for the developing countries. So that negotiations can move off on the basis of specific proposals, it was agreed that by 15 October the contracting parties would send in their views to the GATT Secretariat on problems encountered over subsidies and countervailing duties, together with specific suggestions concerning the negotiations; the suggestions will be discussed at the Study Group's next meeting scheduled for November 1975.

2303. The *Group on Non-Tariff Measures*, holding its own meeting on 24 and 25 June, debated the negotiation procedure to be followed for measures outside bilateral investigation. The Group will discuss this again at the next meeting, when it knows more about measures to be handled multilaterally. The Group took note of the reports from the Chairmen of the four Study Groups, which will be presented to the Trade Negotiations Committee on 15 July. A timetable of Study Group meetings was approved together with technical arrangements for the bilateral or multilateral talks on quantity restrictions.

¹ Point 2418.

² Point 2417.

³ Point 2451.

Tropical products

2304. In accordance with the main lines adopted at the first meeting of the *Tropical Products Group* (10-14 March), a number of developing countries have since 16 May been forwarding concession request lists to the developed countries. During the meeting of 16 to 19 June, the Group appraised these initial lists and made arrangements for close and active consultation between the applicants and the addressees over the coming months.

Agriculture

2305. The *Cereals Study Group* met for the second time on 9 June and settled the outstanding points in respect of its work schedule. At the next meeting, it will look into the question of price and market stabilization, expansion and decontrol of world trade and particular problems of the developing countries.

The *Meat Study Group* held its first meeting from 16 to 19 June. Most of the delegations outlined their approach to negotiation in this area, which varies sharply between exporters and importers. It was agreed to examine all the problems on the world meat market and the resultant proposals at a forthcoming meeting.

The first meeting of the *Milk Products Study Group* on 23 June also saw statements on possible negotiation approaches. The Group's future work programme did not appear to raise any special problems.

At the previous meeting of the Cereals Study Group, the Community spokesman had presented the EEC proposals for an international cereal agreement.¹ He again put forward Community proposals at the Meat and Milk Products Study Groups for international agreements in those equally important sectors, agreements

which would stipulate in particular that concerted disciplines and price stabilization mechanisms be introduced.

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2306. On 18 June,² the *European Parliament* passed a Resolution on the Community's position in the GATT negotiations.

Commercial policy**Preparing and implementing the common commercial policy***Joint Import Arrangements*

2307. On 16 June,³ the Council decided to add some new products to the liberalization list annexed to its Regulation of 4 June 1974,⁴ concerning joint import arrangements. This involves products already decontrolled by all the Member States and their inclusion is not likely to provoke a situation justifying protective measures.

Trade agreements: Renewals, derogations or authorizations

2308. On 16 June,⁵ the Council decided to authorize the extension or tacit renewal of certain trade agreements between Member States and non-member countries (2nd group for 1975)

¹ Bull. EC 5-1975, point 2305.

² Point 2410.

³ OJ L 157 of 19.6.1975.

⁴ OJ L 159 of 15.6.1974.

⁵ OJ L 162 of 25.6.1975.

which expire or terminate before 1 May 1975. This Decision allows agreed trade relations to continue between the Member States concerned and certain non-member countries, pending new Community agreements to be negotiated.

Trade Protection

2309. On 13 June 1974,¹ the Commission decided to impose prior authorizations on French imports of certain knitted gloves originating in *South Korea*, which, having doubled in volume over the last two years, had disrupted the French market.

2310. On 30 June,² the Council adopted a Regulation to maintain, almost as they stand, the arrangements entailing authorization for German and Benelux imports of synthetic socks originating in *South Korea*. The Commission had adopted the arrangements, on a conservatory basis, on 22 May 1975.³ The Regulation adopted by the Council states that, for Germany, the arrangements will stand for a period of six months from the date they took effect, and for Benelux until 31 December 1975.

Specific measures of commercial policy

Textiles

2311. On 16 June, the Council adopted Directives to enable the Commission to start negotiations with *Macao*, *Singapore* and *Malaysia* for voluntary restraint agreements on textiles. The Commission had earlier received Directives to open similar negotiations with *Colombia* and *Mexico*.

Development and cooperation

Cooperation and development policy

Raw Materials, Development and the United Nations

2312. In June, the Commission presented three Communications to the Council⁴ on raw materials and development. The first indicates how the Community can help in solving problems which will come up at the Seventh Special Session of the United Nations General Assembly next September. The other papers concern respectively 'agreements by product designed to limit excessive price fluctuations' and 'international action to stabilize export earnings'.

High-level Group formed by the OECD Council

2313. The first meeting of the *ad hoc* high-level Group on relations with the developing countries, formed by the OECD Ministerial Council, meeting on 28 and 29 May, took place in Paris on 10 and 11 June, attended by the Commission.⁵

World Food Council

2314. The World Food Council, formed by the World Food Conference in November 1974, met for the first time from 23 to 27 June in Rome.⁶

¹ OJ L154 of 14.6.1975.

² OJ L171 of 2.7.1975.

³ Bull. EC 5-1975, point 2308, and OJ L132 of 23.5.1975.

⁴ Points 1301 to 1309 and Supplement 6/75 — Bull. EC.

⁵ Point 2323.

⁶ Point 2330.

Cooperation with Non-governmental Organizations for Cooperation and Development

2315. Sponsored by the Commission, a colloquium attended by some forty executives of Member States' non-governmental organizations for cooperation and development, was run in Brussels from 10 to 12 June.

With the aim of gaining deeper insight into the respective activities of these bodies and the Commission, and of securing coordination between them, the proceedings centred on two issues: European public opinion concerning cooperation and development and development projects mounted in the developing countries.

Addressing the colloquium, Mr Cheysson, the Commissioner responsible for cooperation and development, said that the full value of European development policy hinged on the participation of all the Community's political, economic and social forces. From this angle, it was good to have direct contacts with the non-governmental organizations, in the same way as with the parliaments and other economic and social groups.

The non-governmental organizations in turn expressed their interest in closer cooperation, on the understanding that it should in no way alter their independent, individual and multiple character.

It was clear, at the end, that the development projects of the NGO and the Community afforded and called for such cooperation. Contacts will be made over the months ahead between the Commission and the appropriate organizations to firm up these prospects.

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2316. On 19 June, the *European Parliament* gave its Opinion on the Commission's Communication to the Council concerning Community

financial and technical assistance to the non-associated developing countries over the period 1976-1980.

Generalized preferences

Preference scheme for 1976

2317. On 17 June, the Commission laid before the Council several Proposals and Communications concerning the 1976 Community scheme of generalized preferences.

The Commission has slanted the 1976 plan towards a modest but distinct improvement, centred on the most underfavoured countries. The Commission took this middle course to allow for the trend of the Community's overall economic situation and the need to keep up aid to the developing countries via the benefits of the generalized preferences scheme.

For *processed farm products*, the Commission is proposing a further 10% linear reduction of the preference scheme duties in effect in 1975, except for certain specific products such as instant coffee, cocoa butter, etc. For raw tobacco of the 'Virginia flue cured' variety, the Commission suggests that the tariff quota be raised from 30 000 to 36 000 tonnes.

The effect of the 1976 plan in agriculture can be estimated at 850 000 000 u.a. worth of imports from the non-ACP recipient countries for 231 products.

For *manufactured industrial products other than textiles*, the Commission's proposals culminate in an overall increase of 15% for most tariff quotas and ceilings. As regards classification of products and improving the balance of advantages between the recipients, the Commission

¹ Point 2413.

Table 3 — 1975 *Butteroil Food Aid Programme*

Countries and Organizations	Quantity (tonnes)	Delivery terms
<i>Europe and Middle East</i>		
Cyprus	300 ¹	fob
Egypt	1 500	fob
Jordan	1 000	fob
Malta	100	fob
Yemen (Arab Rep.)	700	fob
<i>West Africa</i>		
Guinea Bissau	350 ¹	free at destination
Cape Verde Isles	100 ¹	free at destination
<i>East Africa</i>		
Kenya	100	fob
Mauritius	200	fob
Somalia (Reserve)	850 ¹	free at destination
Tanzania	1 000	fob
<i>South Asia</i>		
Afghanistan	1 000	fob
Bangladesh	7 000	fob
Pakistan	3 500	fob
Sri Lanka	250	fob
<i>Latin America</i>		
Haïti	500	fob
Peru	1 000	fob
<i>Institutions</i>		
WFP	16 000	fob + 79 u.a./t + lump-sum contribution
UNICEF	2 000	free at destination
UNRWA	3 000	cif + 20 u.a./t + lump-sum contribution
<i>Reserve</i>	4 550	
Total	45 000	

¹ Projects decided before 16 June 1975.

proposes to renew the 1975 arrangements with sundry adjustments. For these products, the plan includes scope for preferential imports estimated at 2 650 000 million u.a. For *textiles*, the Commission would extend the 1975 arrangements, with a few adjustments, pending the outcome of the bilateral negotiations under the Multifibres Arrangement. The adjustments concern a 5% increase on the 1975 tariff quotas and ceilings, and the inclusion of dependent territories for certain textiles. The tariff quotas and ceilings open for 1976 amount to roughly 75 000 tonnes.

Food Aid

Emergency action

2318. Mindful of the substantial and urgent needs of the local population in *South Vietnam*, the Commission, on 16 June, proposed a second instalment of emergency aid to the Council, to be routed via the International Committee of the Red Cross and the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees. This aid concerns the allocation of 9 000 tonnes of milled rice, 6 000 tonnes of wheat flour and 1 000 tonnes of butteroil for a world-price value of 5 146 210 u.a.

2319. After the serious damage in the *Fiji Isles* by the hurricane 'Val', the Commission decided to grant emergency aid of 200 tonnes of milled rice, 60 tonnes of wheat flour and 20 tonnes of skim milk powder.¹ The cost of the operation amounts to some 108 460 u.a.

Butteroil: 1975 Programme

2320. On the strength of Commission Proposals presented in April,² the Council, on 16 June,³ adopted the Community food aid programme in

milk fats (butteroil) for 1975. This provides for a supply of 45 000 tonnes of butteroil to certain developing countries and international agencies. Table 3 shows the allocations. The cost of the programme will be approximately 64 000 000 u.a.

Commodities and world agreements

Tin

2321. The United Nations Conference on Tin, which ran in Geneva from 20 May to 21 June, culminated in the *text of a new Agreement* (the fifth) to supersede the current Agreement which expires at the end of June 1976. The Nine and the Community as such attended this Conference on renewing the fourth International Agreement on tin.

The new text finalized by the Conference is modelled on the fourth Agreement. But it embodies amendments to improve the instruments and strengthen collaboration between producer and consumer countries in attaining the objectives of the Agreement which will run for five years.

Important amendments include:

- A bigger buffer stock, raised from 20 000 to 40 000 tonnes; it will be formed by mandatory contributions from the producer countries for 20 000 tonnes and by additional voluntary contributions from the consumer countries to finance an equal volume. Two and a half years after the fifth Agreement has taken effect, the International Tin Council will appraise the re-

¹ OJ L 182 of 12.7.1975.

² Bull. EC 4-1975, point 2318.

³ OJ L 157 of 19.6.1975.

sults in respect of the additional contributions and may decide, if need be, to open fresh negotiations to amend the Agreement.

- Firmer arrangements regarding action to be taken, when shortfalls occur, to relieve the supply position for consumer countries.
- A clearer definition of the terms on which intergovernmental bodies participate, thus enabling the Community as such to be party to the Agreement.

Cocoa

2322. Within the International Cocoa Organization, the Commission joined in the proceedings of the *Committee preparing for the second International Cocoa Agreement*, which met in London from 9 to 13 June.

Community proposals had been drawn up on certain features of the Agreement, especially on operation of the buffer stock and terms of supply, and these were put to the Committee on behalf of the Community and the Member States.

The next meeting of the Committee will be in London in August and the negotiation Conference, sponsored by UNCTAD, will run in Geneva from 22 September to 17 October.

International organizations

Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development

2323. On 10 and 11 June, the Commission attended the first meeting of the *high level ad hoc Group on economic relations between member countries and the developing countries*,

formed by the OECD Council of Ministers when it met on 28 and 29 May.¹ It also attended the special session of the Executive Committee on 11 June.

Both meetings were to prepare the work programme of the *ad hoc* Group which, chaired by Mr H.K. Robert (Germany), is to draw up an interim report to the OECD Council by the end of July. The Group will reappraise relations with the developing countries, examining all the problems involved and how they intermesh. It will also deal with agricultural, nutritional and rural development issues, market access for processed products exported by the developing countries, industrial and technological cooperation and transfer of resources. Commodity problems will be analysed by the second *ad hoc* Group lately formed within the OECD.

Standing Conference of European Education Ministers

2324. The Standing Conference of European Ministers of Education held its *ninth session* in Stockholm from 10 to 12 June. The Conference was representative of the 21 countries participating in the Council of Europe's Committee for Cultural Cooperation. A delegation from the European Communities was led by Commissioner Brunner. Delegations were present also from the OECD, UNESCO and the Council of Europe.

Resolutions were agreed by the Ministers in three areas: the education of migrants, international cooperation in education, and recurrent education.

On migrant education, their resolution stressed the importance of providing equality of educational opportunity. Migrants and their chil-

¹ Bull. EC 5-1975, point 1408.

dren should be given the chance to gain an adequate knowledge of the language and culture of both the host country and the country of origin, and to get the necessary education and training to integrate into their new environment.

Concerning international cooperation in education, the Ministers recognized the advantages of a plurality of frameworks, but considered it important to avoid duplication of effort. Each organization should make its distinctive contribution according to its characteristic aims and methods, and complementarity should be ensured between their educational programmes.

The main theme of the meeting was recurrent education. In this context the Ministers emphasized that work experience should be more widely taken into account as a basis of qualification for admission to higher education and that individuals should have the right and opportunity to resume education later in life. They also suggested that post-compulsory education should be better tailored to the needs and interests of individuals with widely different experience.

European Conference of Transport Ministers

2325. Vice-President Scarascia Mugnozza represented the Commission at the 41st meeting of the European Conference of Transport Ministers (ECMT), which met in Copenhagen on 18 and 19 June, attended by delegates from eighteen countries of Europe.

The proceedings centred on the financial position of the railways and road safety, together with certain questions relating to railway infrastructures. The Conference came out in favour of *stronger cooperation with the Community*, welcoming the letter on the subject from the Council President of the Community to the Chairman of the ECMT.¹

General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade

GATT Council

2326. During the GATT Council meeting on 2 June, the Community representative and the Israeli delegate presented the new EEC-Israel Agreement.² This is to supersede the 1970 Agreement, gradually extending its free-trade area and establishing economic cooperation. The EEC representative and the Greek delegate presented the Additional Protocol and the Interim Agreement³ which specify the adjustments to the EEC-Greece Association Agreement entailed by the Community's enlargement.

International Consultative Group on Meat

2327. The International Consultative Group on Meat, set up at the suggestion of Australia in February,⁴ met for the second time on 11 and 12 June. The Group discussed the information required to gain a deeper insight into the world market. The Group serves as a kind of 'alarm bell' to avoid tension between the meat-exporting and importing countries.

International Labour Organization

2328. Vice-President Hillery represented the Commission at the 60th *International Labour Conference* run by the ILO in Geneva from 4 to 24 June. The proceedings focussed on: the role of rural workers in economic and social development, migrant workers, vocational training and guidance and equal opportunities for working women.

¹ Bull. EC 4-1975, point 2326.

² Bull. EC 5-1975, point 2334.

³ Bull. EC 4-1975, point 2332.

⁴ Bull. EC 2-1975, point 2317.

When he spoke on 9 June, Dr Hillery highlighted the unified inspiration behind ILO and Commission efforts to humanize work. He pointed out that, although economic growth had slowed down, the European Community had steadfastly pursued its Social Action Programme. Dr Hillery illustrated the work being done by the Commission: employment projects; an action programme to help migrant workers; activating the principle of equality between men and women in respect of job opportunities, training and other employment conditions; the European Foundation for the Improvement of Living and Working Conditions; further development of planned projects on safety, hygiene and health at work.

United Nations Organization for Food and Agriculture

FAO Council

2329. The FAO Council met in Rome from 9 to 20 June 1975 to prepare the first meeting of the World Food Council and the work of the FAO Conference scheduled for next November.

World Food Council

2330. The World Food Council, formed after the World Food Conference in Rome in November 1974,¹ held its first meeting in Rome from 23 to 27 June, attended by the Commission. The Community also took part.

For the first meeting, the Commission had sent the EEC Council a Communication resuming its earlier proposals concerning an increase in food aid, declared its support for Community participation in an international Fund for agricultural development and recommended a procedure which would enable it to take part in all the WFC proceedings, but without the right to vote.

During the meeting, the World Council approved the substance of the proposals at the November Conference (creation of an International Agricultural Development Fund; recommendations concerning food safety, in particular for a warning and information system, the formation of reserve stocks; more food aid for the developing countries, etc.). The Council also considered its own internal organization.

EFTA countries

Joint Committees

2331. Six of the Joint Committees under the Agreements between the EFTA countries and the Community met in June.

The EEC-Switzerland Committee held its fifth meeting in Brussels on 5 June, chaired by Mr Caillat, Head of the Swiss Mission to the Communities. This was followed by the second meeting of the ECSC-Switzerland Committee.

The fifth meeting of the EEC-Sweden Committee took place in Brussels on 6 June, chaired by Mr Von Sydow, Head of the Swedish Mission. The same day saw the second meeting in Brussels of the ECSC-Sweden Committee, and the fifth meeting of the EEC-Iceland Committee, chaired by Mr Tomasson, Head of the Icelandic Mission.

The Committee formed under the EEC-Austria Agreement also met for the fifth time in Vienna on 12 and 13 June, chaired by Mr Reiterer, Head of the Austrian Mission. Afterwards, the ECSC-Austria Committee held its second meeting.

¹ Bull. EC 11-1974, points 1401 to 1407.

On 17 June, meetings took place in Brussels of the EEC-Norway Committee, chaired by Mr Boyesen, Head of the Norwegian Mission, and the EEC-Finland Committee under Mr Withol, Head of the Finnish Mission. On the same day the ECSC-Norway and ECSC-Finland Committees met for the first time.

At each meeting, the respective delegations appraised the running of the Agreements and got down to a broad discussion of the problems now colouring the international economy. The Joint Committees were also briefed on progress made in streamlining customs formalities, administrative procedures and the rules of origin. They instructed the Customs Committees to continue working on outstanding matters.

Mediterranean countries

Overall Mediterranean approach

2332. Agreement was reached within the Council of Ministers of Agriculture on 23 and 24 June,¹ on certain market organization measures conditioning application of agricultural concessions within the setting of the overall Mediterranean approach.

Thus the Communiqué after the Council meeting of 24 June, attended by the Ministers for Foreign Affairs, states:

'The Council, having been informed of the completion of proceedings on the overall Mediterranean approach by the Council composed of Ministers of Agriculture, noted that the Commission was now in possession of the Directives necessary for concluding negotiations with the Maghreb countries.

The Council also noted that the Commission felt that it would be possible for negotiations with

Spain to be pursued shortly and that the negotiations with Malta could also be resumed in the near future on the basis of the recent Commission Proposals which the Permanent Representatives Committee had been instructed to study with this in mind.

Finally, the Council undertook to devote itself actively to the elaboration of the negotiating Directives for the Arab Republic of Egypt, the Lebanon, Jordan and Syria.'

Greece

Request to join the Communities

2333. On 12 June, Greece presented a request to join the European Communities.² At its meeting of 24 June, the Council asked the Commission to give an Opinion.

Joint EEC-Greece Parliamentary Committee

2334. The Joint EEC-Greece Parliamentary Committee met in Athens from 25-28 June, with Mr Pasmazoglou in the Chair. The Community was represented by Mr FitzGerald, the President of the Council and Vice-President Scarascia Mugnozza of the Commission. This was the first meeting of the Joint Parliamentary Committee since the *coup d'état* in 1967, after which the Association had been 'frozen'.

At the end of the proceedings, the Parliamentary Committee approved three recommendations. The first asks the Council and Commission, the Greek Government and the Governments of the Nine to speed up all the procedures required for Greece to join the European Communities. The second bears on the Cyprus

¹ Point 2239 and Bull. EC 5-1975, point 2329.

² Points 1201 to 1212.

problem; the Committee calls for the restoration of a just and lasting peace respecting the sovereign independence and the territorial integrity of the Republic of Cyprus.

The third recommendation hopes that the Additional Protocol, signed on 28 April,¹ will take effect as swiftly as possible, and is concerned with future economic relations between Greece and the Community.

Malta

2335. On 18 June, the Commission laid a Recommendation before the Council amending and consolidating the *Directives for negotiation with Malta*. The Recommendation considers the requests by the Maltese Delegation during the first round of the negotiations in September 1974² and the offers to the other Mediterranean countries under the overall approach.

Cyprus

2336. The second meeting of the EEC-Cyprus Association Council took place in Luxembourg on 24 June, chaired by Mr Christophides, the Republic's Minister for Foreign Affairs.

The Cyprus delegation put forward its views on a number of outstanding questions, particularly in the light of the economic situation of the island, with reference to the Association Agreement and its future development. The delegation also spoke about including Cyprus in the Community's overall Mediterranean approach in accordance with the Statement annexed to the Agreement, in respect of agriculture, and broached the subject of financial and technical cooperation between Cyprus and the Community. The visitors emphasized that their Government hoped that adequate solutions to these questions could be found promptly.

Tunisia

2337. The exchange of instruments notifying completion of the procedures required so that the Agreement extending the Association Agreement between the EEC and Tunisia, signed in Brussels on 14 February,³ may take effect, was made on 30 June.⁴ The Association Agreement has duly been extended until 31 August 1975.

The Community delegation took note of these points and agreed that work on the matters under discussion should continue according to the spirit and the letter of the Association Agreement.

Portugal

2338. Following the recommendation by the Joint EEC-Portugal Committee, when it met on 28 May 1975,⁵ which anticipates that negotiations will be initiated on the Portuguese requests, the Commission, on 11 June, sent the Council a Communication on *action to be taken for Portugal's benefit*.

In the Communication, the Commission proposes that Portugal be granted special financial aid and that negotiations be initiated, in respect of the requests from Portuguese industry and agriculture, on cooperation regarding manpower and social security and financial, industrial and technological cooperation.

2339. On 24 June, the Council, on the strength of the Communication, discussed the scope for promoting Portugal's development and instructed the Committee of Permanent Repre-

¹ Bull. EC 4-1975, point 2332.

² Bull. EC 9-1974, point 2320.

³ OJ L 84 of 4.4.1975.

⁴ OJ L 173 of 4.7.1975.

⁵ Bull. EC 5-1975, point 2333.

Mediterranean countries

representatives to examine how and on what terms appropriate financial assistance could be rendered to Portugal. The Council stated its readiness to attend a meeting at Ministerial level with Portugal's delegates.

Israel

2340. The exchange of instruments advising completion of the procedures required for the EEC-Israel Agreement,¹ signed in Brussels on 11 May, to come into force, took place in Brussels on 30 May. The Agreement duly took effect on 1 July 1975.²

Yugoslavia

Official visit by the President of the Commission

2341. Invited by the Federal Executive Council, President Ortoli made an official visit to Yugoslavia from 12 to 15 June. He was received by Mr V. Bakarić, Vice-President of the Presidency of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia and Mr D. Bijedić, President of the Federal Executive Council.

He was also received by Mr M. Minic, Vice-President of the Federal Executive Council and Federal Secretary for Foreign Affairs, Mr B. Sefer, Vice-President of the Federal Executive Council, Mr J. Smole, member of the FEC responsible for relations with the Community and Mr E. Ludviger, Federal Secretary for Foreign Trade.

The hosts and their visitor discussed the status of cooperation between the Community and Yugoslavia and the scope for developing this further. The talks also took in problems arising from international economic relations.

African, Caribbean and Pacific countries

These efforts to strengthen relations between Yugoslavia and the Community also dovetail with the Community's overall policy for its relations with the developing countries. From this angle, the key issues of international economic relations generated broad discussion: dominated by a mutual feeling that the next United Nations meetings must yield positive results, on the basis of equality, the widest possible cooperation and mutual interest.

African, Caribbean and Pacific countries

ACP - EEC Lomé Convention

Advance implementation of the provisions of the Convention relating to trade

2342. Under a number of Regulations³ adopted by the Council—or by the Representatives of the Governments of the Member States meeting in Council—on 24 and 25 June 1975, the ACP States may benefit from the provisions of the Lomé Convention relating to trade from 1 July, that is in advance of the date set. The undertaking given when the Convention was signed is thus fulfilled.

The measures adopted—without waiting for the official entry into force of the Convention (after ratification by the nine Member States of the Community and at least two-thirds of the ACP States)—provide free access to the Community market for virtually all imports originating in the forty-six African, Caribbean and Pacific coun-

¹ OJ L 136 of 28.5.1975.

² OJ L 165 of 28.6.1975.

³ OJ L 166 of 28.6.1975.

tries which signed the Lomé Convention—99.2% to be precise. The products having free access are worth over \$7300 million (1973 statistics), or approximately half of the ACP countries' total exports (all destinations).

The texts adopted by the Council (Regulations or Decisions) cover the following points:

- advance implementation of certain provisions of the ACP-EEC Lomé Convention relating to trade;
- the opening of tariff preferences for products within the province of the ECSC originating in the ACP States and in the Overseas Countries and Territories (OCT);
- the arrangements applicable to certain agricultural or processed agricultural products originating in the ACP States or in the OCT;
- the opening, allocation and administration of a Community tariff quota for products falling within subheading 22.09 C I (rum) of the CCT, originating in the ACP States.

A Regulation on the interim trade arrangements with the OCT will also be adopted, its proposed date of entry into force being 1 August 1975.

The Council has also approved the integral agreements (financial and procedural) on the implementation of the Lomé Convention, and these are to enter into force at the same time as the Convention.

At the Council meeting in question, the two subjects which gave rise to the most difficult and the longest discussions were rum and a point in the Regulation on agricultural products—namely beef and veal. As far as rum originating in the ACP States is concerned, the Community has agreed to open until 31 December 1975 a duty-free tariff quota, pursuant to Protocol No 7 to the Convention, of 109 000 hectolitres (pure alcohol equivalent).

As regards beef and veal (the import charge on which consists of a customs duty and a levy), the

Community has conceded to exempt the products in question from all customs duties. In addition—and exceptionally—the Council has decided to reduce the levies by 90% until 31 December 1975 provided that an export tax equivalent to the same amount is paid by the exporter into the budget of the exporting ACP State.

2343. On 19 June¹ the *European Parliament* had delivered favourable Opinions on the texts relating to trade with the ACP States adopted by the Council on 24 June, and on the Commission's proposal concerning the interim trade arrangements with the OCT.

Meeting of the ACP at ministerial level

2344. On 5 and 6 June the ACP States held an important meeting at ministerial level in Georgetown (Guyana), the first such meeting since the signing of the Lomé Convention on 28 February.

This meeting was concerned with organizing the ACP's structure and established a Council of Ministers and a Committee of ACP Ambassadors assisted by a Secretariat. Also, the ACP admitted Papua-New Guinea to their meeting, and decided to support that country's application for accession to the Lomé Convention after it becomes independent.

The ACP Ministers also examined a report of the Ambassadors on the interim arrangements pending the entry into force of the Lomé Convention, and in particular the EEC-ACP consultation procedure, which they considered unsatisfactory.

¹ Point 2412.

Ratifications

2345. Four more ACP States gave notice that they were depositing the instruments of ratification of the Lomé Convention—namely *Guinea Bissau* and the *Gambia* on 12 June, *Jamaica* on 17 June and *Trinidad and Tobago* on 30 June. Seven ACP States have now completed this procedure.

Yaoundé Convention**European Development Fund****New financing decisions**

2346. Following the favourable opinion delivered by the EDF Committee, the Commission approved on 3 June 1975 four financing decisions involving grants totalling 2 935 000 u.a.¹ from the second and third EDFs.

The amounts involved are to cover the additional expenditure necessary, owing to the increased cost of materials and wages, for the successful completion of the following projects:

Mali: Reconstruction of two bridges over the Bagoé and Bafing rivers MF 130 million, equivalent to approximately 234 000 u.a. (second EDF). This project, which was financed under the third EDF in March 1972 (1 008 000 u.a.), concerns the construction of a 171 m bridge over the river Bagoé and of a 72 m bridge over the river Bafing. These bridges are situated on the Bougoumi-Sikasso road.

Somalia: Telecommunications system using radio links and the equipping of two urban telephone exchanges. So. Sh. 11 624 000, equivalent to approximately 1 546 000 u.a. (third EDF).

This project, which was financed under the second and third EDFs (5 775 000 u.a.), involves the setting up of two telephone exchanges, international radio links, the creation of an internal telecommunications network, the construction of buildings and provision of equipment, and the establishment of a training programme. Technical modifications which proved necessary while the project was being carried out have also contributed to an overrun.

Dahomey: Porto Novo-Yoko-Pobé road. CFAF 109 million, equivalent to approximately 393 000 u.a. (third EDF). This project concerns the improvement and asphaltting of 71 km of the Porto Novo-Yoko-Pobé road, involving two links serving the oil mills at Agony and Pobé in the south-west of the country. The project was financed in October 1972 to the tune of 4 537 000 u.a.

Netherlands Antilles: Wharf on St Eustatius. Ant.f. 1 645 000, equivalent to approximately 762 000 u.a. (third EDF). This project has already received Community financing amounting to 1 330 000 u.a. The aim of the project is to give the island of St Eustatius port facilities consisting of a deep-water wharf enabling two ships to dock at the same time. This additional financing will permit the successful completion of the project, which is of particular economic importance to the country in question.

With these four financing decisions commitments under the third EDF now total 8 262 330 000 u.a. in respect of 310 financing decisions since the start of operations under this Fund (1 January 1971).

¹ u.a. (unit of account) is equivalent to approximately US \$ 1.20 (new parity).

Non-member countries

Industrialized countries

Japan

High-level talks

2347. The *sixth series* of high-level talks between the Communities and Japan were held in Tokyo on 16 and 17 June. The discussions bore on the world economic situation and that of Japan and the Communities. The Japanese delegation described Japan's third economic recovery programme and how it was planned to gradually stimulate demand to counter the trend towards recession.

Regarding bilateral problems discussed, the Community delegation expressed its concern over the mounting deficit in the Community's trade balance with Japan (US \$2000 million in 1974) and alerted the Japanese authorities to the fact that various barriers blocking imports into Japan should be removed to promote Community exports on the Japanese market.

Many questions involving the Community and Japan on the international scene were also touched upon, including the multilateral GATT negotiations and matters relating to energy and raw material supply.

ECSC-Japan Contact Group

2348. Among the contacts initiated by the ECSC High Authority in 1965, *talks* between the Community and Japan, on the situation of the steel sector, took place in Tokyo on 18 and 19 June. Since the general economic situation is seriously affecting steel, both sides agreed that in view of the fall in world demand, output should follow the trend of actual demand.

Asian and Latin American
Developing CountriesAssociation
of South-East Asian Nations

2349. The first session of the *Joint Commission—ASEAN Study Group* was held in Brussels on 26 and 27 June 1975. Sir Christopher Soames, Vice-President of the Commission responsible for external relations, and Mr Radius Prawiro, Minister of Trade of Indonesia, leader of the ASEAN delegation, jointly presided over the inaugural meeting. Thereafter, the session continued under the senior officials on either side.

The Joint Study Group was set up in order to further the development and intensification of the continuing dialogue between the ASEAN and the Commission of the European Communities and to enable the two parties to explore together all possible areas where their cooperation could be broadened, intensified and diversified, giving special consideration to the development needs of the ASEAN countries and taking into consideration the situation in the European Community and its development.

During the two-day meeting the delegations had a fruitful exchange of views on current issues both within the context of their respective organizations and in relation to the global economic situation. A number of areas of mutual interest where cooperation could be envisaged were identified and will be studied by experts from both sides who will report to the next meeting of the Study Group. The Commission will consider the possibility of making use for this purpose of funds available for assistance to regional cooperation in developing countries.

At the invitation of the ASEAN, the Joint Study Group will hold its next meeting in Manila in the first half of January 1976.

South Korea

2350. On 23 June, the *Deputy Prime Minister* of South Korea, Mr Nam, called on President Ortoli and Sir Christopher Soames. Their talks centred on the following points: development of bilateral relations between the Community and South Korea; the favourable effect of the generalized preferences scheme on South Korea's exports to the Community; the general economic situation.

Mexico

2351. Negotiations for an Agreement between the EEC and Mexico¹ were successfully wound up during the second session on 9 and 10 June.

The Agreement is a non-preferential one based on most-favoured-nation treatment in trade relations. This makes it one of the new generation of agreements which the Community launched with India in 1973. Although the aim of the Agreement is to develop and diversify trade between both sides to their mutual advantage, which is usually the purpose of an orthodox trade agreement, the means to achieve this end are based substantially on the cooperation of both parties.

The Joint Committee will be responsible for putting this in hand. Its first job will be to study practical trade problems between the partners, to help solve them. The work may cover barriers to trade, or products or production sectors with the aim of amplifying the trade patterns.

Various solutions will be worked out by the Joint Committee, such as for example: more effective use by Mexico of the generalized preferences scheme, and trade promotion.

The Joint Committee will also be working to facilitate the exchange of information and foster

contacts between Community firms and entrepreneurs and Mexico to help in carrying out projects of mutual benefit. The participation of Community entrepreneurs in Mexico's development will depend on how far Mexico can attract them to profitable operations.

The agreement carries an 'evolutionary' clause, meaning that its coverage can be extended according to the development of the partners' economic policies, or for the Community, insofar as the latter becomes active in new areas of common policies.

The Agreement is to be signed in July and will take effect when Mexico has completed the ratification procedures.

Meeting between the Community and Latin America

2352. The first session of the sixth meeting, at ambassador level, between the Community and the Latin American countries was held on 30 June.

The discussions bore mainly on trade relations between the EEC and Latin America and on current problems involved. They also considered the Community's world-scale overall cooperation and development policy, in respect of its present and future applications to the specific needs of the Latin American countries.

Among the questions touched on, the main items were beef and veal exports to the EEC, Community imports of bananas, and the rules of cumulative origin recently adopted by the Community to meet the situation peculiar to exports from countries, particularly Latin American nations, involved in a process of regional integration.

¹ Bull. EC 3-1975, point 2344 and 4-1975, point 2349.

4. Institutions and organs of the Communities

European Parliament

Official visit by the President of Ireland to the Community Institutions

2401. Mr Cearbhall Ó Dálaigh, the President of Ireland, paid an official visit to the Community Institutions.

He began his tour on 16 June with a call on the Court of Justice of which he was a member until he was elected President in December 1974.

Again in Luxembourg he visited the Council during its 344th meeting (economy and finance).

The same day, he met the senior executives of the European Investment Bank.

In Brussels, on 17 June, the Commission held a formal session to receive President Ó Dálaigh. Mr Ó Dálaigh then went on to the Economic and Social Committee, where he attended a meeting of the Committee's Bureau. Later at Val Duchesse he received the Heads of the Diplomatic Missions accredited to the Communities.

On 18 June, President Ó Dálaigh was received at the European Parliament which held a special sitting to mark his visit.

This is the first time that the Head of a Member State has personally called on the Community institutions.

European Parliament

Part-session in Luxembourg from 16 to 20 June 1975

2402. As Ireland ended her Presidency of the Council of the European Communities, a special tribute was paid to the European Parliament: The President of Ireland, Mr Cearbhall Ó

Dálaigh, paid an official visit to the House in Strasbourg. It was the first visit by a Head of State.

Agriculture was the main item on the agenda of the June sittings. A whole day's debate was devoted to the stocktaking of the CAP, the results of which will determine the Community's agricultural policy over the years ahead.¹

Agriculture

Stocktaking of the Common Agricultural Policy (17 June)

2403. The CAP is, as it has always been, a cornerstone of European integration. This was Parliament's essentially positive overall assessment of the Commission's stocktaking of the CAP.²

The House, in support of the Commission's view, felt that the basic principles of the CAP held good for the future, whilst the political instruments needed improvement. The CAP

¹ The report on this part-session of Parliament was prepared from the German edition of 'Informations' published by Parliament's General Secretariat.

The Political Group and nationality of members speaking in the debates are indicated in brackets after their names and abbreviated as follows: C-D = Christian Democrats, S = Socialist Group, L = Liberal and Allied Group, C = European Conservatives, EPD = European Progressive Democrats, COM = Communist and Allied Groups; B = Belgium, DK = Denmark, G = Federal Republic of Germany, F = France, IRL = Ireland, I = Italy, L = Luxembourg, NL = Netherlands, UK = United Kingdom.

The complete texts of the Resolutions are reproduced in OJ C157 of 14.7.1975 and the verbatim report of the sittings is contained in OJ Annex 192.

² Supplement 2/75 — Bull. EC.

could not fulfill its potential because of a lack of political will in other areas, such as economic, monetary and social policy.

Improvement lay primarily in the direction of setting production targets and in a price policy aligned with the concept of modern farming. Combined with corresponding social and regional policy measures, this must result in improved incomes for farmers. The House felt that direct supplements to incomes served a purpose, but only to cope with specific conditions and structural handicaps.

To prevent surpluses, the Community should set general production targets within regular five-yearly stocktakings, targets which reckoned with internal demand, and import, export and storage requirements. Parliament did not in principle reject the Commission's proposal to make farmers partially responsible financially for surpluses, but pointed out that this already existed to some extent, via the price mechanism. It should not affect the modernization of farming and Community responsibility for the income situation of farmers. In place of surpluses, the rapporteur of the Committee on Agriculture, Mr *Scott-Hopkins* (C/UK) advocated a policy of deliberate 'strategic' storage. In any case, when surpluses occurred the consumer should always get the benefit first. Mr *Scott-Hopkins* also discussed Parliament's views on the new reform Proposals for individual products. Those on cereals and milk did not strike him as appropriate. He found that beef and veal were better served but complained that nothing had been proposed for pigmeat and poultry. Marketing had to be improved since the farmers were first-rate producers but very poor salesmen.

The frequent complaints by the public over the cost of the CAP were touched on in the opinion of the Rapporteur of the Budgets Committee, Mr *Cointat* (EPD/F). With 75%, agricultural expenditure admittedly took the lion's share of the Community budget, but only because hardly

anything was laid out for the other policy sectors. Only 0.43% of the Community's GNP was allotted to the EAGGF. On the Commission's stocktaking, he criticized the non-integration of the CAP with the Community's general policy and the lack of future prospects, in terms of figures. The stocktaking was really no more than a 'snapshot'.

For the co-responsible Committee on External Relations, Mr *Vetrone* (C-D/I) examined the successes and failures of the CAP on the basis of market unity, financial solidarity and Community preference. All in all, it came to a very unsatisfactory result, primarily because we had not arrived at a geographical division of labour within the Community. He called for resolute steps towards a more firmly integrated agricultural policy.

The Chairman of the Committee on Agriculture, Mr *Houdet* (L/F) said that the CAP did not deserve such savage criticism. It was by no means as protectionist as it was claimed to be, since from 1958 to 1975, the exports of non-member countries had risen from 9 000 million to 19 000 million u.a. The rise in costs was understandable, if one allowed for the enlargement, the transfer of expenditure which had previously come from national sources, and the monetary compensatory amounts. Neither could it be blamed for the soaring prices, considering that in 1974 consumer prices in the Community had gone up by 10.5%, as against 29% in Japan and 14% in the USA.

Replying to the rapporteur and the spokesman of the co-responsible Committee, Commissioner *Lardinois* welcomed Parliament's proposal to set production targets reflecting internal demand, import and export and storage requirements. He also accepted the idea of five-yearly stocktakings. He suggested that a start be made with key sectors (such as cereals). It was also important to get the support of the national

authorities. He took the rest of Parliament's criticisms to heart.

The Council President, Mr *Clinton*, declared that Parliament's Resolution came at the right time for inclusion in the Council's deliberations, which were only just starting, with a scrutiny of the stocktaking.

Mr *Martens* (C-D/B) announced that the Christian-Democrats endorsed the report of the Committee on Agriculture. He pointed out that other areas of Community policy had not yet even reached the point of deciding whether a stocktaking could be made. The stocktaking embodied what had been learned from a policy whose aim was to feed 260 000 000 consumers and assure the living of 10 000 000 farmers. In the final division the C-D Group was able to carry through four amendments. They concerned the effectiveness of direct income supplements; the assurance of systematic information on the development of production potential so that market swings can be regulated at the right moment; the quality of wine; and tighter internal controls to prevent mistakes by the EAGGF.

With its tabled amendments, most of which did not gain the required majority, the Socialists Group wanted to emphasize the high costs of the CAP and the need for firmer consideration of consumer interests in setting prices. The spokesman, Mr *Frehsee* (G) stressed that price policy must be geared to the restoration of structural balance. He opposed all proposal texts which would 'cement' existing relationships by neglecting structural measures. Despite some reservations, (they wanted to put most weight on agricultural structural policy) the Socialists supported the Resolution.

Mr *Durieux* (F), for the Liberals, pointed to the regional disparities in European agriculture. Like him, the Conservative spokesman, Mr *Howell* (UK) supported the call for more effective marketing.

In the division the EPD Group could not support the majority and abstained. Its tabled amendment, seeking to replace the term 'modern farm', as a basis for price policy, by the term 'family farm' and to reorientate the price structure in favour of cattle breeding, was rejected. Commissioner *Lardinois* had tried in vain to convince the EPD Group that, even for a family farm the prime criterion had to be 'modernity', if it were to continue.

As emphasized in the Resolution, Parliament was unanimous in feeling that to base prices on the modern farm required supporting measures in structural, social and regional policy or even direct aid for incomes.

The Communist and Allied Group was the only one to vote against. It had incorporated its own ideas into an alternative Resolution motion, which was rejected.

In his final remarks, Commissioner *Lardinois* dealt with the comments of the various speakers. He promised Mr *Scholten* (C-D/NL) that the cost of social policy measures would be considered. He acknowledged Mr *Cifarelli's* (S/I) wish to see more attention paid to the Mediterranean coastal States. Mr *Della Briotta* (S/I) had also claimed that the products of the Mediterranean needed more effective protection, pointing out that olive plantations, for example, required much more time than cattle breeding, before showing a profit.

Mr *Lardinois* assured two Irish members, Mr *McDonald* (C-D) and Mr *Nolan* (EPD) that the Commission would soon be considering their call for a sheepmeat market organization. To Mr *Lemoine* (COM/F), who had highlighted the adverse effects of surpluses on incomes, he said that surpluses were at all events better than shortages. The Community must hold stocks to be prepared for periods of scarcity. As a whole, Community agricultural production was sound. Mr *Früh* (C-D/G) had also countered

the criticism of an expensive farm product basket in the Community.

Mr *Corrie* (C/UK) contended that farmers should produce what they could and then it had to be seen what to do with it.

To Mr *Liogier* (EPD/F), who had spoken on the subject of the family farm, he said that he could not accept that in such concerns 'the farm was everything and the family nothing'. The Commission wanted to see sound, modern family farms. He assured the spokesman of the EPD Group, Mr *Hunault*, that he agreed that such concerns should be 'balanced'. To Mr *De Koning* (C-D/NL), who had attacked the cereals policy, he replied that in the predicament of the the past year, the Commission had had to give priority to the consumers. He endorsed Mr *Nielsen's* (S/DK) call for national subsidies to be discontinued. In his reply to Mr *Frehsee*, he was confident that the Commission by the end of July hoped to have the data to hand for a list of national aid. To the Conservative spokesman, Mr *Howell*, he explained that as regards statistics the Commission depended on the Member States' authorities.

He assured the Communist spokesman, Mr *Cipolla* (I), that a Mediterranean Conference would be held before further agreements were made with various countries. Mr *Lardinois* rebutted the criticism of the Liberal spokesman, Mr *Durieux*, concerning measures for beef and veal and hoped that Mr *Martens* the C-D spokesman, could sympathize more strongly with the co-responsibility of farmers.

The rapporteur, Mr *Scott-Hopkins*, closed the debate with the remark that it had conveyed the impression of a common agricultural policy which, though criticized on some of its features, remained basically sound.

Countering the adulteration of wine (16 Jue)

2404. Two C-D members, Mr *Früh* (G) and Mr *De Koning* (NL) asked the Commission about the reasons for the reserved attitude of the Netherlands, in modifying the Community market organization for wine, towards the projected exchange of information between the Member States' authorities responsible for inspecting wine. This was intended to prevent the adulteration and deliberate misnaming of wines. Commissioner *Lardinois* was able to reply that the Netherlands had asked that all farming sectors be included in the exchange. The differences of opinion had meanwhile been settled.

Situation on the beef and veal market.

2405. The Commission's latest measures on the beef and veal market came under fire from the Liberal and Allied and EPD Group. In two questions they highlighted the possible ill effects of relaxing import conditions for beef and veal from non-member countries and of lowering the intervention level. They feared the impact on price stability and the minimum incomes of breeders, as well as losses on the export market.

Commissioner *Lardinois*, responsible for agriculture, replied that the Commission's cautious opening of the beef and veal market early in May had so far caused no disturbance on the market. Moreover, the price level for beef and veal had improved over recent weeks and stocks in private storage had declined. There was therefore no further need for strict maintenance of the protection clause.

Recession in the textile industry (20 June)

2406. The recession in the European textile industry could be halted only through structural

adaptation. Commission Vice-President *Simonet* emphasized to the House that restrictive measures, via import curbs, would not have much effect without structural measures. As regards short-term alleviation of the crisis, the Commission would be convening a Joint Committee of both sides of industry in June, to discuss emergency measures, such as aid from the Social Fund for the textile industry. This was in answer to a question from the European Conservatives.

The crisis in the textile industry, the Community's third largest industry, was ascribed by Mr *Simonet* to the fall in demand, high stocks and imports at low prices. As regards imported textiles, the Commission, under Article 4 of the Multifibres Arrangement under GATT had ordered the surveillance of imports and had banned imports of textiles from Brazil and South Korea into Germany and Ireland, for a certain time.

In the debate, Mr *Schwörer* (C-D/G) called for harmonization of production costs insofar as they were influenced on the national side, (taxes for example), and a balanced raw material supply by means of international raw material agreements. It was now a question of maintaining medium-sized concerns and supporting them through guidance and research. Competitors outside the Community must be resisted. Mr *Liogier* (EPD/F), also recommended limiting imports from cheap-price countries. Mr *Lange* (S/G) and Mr *van der Hek* (S/NL) warned against a relapse into protectionism. The crisis in the textile industry had long been evident and was not to be dispelled by curbs on imports, but only by radical restructuration.

Financing nuclear power stations by Euratom loans (19 June)

2407. Parliament approved the co-financing of nuclear power stations by Euratom loans.

This should boost the building of nuclear power stations, in the interests of reducing Europe's energy dependence. The House took the view that funds should be granted on condition that the most up-to-date technical knowledge was applied and the economic viability of co-financed projects assured.

The House intended to use its controlling authority over the resources provided (500 000 000 u.a. annually for the period 1975-1980).

On behalf of the Commission, Mr *Cheysson* acknowledged that Parliament should act not only after the event. It must authorize the Commission to float these loans. Then the Commission must be accountable to Parliament and the Council for the use of the resources. The Commission would present a report to the House on its loan policy from January 1974 to June 1975.

Mr *Normanton* (C/UK), after hearing the Commission's statement, announced that his Group endorsed the Resolution motion of the Committee on Energy, Research and Technology. In May it had had the report referred back to the Committee, because it felt that Parliament had inadequate control over the Commission's loan activity.

External relations

Aid for Portugal (18 June)

2408. Are the Community's planned aid measures for Portugal economically and politically adequate? This question was the focus of a debate, occasioned by the Commission's latest Proposals, on the strength of which the Council will shortly take a decision on aid for Portugal.

The Chairman of the Socialists, Mr *Fellermaier* (G), who had brought up the problem via a

question to the Commission in Question Time just before, depicted the appalling situation in Portugal: 270 000 unemployed, soon to be swelled by 150 000 returning from the former colonies, heavy decline of investment, a fall in tourist traffic and inflation running at 30%. In this crippling economic situation, the Community must support the struggle of the Portuguese Socialists led by Mario Soares to preserve political liberty, while helping them quickly and directly. Economic stabilization was the prerequisite for political democratization. Socialism could develop only in a pluralist democracy. He warned that incidents like compromising the freedom of the press in the 'Republica' affair could eventually provoke a 'putsch' by the Right. The Community could not remain aloof, which did not imply interference with Portugal's internal affairs. Mr *Leenhardt* (S/F) endorsed these comments.

The Commissioner responsible for external relations, Sir Christopher Soames, commented on the Commission's proposed measures to help Portugal.¹ It was planned to send financial aid before the negotiations officially closed and a financial protocol was ratified. Sir Christopher said he was sure that the Portuguese Government would manage to hold down the dangerous trends in the economy.

The Chairman of the Christian Democrats, Mr *Lücker* (G) paid tribute to Mario Soares, who deserved the full support of all democrats, who desired a pluralist democracy for Portugal. Mr *Kirk* (C/UK) felt that the crucial question was whether we should help Portugal regardless of the political outlook or whether our aid should depend on certain political developments, which brought with it the risk of interference. Mr *Blumenfeld* (C-D/G) emphasized that the mistakes which had been made with regard to Greece should not be repeated. Mr *de la Malène* (EPD/F) reminded the House of the blunders by the West at the time of the revo-

lution in Cuba. Mr *Berkhouwer* (L/NL) stressed that any risk of a Communist dictatorship in Portugal involved the whole of Europe, and Mr *Bersani* (C-D/I) described the statements of Portuguese Communists as alarming.

Mr *Ansart* (COM/F) highlighted the need for prompt aid, without compromising Portugal's freedom of political decision.

In conclusion, Sir Christopher Soames assured the House that the Community was carefully following developments and would do all it could to help Portugal along the road to pluralist democracy, for which the majority of the electorate had opted.

EEC relations with China (18 June)

2409. Recognition of the Community by the People's Republic of China and the plans to send a Chinese ambassador to Brussels were the subject of a question from five Groups (except for the Communists). The Commission was asked for details on the present status of contacts and any possible developments. It was also asked to say how the further development of those relations would affect the EEC's links with other non-member countries.

Sir Christopher Soames, Vice-President of the Commission responsible for external relations reported on the outcome of his talks with China's leaders.² He considered that the Agreement, which the Community would negotiate with China to supersede the expired Agreement, would entail no insuperable difficulties for the Community's relations with East European countries, especially the USSR. He hoped that those countries would likewise recognize the Community.

¹ Point 2338.

² Bull. EC 5-1975, points 1201 to 1205.

In the debate, Mr *Jahn* (C-D/G) said he was glad of the positive turn in relations between the EEC and China, which were based on a realistic appreciation. China could see a major trading partner in the Community.

Lord *Gladwyn* (L/UK) stressed that for China, Europe was no longer an 'imperialist' continent. Neither did the United States see any reason to disturb these relations, since they would act as a stabilizer for relations between the industrial nations and the third world countries. Mr *Lenihan* (EPD/IRL) thought that the Community was not merely an economic block and that the new prospects were therefore not to be appraised solely from the economic angle. Mr *Dykes* (C/UK) suggested that an exhibition be arranged in Peking or Shanghai to show the Chinese people what the Community really was.

The New Round in GATT (18 June)

2410. In an action report, Parliament set out its requirements *vis-à-vis* the Commission and the Member States, in respect of the multilateral GATT negotiations. Set against the effects of the energy crisis, the Commission had worked out a fresh negotiation concept, on which Vice-President Sir Christopher *Soames* had briefed the Committee for External Relations on 4 February and 18 March.

In its Resolution, the House approved the Commission's idea not only to phase out duties but also to try and harmonize them at world level. Liberalization of world trade must in any event rest on the principle of reciprocity. Parliament was concerned over the possible negative effects of the new United States Trade Act (1974), whereby Congress could question the results of the negotiations. The rapporteur, Mr *Kaspereit* (EPD/F) therefore urged that the Com-

mission too should stipulate that it could revise the results, if Congress should do so.

In general, Parliament asked the Commission to campaign forcefully against export restrictions and other protectionist devices. Stabilization of world agricultural prices and expansion of the developing countries' trade must take priority in the negotiations.

The need to apply the principle of reciprocity *vis-à-vis* the Eastern bloc countries was also highlighted by Mr *Klepsch* (C-D/G). Lord *Reay* (C/UK) said one of the main aims of the negotiations was to allow the developing countries a place in world trade. Mr *Patijn* (S/NL) tabled an amendment to the effect that the developing countries be excluded from the principle of reciprocity. But this was not supported by the majority, who feared that such exceptional arrangements could unjustifiably favour the Arab oil-producing countries. Mr *De Clercq* (L/B) said that the results of the negotiations were closely linked with a remodelling of the world monetary system. Mr *Thomsen* (C/DK) spoke in the same vein. Mrs *Kellett-Bowman* (C/UK) pointed to the need to relate the Community agricultural policy to development aid.

Commission Vice-President, Sir Christopher *Soames*, gave an interim report on the negotiations at the end of the debate. He explained that lengthy negotiations were to be expected, since in respect of removing non-tariff barriers alone, there were more than 850 specific points to be settled. These concerned customs procedures, technical barriers, quantity restrictions and aid practices. Four Working Parties had been investigating eleven types of trade barriers in Geneva since February and in agriculture three Study Groups were dealing with specific groups of products.

In respect of the developing countries, the Commission would pursue its policy of generalized preferences and work for raw material agree-

ments. It would also endeavour to obtain duty reductions for tropical products. It was not seeking full reciprocity on the part of the developing countries, although some developing countries could offer this by lowering non-tariff barriers. The principle could not be foregone, even if in practice there could not be complete reciprocity.

Appeal to General Amin
(20 June)

2411. Parliament addressed an urgent appeal to General Amin, the President of Uganda, to relieve the British subject, Denis Cecil Hills, from the death sentence pronounced by a military court. In a book, Mr Hills had called General Amin a 'village tyrant'.

Mr Fellermaier (S/G) emphasized that the Community must raise its voice to ensure that the United Nations Convention on Human Rights was adhered to by a country, which, as signatory to the Lomé Convention, was closely associated with the Community.

Development and cooperation
(19 June)

Advance Application of the Lomé Convention

2412. When ratified by all the signatory States, the Lomé Convention¹ will take effect on 29 February 1976. As the Convention was being concluded, it was agreed through an exchange of letters, to apply certain procedures in advance as transitional rules.² These were now awaiting Parliament's Opinion together with transitional arrangements for the overseas countries and territories associated with the

Community, which were not signatories to the Lomé Convention.

The debate was overshadowed by the death of Alioune Sissoko, the Malian Republic's Ambassador to the Community and former Chairman of the Joint EEC-AASM Committee, who had been the victim of a murder plot the day before. Speakers from all the Groups and Commissioner Cheysson spoke feelingly of the long standing spokesman of the African Association partners, who, they said, had become a true friend and had played a decisive part in preparing the Lomé Convention.

The debate centred on the problems of consultation with the ACP countries, quotas for rum, and the African beef and veal producing countries. Mr Cheysson rebutted the complaint of various members that the Commission had not sufficiently consulted the ACP countries over the arrangements. He pointed out that transitional arrangements until the Convention took effect had been autonomously decided by all the partners. The 'informal' nature of relations between the EC and these countries enabled them to put forward their wishes outside diplomatic channels.

The interests of the African beef and veal exporting countries, Botswana, Swaziland, Madagascar and Kenya, which Mr Zeller (C-D/F) the rapporteur of the Committee on Agriculture, and Lord Reay (C/UK) wanted to see more firmly protected, were regarded by Mr Cheysson as adequately covered. Argentina, Yugoslavia and Austria, he said, would be happy to enjoy such favourable arrangements.

¹ Bull. EC 1-1975, points 1101 to 1105; 2-1975 point 2324.

² Bull. EC 2-1975, point 2325.

*Development aid
for the non-associated countries
of the third world
(19 June)*

2413. The developing countries unassociated with the EC are also to receive financial and technical assistance from the Community. The Commission is proposing action in respect of those countries in a five-year programme (1976-1980).¹

Parliament approved the basic orientation of the programme and stressed that food needs required further action, which it regarded as a priority in improving agricultural production, with due consideration for traditional own crop requirements, and in developing the transport, social and education structure. The Commission was urged to work out an internationally harmonized food aid plan together with the responsible organizations. The House felt that the financial resources (100 000 000 u.a.) allocated for the first year (including 10 000 000 u.a. for disasters) were very modest in view of the hardship in some countries. If they could not be increased, then it must be ensured that they were apportioned in the most effective possible way.

The rapporteur of the Committee on Development and Cooperation, Mr *Härzschel* (C-D/G) substantiated the urgency of the aid programme by stating that the development of the poor countries of the third world was imperilled by the mounting costs of energy. He called on the Commission and Council to act promptly, flexibly and directly.

The Group spokesmen unanimously agreed that relations with the partner countries of the Lomé Convention should take priority over general development aid. Mr *Aigner* (C-D/G) urged that the budget resources allocated for this

programme should be classified immediately as 'non-obligatory' expenditure, to ensure that Parliament had the last word on the matter.

Lord *Reay* (C/UK) found the programme Proposal to be all in all acceptable. But it was only a first step, and very late at that. He asked the Commission for detailed Proposals on highly selective allotment of aid, so that the slender resources could be brought to bear where they were most sorely needed.

Mr *Van der Hek* (S/NL), who in general terms endorsed the Proposal, voiced his dissatisfaction in several questions. Through what channels was the aid to go? To what extent were donations involved? Were the resources linked to certain projects? Had adequate consideration been given to the developing countries' own ideas? He also highlighted the problems of food aid.

Commissioner *Cheysson* made no secret of the fact that it was the attitude of the responsible British Minister that had so far been holding up a Council decision. He confirmed that Community policy towards its Association partners would not alter as a result of this programme. Aid would in many instances go out through international organizations. The intention was primarily to support existing projects. Classification of the resources should, he felt, be made under the budgetary procedure.

On their volume, he said that the Commission was already expecting problems when it came to putting through the Council, without reductions, the resources which the House had described as slender. They were based on realistic estimates. Mr *Cheysson* reminded the House that the Community had set an example in assuring generalized preferences for the developing coun-

¹ Bull. EC 3-1975, point 2315.

tries, and called on the rest of the industrialized nations to follow it. The responsibility of avoiding a worldwide crisis was theirs.

Social policy

*Council President O'Leary
on the social situation
(19 June)*

2414. The President-in-Office of the Council, Mr O'Leary reported to the House on the results of the Council meeting of Ministers for Social Affairs in Luxembourg on 17 June. He emphasized that current social problems in the Community could no longer be solved by the Member States in isolation. Unemployment figures for the first half of 1975 had not, as was reasonably expected, gone down. His main concern had therefore been to develop a Community responsibility. But the Community did not command adequate social policy instruments. A common market with full freedom of movement for workers was inconceivable unless economic and social policy questions were included in the Community's responsibility. In the near future, the Finance Ministers and the Ministers for Social Affairs should therefore meet together.

The Council had been giving special attention to the urgent matters of the young unemployed, the role of the Social Fund and the problem of illegal immigration. Mr O'Leary warned against regarding unemployment as a cyclical phenomenon; it also had structural origins and therefore required sectoral and regional measures.

From its Proposal, the Council on 17 June had agreed to make resources available from the European Social Fund for the unemployed under the age of 25. Agreement had also been reached on the principle of the 40-hour week and 4 weeks paid holiday. This was to take effect from 31 December 1978 at the latest. It

had also been decided to promote pilot projects to combat poverty in the Community.

Commission Vice-President *Hillery*, responsible for social affairs, confirmed these statements in describing how the European Social Fund was helping to retrain and promote the mobility of workers. The fact that the Council had now made it available for the young unemployed could be regarded as only a consolidation of national measures. The Community institutions possessed neither the necessary powers nor the financial wherewithal to do more. Responsibility for social problems could not be laid at the door of Community institutions, as long as the decisive authority lay with the national governments.

In the ensuing brief debate, the spokesmen of the Christian Democrat and Socialist Groups, Mr *Bertrand* (B) and Mr *Albertsen* (DK), agreed with Mr O'Leary that there was little point in presenting social policy action programmes to the Council, as long as the Ministers for Economic, Financial and Social Affairs were not deliberating jointly. Mr *Marras* (COM/I) and Lady *Elles* (C/UK) called for a lowering of the retirement age and another reduction in the length of working hours as measures against unemployment.

Protecting the environment

*Rhine pollution
(20 June)*

2415. A press report entitled, 'This summer the Rhine will be dead for want of oxygen', was the subject of a Resolution unanimously passed by Parliament. The House wanted there to be no misunderstanding that Member States' negotiations had so far had no results worthy of mention and that this summer the ecological balance in certain areas of the Rhine was again

at risk. The Commission was urged to offer its good offices to the three bordering States, France, Germany and the Netherlands, in order to agree on emergency measures. In the medium-term, it should also investigate whether Community resources could be made available for installing purification plants in the most endangered areas.

The rapporteur for the Committee on Public Health and the Environment, Mr Willi Müller (S/G) highlighted the urgency of cleaning up the Rhine, in view of the acute ground-water shortage. More and more drinking-water was being taken from the Rhine, nowadays for about 20 000 000 people. The motion was supported by Mr Dondelinger (S/L), Mr Emile Muller (L/F), Mr Spicer (C/UK) and Mr Laban (S/NL).

For the Commission, Vice-President Simonet said it was not correct to say that negotiations had so far been fruitless. Two draft agreements were now on the stocks. The Commission had repeatedly acted in negotiations and actively participated in meetings of Ministers and experts. Mr Simonet said that it could do no more than keep up its activity.

*Better information
on nuclear power stations
(19 June)*

2416. A question from the Liberal and Allied Group initiated a debate on how to keep the public more effectively informed on nuclear power stations. The questioner, Mr Hougardy (L/B), pointed out that, in view of the limited stocks of conventional energy, these power stations could supply useful substitute energy. His question therefore asked whether a publicity campaign could be planned at European level so that the public could form an objective opinion.

All the Group spokesmen acknowledged the need for clear, relevant and detailed informa-

tion. Mr de Keersmaecker (C-D/B) said that public misgivings and confusion must be dispelled. Mr Flämig (S/G) said that it must be brought home to the public that there was no alternative to nuclear energy and that we had to live with power stations. This was taken up by Mrs Walz (C-D/G). Mr Noè (C-D/I) pointed out that the choice of site was a crucial factor, while Mr Burgbacher (C-D/G) looked to coal as a serviceable source of future energy. Mr Van der Hek (S/NL) underlined the responsibility of the Member States' Governments to provide objective enlightenment. Mr Leonardi (COM/I) urged the Commission in its publicity campaign to deal with the arguments of the detractors of nuclear power.

Commission Vice-President Simonet, responsible for energy sector policy, pointed out that in the weeks and months ahead the Commission would be tackling the crucial matter of information. Close cooperation with the responsible authorities in the Member States was desirable. In conclusion he asked the House to take an active interest itself in this matter.

Transport

*Harmonized speed limits
(20 June)*

2417. Parliament was against uniform speed limits and favoured a flexible system for setting them. In the Resolution, the House emphasized that such regulations could not be introduced until the various categories of vehicle and road had been carefully examined. The Commission was therefore asked to undertake this with the responsible bodies and representatives of the transport sector and then put a Proposal to the Council.

Mr Seefeld (S/G) called for the prompt introduction of speed limits. Experience had shown in

the Federal Republic, after speed limits were imposed in the wake of the energy crisis, that the number of fatal accidents had substantially declined. Fatalities, again on the increase since the strict rules had been relaxed, showed the need for a standard maximum speed. The improvement of road safety should not be held up any further by fresh studies. It was ridiculous to have to carry a list of the various speed limits on a trip through Europe.

For the Commission, Vice-President *Simonet* said that the Commission would not delay in preparing the necessary Proposals, as soon as it transpired from the regular liaison with Member States' transport experts that a Community Regulation was 'particularly appropriate, constructive and practicable'.

*Driving crews
and international road transport*
(20 June)

2418. The International Agreement on the Work of Road Driving Crews (AETR), made between the Member States and the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe, is to take effect in all Member States simultaneously. Parliament approved a Commission Proposal for a Regulation whereby Member States' ratification instruments were to be deposited together by the end of June. Since six countries had so far done so and it was stipulated that the Agreement would take effect 180 days after the eighth instrument had been deposited, the Agreement would come into force on 1 January 1976.

Financial Matters

Budget discharge for 1971
(19 June)

2419. Parliament denied the Commission a discharge for the financial year 1971. Under the budget procedure, the discharge is normally

given by the two budgetary authorities, the Council and Parliament, at the latest by 30 April of the year following transmittal of the Audit Board's report. Owing to an accumulation of delays, the House did still not dispose of any final statement of accounts, so that it found itself obliged to protest, through this refusal, that its controlling authority was thereby being undermined.

The delays on the Commission's side were because it had not yet received all the accounts for EAGGF resources from the national authorities and so could not close the books. The House also criticized the Council for not accepting a compromise proposal by the Commission whereby a final statement could have been drawn up. The House did grant a discharge to the Commission for the activity of the European Development Fund in 1971, and to the departments responsible for the final accounts of Parliament.

*Parliament's preliminary
draft budget for 1976*
(19 June)

2420. The House took note of the preliminary draft budget of its revenue and expenditure for 1976 amounting to 52 249 646 u.a. It covers mainly administrative, staff and social expenditure. There were no significant amendments in relation to the current budgetary year.

Uniform basis for VAT
(20 June)

2421. In a Resolution on the status of work on the Sixth Directive to harmonize Member States' legal provisions in respect of VAT, Parliament, on 20 June, protested against the slow procedure in ratifying the Directive and blamed the Council for lack of political resolve. The

Directive bears on budget policy, since the level of Community own resources hinges on the basis for assessing liability for VAT. As the Chairman of the Budgets Committee, Mr *Lange* (S/G) pointed out, this is a prerequisite for the Community to secure a systematic budgetary method. The House called for the Directive to take effect on 1 January 1976 so that the Community could have command of its full own resources from 1977 onwards.

Question Time (18 June)

2422. In Question Time on 18 June, Vice-President Sir Christopher Soames, Mr *Lardinois* and Mr *Borschette* answered nine questions from MPs.

Portugal

Mr *Fellermaier* (S/G):

'Does the Commission believe that its Proposals for aid to Portugal are economically and politically sufficient?'

Sir Christopher Soames commented on the Commission's Proposals.¹ At the request of the Socialist Group there was a debate, following Question Time, on the aid planned for Portugal.²

Restrictions in choice of occupation in the Federal Republic

Mr *Bordu* (COM/F):

'In its reply to an Oral Question,³ the Commission solemnly reaffirmed "the horror with which it regards any violation of human rights and any attack on democracy". In the Federal Republic of Germany, however, an increasing number of citizens are being denied the fundamental freedoms, in particular the freedom to choose one's occupation.

Does the Commission consider that such encroachments on the fundamental freedoms accord with the spirit and the letter of the Treaties?'

Sir Christopher Soames replied that in guaranteeing human rights the Treaty applied only to nationals working in another Member State. Sir Christopher could not agree with Mr *Bordu's* suggestion that a Parliamentary investigation committee be set up which should advise the Belgian Prime Minister, Mr *Tindemans*, 'specially on this question', for the chapter on human rights in the European Union report which he is preparing. This was a Member State's internal affair.

Policy on raw materials

Mr *Van der Hek* (S/NL):

'Could the Commission provide details of the proceedings of the last session of the Ministerial Council of the OECD at the end of last May and about the outcome of that meeting; and how, in the light of that meeting, does it view the prospects of establishing a rational organization of markets in raw materials?'

Sir Christopher Soames stated that the OECD had formed a Working Party on raw materials and relations between the OECD countries and the developing countries, with which the Community was collaborating. In advance of the OECD Council meeting the Commission had put its ideas in writing to the EC Council. The Commission felt it was a task for the Community to work for a new relationship between the industrialized and developing countries. It was time to leave aside slogans and procedural matters and get down to practical action, for which Proposals had already been addressed to the Council.

¹ Point 2338.

² Point 2408.

³ OJ Annex 191, debates of 14.5.1975, annex.

Remote sensing

Lord Bessborough (C/UK):

'What measures is the Commission taking to encourage the exploitation of the new methods of remote sensing from aircraft and satellites for the survey of natural resources, particularly for overseas development, and for the monitoring of the European environment and the neighbouring areas?'

The Commission and the European Space Agency were jointly investigating how remote sensing techniques could be turned to good use within the Community.

Sea pollution

Mr Seefeld (S/G):

'The Yugoslavian freighter "Cavtat" with its highly toxic cargo, which for the past year has been lying on the sea-bed close to the Italian coast off Otranto, presents a serious threat to the lives of local residents, tourists from many Member States and people who eat the fish caught there.'

Will the Commission therefore state whether it is aware of its responsibility in respect of precisely those health hazards for which individual States consider themselves to have only limited liability, and will the Commission use this occasion to prepare more effective measures to combat pollution of the sea?'

Mr Lardinois spoke about the Proposals which the Commission was soon to lay before the Council. They concerned pollution of the seas, titanium oxide production waste and pollution in connection with mussel farming. The Community had only a supporting responsibility; the prime responsibility lay with the Member States and international bodies.

Multinational companies

Mr Delmotte (S/B):

'In view of the fact that the Council has taken no action on the Commission's Communication on mul-

tinational companies, what does the Commission itself intend to do to ensure that work is resumed in this area, and what does the Commission see as the main obstacles to real progress here?'

Mr Borschette held that this work could only be resumed in conjunction with renewed efforts towards Economic and Monetary Union. In various fields, such as workers' rights, the policy of multinationals in the developing countries, coordination of banking activities etc., the Commission would endeavour to rekindle the discussion within the Council, although it did not conceal the difficulties in this area, where widespread harmonization was a prerequisite.

Community oil sources

Mr Noè (C-D/I):

'Does the Commission not consider it desirable to update as soon as possible the study undertaken in 1965 by Mr Eich on the Community's oil resources and their exploitation, in order to enable the Community bodies concerned to obtain adequate information?'

Mr Borschette pointed to the Commission's annual report on the energy sector, which also dealt with the question of oil sources. The Commission had also ordered a study which it was expecting in the autumn.

Cross-channel ferries

Mr Normanton (C/UK):

'Having regard to the consistently declared policy of the Commission in its opposition to monopolies and restrictive practices, how does it view the fares cartel on the cross-channel ferries operating between Belgium, France and Britain?'

Mr Borschette explained that the Commission was withholding its investigation on infringement of competition rules, pending the report by

the British Monopolies Commission. But it did consider that an investigation was needed in the light of the competition rules of the Treaty of Rome and was now examining which procedural avenue to take.

Modernization of farms

Mr Früh (C-D/G):

'What experience has the Commission had with the "assistance threshold" in the context of Directive 72/159/EEC on the modernization of farms and does it envisage any adjustment of the threshold in the light of this experience?'

Mr Lardinois agreed that 'modernization' had to be examined in the light of experience. This meant waiting a little longer, since the Directive would not necessarily be applied in all Member States as it was in Germany.

Council

In June, the Council held six meetings devoted to economy and finance, social affairs, agriculture, general matters, energy and research.

344th Meeting—Economy and finance (Luxembourg, 16 June)

2423. *President:* Mr Ryan, Ireland's Minister of France

From the Commission: Mr Ortoli, President; Mr Haferkamp, Vice-President

Official visit by the President of Ireland: As part of his official tour of the Community institutions, the President of Ireland, Mr Cearbhall Ó Dálaigh called on the Council during its 344th Meeting.

Community exchange system: The Council was pleased to note progress made in reintegrating the French franc into the Community snake.¹

Economic situation: There was a brief discussion on the Community's economic situation and its problems in mid-1975 and on the outlook for development.²

Work within the International Monetary Fund: The Council heard a statement from Mr De Clercq, Belgium's Finance Minister, on the conclusions to be drawn from the meeting of the IMF Interim Committee.³

345th Meeting—Social affairs (Luxembourg, 17 June)

2424. *President:* Mr O'Leary, Ireland's Minister of Labour

From the Commission: Dr Hillery, Vice-President

The 40-hour week and annual holidays: The Council agreed the recommendation addressed to the Member States on applying, by 31 December 1978, the principle of the 40-hour week and four weeks annual holiday with pay.

Combating poverty: The Council approved, in principle, the decision on the programme of pilot projects and studies to combat poverty.

Social Fund action for structural adaptations: The Council held a sounding debate on the proposed Decision concerning Social Fund action for the benefit of structural adaptations. It was agreed that over an initial period, the advantage of aid from the Fund should be available for specific operations to ease employment and pro-

¹ Point 2201.

² Point 2203.

³ Point 2202.

more geographical mobility for young people under 25 years who are employed or looking for jobs.

The Council also considered the proposed Directive on applying the principle of equal treatment for men and women at work and on the Communication presented by the Commission on 21 April concerning the projects for employment.

346th Meeting—Agriculture (Luxembourg, 23 and 24 June)

2425. *President:* Mr Clinton, Ireland's Minister of Agriculture

From the Commission: Mr Lardinois, Member

Overall Mediterranean approach: The Council marked its agreement in principle on certain market organization measures governing agricultural concessions as part of the overall Mediterranean approach.¹

Common organization of the markets: The Council considered problems involving sugar, olive oil, beef and veal and wine.²

Veterinary questions: The Council approved (a) the Directive amending the preceding Directives on the procedures of the Standing Veterinary Committee, and (b) the Decision amending the previous Decision to the same effect. Both this Directive and Decision would extend the current procedure for six years.

347th Meeting—General matters (Luxembourg, 24 June)

2426. *President:* Mr FitzGerald, Ireland's Foreign Minister

From the Commission: Mr Ortoli, President; Sir Christopher Soames, Vice-President; Mr Cheysson and Mr Borschette, Members

United Kingdom referendum: The Council was pleased to acknowledge a statement by Mr Callaghan, the British Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, on the situation in the United Kingdom after the referendum, and the spirit and outlook with which his Government is now planning to collaborate with the Community institutions.

Greece: The Council agreed to acknowledge receipt of the letters in which Mr Karamanlis, the Greek Premier, requested Community membership for Greece. It also called for the Commission's opinion on this application.³

Portugal: The Council discussed possibilities for promoting Portugal's development and declared itself ready to take part in a meeting at ministerial level with Portugal's representatives in July, in order to examine ways and means for appropriate financial assistance to be offered to Portugal.⁴

Canada: The Council indicated that it was favourably disposed towards the approach proposed by the Commission which would aim for an outline economic and trade cooperation agreement with Canada.

Lomé Convention: The Council, or in some cases the Member States' Government Representatives, agreed a package of measures to ensure the advance application on 1 July of the arrangements set by the Lomé Convention.⁵

Overall Mediterranean approach: The Council noted that the Commission now has the Directives required to wind up the negotiations with the Maghreb countries.⁶

¹ Points 2239 to 2242.

² Points 2244 to 2252.

³ Point 2333.

⁴ Point 2338.

⁵ Point 2342.

⁶ Point 2332.

The Council went ahead with its preparations for the meeting of Heads of Government within the Council, scheduled for 16 and 17 July in Brussels, and prepared at Community level for the World Food Council.¹

348th Meeting—Energy (Luxembourg, 26 June)

2427. *President:* Mr Barry, Ireland's Minister for Transport and Power

From the Commission: Mr Simonet, Vice-President

Cutting down oil consumption: Here the Council passed a Resolution on setting a short-term objective.²

Although no decisions were taken, the Council considered the development of energy resources, the joint arrangements for hydrocarbon imports and exports, support for joint hydrocarbon prospecting projects, Euratom loans to finance nuclear power stations and Community summer time arrangements.³

349th Meeting—Research (Luxembourg, 26 June)

2428. *President:* Mr Keating, Ireland's Minister for Industry and Commerce

From the Commission: Mr Brunner, Member

Management and storage of radioactive waste: The Council adopted a five-year environment programme concerning the management and storage of radioactive waste.

Technological problems in nuclear safety: The debate revealed a broadly favourable attitude towards a draft Resolution to boost and speed up Community cooperation between the Member States in this sensitive area.

The Council also considered common policy in science and technology,⁴ revision of the JRC's multiannual research and training programme, new activities for the Petten Establishment⁵ and an action programme for research and development in energy.⁶

Commission

Activities

2429. The Commission held four meetings in June. On 17 June the Commission held a special formal meeting, when it received Mr Cearbhall Ó Dálaigh, the President of Ireland. Proceedings centred on the report on European Union, the problems of energy and raw materials, and development policy. As regards departmental organization the Commission adopted the new organigram for the Directorate-General of Development and Cooperation.

European Union: The Commission devoted much of its time to reviewing and approving its reports on European Union.⁷

Energy and raw materials: Consolidating its work in May⁸ on raw materials, the Commission adopted a new group of papers on energy problems and raw materials in connection with the developing countries. This material involves the negotiation of agreements by product, which

¹ Point 2330.

² Points 2280 and 2282.

³ Points 2278 to 2281 and 2283 to 2286.

⁴ Point 2263.

⁵ Point 2268.

⁶ Point 2262.

⁷ Points 1101 to 1106, the complete text was published in Supplement 5/75 — Bull. EC.

⁸ Bull. EC 5-1975, point 2433.

could stabilize the world markets, and activation of worldwide arrangements to stabilize export earnings, with special consideration for the most impoverished countries.¹

Development policy: The Commission adopted a Communication to the Council intended to prepare the Community's position at the Seventh Special Meeting of the United Nations General Assembly, which will deal with development problems in the light of changing international economic relations.²

Portugal: The Commission adopted a Communication to the Council on action to be taken to help Portugal. This involves exceptional measures for prompt aid and negotiations to strengthen the substance of the Free Trade Agreement now running between the Community and Portugal.

Food Council: The Commission adopted a Communication to the Council on the position the Community should take at the first meeting of the World Food Council.³

Generalized preferences: The Commission adopted its Proposals to the Council for applying the 1976 generalized preferences.

Environment: The Commission adopted a Communication to the Council on the Community's second Action Programme for the Environment.⁴

Court of Justice

New cases

Case 49/75—Mrs Camilla Borella-Locatelli, Piz-zighettone, v Landesversicherungsanstalt Schwaben, Augsburg

2430. In hearing an action in the grant of a survivor's pension, the Socialgericht Augsburg asked the Court of Justice, on 5 June 1975, for a

preliminary ruling on whether Article 48 of Regulation (EEC) No 1408/71⁵ on the application of social security schemes to employed persons and their families moving within the Community, which exempts a Member State from awarding benefits to an insured person if the total length of insurance periods completed in that Member State does not amount to one year, should be interpreted as meaning that that State must award benefits to survivors of the insured person where the latter has received, until his death, benefits deriving from these periods of insurance.

Case 50/75—Caisse de pension des employés privés, Luxembourg, v Mrs Helga Weber-Mas-sonet, widow, of Colmar-Berg

2431. In an action by the widow of a worker who completed insurance periods first in Luxembourg and then in Germany, against the Luxembourg social security authorities, the Luxembourg Cour de cassation asked the Court of Justice for a preliminary ruling on whether Regulation No 3⁶ on social security for migrant workers can have an effect on a national law providing that in the event of successive, alternative or cumulative membership of contributory pension schemes, special increased benefits in the event of the premature death of a member should be payable by the pension fund which the insured person last joined, and whether Community law can thus release the fund originally designated from its obligation to pay such increased benefits.

¹ Points 1301 to 1309 and Supplement 6/75 — Bull. EC.

² Supplement 6/75 — Bull. EC.

³ Point 2330.

⁴ Point 2233.

⁵ OJ L 149 of 5.7.1971.

⁶ OJ 30 of 16.12.1958.

The Cour de cassation also wished to know whether Article 51 of the EEC Treaty and Articles 27 and 28 of Regulation No 3 prohibited a widow from receiving two increased benefits of this type at the same time.

Case 51/75—EMI Records Limited v CBS United Kingdom Limited

2432. An action between two record manufacturers concerning a trade mark was brought before the High Court of Justice in London. Manufacturer 'A' is the owner of the trade mark 'Columbia' in all the Member States of the Community, while manufacturer 'B' is the owner of the same mark in non-Member States, but owns subsidiaries within the Community through which it also sells records bearing that mark. The High Court asked the Court of Justice, on 9 June 1975, for a preliminary ruling on the protection of trade marks under Community law. The Court wished to know if the provisions on the free movement of goods and on free competition preclude manufacturer 'A' from exercising his rights arising out of the trade mark in question in order to prevent manufacturer 'B' from selling in a Member State products bearing the mark 'Columbia' which have been manufactured and marked outside the Community in a country in which he is authorized to affix that mark, and from manufacturing products bearing the mark 'Columbia' in a Member State.

Case 52/75—Commission v Italian Republic

2433. On 10 June 1975 the Commission brought an action before the Court of Justice for a ruling that the Italian Republic had failed to fulfil its obligations under Directive 70/458¹ on the marketing of vegetable seed.

Case 53/75—Belgian State, represented by the Minister for Finance, v (1) Mr Jean Vander-

taelen, Ixelles, and (2) Mr Dirk Maes, Beveren-Waas

2434. In an action concerning the tariff classification of ice-cream, (not including ice-cream powder) and other ices, the Belgian Cour de cassation asked the Court of Justice for a preliminary ruling on whether Regulation (EEC) No 495/69² on the classification of goods under subheadings Nos 18.06 D II c and 21.07 F VII of the Common Customs Tariff applies to the tariff classification of such products where these were imported before it entered into force. The court also wished to know the meaning of ice-cream (not including ice cream powder) and other ices for purposes of applying the abovementioned tariff headings before the entry into force of the said Regulation.

Case 54/75—Official of European Parliament v European Parliament

2435. This is an action to annul the election of the Staff Committee.

Case 55/75—Balkan-Import Export GmbH, Berlin, v Hauptzollamt Berlin-Packhof

2436. In an action concerning the payment of monetary compensatory amounts in connection with imports of cheese of sheep's milk from non-Member States, the Finanzgericht Berlin asked the Court of Justice for a preliminary ruling on the validity of Regulation (EEC) 974/71³ on certain measures of conjunctural policy to be taken in agriculture following the temporary widening of the margins of fluctuation for the currencies of certain Member States, as the text stood on 25 April 1975, in the light of

¹ OJ L225 of 12.10.1970.

² OJ L67 of 19.3.1969.

³ OJ L106 of 12.5.1971.

the exemptions for other types of cheese provided for in Regulation (EEC) No 1265/73¹ altering the 'monetary' compensatory amounts. The request also related to the methods for calculating these compensatory amounts.

Case 56/75—Commission official v Commission

2437. A Commission official brought an action against the Commission before the Court of Justice to annul its express refusal to transfer the plaintiff's remuneration to a Luxembourg bank. This action is accompanied by a claim for damages.

Judgments

Case 70/74—Commission v Council

2438. The Commission had asked the Court of Justice, on 19 September 1974, to annul the Council Decision of 22 and 23 July 1974 whereby the Council had rejected any readjustment of the remuneration and pensions of officials and other servants of the European Communities, notwithstanding the defectiveness of the specific indicators used in the annual reviews for the periods from 1 July 1971 to 30 June 1972 and from 1 July 1972 to 30 June 1973.

By its Judgment of 26 June 1975, the Court dismissed this action as unfounded.

Case 79/74—Official of European Parliament v European Parliament

2439. This action to annul a vacancy notice was dismissed by the Court in its Judgment of 19 June 1975.

Case 91/74—Hauptzollamt Hamburg-Ericus v Hamburger Import-Kompanie GmbH, Winsen/Luhe

2440. The Bundesfinanzhof had asked the Court of Justice, on 11 December 1974, to give a preliminary ruling on whether, in the customs clearance of goods listed under tariff headings 20.07 B II a 1 and 20.07 B II b 1 aa of the Common Customs Tariff, the value of the goods should be calculated on the basis of the actual net weight of the goods or on the minimum weight agreed between the buyer and the seller.

By its Judgment of 10 June 1975, the Court ruled that the price paid or to be paid should relate to the actual net weight of all the goods.

Case 93/74—Società Pastificio Triestino, Triest, v Amministrazione delle Finanze dello Stato

2441. In hearing an application for a court order for the repayment of monetary compensatory amounts paid in respect of the export of pasta products, the Pretura de Trieste had asked the Court of Justice on 13 December 1974 for a preliminary ruling. The main point at issue was whether the charge on imports, within the meaning of Article 4(a) of Regulation No 509/73² amending Regulation No 974/71 on certain measures of conjunctural policy to be taken in agriculture following the temporary widening of the margins of fluctuation for the currencies of certain Member States consists, for the products in question, solely of the variable component or also of the fixed component provided for in Regulation 160/66³ laying down the trade arrangements applicable to certain goods processed from agricultural products.

In its Judgment of 17 June 1975, the Court ruled that in the case of products whose price depends on that of products in respect of which provision is made for intervention measures under the

¹ OJ L 130 of 17.5.1973.

² OJ L 50 of 23.2.1973.

³ OJ 195 of 28.10.1966.

common organization of agricultural markets this charge must be regarded as consisting solely of the variable component intended to take account of the prices of primary products. Where the levy on the primary agricultural products is zero, no monetary compensatory amount may be levied on exports of derived products.

Case 94/74—SpA IGAV v Ente Nazionale Cellulose e Carta

2442. On 16 December 1974, la Pretura d'Abbiategrosso had asked the Court of Justice for a preliminary ruling (i) on whether a duty, the payment of which is made compulsory by a public body other than the State, on certain products such as paper, cardboard and cellulose, constitutes a charge having an effect equivalent to customs duty, as prohibited by Article 13(2) of the EEC Treaty; (ii) on the direct applicability of that provision and (iii) on the compatibility of this duty, the revenue from which is intended to subsidize the national production of newsprint, with Articles 85 and 86 of the EEC Treaty.

By its Judgment of 16 June 1975, the Court held that a tax under the general inland revenue arrangements which is applied systematically to national and imported products according to the same criteria may nevertheless constitute a charge having an effect equivalent to customs duty where such tax is intended solely to support activities of specific benefit to the national product covered. It ruled that Article 13(2) of the EEC Treaty had been directly applicable since 1 January 1970 and that Articles 85 and 86 of the EEC Treaty did not apply to the activities in question.

Case 5/75—Firma Deuka Deutsche Kraftfutter GmbH B.J. Stolp, Düsseldorf, v Einfuhr- und Vorratsstelle für Getreide und Futtermittel, Frankfurt/Main

2443. Dealing with an action concerning the lowering of the denaturing premium for common wheat, the Verwaltungsgericht Frankfurt (Administrative Court) had asked the Court of Justice, on 16 January 1975, for a preliminary ruling on the compatibility of Regulations 2859/73¹ and 175/74² amending Regulation 1897/73³ fixing the denaturing premium for common wheat for the 1973/74 marketing year with the second sentence of Article 4(1) of Regulation 172/67⁴ on general rules governing the denaturing of wheat and rye of bread-making quality, as amended by Regulation 644/68.⁵ The plaintiff challenged the validity of these acts contending that the requirements for altering the rate of the denaturing premium were not satisfied.

If the answer to this first question was in the affirmative the German court wished to know whether the denaturing premium was already applicable to denaturing notified to the intervention agency before the contested Regulations entered into force and carried out after that time but within the time limit laid down for that purpose.

By its Judgment of 25 June 1975 the Court ruled that the contested Regulations were valid. As regards the second point, the Court ruled that the said Regulations did not apply in the case of goods purchased before their entry into force.

Case 6/75—Dr Ulrich Horst, Hannover-Buchholz, v Bundesknappschaft, Bochum

2444. In an action concerning the calculation of a miner's pension, the Bundessozialgericht had asked the Court of Justice, on 22 January 1975,

¹ OJ L293 of 20.10.1973.

² OJ L20 of 24.1.1974.

³ OJ L193 of 14.7.1973.

⁴ OJ L130 of 28.6.1973.

⁵ OJ L122 of 30.5.1968.

for a preliminary ruling on whether, in determining the pension of a German national who worked in Algeria before that country gained its independence and who paid subscriptions to the Caisse autonome de retraite et de prévoyance des mines d'Algérie, pension rights deriving from the said subscriptions must be taken into account, under Chapter 2 of Regulation 3¹ concerning the social security of migrant workers, even if the insured event occurred after 19 January 1965, the date on which Algeria was formally removed from the scope of application of Regulation No 3.

By its Judgment of 26 June 1975, the Court replied to this question in the affirmative.

Case 7/75—Mr Angelo Marie Fracas and Mrs Lina Fracas-Ninotti, Rebecq-Rognon, v Belgian State in the person of the Ministre de la prévoyance sociale

2445. On 27 January 1975, the Nivelles Labour Court asked the Court of Justice for a preliminary ruling on whether the scheme of allowances for the handicapped (Belgian law of 27 June 1969), in so far as it affects the children of employed persons, falls within the scope of Article 12 of Regulation 1612/68² on freedom of movement for workers within the Community and of Regulation 1408/71³ on the application of social security schemes to employed persons and their families moving within the Community.

In its Judgment of 17 June 1975, the Court confined itself to interpreting Regulation No 1408/71, ruling that it covered a national statutory scheme providing for allowances for the handicapped, that a handicapped child cannot be discriminated against on grounds of nationality and that equality of treatment would not end with the attainment of majority if the child, as a result of his handicap, is himself prevented from

acquiring the status of worker within the meaning of the Regulation.

Case 8/75—Caisse primaire d'assurance maladie de Sélestat, v Andlau Association Football Club

2446. In hearing an action concerning the payment of social security contributions to a French social security agency in respect of German musicians resident in Germany and performing occasionally in France, the French Cour de cassation had asked the Court of Justice, on 29 January 1975, for a number of preliminary rulings on the interpretation of Article 13 of Regulation 3¹ on social security for migrant workers.

The first question related to the applicability of German social security law to those musicians. If it did apply, the Cour de Cassation wished to know whether they were exempt from the contributions prescribed under French law. The third question concerned the benefits to be paid to such musicians by the French social security agencies in the event of an accident at work or whilst travelling in France.

By its Judgment of 24 June 1975, the Court of Justice replied that such workers are subject to the laws of the State of residence provided that they are members, as employed persons or persons considered to be employed, of the social security scheme of the said State, failing which they are governed by the social security law of the Member State in which they occasionally pursue their activities. In the event of an accident at work or whilst travelling, that country is required to provide, at the expense of the State institution responsible, only the services in kind laid down by its own law.

¹ OJ 30 of 16.12.1958.

² OJ L257 of 19.10.1968.

³ OJ L149 of 5.7.1971.

Case 17/75—Mr Antonio Anselmetti, Loreto Aprutino, v Caisse de Compensation des allocations familiales de l'industrie charbonnière, Charleroi

2447. In hearing an action on the right of a disabled migrant worker, who had returned to his country of origin, to family allowances, the Brussels Labour Court had asked the Court of Justice, on 11 February 1975, for a preliminary ruling concerning the interpretation of Articles 10 and 42 of Regulation 3¹ on social security for migrant workers.

By its Judgment of 25 June 1975, the Court ruled that, under a system of combined sickness and disability insurance, cash benefits awarded as disability benefits must, irrespective of what they are called, be regarded as pensions or annuities for the purposes of the abovementioned Article 42.

Economic and Social Committee

131st plenary session

2448. The 131st plenary session of the ESC took place in Brussels on 25 and 26 June, with Mr *Canonge*, the Chairman, presiding. Mr van *Greunsven* was elected Vice-Chairman to succeed Mr Carroll, who has resigned. The meeting was attended by President Ortoli of the Commission who spoke about the Community's economic situation. Ten Opinions and one Study were adopted.

Opinions

Development of the social situation in the Community in 1974

2449. The Committee's Opinion deals with Community social action and the general features in the development of the social situation throughout 1974.

The Committee found that although much has been done, especially in implementing the Social Action Programme, Community social policy still has many gaps, all the more to be deplored insofar as 1974 was coloured by a blend of heavy and alarming inflation and unemployment. The Committee is examining their impact on employment policies.

During the debate workers' representatives, who for the most part voted against the Opinion, stressed the need to get down to a comprehensive thorough-going debate on the lessons to be drawn from the picture of the social situation in the Community in 1974. They felt that the Opinion did not focus sharply enough on the deficiencies of Community action and the often backward trends found at national level.

The Opinion was adopted by fifty-eight votes against 29 with six abstentions.

Proposal for a Council Decision on Social Fund action to help structural adaptations

2450. The Committee held that the Commission's Proposal was a creditable attempt to deal with a number of points of major concern in respect of the Community's social and economic future. It was remarked, however, that the

¹ OJ 30 of 16.12.1958.

Community should have thought in terms not of a partial decision, but of self-determinate and comprehensive action, which could afford the Social Fund the wherewithal and reliability it needs to be the special and efficient tool of Community social policy.

Proposal for a Council Regulation on implementing the Agreement concerning the work of Vehicle Driving Crews in International Road Transport (AETR)

2451. The Committee welcomed the Commission's move. It would have the Council appraise how far, if amendments were made, alignment between the AETR and the Regulation on harmonizing social provisions could be ensured, without compromising the deposit procedure for the ratification instruments.

Study on use of telecommunication facilities and the correlation between transport and telecommunications

2452. In this study, the Committee highlighted the fact that telecommunications have become and will grow into an even more vital mainspring of our society, and that they will play a star part as the catalyst and ferment of economic and social change. The Committee stressed that there was a certain correlation between the density of telecommunication facilities and GNP per head of population in many regions of the world, which can be taken to indicate that sound telecommunications are a prerequisite of economic development.

The Committee felt that the Commission should undertake a thorough study of potential telecommunication uses in transport and their possible effects on employment. It also considered that telecommunications were a major tool and field of interest for the Community, and that a consistent common policy should therefore be developed.

ECSC Consultative Committee

170th Meeting

2453. The 170th regular meeting of the Consultative Committee was held in Luxembourg on 13 June, with Mr Michel Arnaud, the Chairman presiding. The main feature was a discussion of the revised forward steel programme for the third quarter of this year. The proceedings began with an analysis of the situation by Commissioner Spinelli, in which he described the reasons why the Commission considered that there was no need to apply the provisions of Article 58 relating to a state of 'manifest crisis'. Mr Spinelli pointed out that the Treaty obliged the Commission to take indirect before direct action. Moreover the procedure stipulated by that Article was lengthy and complicated, because action had to be taken swiftly. So the Commission, in its concern for effectiveness required the steel companies, by the Decision of 16 May 1975,¹ to declare their production each month together with their estimates for the following month. Furthermore, the Commission would get in touch with non-member countries to induce them, when supplying steel to the Community, not to disturb the improvements under way. All in all, the members of the Committee approved the Commission's forecasts, some querying whether a 15% fall in steel output as against the previous year, as shown in the paper laid before the Committee, would be enough to clear up the market. Only two speakers favoured the application of Article 58: they felt that measures taken so far would be ineffective.

The workers' representatives stressed that on no account must they settle for a purely economic

¹ OJ L 130 of 21.5.1975.

approach to the problems; their social and especially employment facets must also be carefully considered.

At the end of the debate, the Committee, with one abstention, unanimously adopted the following text:

'The Consultative Committee applauds the Commission's efforts to establish a new forward steel programme for the period June to September 1975. It recognizes that, in so doing, the Commission took special note of the Committee's remarks at its meetings of 13 December 1974 and 14 March 1975.¹

The Committee has scrutinized the new programme presented in accordance with the Treaty and has noted its content. The Commission is asked to make an in-depth study of the programme's impact on employment in steel companies and to present its conclusions to the next meeting of the Committee.²

The Committee heard reports from the Commission on its activities under the ECSC Treaty and on the situation of the coal industry and then gave its opinion, in accordance with Article 55 of the ECSC Treaty on whether it was advisable to bring in a global aid of 7036810 u.a. from the ECSC levy in favour of a coal research programme.

European Investment Bank

Annual Meeting of the Board of Governors

2454. The Board of Governors of the EIB, composed of the Finance Ministers of the 9 Member States of the European Economic Community, met on 16 June, at Luxembourg, with Mr Willem F. Duisenberg, Governor for the Netherlands, in the Chair.

The agenda included approval of the Bank's annual report for 1974.

Annual Report for 1974

2455. The 1974 report shows a 22% increase in the Bank's loan transactions to a total of 996.4 million u.a.

During the year 84 loan contracts were signed compared to 72 (816 million u.a.) in 1973, a progress achieved, says the report, 'in the face of generally worsening economic conditions with the world economy in 1974 moving into a period of basic structural change and slackening growth'.

Seventy loans totalling 849.7 million u.a. were granted for projects within the Community.

Two of the most striking features were the amount lent for projects in the new Member States—over double the amount provided in each of these countries the previous year and together totalling 215.15 million u.a.—plus an upswing of more than 50% in loans to Italy.

The amount of finance provided for Italian projects reached 278 million u.a. with 20 out of the 22 loans granted by the Bank benefitting the country's most handicapped regions, the mainland Mezzogiorno, Sicily and Sardinia.

During 1974, loans of 540.2 million u.a., or just under two thirds of all loans granted within the Community went to projects sited in regions of development or conversion.

Over three quarters of this sum went towards investments in Italy, Ireland and the United Kingdom whose regional problems, says the report, 'are causing the greatest concern'.

¹ Bull. EC 12-1974, point 2456 and Bull. EC 3-1975, point 2445.

² Provisional translation.

Although the Bank has helped to finance projects of considerable size and importance in many of the Community's less-favoured areas, its operations have by no means been restricted to large-scale schemes. Last year 11 global loans totalling 132.9 million u.a. were provided to intermediary financial institutions for on-lending to help *small and medium-sized ventures*. Allocations made during the year by the intermediary institutions from global loans previously granted by the EIB contributed 76.2 million u.a. towards financing 187 ventures, or three times as much as in 1973 (25 million for 39 ventures).

The chief beneficiaries usually being labour-intensive industries, these global loans are making a major impact through the number of jobs they help to create in areas where new employment opportunities are most welcome.

Of all the finance provided for regional development and industrial conversion, including the global loans, just over half went towards industrial projects and the remainder into improvement and strengthening of the infrastructure, such as telecommunications and transport links, needed to support future economic development in the regions concerned.

A considerable volume of the Bank's loans in 1974 was directed into investments designed to improve and diversify the Community's energy supplies, build up Europe's own domestic resources and cut dependence on oil imports.

Energy projects accounted for loans totalling 406.8 million u.a., i.e. 48% of finance provided within the Community, with the EIB helping to finance construction of nuclear power stations in France, Belgium and the United Kingdom (123.3 million u.a.). Other projects included thermal power stations, hydroelectric schemes, gas pipelines, the tapping of oil and gas reserves in the North Sea and Ionian Sea, as well as operations to finance technical equipment for extracting and

transporting hydrocarbons at sea on the European continental shelf.

Looking to the future, the Bank expects to further develop its support for Community policies in favour of regional development and energy.

The creation of the European Regional Development Fund should strengthen the Community's resources to correct regional imbalances and the Fund's operations will, in many ways, be complementary to the Bank's own long-standing work of channelling finance into regional development.

On the energy front, the Community's objective of substantially reducing its dependence on imports will entail considerable investment in new energy resources, in which the role of the Bank will continue to develop.

Last year saw a marked increase in loans to Turkey and the Associated African States, Madagascar and Mauritius (AASMM).

Seven loans were granted in *Turkey* totalling some 96.5 million u.a. For the first time they included finance provided from the Bank's own resources in the form of two global loans totalling 25 million u.a. to help small and medium-scale industrial ventures. The remaining loans were granted on special conditions from funds provided by the Member States of the EEC, the Bank acting as their agent.

Via these loans, and allocations from global loans previously granted in Turkey, the Bank was last year able to help finance agricultural, industrial and energy projects which will lead to the creation of some 3400 jobs in the least developed parts of Turkey. Moreover, one of the projects, the Elbistan lignite mine and power station, is a key element in the Turkish energy programme, and of considerable national importance.

Table 4 — Loans granted in 1974 — Breakdown by type of financing and by country

Country	Number of loans	Amount (million u.a.)	% of total	% Member Countries
<i>Ordinary operations</i>				
<i>Member Countries</i>				
Belgium	1	16.1	1.6	1.9
Denmark	5	19.6	2.0	2.3
Germany	7	96.1	9.7	11.3
France	16	193.7	19.4	22.8
Ireland	7	46.4	4.7	5.5
Italy	22	278.0	27.9	32.7
Netherlands	2	31.9	3.2	3.7
United Kingdom	9	149.5	15.0	17.6
Non-member countries ¹	1	18.4	1.8	2.2
Total	70	849.7	85.3	100.0
<i>Associated Countries</i>				
Turkey	2	25.0	2.5	
AASMM				
— Ivory Coast	2	19.4	1.9	
— Zaïre	1	16.6	1.7	
Total	5	61.0	6.1	
Ordinary operations total	75	910.7	91.4	
<i>Special operations²</i>				
Turkey	5	71.5	7.2	
AASMM				
— Congo	1	1.0	0.1	
— Ivory Coast	2	7.4	0.7	
— Zaïre	1	5.8	0.6	
Total	9	85.7	8.6	
Grand total	84	996.4	100.0	

¹ EKOFISK project, located in the Norwegian sector of the North Sea; financing outside the Community authorised by the Board of Governors in accordance with Article 18(1), second paragraph, of the Bank's Statute.

² Accounts for loans on special conditions from the resources of the Member States (Turkey) and of the European Development Fund (AASMM) kept under the Bank's Special Section.

In the AASMM the EIB granted three loans from its own resources, totalling 36 million u.a. for copper and cobalt mining in Zaïre, and railway communications and a textile mill in the Ivory Coast.

Four other loans, totalling 14.2 million u.a., managed by the Bank, were provided on special conditions from the Community's European Development Fund (EDF) and they helped to finance port installations in the People's Republic of the Congo, railways and agriculture in the Ivory Coast and water distribution in Kinshasa, Zaïre.

In its financing operations outside the Community the Bank's role will be widened by the resumption of loans in Greece and its participation in the economic aid package for the 46 African, Caribbean, Pacific and Indian Ocean (ACP) signatories of the Lomé Convention.

In December last year the Board of Governors of the EIB authorized the Bank to resume loan operations in Greece in respect of the US \$ 56 million uncommitted balance remaining from the original US \$ 125 million specified in the financial protocol annexed to the Association Agreement of 1961 between Greece and the Community. Negotiations for a new protocol, also envisaging loans from the EIB, are now in progress.

The Lomé Convention makes provision for the Bank to provide 390 million u.a. in loans from its own resources for the ACP countries up to 1 March 1980. A further 10 million would be reserved for the Overseas Countries, Territories and Dependencies (OCTD) that are dependencies of the United Kingdom, the Netherlands and France.

These loans would usually attract interest subsidies for which the European Development Fund is expected to set aside up to 100 million u.a. In addition the Bank will manage a portion

of the Fund amounting to a further 100 million u.a., which is earmarked as risk capital for ventures in the ACP countries.

The Community's negotiations with the three Maghreb countries (Algeria, Morocco and Tunisia) over the conclusion of Association Agreements involving financial cooperation continued in 1974. These agreements envisage that a substantial part of the financing to be provided by the Community in these countries would be in the form of loans from the EIB, drawn from its own resources.

Despite very tight conditions on the capital markets for most of the year, in which long-term funds became extremely difficult to raise on suitable terms, the Bank launched 16 new issues totalling 825.5 million u.a., compared to 612.3 million raised on the financial markets in 1973.

Early in 1974 the Bank launched its second issue denominated in the Eurco (European Composite Unit)¹ equivalent to 61 million u.a.

The repercussions of the oil crisis, with inflation reaching alarming rates in many countries and a climate of uncertainty on the foreign exchange markets, led to a rise in the cost of borrowing and a spiralling upwards of interest rates to which the Bank could not be immune.

After being obliged to raise its lending rate to 8.75% in December 1973, the Bank had to revise this to 9.5% in April, 9.875% in June and 10.5% in September.²

The Bank's total resources (comprising paid-up capital, statutory and other reserves, and borrowings) rose to 3804.2 million u.a. at 31 December 1974, compared with 2856.5 million at the same date the year before.

¹ Bull. EC 1-1974, point 2460.

² But in 1975, interest rates began to fall again, enabling the Bank three times to cut its lending rate, which now stands at 9.25%.

The balance sheet total stood at 4503 million u.a. on 31 December 1974, an increase of 29.2% on the 3484 million recorded at year-end 1973.

The Statute of the European Investment Bank defines the unit of account in terms of gold and provides that the conversion rates between this unit and national currencies should be calculated by reference to their gold parities. This basis of conversion has become increasingly divorced from economic and financial reality as a result of the disturbances to the world monetary system.

In view of this the Board of Governors of the EIB decided on 15 July 1974 that it was necessary to amend the Statute to give the Governors power, on unanimous agreement, to modify the definition of the unit of account and the method of conversion into national currencies, and vice-versa.

Amendments to the Bank's Statute require the same procedure as changes to the Treaty of Rome, of which it forms a part. The European Parliament¹ has already accepted the proposed amendment, but it has still to be ratified by each of the nine Member States, a process which could take some time. In the intervening period, therefore, the Board of Governors at its meeting on 18 March 1975, authorised the Bank, as an interim measure, to use new conversion rates in the presentation of its accounts, with effect from 30 December 1974.²

These new rates, which more closely reflect market exchange rates, are based on the rates of conversion between national currencies and the new European Unit of Account, which is in effect a 'basket' of fixed amounts of each of the Community currencies.

The composition of this 'basket' was so designed that on 28 June 1974 its value was the same as that of one International Monetary Fund Special Drawing Right, which had on that date the same gold content as the Bank's statutory unit of

account, and which was equivalent to US \$ 1.20635.

The EIB's annual report for 1974 has been presented on the basis of exchange rates by reference to the new European Unit of Account applicable on 31 December 1974.³

Loans issued

2456. The European Investment Bank has made a bond issue in Switzerland for 80 million Swiss francs.

The bonds will have a maximum duration of 15 years bearing interest at 7.75%, payable annually.

Redemption will be in 12 annual instalments by purchase on the market at prices not exceeding par. Bonds not purchased will be redeemed at par on 17 July 1990. The European Investment Bank reserves the right to redeem in advance, from 17 July 1985, all bonds in circulation.

This is the third public bond issue made by the EIB in Switzerland, bringing the total to 260

¹ Bull. EC 5-1975, point 2427.

² Bull. EC 3-1975, point 2446.

³ ¹ One European unit of account =

3.01774	Deutsche Marks
5.57964	French francs
0.534530	Pounds sterling
815.517	Italian lire
45.4137	Belgian francs
3.13445	Dutch guilders
7.06637	Danish kroner
0.534530	Irish pounds
45.4137	Luxembourg francs
1.25496	United States dollars
3.15176	Swiss francs
2.88641	Lebanese pounds
278.982	CFA francs

million Swiss Francs, and the proceeds will be used by the Bank to finance its ordinary lending operations.

Loans granted

Denmark

2457. A loan equivalent to Dkr 10 million (1.4 million units of account) has been granted by the European Investment Bank to Thrige-Titan A/S, a Danish electro-mechanical company, one of whose product ranges is fractional horsepower electric motors.

The loan is for 10 years at an interest rate of 9.50% and will help finance expansion at the company's factory in Aalborg, North Jutland, which, at a cost of some Dkr 25 million, will by 1977 raise production capacity to 700 000 motors per year, mostly for use in specialised appliances such as office machinery and medical equipment. The expansion of this plant and the high-volume production of a new and more competitive type of motor made possible by the expansion will safeguard the jobs of 290 existing employees and enable the company to recruit a further 220 people, in a region where unemployment is a serious problem.

Unemployment has been a serious problem in North Jutland for several years as the influx of new activities has not compensated for the loss of jobs in agriculture and a run-down in labour in the construction and cement industries.

France

2458. In a further step of its financing operations for the increase and diversification of EEC energy supplies, the European Investment Bank has granted a loan of FF 10 million (1.8 million

u.a.) for the construction in France of a high-technology welding system to be used in the laying of submarine oil and gas pipelines.

When employed on a large scale, it will speed up pipelaying operations and the promotion of ocean deposits. In the early years, it will be used in the North Sea.

The loan has been granted for 7 years at an interest rate of 9.5% to Compagnie Maritime d'Expertises COMEX S.A., for a project costing a total of FF 30 million.

The oil industry has shown a great deal of interest in the system developed by COMEX which, for the first time, makes possible hyperbaric underwater welding at depths greater than 200 metres, enabling the joining of pipes to be carried out more quickly and at lower cost.

United Kingdom

2459. The Bank has granted a loan of £ 7.8 million (14.5 million u.a.) to the South of Scotland Electricity Board for construction of the 1250 MW Hunterston 'B' nuclear power station in Ayrshire, Scotland.

This new loan, for 12 years, at an interest rate of 9.5%, raises to £57.2 million the amount so far provided by the EIB for construction of power stations in the United Kingdom.¹

In February this year £15.6 million was provided for the same project and other loans from the Bank have totalled £23.4 million to the Electricity Council, for construction of the Hartlepool nuclear power station in the North East of England, plus £10.4 million to the North of Scotland Hydro-Electric Board for its new thermal power station being built at Peterhead, Aberdeenshire.

¹ Bull. EC 2-1975, point 2470.

Two main objectives of the EIB's financing operations are the promotion of regional development within the EEC and projects of interest to several member countries, including notably measures to strengthen Europe's domestic energy resources.

All these power stations are situated in development areas and will form part of the infrastructure needed to support future industrial growth.

2460. The British coal-mining industry has received a loan of £7.2 million (13.4 million u.a.) from the European Investment Bank, the long-term finance institution of the EEC, to help to meet the cost of opening two important new mines and developing several others. When work is completed these pits will contribute 6.5 million tons per year to the country's coal production.

The loan has been granted for 10 years at an interest rate of 9.5% to the National Coal Board (NCB), whose total investment in these schemes will by 1980 reach £43 million.

Development of these mines, whose output will go mainly to power stations, forms part of an investment plan by NCB, largest coal producer in the Community, which aims to develop capacity to 135 million tons of deep-mined coal per year, compared to a present output of 115.

Although the five schemes taken together involve no net gain in jobs, they will between them assure continued employment for some 7500 men in an industry whose workforce has contracted sharply in recent years.

2461. The EIB has granted two loans totalling the equivalent of £24.2 million (44.9 million u.a.) to the British Gas Corporation to help finance a 425 mile pipeline system which will bring natural gas from the Frigg field in the North Sea to Scotland and connect up with the

national distribution grid. The loans have been provided for 10 years at an interest rate of 9.25%.

Gas from the Frigg field, which straddles the median line between the British and Norwegian sectors of the North Sea, will be landed at a coastal terminal at St. Fergus in the Grampian region of Scotland. The British Gas Corporation has purchased gas from the whole of the field, including the Norwegian sector, and the first supplies are expected to flow ashore in 1977.

When supplies from Frigg flow ashore at full volume they will increase by about one third the amount of natural gas presently available for industrial, commercial and domestic consumption in the United Kingdom, thus helping to maximize domestic energy resources in the EEC and reduce dependence on oil imports.

The project also promises significant regional benefits since the Frigg gas will be made available to industry in development areas in Scotland and Northern England, apart from elsewhere in Britain.

Greece

2462. After a gap of seven years, during which political events brought to a standstill financial aid from the EEC, the European Investment Bank, the Community's long-term finance institution, has recommenced loan operations in Greece.

A total of US \$11.85 million (9.1 million u.a.) has been provided in two loans.

The loans are drawn from the uncommitted balance of \$55.8 million still remaining from a maximum of \$125 million specified as financial aid from the EEC in a Financial Protocol

annexed to the Association Agreement between Greece and the Community, which came into force in 1962.

This financial assistance was suspended in 1967. New loans were made possible again towards the end of last year when the EIB's Board of Governors authorized the Bank to resume lending operations in Greece, following the Council of Ministers decision to reactivate the Association Agreement.

A 'global loan' has been provided for 11 years at an interest rate of 9.25% to the National Investment Bank for Industrial Development—NIBID, which will on-lend the proceeds to help finance various small and medium-sized projects, priority going to those which promise to create extra employment opportunities.

NIBID was established in 1963 by the National Bank of Greece and 10 European and other foreign banks and financial institutions. One third of the capital is presently owned by about 8 000 private Shareholders. It has become an important source of long-term funds for private industry in Greece—particularly in the textiles, construction materials, food, metal and chemicals sectors—and has received a number of loans from the World Bank to help finance its activities.

The second loan has been granted for 9 years, at the same interest rate, to the Hellenic Development Bank - ETBA, the largest of the Greek investment banks, whose activities mainly concern industry, tourism and shipping. Prior to 1967 it received two loans from the EIB totalling some \$800 000 to help finance projects in the wood and textiles industries.

The \$1.85 million now provided will contribute to ETBA's financing of a new aluminium rolling mill being built by ELVAL, Industrie Hellénique d'Aluminium S.A., part of the VIOHALCO group, at Oenophyta (Boeotia), about 55 km north of Athens.

Built at a total cost of about \$20 million, this new plant will produce some 22 000 tonnes of sheet and strip aluminium per year—much of it for export—with capacity for further expansion in the future. When it comes on stream in a year's time it will employ 485 people.

Between 1963 and 1967 the EIB helped to finance through loans totalling \$ 69.2 million a range of infrastructure and industrial projects in Greece, including irrigation, roads, electricity distribution, cement and aluminium production.

Guadeloupe

2463. The Commission of the European Communities and the EIB, as its agent responsible for managing the loan, have contracted a loan on special terms for an equivalent value of 720 000 u.a. (about FF 4 million) to the French Overseas Department of Guadeloupe for developing the port of Pointe-à-Pitre.

The loan will help to finance the construction of a goods wharf in the harbour, which handles the bulk of the Department's ocean traffic and all imports. These financed investments will improve the freight traffic flow, functionally enhance the maintenance and repair facilities and raise their capacity.

The loan, on special terms, was granted to Guadeloupe from the third European Development Fund for a period of twenty-five years, including five years deferred repayment, at 3% interest. It supplements a non-repayable subsidy of FF 12 152 000 granted to Guadeloupe out of the third EDF for the same project.¹ The balance of the financing (FF 9 075 000) is being borne by the Department.

¹ Bull. EC 3-1974, point 2331.

Financing Community activities

Preliminary draft of the third Supplementary Budget for 1975

2464. The new world scene now surrounding the Community, especially with regard to relations between the industrialized nations and the developing countries, has obliged the Commission to reappraise the manpower needs of the

departments responsible for implementing the Community's development policy. Mindful of the urgency behind the provisions of the Lomé Convention, the Commission decided on 25 June to transmit the preliminary draft of the third Supplementary Budget for 1975 to the budget authority.

Since the 'non-obligatory' expenditure amounts to 263 520 u.a., the third Supplementary Budget does not substantially affect the financial year 1975.

Table 5 — Estimated Community revenue in 1975 (including preliminary draft of third Supplementary Budget)

(in u.a.)

	1975 Budget ¹ including Supplementary Budgets 1 and 2	Preliminary draft of Supplementary Budget 3	New Total for 1975
Own resources	3 901 955 169	+ 33 988	3 901 989 157
Contributions (GNP scale)	2 102 473 645	+ 208 831	2 102 682 476
Other revenue	57 162 239	+ 24 100	57 186 339
Grand total	6 061 591 053	+ 266 919	6 061 857 972

¹ The variance from column 3 of the Tables in Bulletin 2/75 (points 2471 to 2473, Tables 2 and 3) concerning the preliminary draft of the second Supplementary Budget is due to the fact that, having found no decision had been made on research and development actions under energy research, the Council decided to break off the 'energy research' portion and approved only the appropriations for the contribution to the United Nations Emergency Operation for the developing countries hardest hit by the crisis.

Table 6 — *Estimated Community expenditure in 1975*
(including the preliminary draft of the third Supplementary Budget)

(in u.a.)

	1975 Budget ¹ including Supplementary Budgets 1 and 2	Preliminary draft of Supplementary Budget 3	New Total for 1975
<i>Commission</i>	5 960 201 337		
Expenditure in respect of persons connected with the institution		+ 213 520	
Expenditure in respect of buildings and equipment, and miscellaneous operating expenses		+ 50 000	
Lump-sum reimbursement to Member States of expenses incurred in collecting own resources		+ 3 399	
New Commission total			5 960 468 256
<i>Other institutions</i>	101 389 716		101 389 716
Grand total	6 061 591 053	+ 266 919	6 061 857 972

¹ See footnote to preceding Table.

Financial Regulation

2465. On 30 June,¹ the Commission adopted the Regulation on the rules for implementing certain provisions of the Financial Regulation of 25 April 1973. The new Regulation is an application of Article 118 of the Financial Regulation.² The Commission adopted the draft on 27 May 1974 and sent it to the European Parliament and the Council for consultation and to the Economic and Social Committee and the Court of Justice for their Opinions. On the strength of proposals from Parliament and the Council, the draft was amended, in consideration of their suggestions.

This Regulation aims to bridge the gaps which unavoidably derive from the often general terms of the Financial Regulation. In all, eighteen Articles in the latter expressly indicate that the

manner of implementation would be stipulated in a separate text. The 'rules for implementation constitute this text. Like the Financial Regulation itself, they are applicable by all the Community institutions.

2466. On 5 June 1975, the Commission sent the Council a Proposal for a Regulation to amend the Financial Regulation in respect of Social Fund appropriations.³ The Proposal would provide a solution to the problem arising from overshoot time limits in certain Regulations in respect of spending allocations from the Social Fund.

¹ OJ C170 of 1.7.1975.

² OJ L116 of 1.5.1973.

³ OJ C142 of 15.6.1975.

The Commission does not presently have the time to verify the justifications of applications for aid and to complete the formalities required to put it in hand. The proposed solution would offer an automatic two year carry-over in respect of payment appropriations relating to the Social Fund.

Management account 1974

2467. In accordance with the provisions of the Financial Regulation¹ which apply to the Community's General Budget, and particularly Articles 81 and 86 thereof, the Commission for 1 June sent the Audit Board the management account, the Community's balance sheet for the financial year 1974 and the related financial analysis.

ECSC loans

2468. In June, the Commission made the two following transactions:

- (i) a bond issue of US \$50 000 000. Underwritten by an international syndicate of banks, the loan matures over seven years, bears interest at 8.75% and was offered to the public at an issue price of 99%.
- (ii) a bond issue of Bfrs 1 500 million. Underwritten by a syndicate of Belgian banks, the loan matures over ten years, bears interest at 8.25% and was offered to the public at the issue price of 99.50%.

Following these transactions, the total sum of loans contracted by the ECSC, since the start of its activities, now amounts to an equivalent value of 2 296.52 million u.a.

The ECSC Auditor

Annual Report 1974

2469. In application of Article 78(6) of the ECSC Treaty, the ECSC Auditor submitted his report on 30 June concerning regularity of accounting operations and the financial stewardship of the High Authority for the financial year 1971.

The report is in two parts. The first analyses and comments on the balance sheet, management account and apportionment of the surplus balance of revenue over expenditure. The second illustrates, for the main sectors of ECSC operations, the extent of checks made, with relevant comment and criticism, on statistics and development.

The conclusions first of all summarize the main *features of ECSC financial activity*, which shows a fresh and substantial growth in all the Community's resources. At the parities running on 31 December 1973, issues on the capital market brought in 600 000 000 u.a. as against 290 000 000 in 1973, while levies collected amounted to 69 000 000 u.a. compared with 31 000 000 u.a. as against 18 000 000 in 1973. Additional funds have been drawn this year from the second payment of accession contributions (16 000 000 u.a.).

Over the financial years, 34 400 000 u.a. were committed under readaptation, 23 600 000 under research, 9 600 000 under interest subsidies and 5 000 000 under aid for coking coal.

The report notes an improvement in the *work of external checks* as a result of more documentary

¹ OJ L 116 of 1.5.1973.

material, and improved communication of files and the revenue and expenditure account. Two matters are still outstanding, namely better centralization of accounting and swifter availability of paperwork and supporting ledgers.

The appraisal of *financial stewardship* focusses on four points for thought.

First, the effort made to classify balance-sheet items more precisely will hopefully be maintained in the direction indicated by an explanatory table.

Second, checks as to the proper running of operations should be more thorough. Three examples illustrated this.

- (i) In research, this should be organized in such a way as to follow, very closely, the different phases of projects and presupposes close collaboration between those responsible for the technical and financial sides;
- (ii) The use of funds for low-cost housing should be subject to further verification besides the checks now deriving from a straightforward listing of the recipients;
- (iii) The inspection team should devote more time to verifying the basis of the levy.

The third idea follows the intention of the Parliamentary Committee on Budgets, with the aim of discovering policy solutions for problems thrown up in management operations. Two points in need of such answers are mentioned in particular, to wit, the cost of exchange transactions entailed by a member country not using ECSC subsidies, and, in the case of readaptation, the choice between different forms of aid should be dealt with at discussions between national and Community officials when on-the-spot checks are made.

The last series of remarks refers to points checked on which attention has focussed this year.

The special study on technical and social research arrives at several conclusions, namely:

- (i) some thought should be given to try to shorten the time limits of the preparatory stage of contracts, as far as institutional requirements will permit;
- (ii) that once research work has been finished but the associated operations are still to be completed departmental efforts should concentrate on reorganizing the arrangements for checking work in progress;
- (iii) that the necessity of technical reports and data required in relaying information is still a mainstay of the arrangements recently set up.

Lastly, problems encountered in applying new decisions concerning the unit of account are mentioned for the sake of an accurate assessment of the limited role which a tethered account can play as a mirror of ECSC activities.

5. Institutional questions— European policy

European policy

European Union

The Commission's Report

2501. On 25 June, the Commission adopted its report on European Union,¹ which it sent to the officiating President of the European Council, Mr Liam Cosgrave, the Taoiseach of Ireland. The report was compiled at the request of the Heads of State or Government who, at their Paris meeting of 19 and 20 October 1972, had asked the Community institutions to draw up a report on European Union to be submitted to a later Summit Conference.²

Political cooperation

2502. The Political Committee met for the last time under the Irish Presidency in Dublin on 16 June. Most of the meeting dealt with the CSCE, to prepare the discussion between the Foreign Ministers which took place alongside the Council meeting in Luxembourg on 24 June.

Euro-Arab Dialogue

2503. The first meeting between the Euro-Arab experts was held from 10 to 14 June and represented a major development in relations between the Nine and the Arab World.

The meeting, attended by a single Arab delegation and one European delegation was distinguished by the political resolve on both sides to reach, after lengthy preparations, the operational stage of the dialogue.

The European delegation was led by Mr Gallagher, Deputy Secretary-General at the Irish Ministry for Foreign Affairs and Mr Klaus

Meyer, Deputy Secretary-General of the Commission.

The following joint communiqué was issued after the meeting:

Joint Communiqué

Euro-Arab Dialogue

Cairo, 14 June 1975

1. Two delegations of experts, one Arab and one European, met at the Headquarters of the Arab League in Cairo from 10 to 14 June in order to elaborate principles and objectives relating to cooperation between Europe and the Arab world through the Euro-Arab Dialogue.

2. Both sides agreed that the Euro-Arab Dialogue is the product of a joint political will that emerged at the highest level with a view to establishing a special relationship between the two sides.

3. They set out the objectives of the Dialogue in the following areas of cooperation:

- (i) Agriculture and rural development
- (ii) Industrialization
- (iii) Basic infrastructure
- (iv) Financial cooperation
- (v) Trade
- (vi) Scientific and technological cooperation, cultural and labour and social questions.

¹ Points 1101 to 1106. The complete text of the report was published in Supplement 5/75 — Bull. EC.

² Point 16 of the Declaration; Bull. EC 10-1972, part 1, Chap. 1.

4. In order to set in train the task of implementing these objectives, both sides agreed that the present meeting of experts will be resumed periodically in the form of a Steering Committee of Experts; the first meeting of the Steering Committee of Experts will be in July in a European city. On that occasion groups of experts of both sides will consider together in greater depth the areas of cooperation set out above.

5. Throughout their discussions, the Arab and European experts were conscious of the significance to be attached to this meeting within the framework of the Euro-Arab dialogue. Consequently, they exerted all efforts in order to bring it to a successful conclusion.

Mr Rumor's Visit

2504. Mr *Rumor*, Italy's Minister for Foreign Affairs, was received by the Commission on 25 June, in his capacity as President-in-Office of the Council, for the second half of 1975.

He was accompanied by Mr *Battaglia*, State Secretary for Foreign Affairs and Mr *Bombassei*, Italy's Permanent Representative who will chair the Committee of Permanent Representatives during that period.

Mr Rumor and the Commission discussed the main proceedings which the Council could conduct during the second half of 1975, when Italy chairs the Council, the priorities to be considered and other issues entailing a longer period of review and for which work should be planned and activated.

Matters dealt with included institutional affairs (European Union, strengthening the European Parliament's budgetary powers, election of Par-

liament by universal suffrage, improving the Council's working methods, including an ampler role for the Permanent Representatives Committee). Other issues treated were the problems of economic and monetary integration (specific proposals for Economic and Monetary Union and major supporting projects such as the statute of the European Company, company law, and the 6th VAT Directive), problems in external relations and other sectors (mainly social policy and the Commission's suggestions in its stocktaking of the common agricultural policy).



3RD PART
DOCUMENTATION

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Forhandlinger i Europa-Parlamentet. Sessionen 1975-1976. Fuldstændigt referat af møderne fra den 28. til den 30. april 1975.

Tidende. Bilag nr. 190. April 1975.
1975. 127 s. (DK.D.E.F.I.NL)

FB 100,-

* 6859 (2)

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Official Journal. Annex No 190. April 1975.
1975. 126 p. (DK.D.E.F.I.NL)

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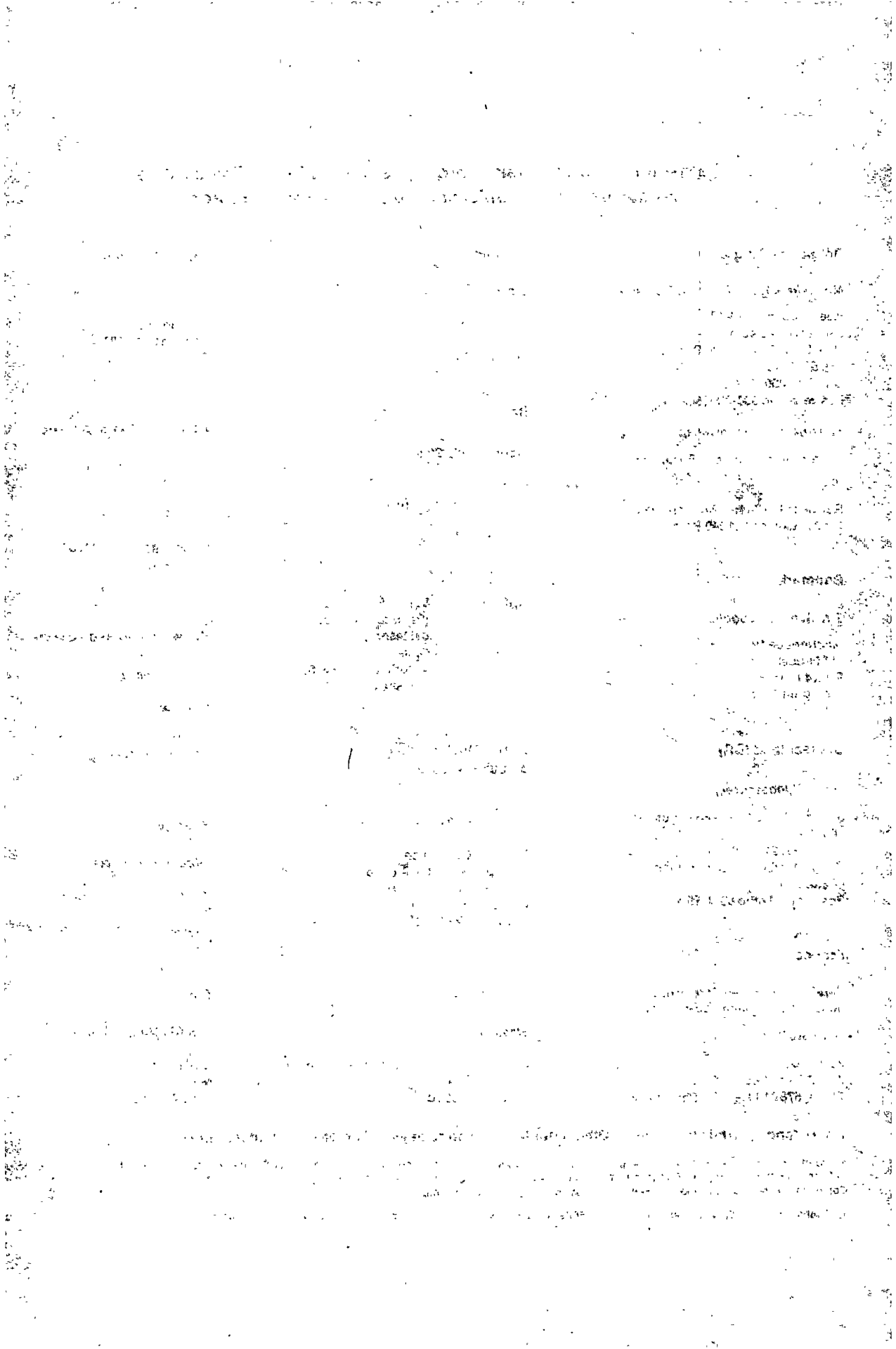
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