

Bulletin
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In order to facilitate consultation of the Bulletin in the different language editions, the texts are numbered according to the following system: the first figure indicates the part, the second the chapter and the last two indicate the different points in the chapters. Quotations should be presented, therefore, in the following manner: Bull. EC 1-1975, point 2108.

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

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* In preparation

British referendum: Yes to Europe

The results

Of the votes cast on 5 June, 67.2% (17 358 581) were in favour of the United Kingdom staying in the Community and 32.8% (8 470 073) were against her continued membership. The poll was 65% of the electorate.¹

As soon as the results were known, there were many Community reactions welcoming the positive outcome of the ballot.

Reactions

On behalf of the *Commission* and for his own part, President Ortoli, on 6 June made a statement saying that he had always been convinced 'of the need for Europe to have Britain as a full member and for Britain to play an active part in the adventure of uniting Europe'.

He added that the Commission felt that 'this result proves that the British people too share the conviction that has inspired us all, namely that there is no way for the countries of our continent to solve the problems of today other than by acting together. It is not as if those problems are easy; but I believe that they will not be solved unless we are united. The British people through its vote has shown that they have understood this. For me that is a source of great comfort and great encouragement'.

In conclusion, the President said that 'we must now look to the future. Today represents a new point of departure. A whole people has just demonstrated its confidence in Europe. We must not disappoint them'.

The President of the *European Parliament*, Mr Georges Spénale, said: 'The European Parliament applauds the result of the referendum of 5 June.'

The size of the poll in a country holding its first ever referendum and the decisive conclusion of the ballot in favour of membership clearly demonstrates that the British people are determined to link themselves permanently with their continent. It is a signal event for them, for us, for all the Lomé Convention countries, for all of us who see in Britain, one of the cradles of modern democracy and with "centuries of experience in the interpretation of universals".

Once a delegation of Labour MPs has been appointed, the European Parliament will soon be able to sit for the first time since January 1973 with complete representation. The House is sure that the British Government's reservations concerning our election by direct universal suffrage will soon be lifted.

For the Communities, all the projects held in abeyance can soon be relaunched and the proposals on European Union laid down.

¹ Source: Central Office of Information, London.

5 June 1975 will always be a red-letter day: the day when the great European family gathering closer together welcomes once and for all a member of outstanding influence, historical heritage and democratic tradition.

Now Europe is with Britain and Britain with Europe, each enhancing the other.¹

On Monday, 9 June, the *British Prime Minister*, Mr Harold Wilson, addressing the House of Commons, stressed '... not only the high turnout and the clear and unmistakable nature of the decision, but also the consistent pattern of positive voting over almost every county and region of the United Kingdom... The historic decision has been made. I hope that this House and the country as a whole will follow the lead which the Government intend to give in placing past divisions behind us and in working together to play a full and constructive part in all Community policies and activities'.

Mr Wilson paid tribute to 'the constructive spirit in which they (the other Member States) have dealt with our renegotiation proposals', and recalled Mr Callaghan's words in Luxembourg on 1 April 1974, namely that 'a firm basis for continuing British membership of a strengthened Community' would exist if the renegotiation was successful: 'I say now to our partners in the Community that we look forward to continuing to work with them in promoting the Community's wider interests and in fostering a greater sense of purpose among the Member States'.

The Leader of the Opposition, Mrs Thatcher, was also delighted with the outcome. Speaking for the *Conservatives*, she said: 'This excellent result confirms the earlier Parliamentary decision... We are particularly pleased about the number of people who came out to vote for Britain staying in the European Community, also with the strong "yes" from each of the four parts of the United Kingdom'.

Other European political figures commented on the ballot and its implications, during interviews broadcast on BBC Radio 4 on 6 June. Mr Callaghan, the *Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs*, considered that the British people had been 'satisfied that the day of the independent nation, capable of solving all its own problems, is now over... We've got to work together. There has got to be much more interdependence'. Asked about the chances for speedier development towards political union, Mr Callaghan replied: 'the pace of development will depend on each individual Government and each individual Parliament... There are people in the Community who want to turn it into a wholly federal State by 1980, but there are a lot of other people who don't and the argument will go on. Everybody has to agree. This is one example where there has to be unanimity before we can move'. Mr Garret FitzGerald, Ireland's Minister for Foreign Affairs and *President-in-Office of the Council of the Communities* said: 'There was a temporary hiatus during the referendum and now I think with such a clearer backing from the British people, the British Government will be able to participate fully in the further development of Community policies some of which have been held up'. Mr

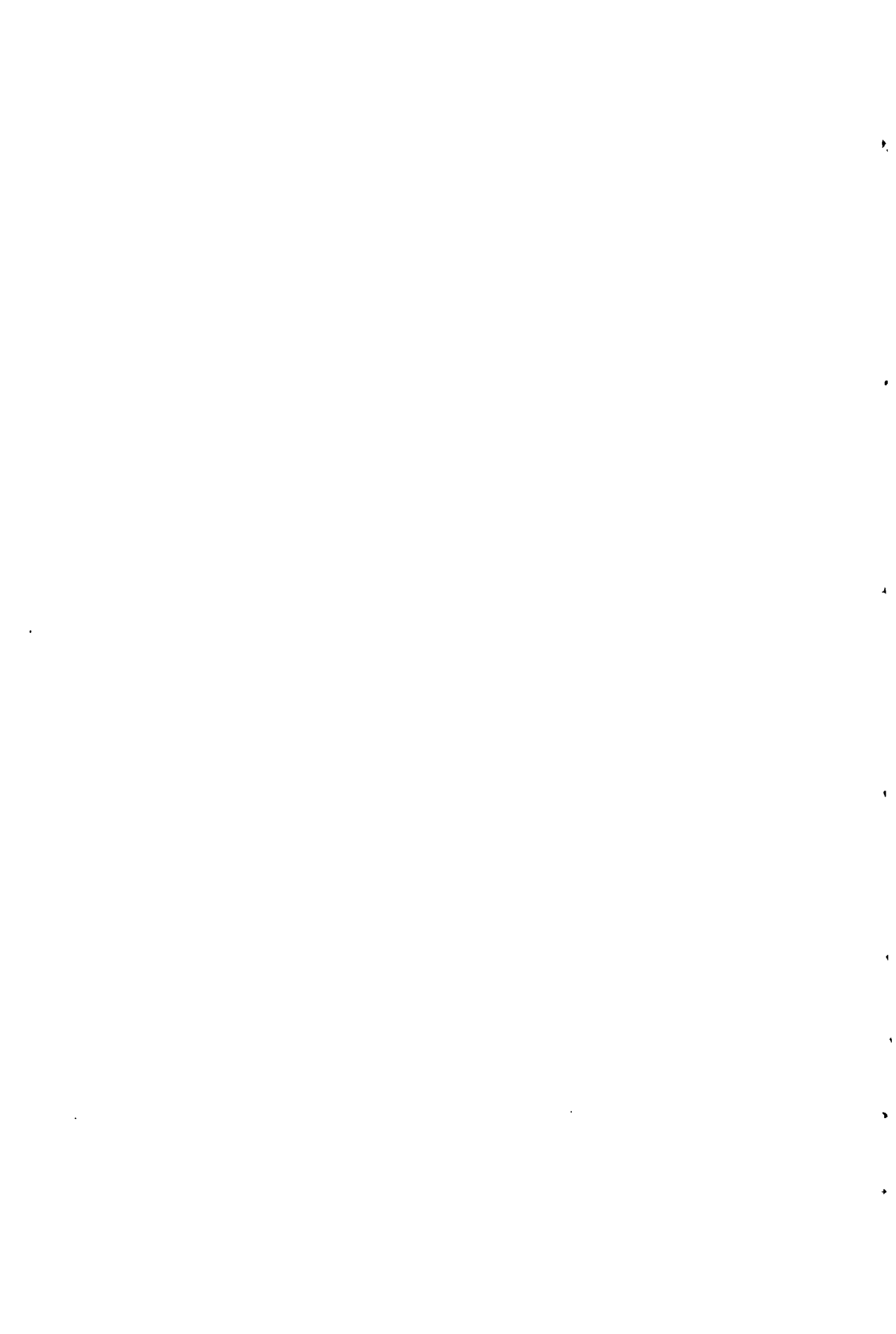
¹ Provisional translation.

Helmut Schmidt, the *Federal German Chancellor* declared that he was 'deeply reassured and deeply satisfied' by the result of the referendum, which will enable Europe to speak with one voice. Mr Schmidt thought that a European Parliament elected by direct universal suffrage was possible within five years, but anticipated a 'very gradual piecemeal development' in respect of Parliament's powers.

For Mr Leo Tindemans, *the Belgian Premier*, the referendum result convinced the others that 'the United Kingdom will do all that is possible to strengthen European integration... Politicians in Great Britain have to take into account, have to reckon with the result of the referendum'.

In an interview on 6 June on British independent television, Mr Jean Sauvagnargues, *France's Minister for Foreign Affairs*, commenting on the result said that 'France could only be glad... the resounding "yes" had put an end to a period of uncertainty, which had been bad for everyone'.

Lastly, *Mr Jean Monnet*, whose work for the United Kingdom's full membership is already well known, said: 'It is a great event and the uncertainty which had for so long shrouded the United Kingdom's commitment to the construction of Europe has been cleared. Now we must act and get on with the construction of Europe, the kingpin for the construction of peace'.





1ST PART

**EVENTS AND
STUDIES**

1. The 9th of May 1950: The Schuman Declaration

The Schuman Declaration

1101. The birth of the construction of Europe was commemorated at the formal celebration, in Paris and Strasbourg, of the 25th anniversary of the Declaration by Mr Robert Schuman in the Salon de l'Horloge, Quai d'Orsay, on the 9th of May 1950.

In proposing, five years after the Second World War, that French and German coal and steel production be pooled in an organization open to other countries, Robert Schuman emerged as the 'father' of the ECSC, which was to come into being in 1952. But, transcending this integration in a limited setting, he thus set in motion the 'gathering of the nations of Europe', which has continued ever since, with the landmarks of the Messina 'relance', creation of the EEC and Euratom, enlargement of the Community, political cooperation on foreign policy among the Nine and the advance towards European Union. This was highlighted by the speakers at all the commemoration ceremonies.

But all, or practically all of them, celebrated this 25th anniversary of the Schuman Declaration (inspired largely by Mr Jean Monnet) by laying emphasis on one particular aspect or another of the problems raised since 1950 in the construction of Europe. The following texts are the fountainhead, namely Mr Robert Schuman's Declaration itself, and extracts from the speeches in Paris and Strasbourg.

The Declaration of the 9th of May 1950

1102. The scene was the Salon de l'Horloge in the Quai d'Orsay, Mr Robert Schuman, then Minister of Foreign Affairs, read the following Declaration to the press, which the French Government had endorsed that very morning, the 9th of May 1950:

'World peace cannot be safeguarded without the making of constructive efforts proportionate to the dangers which threaten it.

The contribution which an organized and living Europe can bring to civilization is indispensable to the maintenance of peaceful relations. In taking upon herself for more than twenty years the rôle of champion of a united Europe, France has always had as her essential aim the service of peace. A united Europe was not achieved, and we had war.

Europe will not be made all at once, or according to a single, general plan. It will be built through concrete achievements, which first create a *de facto* solidarity. The gathering of the nations of Europe requires the elimination of the age-old opposition of France and Germany. The first concern in any action undertaken must be these two countries.

With this aim in view, the French Government proposes to take action immediately on one limited but decisive point. The French Government proposes to place Franco-German production of coal and steel under a common "High Authority", within the framework of an organization open to the participation of the other countries of Europe.

The pooling of coal and steel production will immediately provide for the setting-up of common basis for economic development as a first step in the federation of Europe, and will change the destinies of those regions which have long been devoted to the manufacture of munitions of war, of which they have been the most constant victims.

The solidarity in production thus established will make it plain that any war between France and Germany becomes, not merely unthinkable, but materially impossible. The setting-up of this powerful production unit, open to all countries willing to take part, and eventually capable of providing all the member countries with the

basic elements of industrial production on the same terms, will lay the real foundations for their economic unification.

'This production will be offered to the world as a whole without distinction or exception, with the aim of contributing to the raising of living standards and the promotion of peaceful achievements. Europe, with new means at her disposal, will be able to pursue the realization of one of her essential tasks, the development of the African continent.

In this way there will be realized, simply and speedily, that fusion of interests which is indispensable to the establishment of a common economic system; and that will be the leaven from which may grow a wider and deeper community between countries long opposed to one another by sanguinary divisions.

By pooling basic production and by setting up a new High Authority whose decisions will be binding on France, Germany and other member countries, these proposals will build the first concrete foundation of the European Federation which is indispensable to the preservation of peace.

In order to promote the realization of the objectives it has thus defined, the French Government is ready to open negotiations on the following basis:

'The task with which this common High Authority will be charged will be that of securing in the shortest possible time the modernization of production and the improvement of its quality; the supply of coal and steel on identical terms to the French and German markets, as well as to the markets of other member countries; the development in common of exports to other countries; and the equalization as well as improvement of the living conditions of the workers in these industries.

'To achieve these objectives, starting from the very disparate conditions in which the produc-

tions of the member countries are at present situated, certain transitional measures will have to be instituted, such as a production and investment plan, compensating machinery for equating prices, and an amortization fund to facilitate the rationalization of production. The movement of coal and steel between member countries will immediately be freed of all customs duties; it will not be permissible to apply differential transport rates to them. Conditions will gradually be created which will spontaneously ensure the most rational distribution of production at the highest level of productivity.

In contrast to international cartels, which aim at dividing up and exploiting the national markets by means of restrictive practices and the maintenance of high profits, the proposed organization will ensure the fusion of the markets and the expansion of production.'

Commemoration in Paris

1103. The Declaration of 1950 was formally commemorated in the Salon de l'Horloge in the Quai d'Orsay, in the presence of some 150 leading European figures. Seven speeches were made by Heads of State or Government, Ministers for Foreign Affairs and Presidents of Community Institutions.

**Mr Valéry Giscard d'Estaing,
President of France**

1104. 'Although we have attained and overtaken its initial objectives, the Declaration of 1950 still lives with us and for the Europeans of 1975 remains a source of inspiration and encouragement.

World equilibrium needs a united Europe.

It is perhaps salutary to recall the deep-seated disarray of 1950 and that then, as now, there was only a short step between the tempting extremes of losing patience and losing heart.

It may also be worth our while to remember that Europe will not be created overnight and that at every stage she will demand fresh creative endeavour.

But the main thing is to know in our hearts that we truly desire the union of Europe and that we shall achieve it.

Coal and steel are no longer the pillars of our post-war economy. The ECSC has fused with the Common Market. Political cooperation is now working alongside the effort towards economic integration; the European Council of Heads of Government, the necessary concertation authority for the national leaders, has been superimposed without superseding any Community institution. But the task of creating a real union between the European nations is far from accomplished.¹

**Mr Walter Scheel, President
of the Federal Republic of Germany**

1105. '... We can identify problems in the European Community more clearly than we could some years ago. We still find that in periods of short-term economic difficulty, industrial and agricultural interests clash more severely than in times of economic boom. All this is normal. But it must not distract us from the plain fact that the challenge which Europe as a whole is now facing will not be met if we wait patiently until the European economies reach their own harmonization as if by some miracle. For that we would have to wait ages.

It comes down to this: either the European countries now succeed in concentrating their energies, efforts and spiritual potential, and com-

bine into a force making for political decision and stability in an extremely complicated and unsettled world, or, singly and dissociated, they slip into the fatalistic tendency of those who are repeatedly finding new arguments to convince us that European Union is a forlorn hope.

We have no time to lose. All too many years of activity but also indecision are already behind us. The idea that political unity will inevitably come out of advancing economic cooperation has often been used as an excuse for putting off political decisions.

How many times have so-called "vital issues" halted the Community's march. And most of them are over and done with and long forgotten. Only one issue is vital: the golden opportunities, which the Community and genuine political cooperation have to offer, must be grasped with both hands ...'

**Mr Georges Spénale,
President of the European Parliament**

1106. '... The Declaration of the 9th of May 1950, brought us into being.

This jubilee is no doleful reflection on a closed past. The event belongs to history; but the venture still thrives and can offer what are sometimes the only responses to meet the new challenge.

... If the ECSC was a triumph, where are we today with the Community?

Besides the undoubted successes, there are towers of disillusion. Europe would seem to have exhausted the thrust of the Treaties and we are, now, as in May 1950, at one of those moments where history questions leaders and urges them

¹ Provisional translation.

to act. So the European Parliament hopefully welcomed the decisions of the Paris Summit to form a European Council, call for the election of our House by direct universal suffrage in 1978 and delegate Mr Tindemans to make his proposals on European Union by 1976.

All those proposals involves us, but those which materially affect the European Parliament have to do with the extension of its powers and its election by direct universal suffrage in 1978.

We do indeed believe that Europe will be a Parliamentary democracy or nothing. No lasting achievements are possible in a democracy without effective participation by the forces of the people, bringing their will and pressure to bear through free elections.

... Even now, the European Community is the greatest peaceful achievement in history.

We now have to demonstrate that by allowing all the old nations to live within it, with all their innate speech and rights, it can prove its endurance.

This is our hope and our endeavour!'

**Mr Garret FitzGerald,
Ireland's Minister for Foreign Affairs
and President of the Council**

1107. '... No doubt the Community of Europe we have made together is not quite as President Schuman conceived it in 1950. It is arguable that from a certain angle, the achievements of those twenty-five years do not match up to the early hopes. National interests, especially in economic affairs, but again sometimes in external policy are unhappily all too often a rein on we politicians, who bear both national and European responsibilities.

... But the idea of a Community of Europe, which sounded so ambitious and unfamiliar to

the audience listening to Robert Schuman, is now a joint achievement accepted by our peoples as part and parcel of our economic system and our political life.

... Our endeavour has no precedent; we have neither models nor forerunners to emulate. Never before in history, has man attempted to create, democratically through the voice of the people, a political caucus, binding irrevocably together nations of such varied cultures and traditions into an organization where the highest economic and social decisions are entrusted to a central and democratic body.

President Schuman threw down a challenge unique in history. Don't let us feel disappointed that it has taken well over twenty-five years to accomplish his ambitious design.'

**Mr François-Xavier Ortoli,
President of the Commission**

1108. '... All too often, incapable of genuine ambition, what we remember of Robert Schuman's message is the words he used, which we repeat as an empty ritual; we neglect the constant constructive effort which he called for.

So the Commission, despite the reassuring statements which are customary in such circumstances, cannot help viewing the future with anxiety.

Looking back on the experience of the last few years, a glimmer of hope does emerge. But there are grounds for concern also. We are concerned at the timidity of our actions, at our reluctance to pull together when we are beset by problems; inflation not properly controlled, economic difficulties, unemployment, dependence on outside sources of supplies. On the bright side, all we can see is the new personal commit-

¹ Provisional translation.

ment by our Heads of Government, opening the way to a bolder and more resolute future.

Today, as twenty-five years ago, the choice is in the hands of men, and especially statesmen. They must prove their clear-mindedness and their farsightedness by offering their peoples a common destination. We know now that our destiny is pooled. Let us accept the implications of this. We must have the will and the imagination to recover—for Europe—control over our destiny. We must work once again with our initial fervour for Europe—a major undertaking still to be brought to a conclusion, a task for the coming generation, a generation that will surely live to see European unity.'

**Mr Robert Lecourt,
President of the Court of Justice**

1109. '... A few unobtrusive touches in the message of 9 May 1950 and a few lines in the Treaties were sufficient therefore to establish in a few years a body of law and a legal system. The confidence of national courts has done the rest because the introduction of the new law is largely their achievement. Finally, the reason why it is fairly rare for Member States to fail to fulfil their obligations is that their courts, which are responsible for applying Treaties and regulations to individuals, make Member States themselves observe their provisions. It is true that the impact of these changes has sometimes produced shock waves; however, the Courts have usually absorbed them. None of them has been horror-struck by the changes as if by a legal earthquake.

These achievements, amongst others, pay as a whole the finest tribute both to the memory of the statesman who took it upon himself to act and who set everything in motion and to the ability of those who prepared, supported and accomplished this venture.

Thus the ground has been prepared for new seeds to be sown because the present-day Community is not a finishing-line but a starting point.

Of course, it cannot be reduced to the mere action of legal rules, however appropriate, nor can it be brought down to a lifeless balance-sheet of material benefits however substantial.

A Community is a united whole. The common will is its driving force. Without it the legal system would be powerless even to maintain the achievements of this quarter of a century. On the other hand, with it the legal system may be an accelerating factor.

... But who is to be the second generation Robert Schuman? This epochmaker will be he who, inspired like the author of the message whose memory gathers us here, will imbue the Community with the decisive thrust to weld more closely together nations inescapably bound for the same destiny.'

**Mr Liam Cosgrave,
Prime Minister of Ireland**

1110. 'It falls to me, to express on behalf of the governments and peoples of the Member States, our gratitude to you, and through you to France, for having provided us with this opportunity to commemorate the birth of our Community and to pay tribute to its founder. All of us are honoured to be here, in this room, where this immense and imaginative enterprise was first given public form.

May I express the hope that when the golden jubilee of this event falls to be commemorated here, in twenty-five years' time, those who stand in our places will be able to say that they have completed the edifice whose foundation stone was laid here by Robert Schuman.'

President Ortoli awarded the Robert Schuman Gold Medal

1111. At a ceremony in Paris on 13 May, the Robert Schuman Gold Medal was conferred on François-Xavier Ortoli, President of the Commission and on Alain Poher, President of the French Senate.

In his address, President Ortoli had this to say:

'... Europe is a success: in the difficulties we meet, let us remember that today's slow progress is partly due to the results already achieved: peace within Europe; a flourishing hive of economic and social progress.

Perhaps our successes have fostered the vague notion that we have made the grade in Europe and can now drop into a more leisurely pace.

The basic tasks are nonetheless still with us, if illuminated from a different angle by a sun twenty-five years older ...

Europe will not be completely achieved until she has attained an external policy and a policy of defence. The European venture means that we must agree on a destination and a route. But it is not enough to outline the wonderful prospects on the horizon, a horizon no doubt distant.

... A policy is not made by constant negotiation. Solving everything by organizing a form of cooperation, without any pooling, based on a unanimity rule, is to take the icing for the cake, deny the wherewithal, the very fabric, negate continuity and prepare a Europe made up of "motions", those fuzzy conclusions that wind up political conferences at the end of a rough day.

I can come to only one conclusion that, unless we make the basic choice for a certain degree of integration, and accept mature institutions, which I know can and sometimes must be troublesome, we shall no doubt ensure a Eur-

opean presence, but fail to turn it into the dynamo of our progress within, or a real force in a menacing world, or even an aspiration for the peoples who need one.¹

Parliament commemorates the 25th Anniversary of the Schuman Declaration

1112. In a formal ceremony on 14 May, the European Parliament commemorated the Declaration of the 9th of May 1950. The Presidents of the three Community Institutions present in Strasbourg addressed the House.

Mr Spénale, President of the European Parliament

1113. '... A special place among the originators of Europe belongs to Jean Monnet, for everyone well knows the notable part he played with his team in the conception and establishment of the first Community.

... Many years of important responsibilities at all levels, and particularly in the League of Nations, gave him the vision needed for the conception of the institutional framework of the High Authority.

His criticism of the League of Nations can be *easily transposed*: "the government representatives, all having to plead a national cause and hamstrung as to any joint action because of the necessity to agree on every sentence, could only propose small solutions to large problems".

... To pay tribute to Jean Monnet in no way detracts from the glory of Robert Schuman: on 9

¹ Provisional translation.

May 1950, ideas were not enough. At that decisive and difficult moment, it needed a statesman to assume political responsibility for such a revolutionary project with all its risks.

Robert Schuman accepted it without hesitation, fully appreciating what was at stake. He thus merited the primacy which history has in fact accorded him.

... In fact he believed, like Jaurès, that in striving for the ideal you must start from reality: he had in mind the "indispensable European Confederation" of the future, but began with coal and steel—the basement, the very foundations.

*

... That was cautious, but was it enough? Would it not lead to a "Europe à la carte?" Could not more be decided right at the outset?

I was one of those who thought so. I was wrong.

... The truth of this was underlined by what followed. The failure of the EDC together with the rejection of a political Community, showed that a few years after the foundations of the ECSC had been laid it was still impossible to continue building Europe by putting on the roof and that progress would have to be made one step at a time.

That is what was done in the Treaties of Rome, which established the EEC and Euratom.

That is what we are going to continue with European Union.

... Nevertheless, the Treaties of Rome represent a measure of integration which lags well behind that of the ECSC. In this they show that Robert Schuman's initiative was well ahead of his time, probably the very limit of what was immediately possible.

Even too far ahead for some people who remained at the starting post.

Today Robert Schuman's Federation seems further away than ever.

Who is responsible?

All of us, of course. And first of all the inadequacy of the decision-making process. But there is also nationalism, globalism, the timid step-by-step approach, so-called realism.

The new Europe in the making is poised between those who reject any notion of transcending the old nations and those who are already aspiring towards world unity.

Some oppose it as premature, others as already behind the times. But what is it really? A foreshadowing, or a stage that has already been passed?

We must bring it to fruition: the final harmony is too far off, our countries are too small; Europe, the European Europe, is indispensable to the peace of the present and the balance of the future.'

**Mr Garret FitzGerald,
President of the Council**

1114. '... The great design laid down by Robert Schuman—and inspired by President Jean Monnet, was both realistic and an imaginative leap forward.

... He was right, as we who have followed his wise prescription can attest.

It is on this basis, at once pragmatic in its means and idealistic in its aims, that the solidarity already achieved has been created. It is on this basis that the economic life of the citizens of Europe has already been improved; and it is the dynamism that this approach has unleashed that

has attracted other countries, such as my own, to join the original Community of Six.

The European structure that we are building on Robert Schuman's foundations can only be democratic; it has to find a way of reflecting adequately and sensitively the complex reality of modern society, in which decisions are taken at many different levels, as well as the often inchoate aspirations of our diverse peoples.

We have, on the one hand, to satisfy the growing desire of our peoples for maximum involvement in these decisions that they see as affecting their lives directly, and, on the other, to meet the compelling need to take many other important decisions on at least a sub-continental scale if they are to be our decisions and not decisions imposed on us from outside. We have to ensure that these Community-level decisions are democratically controlled through this Parliament ...'

**Mr François-Xavier Ortoli,
President of the Commission**

1115. '... Europe's present difficulties should not make us forget the great distance we have covered in the last twenty-five years.

After twenty-five years the tasks of achieving peace and economic and social progress have not yet been accomplished. Although the problems may be different and the framework radically altered, the fundamental reasons for building Europe have remained unchanged. Neither has there been any change—the tribute of the Institutions is an apt occasion to stress this—in the reasons for providing Europe with a strong structure and institutions capable of making decisions, capable of administering, capable of organizing the progress of our Community. Without a political will nothing can be done. We know this, we have said it frequently in this very Chamber, when confronting all the difficulties and crises with which Europe has

been unfailingly beset. But a political will must rest upon a solid basis of responsible institutions. This was understood by the Europeans of the first generation, who gave the first response. We should listen to their message and continue along the road which they opened up.

Further developments in the building of Europe, started by peoples who have chosen democracy and wish to defend it at all costs, required the democratic nature of our institutions to be strengthened. Direct elections to the European Parliament will prove a milestone in this respect. That there is now a definite programme for this shows that, after quarter of a century, we are still capable of moving forward.'

2. China and the Community

Sir Christopher Soames' visit to Peking

1201. At press conferences in Peking on 8 May and later on his return to Brussels, Sir Christopher Soames was able to announce that the Chinese Government had decided to establish official relations with the Community and intended to accredit an Ambassador to it.

This was the outcome of this first direct contact between the government leaders of the People's Republic of China and a representative of the Community as such.

First contacts

1202. Although no formal relations have hitherto existed between China and the Community, official Chinese statements, particularly those made during visits to China by Ministers and Heads of Government from the Member States, have for some years made clear that China strongly supports the process of Western European integration.

At the same time, there have been frequent informal contacts between officials of the Commission and Chinese representatives in Brussels and elsewhere, which have enabled the Chinese authorities to study the Community's working methods and keep themselves informed of developments within the Community as well as in its relations with the rest of the world.

In view of the imminent expiry at the end of 1974 of the existing bilateral trade agreements between the Member States and State-trading countries, the Community declared in May 1974 its readiness to open negotiations with these countries on Community-wide trade agreements to replace those about to expire.

In November 1974, the Commission transmitted to the countries concerned an outline agreement indicating the lines on which it might be possible to negotiate appropriate trade agreements between the Community and each of the State trading countries. This document was also transmitted to Peking through the Chinese Embassy in Brussels. Early in 1975, the Chinese Embassy transmitted to Sir Christopher Soames an invitation from the Chinese People's Institute of Foreign Relations to visit China.¹

The talks in Peking

1203. During the visit, which took place from 4-11 May, Sir Christopher was accompanied by high-ranking Commission officials. He had meetings with the Chinese Prime Minister, Mr Chou En-lai, and with Vice-Premier Li Hsien-nien, as well as long discussions with the Foreign Minister, Mr Chiao Kuan-hua. At a dinner given by Mr Chiao on 6 May, Sir Christopher had talks with Mr Li Chiang, the Minister for Foreign Trade, and Mr Yao I-Lin, Vice-Minister for Foreign Trade; he had further talks with the latter on 7 May. These talks were followed by discussions between the official members of Sir Christopher's party and officials of the Chinese Ministry of Foreign Trade. Besides Peking, the party visited Canton for two days at the end of the visit.

The talks with Chinese Government leaders were frank and extremely wide-ranging. Subjects discussed included the evolution of relations between the industrialized and the developing countries, with particular reference to international problems like energy, raw materials and food; and prospects for the development of the European Community and for its relations with various other parts of the world.

¹ Bull. EC 3-1975, point 2346.

Both in conversations with his Chinese hosts and in public speeches Sir Christopher was able to explain the evolution of the Community and outline its policies, particularly towards the developing world. For their part, the Chinese side reiterated their long-standing position of support for greater unity in Europe. Both sides agreed on the need to conduct future international economic discussions in a spirit of dialogue and cooperation and not one of confrontation.

Future relations between China and the Community

1204. The discussions also covered the future relationship between China and the European Community, and in this field two significant developments emerged. First, the Chinese Foreign Minister informed Sir Christopher that they had decided to *establish official relations* with the Community as such and to accredit an Ambassador to the Community. Sir Christopher welcomed this decision on behalf of the Community, as a most constructive step towards developing a closer and more fruitful relationship between China and the Community.

The question of the Community's attitude to Taiwan was raised during the discussion, in the course of which the Minister rehearsed China's position on the question. Sir Christopher explained that matters such as the recognition of States did not come within the responsibility of the Community. He recalled, however, that all Member States recognize the Government of the People's Republic of China as the sole legal Government of China and have taken positions with regard to the Taiwan question acceptable to the Government of the People's Republic. In conformity with these positions, Sir Christopher confirmed that the Community does not entertain any official relations or enter into any agreements with Taiwan.

Secondly, Sir Christopher confirmed the Community's readiness, already expressed in concrete form in the outline agreement, to *negotiate an appropriate Community trade agreement* with China to take the place of the expired agreements with Member States. Chinese Ministers made it clear that they had decided to give positive consideration to this proposal, and it was already possible during the visit to begin an exchange of views on different aspects of such an agreement, both during the meetings with Ministers and at official level. It was agreed that the next phase of these exploratory talks should take place in Brussels. According to Community practice it is only after completing such exploratory talks that the Commission undertakes to put forward specific conclusions for consideration in the Council of Ministers concerning the opening of official negotiations.

Conclusions

1205. Both in Peking and at a press conference given on 15 May following his return, Sir Christopher expressed the Commission's satisfaction at the substantial progress which it had been possible to make during his visit. These first contacts can be regarded as the first step towards a closer relationship which can hardly fail to be of considerable significance both to the People's Republic of China and to the European Community.

3. Statute for European Companies

Commission Proposal

1301. On 13 May 1975, the Commission transmitted to the Council the amended Proposal for a Council Regulation on the Statute for European Companies.¹ Both the European Parliament² and the Economic and Social Committee³ have given their opinions on the original proposal.⁴

The original proposal has been significantly amended, in particular because of the advice given by the Parliament, and there have been extensive consultations with all interested circles since then.

The need for a European legal framework

1302. The rapidly changing economic situation in the world and the increase in competition faced by European Companies has created the urgent necessity that European concerns be able to operate on the scale of the Community as a whole.

The looser economic trading arrangements of the 50's and 60's will not enable the Community to meet the greater challenge of the 70's and 80's. The durability and adaptability of the Community will depend on more solid structural foundations, of which a common legal framework constitutes a significant ingredient.

The Statute for a European Company is an important part of that framework and is designed to enable companies more easily to adapt to the Community dimension, and to stimulate economic activity. It is, moreover, a sophisticated instrument, which offers protection for the legitimate interests of all concerned in the running of enterprises. Use of the Statute is optional, and it is not designed to replace the existing national systems.

It will be particularly attractive to transnational companies, offering them a new European form with a transparent structure and clear obligations in relation to shareholders, creditors, employees and society as a whole. Small and medium-sized firms will, moreover, be able to use the form, by virtue of the scaled-down capital requirements of the amended Proposal, or in cooperation with larger undertakings.

Contents of the amended proposal

Access and formation

1303. The Company is envisaged as being used by companies incorporated in different Member States for three basic purposes:

- (i) cross-frontier mergers of those companies
- (ii) the formation of holding companies under European law by those companies
- (iii) the formation of joint subsidiaries under European law by those companies.

As in the original Proposal, only companies limited by shares can use the first two methods. Owing to pressure from industry, and in accordance with the opinion of the European Parliament, however, the availability of the European Company to form a joint subsidiary has been considerably extended, and now includes all companies with legal personality, cooperatives, and other legal persons governed by the law of the Member States whose object is to carry on economic activities.

¹ Supplement 4/75 — Bull. EC.

² OJ C124 of 10.10.1970 and Bull. EC 8-1970 Supplement.

³ OJ C93 of 7.8.1974.

⁴ OJ C131 of 13.12.1972.

The minimum capital required for eligibility has now been reduced from 500 000 u.a. to 250 000 u.a. in the case of merger or the formation of a holding company, and from 250 000 to 100 000 u.a. as regards a joint subsidiary.

European companies must be set up under the judicial control of the European Court of Justice, and entered in a European Commercial Register. They may have several offices anywhere in the Community.

Employee participation

1304. The connection between economic interests and the other requirements of people in contemporary society are becoming increasingly apparent. In the context of the company, in particular, the employee has interests which are at least as substantial as those of managers and shareholders. These interests include work satisfaction, health and physical condition, and all those factors which pertain to the personal dignity of employees and their autonomy as human beings.

The extent to which employees should be able to influence company decisions has consequently become a problem of paramount interest within all Member States. It has, moreover, become increasingly relevant because of the accentuated degree of economic and social change in the present world. This has for example profound implications as regards supplies of energy and raw material resources, which have led to significant alterations in the economic environment of enterprises. The need for industrial reorganization has increased, while the prospects of immediate wage increases have become more limited. Consequently, conflicts of interests between different groups have developed more acutely.

Such a period of heightened economic and social tension gives rise to a greater need for effective mechanisms whereby those involved in industry

can respond quickly and sensibly to the requirements of the situation with a minimum of wasteful confrontation. In this context, the decision-making machinery of the enterprise can make an important contribution, and the Community can and should play an important role in making practical proposals. The proposed Regulation therefore includes provisions on employee participation which are tailored to the needs of the European Company. They fall into three broad sections, which are necessarily interlinked, namely the formation of European Works' Councils, the composition of the Supervisory Boards, and the Conclusion of European Collective Agreements.

The European Works' Council

1305. A 'European Works' Council' must be set up in all European Companies with establishments in different Member States. The competence of the European Works' Council extends to the right to be informed on matters relating to the running of the undertaking; it must be consulted prior to important economic decisions and must give its approval to decisions by the Board of Management which directly affect employees. As a result of the Opinion of the European Parliament, it must now approve in particular a Social Plan which the Board of Management must in future draw up to deal with the social problems following, for example, the closure of an establishment.

Election to the Works' Council is by all employees on the basis of proportional representation; in accordance with uniform European electoral provisions candidates may be proposed by Trade Unions or groups of employees.

Composition of the Supervisory Board

1306. The Supervisory Board of a European Company which appoints the Management

Board is to consist as to one third of representatives of shareholders, one third of representatives of employees, and as to one third of members co-opted by these two groups who are to be independent of both shareholders and employees, and represent 'general interests'. This composition was adopted by a large majority in the European Parliament. Election procedures are similar to those of the European Works' Councils.

This system has the advantage of avoiding deadlocks which might be created by a 50:50 representation of shareholders and employees.

The concept 'general interests' is intended to cover all interests affected by the activity of the European Company other than those of employees or shareholders directly involved, and is not more specifically defined in terms of concrete examples. These representatives must, in addition to having no links with the shareholders or employees, possess 'the necessary knowledge and experience'. If the required majority is not reached amongst the first two groups for the election of this third group, the group is appointed by an Arbitration Board consisting of one representative each of shareholders and employees, and a third member co-opted by the first two.

Collective agreements

1307. The conditions of employment with a European Company may be governed by a European Collective Agreement, applied to all members of a trade union party to the agreement. Alternatively, collective agreements arrived at in the context of one Member State may also be reached.

It is expressly provided that where there is a collective agreement, the powers of the European Works' Council do not extend to matters covered by it. Moreover, the European Works'

Council cannot conduct negotiations or conclude agreements on employees' conditions unless so empowered by a European Collective Agreement.

Groups of companies

1308. Groups of companies—that is groupings of legally independent companies under unified management—have acquired such economic importance that they cannot be ignored in the provisions.

The statute protects shareholders outside the group ('outside shareholders') and the creditors of dependent group undertakings. This protection takes the form of annual compensation as a dividend guarantee as well as an obligation on the controlling undertaking either to offer the outside shareholders payment in cash or an exchange for their shares of shares in the controlling undertaking.

Where the controlling undertaking provides the necessary protection, it can issue instructions to the management of a dependent undertaking in order to implement a unified business policy. These instructions must be complied with even if they adversely affect the interests of the dependent undertaking. These are the proposals put forward in 1970, and have broadly received the approval of the European Parliament.

Employees in group undertakings are also protected. When the European Company is a controlling group company, a Group Works' Council is formed in which the employees of all the group undertakings are represented and which has similar powers to those of the European Works' Council in matters affecting the group. Employees in all group undertakings may participate in the election of the Supervisory Board.

4. Energy, raw materials, developing countries: New developments

Taxation

1309. In tax matters, the European Company is subject to the law of the State in which business is actually conducted. Preferential treatment for tax purposes for European Companies cannot be entertained, since distortions in competition might arise if European Companies were not given the same treatment as companies constituted under national law.

1401. Since the adjournment, for want of practical results, of the Preparatory Meeting for the International Energy Conference, which took place in Paris from 7 to 15 April,¹ new developments have occurred. Besides the problems of energy, they involves questions of raw materials and relations with the developing countries, which some delegations at the Preparatory Meeting wanted to be considered together, while others did not.

Since mid-April the situation has changed, as seen from the positions adopted by the Council and Commission of the Communities, the International Energy Agency and even more from the position of the OECD Ministerial Council.

The Commission and the problem of raw materials

1402. On 22 May, the Commission laid a Communication before the Council 'on raw materials in relations with the developing countries which export raw materials'. The key passages are reproduced below:

'World economic events in recent years and recent political trends underline the need for a thorough reexamination of international economic relations. These events have revealed the extent to which the economic development of all categories of countries depends on a continued and balanced growth of international trade. In view of this interdependence, it is essential that relations of solidarity and co-responsibility are established in a climate of cooperation in which the developing countries will no longer simply appear as the suppliers of a limited range of goods required by the industrialized countries, but as partners in the world's economic growth, in which a larger and fairer share should fall to them.

¹ Bull. EC 4-1975, points 1401 to 1409.

More particularly, this reexamination should cover two major questions which are closely connected: the conditions in which raw materials produced by the developing countries are developed and marketed and, as far as is possible, the acceleration in the growth of the developing countries.'

Overall approach

1403. Against this background, where the oil crisis has played its part in spotlighting the vital problem of raw materials, the Commission feels that it is 'possible—and desirable—to define a few general principles which the Community might adopt as an overall approach to the question of its relations with the developing countries which are raw material exporters. It must aim to seek fair and equitable solutions in the appropriate international forums:

- (i) Prices of raw materials must be equitable and remunerative; they must avoid excessive, sharp fluctuations; and they must be fixed at a level which encourages a long-term balance between production and consumption;
- (ii) The economic development of the developing countries must be encouraged by the diversification of their products, the development of local processing of raw materials and the stability of their export earnings;
- (iii) Special attention must be paid to the poorest countries;
- (iv) The need for the consumer countries to know that the stability of their supplies is guaranteed must be taken into account.'

Proposed action

1404. Thus the Commission is proposing a package of action as part of an overall approach, which satisfies the interests of the Community and the aims of the developing countries. The main lines are as follows:

Trade cooperation

'In this field, the measures should aim at the elimination of the tariff and non-tariff barriers which hinder access to the markets of the industrialized countries by raw materials from the developing countries, and particular attention should be given to reducing the protection on the added value of the products of first-stage processing.'

Industrial cooperation

'In this field, the aim of the Community should be to promote the development and processing *in situ* of raw materials in the light of the employment problems both in the developing countries and in the industrialized countries.'

Production and supplies

'Search for financial mechanisms permitting production and supplies of raw materials to be fostered in a spirit of cooperation.'

Information and consultation

'It is clearly important that the exchanges of information on the supply and demand situation of products should be improved. With this aim in view, various information and consultation measures at world level will have to be considered, both in the context of consumer/producer associations or in any other appropriate body.'

Measures to limit excessive price fluctuations

'Such measures are in the interests of both producer and consumer countries in as much as they serve to eliminate the excessive and sudden

fluctuations which can seriously disrupt investment and production cycles. They should be examined on a product-by-product basis.'

Stabilization of export earnings

'Parallel to the agreements-by-product approach ... the Commission considers it necessary to contemplate international action aiming at the stabilization of certain export earnings with joint financing by all the industrialized countries, including the State trading countries and other countries with sufficient resources. This action should represent an effort in addition to the aid currently being granted to the developing countries.'

1405. 'It is clear that the Community cannot on its own provide a solution to all the problems raised by the developing countries in the raw materials sector. It must, however, be in a position to play its full role in the international discussions to be held in the near future with the developing countries and the other industrialized countries. It must aim to give an open and constructive answer to the preoccupations of the developing countries as set out in the integrated programme proposed by the UNCTAD Secretariat.'

Communiqué of the Council

1406. After the meeting in Dublin on 26 May, the Council published the following Communiqué on 'raw materials in the context of the forthcoming international deadlines':

'The Council took stock of the situation with regard to preparation for the Ministerial meeting of the OECD to be held in Paris on 28 and 29 May 1975.

The Council then heard a speech by President Ortolí introducing the Communication submit-

ted by the Commission to the Council on the problems of raw materials in the context of relations with the developing countries which export raw materials.

The Communication attempts to define an overall approach based on a series of concrete actions, with a view to resolving the problems and concerns of the developing countries in the field of raw materials.

It takes account of the forthcoming international deadlines, in particular the 7th special session of the General Assembly of the United Nations, and is designed to allow the Community to take an active part in these international discussions in a spirit of constructive dialogue.

The Council thanked the Commission for this important Communication, which was greeted favourably by all the delegations at this initial stage.

The Permanent Representatives Committee was instructed to proceed with dispatch to a detailed examination of this Communication.'

Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development

International Energy Agency

1407. The Governing Board of the International Energy Agency met at Ministerial level in Paris on 27 May. At the close of the meeting, it published a Communiqué highlighting the need for a dialogue between oil-producing and oil-consuming countries.

The Communiqué states, *inter alia*:

'Ministers reviewed the relations among oil producing and oil consuming countries, developing and developed alike. With this in view they were aware of important and pressing problems of the developing countries which are not direct-

ly related to energy, and they were determined that these should be tackled with political determination and within a reasonable time-frame. Ministers noted that the Council of the OECD meeting at Ministerial level on 28 and 29 May proposes to discuss the problems of development and of commodities, including food-stuffs, and expressed the hope that steps will be taken toward effective action for finding solutions to these problems. For its part, the Agency will do all within its competence to work for the solution of the problems of the developing countries, so far as they are concerned with energy.

Ministers noted that the Preparatory Meeting held in Paris from 7-16 April 1975, had provided an opportunity for full and serious discussion of the means of establishing closer relations among oil producing and oil consuming countries.

Ministers declared themselves ready to pursue discussions at any time and in any manner found mutually convenient, and reaffirmed their common willingness to continue the dialogue and to encourage initiatives directed towards further progress.

Ministers exchanged views on possible ways of pursuing the dialogue. They agreed to continue bilateral contacts with interested countries. They instructed their representatives in the Governing Board to address these questions as a matter of urgency, to coordinate their efforts to ensure that formal deliberations responsive to the interest of all countries concerned can be held as soon as possible, and to examine the manner in which the dialogue should be continued.'

OECD Ministerial Council

1408. The Council of the OECD met at Ministerial level in Paris on 28 and 29 May 1975.

It discussed the economic situation and trade,¹ but most of the proceedings, decisions, statements or resolutions adopted concern energy, raw materials and relations with the developing countries. There follows part of the final Communiqué on these three issues, on which President Ortoli had also spoken at the Council meeting.

Energy

'Ministers stressed the importance they attached to continuing and developing cooperation in the field of energy. A report from the Belgian Foreign Minister, Mr Renaat Van Elslande, Chairman of the Governing Board of the International Energy Agency's meeting at Ministerial level on 27 May, described the progress being made and the new impulse given to energy cooperation within that body.

Ministers agreed that increased cooperation between producer and consumer countries was needed in order to ensure equitable and stable conditions in the world energy market.

Commodities

Ministers stressed that adequate supplies of commodities at equitable and remunerative prices are essential to the world economy. They recognized the interdependence and common interest of producers and consumers, both developed and developing countries, particularly in relation to the avoidance of excessive fluctuations in commodity markets, as well as the importance attached by producers to assured access to markets and by consumers to secure supplies. These questions, together with other aspects of the commodity problem, are of special concern to the developing countries in making

¹ Point 2325.

the best possible use of their natural resources to foster economic development.

In responding to the concerns of developing countries in the commodity field and while recognizing that circumstances vary greatly between commodities or groups of commodities and that this must be taken into account when working out practical arrangements, Ministers agreed on the need for a more active and broadly based approach to commodity problems aiming in particular, at:

- (i) reducing market instability and promoting a better balance between production and consumption, including, where appropriate, through commodity agreements;
- (ii) ensuring adequate levels of investment in production of commodities;
- (iii) improving and increasing market outlets and local processing of commodities.

In addition, Ministers indicated their readiness to consider improved international mechanisms to stabilize export earnings of developing producing countries.

Ministers stressed the need for progress in the various international discussions on grains. In this context they noted that the better agricultural crops expected this year offered the opportunity to begin rebuilding stocks of essential foodstuffs, notably grains, and to ensure greater world food security. Ministers also reiterated their readiness to contribute to the efforts needed to increase food production in the developing countries.

Ministers agreed that these questions should be pursued actively in all appropriate bodies with a view to reaching concrete solutions based on cooperation between producing and consuming countries. They welcomed the establishment of a high level group in the OECD to further develop member countries' attitudes both on

general aspects of their commodity policies and on specific action concerning particular commodities.

Relations with Developing Countries

Ministers adopted an OECD Declaration on Relations with Developing Countries. They further agreed on a review within the OECD of economic relations between Member countries and developing countries, with a view to identifying what new and other constructive approaches could be adopted on selected substantive issues, and to giving support and new impetus to negotiations in other bodies working on specific problems. Ministers invited the *ad hoc* high-level Group which has been created for this purpose to begin its work as quickly as possible and to submit a preliminary progress report before the end of July 1975.

Ministers agreed on the need to continue the dialogue between developed and developing countries. They recognized that, concurrently with the problems of energy and oil, there are other problems such as commodities, including foodstuffs, development questions and the intensified difficulties of the most seriously affected countries, which will have to be tackled with increased vigour in cooperation with all countries concerned. The need for renewed efforts along these lines was a recurring theme throughout the meeting of the OECD Ministers. Ministers expressed the hope that their deliberations will have provided a basis for the resumption at an early date of the dialogue which was initiated in Paris last April.'



2ND PART
ACTIVITIES
IN MAY 1975

1. Functioning of the common market

Customs union

Customs union

Tariff Measures

Suspensions

2101. Acting on a Commission Proposal, the Council, on 20 May,¹ consolidated its Regulation of 18 November 1974,² which had partially or totally suspended, according to cases, the collection of CCT duties on a certain number of products used, under customs bond, in building, maintaining or repairing aircraft with an unladen weight of more than 15 tonnes.

The new Regulation extends exemption to a number of other *products*, not currently available in the Community, which are *required in building planes of the Concorde type*. It will take effect on 1 July 1975.

2102. On 20 May,¹ acting on a Commission Proposal, the Council adopted a Regulation temporarily suspending CCT duties on a number of industrial products. It covers some 200 items, mostly *raw materials* or *semi-products (largely chemicals)* intended for the Community's user industries.

They include certain products required by the new Member States, on which they no longer have the option (since 1 July 1974) of autonomously suspending their duties. The other products have already come under suspension for the previous periods. The approved suspensions, which will take effect on 1 July this year, apply for periods of twelve months running up to 30 June 1976, and for six months (i.e. up to 31 December 1975) in respect of some twelve products.

2103. The same day,¹ the Council totally suspended, from 1 July 1975 to 30 June 1976,

the customs duties applicable in the original Six to a number of *products imported from the new Member States*.

Tariff quotas

2104. In order to delete from the list of products subject to surveillance, those for which the set indicative ceilings were not reached during the last two years, the Council, on 20 May³ amended its Regulations of 7 November 1974⁴ establishing Community monitoring on imports of *certain products originating in various EFTA countries* (European Free Trade Association).

Customs value and taxes of equivalent effect

2105. On 13 May,⁵ the Commission amended its Regulation of 6 November 1968⁶ concerning air freight charges to be included in customs value. This follows on the Council's Decision of 14 April⁷ in applying the Community rules to relations with the *German Democratic Republic*. Thus, from 1 July 1975, the percentages of air freight charges to be included in the customs value of goods will allow for the corresponding costs of flight over East Germany.

2106. On 26 May,⁸ the Commission adopted a Regulation on the surrender of *documents to determine customs value*. The provisions stipu-

¹ OJ L 133 of 24.5.1975.

² OJ L 328 of 7.12.1974.

³ OJ L 132 of 23.5.1975.

⁴ OJ L 313 of 25.11.1974.

⁵ OJ L 127 of 17.5.1975.

⁶ OJ L 285 of 25.11.1968.

⁷ OJ L 102 of 22.4.1975 and Bull. EC 4-1975, point 2104.

⁸ OJ L 137 of 28.5.1975.

late that the declarer must provide the customs authorities with a copy invoice as the basis for declaring the customs value, which should facilitate any *a posteriori* checks.

Customs arrangements and the movement of goods

2107. On 5 May, the Council authorized the Commission to negotiate a legal instrument enabling the Community to become a contracting party to the Customs Convention on the international *transit* of goods (ITI Convention), made in Vienna on 7 June 1971 under the auspices of the Customs Cooperation Council.

Customs arrangements based on economic considerations

2108. In applying the Council Directive of 4 March 1969 on harmonizing laws, regulations and administrative provisions concerning inward processing traffic¹ and to ensure that it is uniformly applied; the Commission, on 26 May,² adopted a Directive on 'equivalent compensation and prior exportation'.

These provisions are to harmonize the rules allowing Community companies processing outside goods and goods in free circulation to use the inward processing system under the conditions best suited to company management needs.

This scheme relaxes the strict obligation, after processing under inward traffic arrangements, to re-export the goods which had originally been brought in. There is no loss of customs exemption if goods in free circulation, equivalent to those which were imported under the inward processing scheme, are used to obtain processed products intended for re-export.

* To avoid any improper practice, the terms of the procedure are set down in detail in the Directive.

Internal common market

Free movement of goods

Safeguard clauses

Italy

2109. On 26 May,³ the Commission amended its Decision of 8 May 1974⁴ authorizing Italy to introduce certain safeguards, under Article 108(3) of the EEC Treaty.

The amendment abolishes the authorization in respect of the obligation on importers to deposit 50% of the value of products imported with the Bank of Italy, since this requirement was discontinued by the Italian Government in March 1975.⁵ But the authorization stays in effect in so far as it requires residents to deposit at least 50% of their investments in other Member States.

Pharmaceuticals

2110. On 20 May,⁶ the Council formally adopted the second Directive on proprietary medicinal products and a Directive on the standards and protocols. It also adopted the Decision to create a Pharmaceutical Committee. At the meeting of 10 and 11 February 1975, the Council had said it was prepared to approve the

¹ OJ L 58 of 8.3.1969.

² OJ L 156 of 18.6.1975.

³ OJ L 158 of 20.6.1975.

⁴ OJ L 152 of 8.6.1974 and Bull. EC 5-1975, points 1101 to 1106.

⁵ Bull. EC 3-1975, point 2205.

⁶ OJ L 147 of 9.6.1975.

texts,¹ since only one State had made a reservation which had quickly been lifted.

Removal of technical barriers to trade

2111. On 20 May,² the Council adopted three Directives on *tractors* (steering equipment; the power connection from the tractor to light-signalling devices on tools, machinery or trailers; elimination of radio interference from spark-ignition engines). The Directives, which would approximate Member States' laws in this area, constitute special applications of the Directive of 4 March 1974³ on the type-approval of wheeled agricultural or forestry tractors.

2112. On the same day, the Council adopted a Directive on the approximation of Member States' laws relating to *aerosols*.² This includes provisions on packaging and the formation of a Committee to adapt the text to technical progress. A safeguard clause enables Member States provisionally to ban the marketing of certain products, which comply with the Directive, where they appear to be a hazard to health.

2113. The Commission decided to amend the proposed Directive on limiting the marketing and use of certain *dangerous substances and preparations*, which it had laid before the Council on 26 August 1974.

Companies

Statute of the European Company

2114. On 13 May, the Commission presented to the Council the amended Proposal for a Regulation on the statute of the European Company.⁴

Competition policy

State aid

Regional aid schemes

United Kingdom

2115. On 15 May, the Commission decided to allow the United Kingdom to waive the 'intensity ceiling' of regional aid schemes for the Highlands and Islands.

In accordance with Article 93(3) of the EEC Treaty, the British Government had made application in March to this effect in respect of that part of Scotland covered by the activity of the Highlands and Islands Development Board (HIDB). Under the terms of the Commission's Communication to the Council of 26 February concerning general regional aid schemes,⁵ this area is under an aid intensity ceiling of 30% net subsidy equivalent.

Since the area is unquestionably lagging in development, assistance from the HIDB involves small-scale projects and stringent limits have been set on aid allocation, the Commission has decided to grant the waiver.

But as the Highlands and Islands are likely to benefit from the advantages anticipated in working the North Sea oil deposits, the Commission has asked the British authorities for a detailed annual report on HIDB activity and the subsidies which it grants.

¹ Bull. EC 2-1975, points 1205 to 1208.

² OJ L 147 of 9.6.1975.

³ OJ L 84 of 28.3.1974.

⁴ Points 1301 to 1304, Supplement 4/75 — Bull. EC and Bull. EC 4-1975, point 2107.

⁵ Bull. EC 2-1975, point 2108.

Sectoral aid

Shipbuilding

2116. On 7 May, the Commission decided to amend the Proposal for a third Directive on shipbuilding subsidies, which it had presented to the Council in October 1973.

At the time, the Commission had worked out proposals on industrial plans for this sector alongside the proposed Directive on shipbuilding subsidies,¹ in order to boost shipbuilding competitiveness at world level. But the complicated problems and the divergent opinions of Member States prevented any agreement on the proposals despite an appreciable alignment of views. Thus, acting on a Commission Proposal, the Council, on three occasions, extended the second Directive, which expires on 30 June 1975. To make further headway with the discussions, the Commission decided to put an amended Proposal to the Council on the third Directive. This takes account of the opinions expressed by the Member States and developments in the relevant sector since the original Proposal was drawn up. But the basic approaches are the same, to wit: prompt reduction of shipbuilding subsidies and an information mechanism on investment subsidies which will enable a start to be made in coordinating existing investment projects in this sector of industry.

General aid schemes

Denmark

2117. On 23 May, the Commission decided to raise no objection to the enactment of two bills concerning subsidies for *non-industrialized concerns and small and medium-sized compa-*

nies, as notified to the Commission by the Danish Government under Article 93(3) of the EEC Treaty.

Under the first bill, which alters an already existing aid scheme, low-interest loans can be granted for investments by such concerns to expand, modernize or redevelop, within an annual budget appropriation of Dkr. 40 000 000, i.e. approximately 5 000 000 u.a. In each case the sum of the loan, which only companies with less than 75 employees may obtain, will not exceed Dkr. 450 000 (about 60 000 u.a.).

The second bill stipulates that in 1975 and 1976 the Treasury, exceptionally and temporarily, may underwrite loans which those same concerns may contract with the banks in order to finish off restructuration projects, despite short-term cyclical problems. The total amount of such guarantees is not to exceed Dkr. 100 000 000 (some 13 000 000 u.a.). In each case they may cover 50% of the loans, if the loans themselves are less than Dkr. 250 000 (33 000 u.a.); the guarantees will run for five years.

Since it felt that the recipients would be very small companies and that the subsidies would help them to develop and to adapt their structure, the Commission decided to make no objections over the two Danish bills.

Environment subsidies

Germany

2118. On 29 May, the Commission decided to close the procedure invoked in 1974 under Article 93(2) of the EEC Treaty against the Federal Government in respect of certain clauses, in a tax reform bill, which provided accelerated

¹ Bull. EC 10-1973, points 2111 and 2245.

depreciation for investments to be made by existing firms in order to protect the environment.¹

The German Government modified its aid scheme so that all its terms now comply with the principles laid down in its Communication of 6 November 1974 to the Member States 'on fitting in State subsidies for the environment at Community level'.²

The German scheme, in its original form, already broadly fulfilled the subsidy specifications which the Commission had said it would allow over a transitional period to enable existing companies to adapt to the new environmental constraints imposed on them.

The only snag was the duration of the aid scheme which would not have terminated on 31 December 1980, the end of the transitional period stipulated by the Commission. Since the German Government has now adjusted the scheme in this respect, the Commission felt that there were no further objections to activating it.

2119. On 14 May,³ the *Court of Justice* issued a judgment quashing the Commission's Decision in the case of Kali and Salz and Kali Chemie; another judgment, on 15 May,⁴ rejected the appeal lodged against the Commission in the Frubo case.

Fiscal policy and financial institutions

Taxation

Taxation in the Community: Statistics 1968-1973

2120. The Statistical Office of the European Communities has published a new set of statistics on taxes in the Member States giving details

of tax revenue, tax burdens and differences between systems.

For purpose of international comparison, tax revenue and social security contributions are added together. In real terms the sharpest increase in revenue from taxes and social security contributions between 1968 and 1973 occurred in Denmark (56%) and Luxembourg (52%); the rise was average in the Netherlands (47%), Germany (45%), Belgium (44%) and Ireland (39%), smaller in France (33%) and considerably lower in Italy (19%) and the United Kingdom (8%).

The tax ratio (revenue from taxes and social security contributions as a percentage of gross domestic product) varies sharply from country to country. The countries with the highest ratios are the Netherlands and Denmark with 45% and 43% in 1973, followed by Belgium (38.1%), Germany (37.7%), Luxembourg (37.6%), France (35.8%); the United Kingdom (33%), Ireland (32.4%) and Italy (30%), the three countries with the lowest per capita incomes in the Community, also have the lightest tax burdens. A further interesting point is that in the United Kingdom this ratio has fallen since 1970, and did likewise in Italy from 1972 to 1973. In the other countries, by contrast, the tax ratio increased from 1968 to 1973, with the exception of France, where it remained unchanged: Denmark: + 8.1%, Luxembourg: + 6.3%, Netherlands: + 5.5%, Germany: + 4.4%, Belgium: + 3.5%, Ireland: + 3.2%, France: about 0, Italy: - 1.2%, United Kingdom: - 2.1%.

There is also no uniformity in *tax structures* in the Community. The proportion of indirect taxes (in particular value added tax and excise duties) in total revenue from taxes and social

¹ Bull. EC 3-1974, point 2117.

² Bull. EC 11-1974, point 2115.

³ Point 2441.

⁴ Point 2442.

security contributions ranges from 27% in the Netherlands to 58% in Ireland, while the proportion of direct taxes (taxes on income and wealth) ranges from 18% (France) to 58% (Denmark).

1973 was the first year in which *value added tax* was applied in all the countries. It yielded 24% of total revenue in France, 18% in Belgium and Denmark, 16% in Ireland and Italy, about 15% in the Netherlands and Germany, 12% in Luxembourg and 7% in the United Kingdom.

Taxes on income and wealth account for 58% in Denmark, 42% in the United Kingdom, 18% in France and 22% in Italy. The share in the other member countries varies between 30 and 36%.

Italy and France are the countries in which direct taxation is lightest, but they also have the highest proportions of social security contributions (41 and 38%). In other countries, such as Denmark, social security benefits are partially financed out of general taxation.

With the entry of the three new Member States the differences between tax burdens and tax systems within the Community have in many respects increased even further.

Financial institutions

Insurance

Co-insurance

2121. On 21 May, the Commission decided to amend the Proposal for a Directive on 'coordination of laws, regulations and administrative provisions relating to co-insurance', which it had sent to the Council on 15 May 1974.¹

¹ Since the initial Proposal carried provisions on abolishing or reducing restrictions on freedom to

offer services, it was necessary to delete them, following the judgment by the Court of Justice on 3 December 1974 in the Van Binsbergen case.

In judging the case, the Court found that the Treaty Articles on freedom to offer services were directly applicable as from the end of the transitional period, at any event in as far as they would eliminate any discrimination against the person concerned by reason of his nationality, or the fact that he lives in a Member State other than that where the service is to be offered.²

Other amendments proposed by the Commission take account of the Opinions from the Economic and Social Committee³ and the European Parliament.⁴ Thus the definition of co-insurance as well as the rule relating to the law governing co-insurance contracts has been slightly modified, with the new provision stipulating that the parties to the contract may opt for this law and that if no option is taken, the law applicable will be that of the Member State where the contractor is living.

Banks and other financial institutions

2122. The proposed Directive from the Commission to the Council, which concerns coordination of banking regulations, received Opinions from the *European Parliament* on 15 May⁵ and the *Economic and Social Committee*, when it met on 28 and 29 May.⁶

¹ OJ C72 of 27.6.1974, Bull. EC 5-1974, point 2112.

² Bull. EC 12-1974, point 2443.

³ OJ C47 of 27.2.1975, Bull. EC 12-1974, point 2451.

⁴ OJ C60, 13.3.1975, Bull. EC 2-1975, point 2427.

⁵ Point 2423.

⁶ Point 2451.

2. Economic and monetary union

Economic, monetary and financial policy

The French franc rejoins the Community 'snake'

2201. Since her external position has been consolidated, France will shortly be able to rejoin the Community exchange scheme, commonly known as 'the snake'. This was announced by President Giscard d'Estaing at the official commemoration of the Schuman Declaration on 9 May.¹

The planned return of the French franc to the Community exchange scheme (which sets at 2.25% the maximum spread existing at any given moment between the hardest and softest currency) was the subject of a statement by Mr Fourcade, France's Minister for Finance and Economy, at the Council's meeting in Brussels on 20 May.

The Council welcomed the statement, emphasizing that it was a positive step towards extending the area of monetary stability in Europe.

At the same time, the Commission, in the person of Vice-President Haferkamp, also expressed its satisfaction with France's decision. France had been able to return to the snake as a result of the substantial efforts she had made, and the drive within the Council for greater convergence of economic policies, thus to strengthen Community cohesion. Seeing the circumstances in which Mr Giscard d'Estaing announced the decision, it transcended monetary cooperation.

Regarding the technical terms under which this reintegration is to operate, the Council instructed the Governors Committee of the central banks, in line with the work of the experts of the authorities in the Member States party to the 'snake', to examine the terms and report to the Council meeting of 16 June.

On 19 January 1974, France had decided to drop out temporarily from the Community exchange scheme, just as the United Kingdom and Ireland did on 23 June 1972 and Italy on 13 February 1973. So, at the present time, these countries are not following the arrangements of the scheme, which, however, are still being applied by the majority, namely Germany, Belgium, Denmark, Luxembourg and the Netherlands.

As the French franc has been revalued, it has already reintegrated into the 'snake' *de facto*, since the rate for the franc now lies within the boundaries of the former intervention points of the Community exchange scheme.

Coordinating economic policies

2202. The Council of Finance and Economy Ministers met in Brussels on 20 May chaired by Mr Ryan, Ireland's Minister of Finance.

The discussion largely centred on the French franc's return to the 'snake'.²

The Council also reviewed questions to be dealt with in the work of the Interim Committee of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) when it meets in Paris on 10 and 11 June. The main items here are increasing the Member States IMF quotas and certain amendments to the IMF's Articles. The Council set out some guidelines for the Member States at the meeting.

Talks with both sides of industry

2203. As part of the contacts with both sides of industry, which the Commission has been regularly making for some time, Vice-President Haferkamp met the social partners in Brussels on

¹ Points 1101 to 1110.

² Point 2201.

22 May. This was the first meeting with the Commission of Member States' trade unions and employers' representatives.

The communiqué issued after the discussions said: 'The discussion centred on the economic situation and future outlook. The participants expressed the particular hope that economic activity would soon revive and in general emphasized the necessity for a short-term economic policy which the Community institutions started to advocate as early as last year. They also made a point of stressing that the coordination of national short-term economic policies at Community level can make a substantial contribution to stabilization, and for this reason should be intensified. The parties in the discussion propose to continue this detailed and frank exchange of views on questions of economic policy.'

Short-term consumer survey

2204. In the last week of January and the first week of February 1975 the ninth European consumer survey was carried out for the Commission of the European Communities. The information obtained is based on interviews of some 40 000 households selected as a representative sample.

European consumers take the view that the *economic situation* has deteriorated further since autumn 1974. The majority of consumers are, however, less pessimistic than in the past as to economic developments over the twelve months ahead. This is shown in particular by the information obtained in Germany, France and Denmark (see Table 2). The fear of a further increase in *unemployment* is less widespread than in the previous survey and this is another expression of the gradual growth in confidence in economic developments. The increase in more optimistic answers on the trend of the labour

market is particularly marked in Denmark and Germany. But in France, the Netherlands and Italy too, rather fewer respondents expected an increase in unemployment than in the late autumn of last year. The Belgians and Irish on the other hand expect, if anything, a further deterioration on the labour market.

Consumers still feel that *prices* are rising too rapidly, but are well aware of the first results of measures taken to curb inflation. One adjustment is particularly welcome: responses indicate that price expectations have again declined, and this is important since price expectations are themselves a determinant of inflation. Ireland is the only country in which even more consumers than in October of last year expect prices to rise faster once again.

Most Europeans consider their personal *financial position* to be somewhat more favourable than the general economic situation. In Denmark, Germany, France, The Netherlands and Belgium, however, approximately one quarter of the households questioned still felt that they were financially worse off than twelve months previously. In Ireland, this proportion was more than 60%, while in Italy it was still almost 50%. The fear that a fall in real incomes is unavoidable in the coming twelve months is somewhat less widespread in all Community countries than in the late autumn of last year. The Netherlands is the only where there has been some deterioration in income expectations; but they are still more favourable than the average for the Community. However, most Europeans are aware that in the months ahead real income cannot make substantial gains.

With unemployment still widespread, there has been little change in the tendency of consumers to postpone *purchases*. Most consumers are making greater efforts to save than in previous years. Compared with the answers for January 1974, there is, however, evidence of an increase in intentions to purchase cars and other consu-

mer durables such as colour television sets, freezers, washing machines and dishwashers, especially in France and the Netherlands. The intention to increase holiday spending is more widespread than at the beginning of last year.

Monetary Committee

2205. The Monetary Committee, chaired by Mr Oort, held its 204th meeting in Dublin on 9 May 1975. Anticipating the meetings of the Council on 20 May and of the IMF Interim Committee on 10 and 11 June, the Committee discussed international monetary issues: the allocation of quota increases between the industrialized countries and proposed amendments to the Articles of the IMF, in particular the exchange system and the future of gold. It reviewed the report of the *ad hoc* Group on Italy and agreed that it be sent to the Council and Commission. The Committee then discussed its work programme concerning indexation problems and the exchange guarantee for financial assets, and decided to assign this to the Working Party on Securities Markets, which is already working on a related matter. Lastly, the Committee adopted an opinion on the concession rates to be used in certain agricultural tendering procedures.

The *group of experts*, chaired by Mr Bastiaanse, working on the *harmonization of monetary policy instruments* met in Brussels on 15 May 1975; it did further work on its assigned analysis of monetary policy instruments.

Economic Policy Committee

2206. The Economic Policy Committee (budgets section) met in Brussels on 29 and 30 May, at the invitation of the Belgian Government. With the main topic 'financial relations between States and local government', the discussion focussed on:

(i) the scope of local government authority,

(ii) the legal limits to the financial autonomy of local governments,

(iii) central control over local government (particularly discretionary financial aid).

The *Economic and Social Committee*, meeting on 28 and 29 May, gave its Opinion on two matters: the restructuring of economies and the degree of convergence between Member States' economic policies.¹

Regional policy

Financing operations

Redevelopment

2207. Under Article 56 (2a) of the ECSC Treaty, the Commission decided on 14 May, subject to a confirmatory Opinion from the Council, to grant a redevelopment loan of some 27 200 000 u.a., with interest subsidized up to some 2 500 000 u.a. to the British Steel Corporation for the Ebbw Vale project (United Kingdom).

This is part of British Steel's ten-year plan to modernize and rationalize its activities, by replacing certain existing units and creating additional capacity. This particular project is to expand and modernize tinplate production plant.

The new plant will create 234 jobs to be offered first to iron and steel operatives now out of work in Ebbw Vale after the BSC closed its steelworks, rolling mill and hot-rolling plant. Some 4 400 jobs can also be ensured in existing production units.

¹ Points 2448 and 2449.

Social policy

Free movement and social security for migrant workers

2208. *The Advisory Committee on the Free Movement of Workers* met in Brussels on 27 May. It examined a note on illegal immigration and approved the main lines for Community action on the matter, namely: guidance for workers; severe penalties for labour traffickers and those who illegally engage foreign labour; coordination of this action at Community level.

The Committee also approved the conclusions of the previous day by the Working Party on Social Welfare and Housing for Migrant Workers and their Families, which had been delegated to review the action to be taken concerning the education of migrant workers' children.

Lastly, arrangements were discussed, which would enable the foreign population to share in the life of the commune where they live, especially by forming migrant-worker advisory bodies.

2209. *The Administrative Committee for Migrant Workers' Social Security* met on 29 and 30 May. In following up its preparatory work to set up a mechanism to coordinate social security schemes for the self-employed, the Committee took stock of the main preoptions to be taken in the various branches of insurance. A prompt start will be made on studying solutions to the problems involved, with the help of experts well versed in the problems of coordination and in social security schemes for the self-employed. Several administrative decisions were taken, particularly two concerning application of Article 50 of the Council Regulation of 21 March 1972,¹ which determines action to speed up payment of social security benefits. The decisions adopted cover the exchange of information on migrant workers between

Member States and the aggregation of their pension rights to be worked out, at the latest, exactly one year to the day before the date on which they reach the age of pension entitlement.

Social Fund, re-employment and readaptation

2210. In applying Article 56(2) of the ECSC Treaty, the Commission this month decided to contribute up to £337 000 to the costs of retraining 1230 workers hit by the partial closure of a steel company in the *United Kingdom*, and up to Bfrs 7 500 000 to assist workers hit by the closure of a rolling-mill in *Belgium*. The Governments concerned will contribute equal sums to defray this expenditure.

Living and working conditions

2211. The Commission sent the Council a report on developments in the original Six regarding *harmonization of certain social provisions in road transport* under the Regulation of 25 March 1969.² The report, which covers the period 1 October 1969 to 30 September 1971, gives a comparative summary of statutory provisions and regulations concerning the minimum age for vehicle drivers; the driving spells and rest periods. It also deals with arrangements made within collective agreements and includes comments and suggestions from Member States' Governments, trade unions and occupational bodies; at the end the Commission makes its own remarks and draws its conclusions. The aim of such a report is to indicate developments in some aspects of road transport working conditions with an eye to adapting the Regulation to change.

¹ OJ L74 of 27.3.1972.

² OJ L77 of 29.3.1969.

2212. The decision to create the *European Foundation for the Improvement of Living and Working Conditions* was formally adopted by the Council on 26 May 1975.¹

2213. Under the second tranche of the 7th programme to assist the financing of low-cost housing for personnel of mining and steel industries within the ECSC Treaty, the Commission approved plans to the value of FF 3570000 to build 357 dwellings for French steel industry workers.

Industrial and occupational relations

2214. The joint Committee on social problems in *sea fishing*, meeting in full session in Brussels on 14 May, unanimously adopted a programme of social harmonization in EEC sea fishing, signed by the representatives of the occupational bodies making up the Committee. The draft programme of the European Office for Vocational Training in the Fishing Industry was also adopted; the Working Party concerned was instructed to draw up the Articles.

The Committee members discussed and, subject to a few amendments of wording, approved an opinion on fire prevention for fishing fleets. The Working Party on vocational training was assigned to study ways of activating this opinion (by means of specialized centres).

Lastly, the Committee issued an opinion alerting the Commission to the serious problems besetting fisheries and asking for urgent action to mitigate the social and economic impact, and especially unemployment, not only in fisheries but in related sectors (processing, shipyards, etc.) as well.

2215. The Joint Committee on harmonization of working conditions in the *coal industry* met in

Luxembourg on 13 May. The representatives of the occupational organizations adopted a draft statute for the Committee. They also approved comparative tables on working hours (position on 1 January 1974 and 1 January 1975), and got down to an initial discussion on this data, with special reference to the legal position regarding the employment of manual workers.

Health protection

2216. The Research Committee on *Health in the Mines* met in Luxembourg on 12 May to vet a series of twelve projects in the 1975 tranche to be presented to the Commission as part of the third programme. Approved projects cover the dedusting of winning machines, suppression of soot from Diesel engines, nitrous fumes in collieries, and mining diseases. A Community project was sponsored by all the mining countries to advance harmonization in measuring dust in underground work areas.

2217. A meeting of national specialists took place on 20 May with the aim of harmonizing air pollution measurement techniques. Various parameters were reviewed which are to be reckoned with to ensure that the results of measuring a given pollutant are comparable. A list of the parameters, the various aims behind taking measurements and the pollutants to be studied, was approved. All this data, together with proposed definitions of parameters (limits of detection, scales of concentration, accuracy and frequency of measurements, etc.) will be transmitted to the Member States who will be asked to send in particulars of their current requirements.

¹ OJ L139 of 30.5.1975 and Bull. EC 12-1974, point 1305.

2218. A group of experts met to review the present position in *personal neutron dosimetry*. It was decided to compile a summary report on the present state of the art to serve as the basis for the eventual finalization of technical recommendations to experts responsible for the physical monitoring of radiation protection.

2219. A scientific colloquium was run in Luxembourg from 21 to 23 May on 'the *hardness of drinking-water* as affecting public health'. Some sixty experts from all the Community countries as well as experts from the World Health Organization (WHO) took part.

Twelve scientific lectures or summary reports were presented on the physiochemistry of water and the effect of foodstuffs and drinking-water on man's ingestion of minerals; determining the relationship between the quality of drinking water and disease and death due to cardio-vascular disorders. The discussions showed that there was an inverse relationship between the hardness of water and cardio-vascular disease, meaning that low water hardness corresponded with increased frequency of those disorders. From the practical angle, it was pointed out that great care should be taken with regard to the ruinous consequences for health of altering the physicochemical balance of drinking-waters.

Other things to be done at Community level included: an effort to harmonize the relevant terminology and techniques for gauging water-hardness; studies on the relation of water to nutrition problems; work on an individual's capacity to adapt to a certain dietary complement; forward studies on epidemiology considering water production and distribution techniques, and its use by the population as opposed to single individuals.

*

2220. During the part-session of 12 to 15 May, the *European Parliament* gave an Opinion

on action by the Social Fund to assist structural adaptations; and the programme of pilot projects and studies to combat poverty.¹ Poverty was also the subject of an Opinion from the *Economic and Social Committee*, meeting on 28 and 29 May, which took a position on updating the Social Action Programme.²

Environment and consumer protection

Environment

Protecting the Mediterranean against land-based pollution

2221. On 30 May, the Commission laid a draft Decision and a Recommendation before the Council, concerning the Community's participation in negotiating an outline Convention for protection of the Mediterranean against marine pollution from land-based sources.

The draft Decision is to enable the Commission to negotiate for such a Convention on behalf of the Community, and alongside the Member States concerned (France, Italy and the United Kingdom) at an intergovernmental meeting to take place in Barcelona from 2 to 13 February 1976. The aim of the Recommendation is to invite the three Member States involved to support the Commission's action. The future Protocol on preventing Mediterranean pollution is to be based on the provisions of the Paris Convention (for the prevention of marine pollution from land-based sources) adopted on 21 February 1974.³

¹ Points 2418 and 2419.

² Point 2450.

³ Bull. EC 11-1974, point 1206 and Bull. EC 3-1975, point 2225.

*European Foundation
for the Improvement of Living
and Working Conditions*

2222. On 26 May,¹ the Council formally adopted a Regulation creating the European Foundation for the Improvement of Living and Working Conditions. This had been approved on 17 December 1974.²

Agricultural policy

The problems of hill-farming and farming in certain underfavoured areas

2223. New ground was broken in structural policy in agriculture, when the Council³ formally adopted the Directive on hill-farming and farming in certain underfavoured areas, for which the first Proposal was made in February 1973.⁴

By its innovations, this decision is a major milestone in the development process of the common policy. The new Directive acknowledges that agriculture has a role which transcends its function of food producer, brings in a scheme of direct aid for incomes and, thereby, a means of shifting resources towards the less-favoured areas of the Community. Besides all this, it strengthens the scope for regional diversification in the policy of structural reform.

In those regions burdened by major natural handicaps, the processes now at work do indeed make it hard to preserve a minimum population level and safeguard the natural environment. These processes also impinge on agriculture which is the mainstay of the economy in those regions. Here, the policy of structural reform, as adopted by the Council on 17 April 1972,⁵ was to be consolidated to cope with the

special conditions prevailing in the areas concerned, so as to halt or reverse the current trends.

2224. The new Council Directive, of 28 April 1975,⁶ is an effort to solve this problem through a package of measures which take account of the specific factors preconditioning the type of farming, and its development potential, in the zones most underfavoured as far as natural production conditions are concerned.

The major measures provided by the Directive are as under:

- (i) an annual compensatory allowance to be granted to farmers, under certain circumstances; the sum to be determined in proportion to the severity of permanent natural handicaps. It will range from 15 to 50 u.a. per livestock unit (LSU)⁶ or, if necessary, per hectare;
- (ii) a more advantageous investment aid scheme than the one provided by the Directive of 17 April 1972 on modernization of farms, for farmers carrying through a development plan; the possibility of including in such plans, investments made on farms to encourage tourism or crafts;
- (iii) special subsidies for collective investments in fodder production, and enhancing and equipping pasturage and upper slopes in joint use;
- (iv) a special scheme of national investment subsidies for farms which are unable to carry through a development plan.

¹ OJ L139 of 30.5.1975.

² Bull. EC 12-1974, point 1305.

³ OJ L128 of 19.5.1975.

⁴ Bull. EC 2-1973, point 2228 and Bull. EC 11-1973, point 2250.

⁵ OJ L96 of 23.4.1972.

⁶ LSU = livestock unit (conversion coefficient of livestock population).

The areas covered by the Directive fall into three categories: hill and mountain areas, underfavoured zones threatened with depopulation, and areas burdened with specific handicaps.

The essential features of *hill or mountain areas* are: slopes so steep that no mechanization is feasible or where very costly special equipment must be used; or very hard weather conditions due to the altitude which mean a substantially curtailed growth period; or a combination of the above, when the handicap deriving separately from either one is less severe.

Zones threatened with depopulation are defined as those where the following features are all present: stubborn soil, unreceptive to cultivation and difficult to enrich; adverse economic conditions due to the poor productivity of the natural environment; low population density, or a tendency to leave the land.

To determine these areas, the first and second features are expressed by different indicators, depending on available data, in the different Member States. In appraising the third feature, the population factor, while respecting a Community limit, allowance has been made for the position of each underfavoured area relative to the population picture in the Member State where it lies.

Lastly, *the small areas with specific handicaps* have been singled out, by considering, to some extent, the constraints on farming activity arising there from public regulations to preserve the countryside, safeguard the coasts or, in a more general way from regulations to protect the environment.

2225. The workable surface area in the underfavoured zones, identified by using the above indicators, constitutes 26% of the Community's workable surface area; the number of farms and LSU amount to 15% of the

Community total, whereas the value of final agricultural output can be put at about 12% of the Community total. This involves all the Member States, except Denmark, who has temporarily refrained from proposing the areas which could be included in the Community list of underfavoured zones.

All of the measures stipulated by the Directive stem from the joint action referred to in the Directive of 17 April 1972. The EAGGF, Guidance Section, will reimburse 25% of the expenditure for which this aid may be granted.

On this basis, the estimated cost of the EAGGF's contribution comes out at 254 000 000 u.a. for the first three years. The Council Regulation of 18 March 1975,¹ creating the European Regional Development Fund, provides for Community participation in the infrastructure investments mentioned in Article 3(2) of the Directive, insofar as the underfavoured zone coincides or lies within regions or zones covered by the Fund.

Common Farm Prices for the 1975/76 marketing year

2226. This month, the Council and Commission adopted several Regulations concerning the *prices derived* from the common farm prices applicable to the 1975/76 marketing year and set in February 1975² for cereals, olive oil, fruit and vegetables, and in December 1974 and April 1975³ for fisheries.

¹ OJ L73 of 21.3.1975.

² Bull. EC 2-1975, point 2224.

³ OJ L334 of 14.12.1974, OJ L357 of 31.12.1974 and OJ L118 of 8.5.1975.

Measures in connection with the monetary situation

2227. In May, the monetary compensatory amounts for *France* were discontinued, after the rise of the French franc. This was done in two stages. The first discontinued the amounts, as from 5 May, for milk and beef and veal, the same as for Italy.¹ In these sectors the new representative rate for the French franc adopted by the Council in February² had already begun to bite since the marketing year had already started. Then on 19 May the continuing rise of the French franc led to compensatory amounts being discontinued in the other sectors.

The amounts concerning *Ireland* and the *United Kingdom* were adjusted, as a result of the movement in those currencies; as from 12, 19 and 26 May 1975.

Common organization of the markets

2228. The heart of the agenda for the Council meeting of 26 and 27 May dealt with matters relating to the 'overall Mediterranean approach': adaptation of common organization of the markets in products for which agricultural concessions could be made (processed fruit and vegetables, citrus fruits and out-of-season fruit and vegetables, new potatoes and wine) to ensure adequate protection for Community produce. Considerable headway was made.

Developments in the troubling situation on the beef and veal and fisheries markets were again appraised by the Council in May (it started monthly appraisals in March) while the picture on the pigmeat market enabled the Commission to terminate private storage subsidies granted since June 1974.³

2229. In view of the trends in world *sugar* prices, which have recently steadied at relatively

low levels, the Commission was able to set lower sugar and syrup export levies than for April. It felt,⁴ moreover, that there was no longer any need to retain, beyond 26 May 1975, an export tax, brought in December 1974⁵ on certain syrups and processed products containing sugar.

2230. Pending adoption of the Regulation on the common organization of the potato market, the Council, on 27 May,⁶ extended as from 1 July 1975, the aid scheme under the Council Regulation of 30 April 1974⁷ to cover *dehydrated potatoes* for animal feeds. The Regulation itself concerns the common organization of the markets for dehydrated fodders.

2231. Regarding *wine*, the Council, on 27 May⁸ amended its Regulation of 15 July 1974,⁹ setting (a) the price, for the wine 1974/75 marketing year, of alcohol delivered to the intervention agencies by way of mandatory distillation of wine-making by-products and (b) the maximum contribution by the EAGGF Guarantee Section to this price. Owing to recent conditions on the alcohol market, coloured by a heavy fall in the rates, the EAGGF's contribution was raised.

On 7 May,¹⁰ the Commission set the terms for applying the latest distillation operation for table wines, as adopted by the Council in April.¹¹ This contains provisions to ensure that

¹ Bull. EC 4-1975, point 2240.

² OJ L 52 of 28.2.1975.

³ OJ L 173 of 28.6.1974 and Bull. EC 6-1974, point 2249 and EC 10-1974, point 2246.

⁴ OJ L 133 of 24.5.1975.

⁵ Bull. EC 4-1975, point 2244 and OJ L 334 of 14.12.1974.

⁶ OJ L 141 of 3.6.1975.

⁷ Bull. EC 4-1974, point 2226.

⁸ OJ L 138 of 29.5.1975.

⁹ Bull. EC 7/8-1974, point 2243.

¹⁰ OJ L 118 of 8.5.1975.

¹¹ Bull. EC 4-1975, point 2236 and OJ L 103 of 23.4.1975.

the minimum purchase price of table wines for distillation is in fact paid and to enable Member States to require the assignment of the aid from the distiller to the producer as an advance against the contract price for the delivery of the wine. Using the scope offered here, the Commission brought forward the distillation operations scheduled for the period 7 June to 31 July 1975 to run from 12 May to 5 July. Most of the distilleries are in a position to make a start before the date originally set and in order to clear up the market as promptly as possible, advancing the dates seemed a wise move, due consideration being paid to the particular conditions obtaining for the different distilleries.

2232. For *flax and hemp*, the Commission this month introduced private storage aid for flax (and hemp) fibres.¹ From 1 June to 31 July, those holding stocks of long flax fibres of Community origin may make storage contracts running for three or four months. The subsidy of 1 u.a. per 100 kg per month partially offsets storage and interest charges.

The Commission was thus applying the arrangements in the basic Regulation, in this sector, which provides for such aid whenever a temporary imbalance occurs between availability and foreseeable demand for flax (or hemp) fibres. This step has been taken to soften the impact on retting and scutching of the cyclical crisis now hitting flax spinning, in the shape of mounting stocks of long flax fibre from the 1974 crop and a sharp drop in prices for this product. As a result of the Commission's action, the disposal of 1975 fibre will most likely proceed under normal conditions.

The Commission has also put two new varieties of textile flax into the Annex of the Regulation of 29 March² on subsidies for flax and hemp.

2233. On 29 May³ the Commission adopted a Regulation which will enable the Irish hop

producers, who number only four, located in only one hop-growing region, to form a group. This is a departure from the Community rules,⁴ which stipulate that seven is the minimum for a recognized producer-group.

2234. The Commission decided on several intervention measures for *beef and veal*.

Since the market is seasonal, certain coefficients used in reckoning intervention buying-in prices, and the purchase prices for forequarters were reduced,⁵ while buying-in of hindquarters was suspended.

Under the ground rules for regular tenders⁶ to dispose of meat held by the intervention agencies, more than 23 000 tonnes were offered for sale in May.

The authorization given to the intervention agencies by the Commission Regulation of 29 May,⁷ to process bought-in meat into boned pieces was limited to 27 June 1975; but the authorization only covers up to 25%, for Ireland, and 50%, for France, of quantities bought-in per week.⁸

2235. The *pigmeat* market saw the rates rally during May after the slight seasonal fall at the end of April. Prices are eventually expected to rise in the months ahead because of reduced supply and greater demand. So it was decided⁹ to terminate the intervention measures, i.e. private storage subsidies, with effect from 15 June 1975, but allowing certain contracts to be prolonged to avoid an overhasty and overheavy release of meat during the summer months.

¹ OJ L 140 of 31.5.1975.

² Bull. EC 3-1974, point 2231 and OJ L 135 of 27.5.1975.

³ OJ L 139 of 30.5.1975.

⁴ Bull. EC 8-1972, point 66.

⁵ OJ L 133 of 24.5.1975.

⁶ Bull. EC 1-1975, point 2234.

⁷ OJ L 144 of 29.5.1974.

⁸ OJ L 138 of 29.5.1975.

2236. In *fisheries*, the Commission once again extended,¹ until 1 July 1975,² the protective measures applied to imported tunny for industrial processing. Over recent weeks the French tunny market has deteriorated and 14 000 tonnes of unsold stocks were on hand at the end of April; hence the need to renew the arrangements covering this fish. After discussing this extension, the Council, on 27 May, took note that the Commission intended to extend it beyond 1 July and to increase the amount of private storage subsidies and the reference price of tunny.

EAGGF

2237. On 5 May,³ the Council adopted a Regulation on allocatng EAGGF, Guidance Section, appropriations for 1974 and on deferring certain time limits for 1974 and 1975. The Regulation stipulates that a sum of 235 000 000 u.a. will be earmarked for financing these projects, in line with the Council Regulation of 5 February 1964 concerning the terms of aid from the EAGGF.

Industrial and technological policy

Industry

Iron and steel

Market situation: Commission Decision

2238. After the Communication to steel companies covered by the ECSC Treaty, which was published on 2 May⁴ and announced the revision, on a quarterly basis, of target estimates for

1975 and measures to intensify information on steel production and checks on adherence to the price rules, the Commission, on 16 May,⁵ adopted a Decision in line with the action planned to weather the hard times now besetting the steel market. The Decision, which will speed up and consolidate the relay of output data to the Commission requires, under Article 47 of the ECSC Treaty, that steel companies start very shortly to send in monthly production figures, and submit monthly production forecasts. These will be confined to output and forecast figures for crude steel.

Investment trends

2239. Statements received by the Commission indicate that the estimated expenditure deriving from decisions during 1974 by the iron and steel concerns of the enlarged Community run to nearly 2.3 thousand million u.a., of which 1.9 thousand million is accounted for by the six 'old' Member States.

This sum is well up on previous years, although it does not exceed the record-breaking 4 000 million u.a., only for the Six, in 1970. Certain companies, however, have not yet completed the programmes which they decided on in 1969 and 1970.

The 1974 figure outstrips those recorded, for the Six, during the four previous years (669 000 000 u.a. in 1971, 770 000 000 in 1972, 694 000 000 in 1973) and even 1969 (1 840 000 u.a.). The estimated expenditures for 1974 mainly concern rolling mills (1 156 000), and major iron and steel plants (327 000 000). In country order,

¹ Bull. EC 4-1975, point 2448.

² OJ L 125 of 16.5.1975.

³ OJ L 121 of 14.5.1975.

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

⁵ OJ L 130 of 21.5.1975.

Italy leads the field (772 000 000 u.a.), followed by Germany (482 000 000), the United Kingdom (346 000 000), France (288 000 000), Belgium (247 000 000), the Netherlands (129 000 000) and Luxembourg (24 000 000).

Even at the peak of the trade cycle, the whole steel industry generally displayed reluctance to embark on new programmes. Many factors were at work here, especially anticipated changes in steel consumption by the main user branches, the increase in newly productive or planned facilities, the inaccuracy of economic sums at a time of inflation and monetary insecurity, and the higher prices for energy and raw materials.

This reluctance to embark on major new programmes was generally borne out over the *first quarter of 1975*, although the figures for such a short period must be read with caution. The total figure for new programmes approved in the whole Community is still below some 380 000 000 u.a.

Aeronautics

2240. The Commission sent the Council two papers drawn up by its departments in prepar-

ing a report which it will shortly lay before the Council, in accordance with the latter's Resolution adopted on 4 March 1975.¹

The first paper is a *statistical study* on the aeronautics industry, which employs 406 000 people and whose turnover runs to 53 000 million u.a., i.e. respectively 0.4% of employed persons and 0.6% of the gross domestic product at market prices. The turnover and employment of the Community's aerospace industry amount respectively to 29 and 42% of the United States' industry figure. Military business accounts for 62% of the Community's industrial activity, as compared with 66% in the United States.

The following table show the development in commercial aeronautics:

¹ Bull. EC 3-1975, point 2235.

Table 1

Importance of markets taken by aircraft and origin of those in service

(in %)

	Importance of the market		Percentage market share taken by aircraft constructed in the EEC		Percentage market share taken by aircraft constructed in the USA	
	1970	1974	1970	1974	1970	1974
EEC	14.7	17.9	33.0	20.2	67.0	79.8
Other European countries	6.3	7.8	23.1	6.7	76.9	93.3
Europe	(21.0)	(25.7)	30.1	16.1	69.9	83.9
USA	63.9	48.0	2.1	—	97.9	100.0
Rest of western world	15.1	26.3	12.2	6.3	87.8	93.7
Entire western world	100.0	100.0	9.5	5.9	90.5	94.1

Contrary to what one might expect, the increased relative size of the European market does not work in favour of European machines, since their world share, already modest in 1970, has fallen by 37% between 1970 and 1974.

The second paper concerns the 'outlook in demand for civil transport planes' up to 1985. This study bears on assessing world demand for civil transport planes over this period, reckoning with traffic forecasts, theoretical adjustment coefficients, theoretical withdrawal of planes in service, and productivity. It also involves a number of assumptions concerning possibilities open to the European industry which are studied from the accounting side of Community civil aeronautics for the period 1975-1985 (particularly the balance between the capital expenditure of European airlines and the sales figures of the European aircraft industry).

Lastly, the study points to those sectors of civil aircraft construction where action could be taken to cut down or wipe out the estimated negative overall balance, if this was the desired objective as part of the Community's overall economic policy, into which sectoral policies should be dovetailed.

Technology

Nuclear industry

2241. On 20 May,¹ the Council formally adopted two Decisions conferring, under Article 49 of the Euratom Treaty, the statute of joint company and certain tax advantages on the firm of *Schnell-Brüter-Kernkraftwerksgesellschaft mbH (SBK)*. The Commission had given a favourable Opinion on this matter on 20 December 1974.²

2242. On 15 May, the *European Parliament* issued its Opinion on the Commission's Communication to the Council concerning technological problems in nuclear safety. The *Economic and Social Committee* also gave an Opinion on this paper. It took a position on the management and storage of radioactive waste and on the Commission's initial Proposals for urgent action on data-processing.

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

Science, research and development

Scientific and Technical Research Committee

2243. The Scientific and Technical Research Committee (CREST) held its 13th meeting in Brussels on 22 and 23 May 1975 with Mr Schuster in the Chair.

Views were exchanged on the Commission's proposals for research and development programmes in the sectors 'environmental protection', 'reference materials and methods (CBR)', 'biology and health protection', and 'controlled thermonuclear fusion and plasma physics'. These discussions will be continued at the Committee's next meeting.

¹ OJ L 152 of 12.6.1975.

² Bull. EC 12-1974, point 2257.

The Committee then went on to define a common attitude of the Nine towards the financing of preparatory work on future COST projects. It also laid down guidelines for the implementation of concerted Community actions, of which the first example might be an integrated research programme on town planning.

In the oceanology sector, the Committee may shortly examine the possibilities of a comparative study on the calibration of instruments for measuring marine physical parameters. This matter will be the subject of a further discussion on 27 June.

*

2244. At its general meeting on 28 and 29 May 1975, the *Economic and Social Committee* delivered an Opinion on the programme of R & D projects in the energy sector, which the Commission has presented to the Council.

Meeting of senior officials on scientific and technical research

2245. The Committee of Senior Officials on Scientific and Technical Research (COST) met on 30 May 1975 with Mr Silver in the Chair. The main points discussed were the following:

Electronic traffic aids on major roads (Project 30)—The Committee examined the new preliminary draft agreement for the implementation of Project 30, in which the Community intends to participate now that it has been acknowledged by the Council as a project of general Community interest. The Committee adopted a scale for the breakdown of joint expenditure on the project, calculated according to the OECD model, and discussed the balance that should be

struck between the first phase of the project, which is to be implemented by way of 'concerted action', and the second phase, which will take the form of a 'joint project'.

Allocation of a new overall multi-annual appropriation for the work of COST—The Committee signified its agreement in principle that an appropriation of 900 000 u.a. should be allocated to support COST's work over the next five years. The contributions from the various Member States are to be settled by the same procedure as was employed during the period 1970-75.

Multiannual programme

Advisory Committee on Programme Management (ACPM)

2246. The ACPM for 'Biology and Health Protection' met on 22 and 23 May under the chairmanship of Dr A. Lafontaine (Belgium). It examined and approved the annual report for 1974, which had been prepared by the Commission. This report reviews all the work carried out under this programme during the year and summarizes the principal results.

The Committee was also informed of progress in the work on preparing a draft proposal for a multi-annual programme in this sector for the years 1976-80.¹ It expressed its concern that there should be no delay in the taking of future decisions in this connection, since that would give rise to serious difficulties for all participants

¹ Bull. EC 2-1975, point 2250, and Bull. EC 4-1975, point 2262.

in current projects which are due to continue beyond 31 December 1975.

Education and training

2247. The Education Committee met on 22, 23 and 26 May under the chairmanship of Mr D. O'Laoghaire (Ireland). On 22 May the Committee discussed the question of the education and training of migrant workers and their families and took note of the Commission's proposals contained in the action programme presented to the Council on 18 December 1974. On 23 May the Committee continued its discussion of the proposals in the fields already under consideration.¹ On 26 May it considered the question of equality of access to all forms of education and gave further consideration to its draft report.

Scientific and technical information and information management

2248. From 27 to 30 May, the second European Congress on documentation systems and networks took place in Luxembourg. The first Congress, held in May 1973, had reviewed the state of documentation *systems*; the aim of the second Congress was to familiarize specialists with the problems posed by the advent of documentation *networks*, and more particularly the European network EURONET, on which work has already started. Three sessions were devoted to the integration of economic information and data banks in EURONET and to the problems of multilingualism in scientific and technical information.

The Congress was preceded by a plenary meeting of EUSIDIC, the European association of scientific and technical information centres.

Energy policy

Preparing and implementing a Community energy policy

Position in favour of resuming discussions between the oil-producing and oil-consuming countries

2249. The Governing Board of the International Energy Agency (IEA) which met at Ministerial level in Paris on 27 May,² found that the Preparatory Meeting in Paris from 7 to 16 April, called by France, had provided the opportunity for a comprehensive and thoughtful discussion of the ways and means to knit closer relationships between oil-producing and consuming countries. The Ministers stated their readiness to carry on the discussions and reaffirmed their common resolve to resume the dialogue.

Energy Committee

2250. The Energy Committee met on 6 May, chaired by Vice-President Simonet of the Commission. It studied a report by a Working Party on hydrocarbon prices and put out guidelines for continuing the work in this field. It also assessed applications of the Directive on oil stock levels in the Community.

The Committee heard a report by Mr Davignon, Chairman of the IEA Steering Committee, on the work done within the Agency. It also discussed information on recent energy policy measures in member countries and on the status of their bilateral relations with the producer countries.

¹ Bull. EC 2-1975, point 2253, and Bull. EC 4-1975, point 2263.

² Point 1407.

The Community's short-term energy position

2251. On 29 May, the Commission sent the Council its report on 'The Energy Situation in the Community: 1974 Situation—1975 Outlook'. Published each year, this paper is intended to facilitate discussion between the Commission and the Council on current energy problems, and to advise the other Community institutions and interested parties.

In 1974 the estimated demand for internal Community oil consumption came out at about 926 000 000 tonnes oil equivalent (toe), which represents an approximate fall in consumption of some 1.5% as against 1973. In 1974, the internal consumption of oil products reached roughly 524 500 000 toe, which amounts to a cut of 6%. But the fall in oil demand was largely offset by a rise in natural gas and primary electricity consumption.

As for the potential energy demand level in 1975, owing to the major economic uncertainties and the scope of the measures likely to be adopted to deter oil consumption, it is especially difficult to make a forecast for the Community. The report indicates that energy demand could stabilize at the 1974 level, with oil consumption still under the curbs imposed by high prices, economy measures and further replacement of oil by other fuels.

Sectoral problems

Nuclear energy

Talks on the suspension of uranium export licences by the USA

2252. Talks were held in Washington on 15 May between Vice-President Simonet of the

Commission and senior officials of the US Administration as a result of the suspension by the USA at the end of March of import and export licences for nuclear equipment and materials, against which the Commission had protested in April.¹

During the talks, the American authorities indicated that there was no question of an embargo, and that neither the legal grounds nor United States' policy had changed. Internal procedures were merely being altered before licences were issued.

The US authorities undertook to examine the applications for licences, case by case, in liaison with the Commission, so that they could be issued in good time.

Coal

2253. To ensure relay of the latest results of research financed by the ECSC, the Commission ran *briefing sessions* in Luxembourg on 6 and 7 May on 'coking-works techniques', which were attended by nearly 400 specialists from the Member States and many non-member countries.

2254. On 15 May, the Commission decided to consult the ECSC Consultative Committee and request a confirmatory Opinion from the Council on granting subsidies for carrying out ten *technical research projects* (to be executed by specialized bodies in the Member States) for a total cost of some 7 040 000 u.a. (including 6 830 000 u.a. for the Commission's contribution to research expenditure and 200 000 u.a. for the costs of disseminating information plus ancillary charges). Research is to concentrate on roadway drivage, winning techniques, general underground services, coking-works technique and new methods for upgrading coal.

¹ Bull. EC 4-1975, point 2269.

Electricity

2255. On the strength of a Commission Proposal, sent to the Council on 11 January 1974,¹ an amended one² which takes note of observations by Parliament³ and the Economic and Social Committee,⁴ the Council on 20 May,⁵ adopted a Directive requiring Member States to keep a minimum level of fossil fuel stocks at thermal electric power stations.

Under this Directive, Member States are to make all arrangements to oblige electricity producers, including industrial producers generating for their own requirements and commanding power of at least 100 MWe, to keep a permanent buffer stock of fossil fuels at their thermal electric power stations. This stock must ensure unbroken electricity supply over a minimum period of thirty days.

This requirement does not apply to stations fired by manufactured gases, industrial residues and other fuel residues.

The above stock may be cut by a quantity equal to 25% of stocks of oil products laid in at electric power stations in applying the Directive whereby Member States must raise the minimum level of crude oil and/or oil product stocks⁶ to ninety days consumption. Stocks must be laid in by 1 July 1978 at the latest.

Transport policy

Functioning of the market

2256. On 28 May,⁷ the Commission decided to transmit an *Opinion* to the Luxembourg Government on the draft of a Grand Duchy regulation concerning enforcement of the Council Regulation of 30 July 1968 on the introduc-

tion of a system of *bracket tariffs* for the carriage of goods by road between Member States. The Opinion approves the general lines of the draft but regrets that the stipulated checks did not cover all the parties involved in the haulage.

Harmonization

2257. In accordance with the provisions of the Council Decision of 13 May 1965, on harmonizing certain provisions affecting competition in road, rail and inland waterway transport,⁸ and with the Council Resolution of 27 June concerning the guidelines for governing financial relations between the railway companies and the Member States,⁹ the Council, on 20 May¹⁰ adopted a Decision on '*the improvement of the situation of railway undertakings and the harmonization of rules governing financial relations between such undertakings and States*'.

The main features of this outline Decision, which applies only to national railway undertakings, are:

- (i) the undertaking shall have adequate independence as regards management, administration and internal control over administrative, economic and accounting matters, with a view to achieving financial balance;
- (ii) the railways shall establish, in liaison with the State, activity and investment plans which

¹ Bull. EC 1-1974, point 2262.

² Bull. EC 11-1974, point 2276.

³ Bull. EC 6-1974, point 2456.

⁴ Bull. EC 7/8-1974, point 2461.

⁵ OJ L 153 of 13.6.1975.

⁶ Bull. EC 11-1974, point 2273.

⁷ OJ L 159 of 21.6.1975.

⁸ OJ 88 of 24.5.1965.

⁹ OJ C 111 of 13.9.1974.

¹⁰ OJ C 152 of 12.6.1975.

take account of national transport projects and which aim at financial stability for the undertaking;

(iii) in collaboration with the Commission, the Member States will seek measures which would foster cooperation between the railway undertakings to promote partial or total integration at Community level.

Achievement of these objectives is spread over a number of years and Commission proposals to secure an actual financial balance between the railways must be presented to the Council by 1 January 1980.

2258. On 20 May,¹ the Council amended its Regulation of 4 June 1970² on *aid granted to road, rail and inland waterway transport*. The provisions of the Regulation (Article 4) authorized Member States to pay subsidies to the railways until rules applied in accordance with Article 8 of the Council's Decision of 13 May 1965 came into force. As the Council Decision of 20 May 1975 involves the rules, on the terms of Article 8, regarding the major railway undertakings, Article 4 of the 1970 Regulation had consequently to be amended.

2259. The Urban Studies Group met on 15 May to review methods for calculating the marginal cost of *time lost* by urban road users *due to traffic congestion*. The approaches proposed in the Commission's working document were generally acceptable to the Group, subject to some minor amendments.

2260. A further meeting with government experts concerning the transport of *radioactive materials* was held in Brussels on 28 and 29 May. They agreed the substance of a Communication which the Commission intends to send to the Council in June. They asked the Commission departments to review the means for

harmonizing national arrangements concerning approval of packaging for and movement of radioactive materials, and in respect of other problems connected with such consignments.

Transport Advisory Committee

2261. During a meeting in Brussels on 22 May, the members of the Transport Advisory Committee continued their review of a draft Opinion on the future of the railways in the Community transport system; this paper still requires a few amendments.

¹ OJ L 152 of 12.6.1975.

² OJ L 130 of 15.6.1970.

3. External relations

Multilateral negotiations

Multilateral negotiations

Trade Negotiations Committee

2301. Several Groups and Study Groups formed by the Trade Negotiations Committee met in Geneva in May.

Non-tariff measures

2302. The *Study Group on Quantity Restrictions* met from 22 to 30 April to initiate negotiations on various features of problems arising from quantity restrictions and on import licence arrangements.

On the first item, from the outset certain delegations came down in favour of seeking solutions which could also apply to such restrictions in agriculture. The Community, however, felt that this type of restriction should be sent for scrutiny to the Group on Agriculture, the only one qualified to deal with it.

The Study Group agreed to finalize a notification procedure for restrictions on which the countries concerned might wish to consult other delegations, during the briefing, scrutiny and dialogue procedure which has been initiated. These talks could begin in the middle of June.

There are also still outstanding differences of opinion on the matter of import licence arrangements, where some delegations insist that they should be abolished and others, including the Community, stress that these arrangements are not detrimental and sometimes of value. The delegations will propose in writing the specific changes they would like to see in the two draft texts compiled by the Secretariat.

2303. The Study Group on *Technical Barriers to Trade*, meeting from 6 to 15 May, reviewed problems arising over standards and technical rules, packaging, labelling and marks of origin.

On standards and technical rules, the Study Group started to review the draft code compiled by the GATT Industrial Products Committee in 1973. The GATT Secretariat is to collate available data on the various methods of working out and applying standards and technical rules and on how the quality guarantee arrangements work. Some delegations felt that the draft code should also take in the question of packaging and labelling, through appropriate amendments. Regarding marks of origin, some delegations (including the Community group) held that positive points in the relevant 1958 GATT Recommendation should be retained as part of a solution which could take the draft code as its basis.

2304. The Study Group on *Customs Questions* met from 20 to 26 May. The main items on the agenda were customs value and tariff nomenclature. On customs value, a broad majority emerged for adopting uniform international rules to facilitate the expansion of international trade. A Community proposal found agreement to put detailed suggestions to the GATT Secretariat by 15 September at the latest.

On nomenclature, a majority acknowledged that the work within the Customs Cooperation Council to draw up a harmonized commercial code, offered a chance to establish a harmonized internal tariff nomenclature, thus helping trade to expand.

The Community proposed that the countries with detailed suggestions to make, should send them to the Customs Cooperation Council so that the work could go forward.

Agriculture

2305. The Group on Agriculture, meeting on 8 May, decided to form negotiation Study Groups for cereals, milk products and meat; the Group will also deal with tariffs and non-tariff measures in respect of agricultural products. At

the first meeting of the Study Group on Cereals, on 26 May, the Community proposed that a new International Cereal Agreement be made covering three basic points: the strengthening of information exchange procedures concerning world market trends; the installation of stabilization processes (including minimum and maximum prices) and a new structure for food aid.

Tariffs

2306. The Group on Tariffs, which held its second meeting from 13 to 16 May 1975, did further work to find an appropriate formula for tariff negotiation, of the widest possible application and which would take account, *inter alia*, of the developing countries' interests. As a working basis, the Community put forward a harmonization formula, which would narrow, as far as possible, the gap between high and low tariffs. Certain countries supported it. Others suggested variations; others again suggested more or less linear formulae.

Delegations from the developing countries contended that any tariff reduction formula should include a term ensuring differentiated treatment for the developing countries in the context of protecting and enhancing the generalized preference system.

Commercial policy

Preparing and implementing the common commercial policy

Common rules for exports

2307. On 20 May,¹ the Council deleted certain products from the list of remaining export restrictions applied by certain Member

States. This list is annexed to the Regulation of 20 December 1969² establishing common rules for exports.

Trade protection

2308. Under the terms of the 22 and 30 May 1975 Regulations, the Commission decided that licences would be required for imports into West Germany and the Benelux of synthetic socks originating in South Korea³ and Taiwan.⁴

2309. On 30 May,⁴ the Commission also introduced arrangements to suspend for one year (i.e. until 31 May 1976) the issue of import licences in West Germany for grey and bleached cotton cloth originating in Brazil. The decision, like those concerning the synthetic socks originating in South Korea and Taiwan, was taken after talks with the countries concerned, in accordance with the provisions of the Multifibres Arrangement.

2310. On 7 May,⁵ the Commission brought in surveillance for Community imports of *some twenty textile products*.

Credit insurance; Export credit

2311. A new meeting to secure a gentlemen's agreement on the level and maximum duration of export credit was held in Brussels on 12 and 13 May, attended by representatives of the Community, the United States and Japan. Although some alignment of positions was

¹ OJ L131 of 22.5.1975.

² OJ L324 of 27.12.1969.

³ OJ L132 of 23.5.1975.

⁴ OJ L140 of 31.5.1975.

⁵ OJ L144 of 5.6.1975.

achieved, all the differences of opinion have not yet been overcome.

The Member States and the Commission had already made close contacts in the spring of 1974 with the United States' and Japanese authorities, with the aim of reaching a gentleman's agreement between industrialized countries.

Specific measures of commercial policy

Textiles

Agreements with Sri Lanka and Laos

2312. On 23 May, agreements on trade in silk and cotton fabrics woven on handlooms were signed between the Community and Sri Lanka (Ceylon) and the Community and Laos.

Under the terms, both these non-member countries are giving the assurances required by the Community rules, in respect of certifying the craft manufacture of these products, which enables them to enjoy customs duty exemption when imported into the Community under tariff quotas opened annually 'erga omnes' and autonomously by the Community.

Negotiations with Hong Kong and South Korea

2313. A second round of negotiations for a bilateral Textile Agreement, within the so-called Multifibres Arrangement for the international textile trade ran from 12 to 26 May with Hong Kong and on 29 and 30 May with South Korea. Headway was made in seeking a compromise acceptable to both the Community and the interested parties.

Imports of certain textiles from Taiwan

2314. On 28 May, the Commission sent the Council a Proposal for a Regulation introducing Community quantity quotas for certain 'sensitive' textile products originating in Taiwan (the wovens and made-up trade).

Development and cooperation

Cooperation and development policy

Action taken on the World Food Conference

2315. The Commission attended a meeting in Geneva on 5 and 6 May, called by the United Nations Secretary-General, on forming an International Agricultural Development Fund. Representatives of sixty-six industrialized and developing countries were present.

The discussions focussed on setting up such a Fund, which had been officially recommended at the World Food Conference, meeting in Rome from 5 to 16 November 1974.¹ Some of the countries present at the Geneva meeting considered endowing the Fund with a thousand million dollars a year over the next three years. But no formal decision was taken; the discussions are still going on. The developing countries would like to see the Fund go into action in 1976.

¹ Bull. EC 11-1974, point 1402.

Generalized Preferences

2316. On 7 May,¹ the Council adopted a Regulation establishing a generalized preference scheme from 1 July 1975 for pepper and certain tropical vegetable oils, notably palm and coir oil.

The Commission had proposed that these items be included in the Community plan for 1975, as one of the improvements which it had put to the Council in June 1974. It involves about 120 000 000 u.a. of imports from developing countries and takes into consideration exports of countries covered by the Joint Declaration of Intent (Sri Lanka, India, Malaysia, Pakistan and Singapore). Thus, as proposed by the Commission, this additional offer will apply at the same time as certain trade provisions in the Lomé Convention; the products concerned are in fact also exported by some of the developing countries.

Food aid

Skimmed milk powder: 1975 programme

2317. Acting on a Commission Proposal,² the Council, on 26 May,³ adopted the 1975 food aid programme in skimmed milk powder, which concerns the supply of a total of 55 000 tonnes of powder (including previously approved projects) to certain developing countries and international organizations, to be distributed according to Table 2.

Commodities and world agreements

Discussing the raw materials problem

2318. May saw a number of moves and talks on the problem of raw materials.⁴ The Com-

mission put a relevant Communication to the Council, analysing the various lines of action which the Community could propose at international level, including: world commodity agreements and stabilizing the export earnings of producer developing countries. At its meeting of 26 May, the Council broadly welcomed the Communication and the practical action recommended therein.

The problems arising from relations between the oil-producing and oil-consuming countries (largely a matter of raw materials) were reviewed, within the framework of the OECD (Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development): on 27 May by the *International Energy Agency*, and on 28 and 29 May by the *OECD Council* meeting at Ministerial level.⁵

Tin

2319. The United Nations Conference responsible for negotiating the fifth International Tin Agreement opened in Geneva on 20 May. The Community was invited as an observer to the Conference, which should wind up on 20 June. The Fifth International Agreement is normally due to take effect on 1 July 1976.

Wheat

2320. On 28 May, the EEC Council came out in favour of the Community acceding to the *Protocols extending the 1971 International Wheat Agreement*, as the Commission had proposed on 25 April.⁵

¹ OJ L 124 of 15.5.1975.

² OJ L 138 of 29.5.1975.

³ Bull. EC 3-1975; point 2319.

⁴ Points 1401 to 1408.

⁵ Bull. EC 4-1975, point 2321.

Table 2

Countries and organizations	Quantity (tonnes)	Delivery terms
<i>East Africa</i>		
Egypt	600	FOB
Ethiopia	1 600 ¹	free at destination
Mauritius	200	FOB
Kenya	100	FOB
Somalia (reserve)	2 000 ¹	free at destination
Sudan	300	FOB
Tanzania	2 000	FOB
<i>Central and West Africa</i>		
Guinea-Bissau	250 ¹	CIF
Cape Verde Islands	150 ¹	CIF
Rwanda	350	FOB
Sahel	7 400 ^{1,2}	free at destination
<i>Middle East</i>		
Jordan	600	FOB
Yemen	200	FOB
<i>Southern Asia</i>		
Afghanistan	200	FOB
Bangladesh	3 000	FOB
India	5 000	FOB
Sri Lanka	1 000	FOB
<i>Latin America</i>		
Haiti	200	FOB
Honduras	100	FOB
Peru	450	FOB
<i>Institutions</i>		
WFP	20 000	FOB + flat rate contribution of 80 u.a./t
UNICEF	3 500	free at destination
UNRWA	2 000	CIF
<i>Reserve</i>	3 800	—
Total	55 000	

¹ Projects decided before 26 May 1975.² Including 1 150 tonnes of reserves.

So the Community will continue as party to the Wheat Trade Convention and to the Food Aid Convention for another year, as from 1 July 1975. Under the provisions of the Food Aid Agreement, the Community is committed to supply the equivalent of 1 287 000 tonnes of wheat over the 1975/76 crop year.

The Council also adopted a Decision stipulating that the financial burden of this commitment will be apportioned as follows: 45% for the Member States (national projects) and 55% for the Community as such (Community projects).

Jute

2321. The *Intergovernmental Group of the FAO* (United Nations Food and Agricultural Organization) on jute, kenaf and related fibres met in Rome from 21 to 23 May, attended by experts from twenty-three countries, by international bodies and a Commission delegate. The Group could not reach agreement on setting a bracket of target prices, essentially owing to the heavy competition from synthetics (despite the increased cost of energy), the current recession in the industrialized countries and the tendency among producer countries to boost cereal output at the expense of jute.

Bananas

2322. The Commission participated at the sixth session of the *Intergovernmental Group on Bananas* in Abidjan, Ivory Coast, from 29 April to 3 May. The plenary session was preceded by a meeting of the exporters in the previous week and a meeting of the Statistical Sub-Group. The exporters were unanimous that the only way to solve their problems was by negotiating an International Agreement on Bananas.

Such an Agreement would require a considerable amount of preliminary work before it got to the

formal negotiating stage. The importers including the Community, unanimously agreed to play their part in this next stage, which would be undertaken by a Working Party of the Intergovernmental Group to be set up under the auspices of the FAO as soon as possible.

International organizations

Western European Union

2323. The *WEU Assembly* (Western European Union) met in Bonn from 26 to 29 May. In respect of the questions involving the Community, the debates bore on European Union and the WEU, and on East-West relations.

After the discussion on the first question, a Recommendation was adopted wherein the Assembly considered that the Treaty of Brussels constituted the foundation of Europe's political union for defence. On East-West relations, the Assembly approved another recommendation which states that care should be taken to ensure that the concern to wind up the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe (ESCE) does not result in the collapse of the main positions taken jointly by the Nine at the Conference.

Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development

Executive Committee

2324. The OECD Executive Committee met in special session on 6 and 7 May to prepare for the debates of the Ministerial Council scheduled for 28 and 29 May.

On this score, the Committee finished its review of the two major subjects submitted to the Council. Regarding renewal of the *Declaration* of 30 May 1974, the Committee finalized the commentary which will accompany the statement, the Community having made a major contribution to it. The Committee did further work on problems relating to *industrial raw materials* with an eye on a possible Ministerial statement, and put together some practical arrangements in order to hammer out common positions for the forthcoming international meetings.

OECD Council

2325. The OECD Council met at Ministerial level in Paris on 28 and 29 May. The proceedings centred on the economic situation, and questions concerning trade, energy, commodities and relations with the developing countries.

President Ortoli of the Commission, who attended, expounded the Commission's ideas on various subjects, spotlighting the 'multiple features of relations between the developed and developing world, especially the question of raw materials'.

To define more balanced international relations, Mr Ortoli felt the need to advance on several fronts and he specified three matters for urgent discussion:

- (i) cooperation in industrializing the developing countries, which presupposes the perfection of new forms of technological transport;
- (ii) greater transposal of real resources for the benefit of the neediest, with the aim of eradicating hunger which still afflicts millions;
- (iii) energy and raw materials ('it is now up to all sides to shoulder their new responsibilities within an overall concept of the problems before us').

On the last point, President Ortoli called for new solutions to be sought, mentioning in particular the 'agreements by product', and stabilization of export earnings deriving for the developing countries from certain commodities.

In respect of the *economic situation*, the Communiqué published after the Council's meeting states that 'the policies of OECD governments will lead to a recovery of demand and employment and that this will be combined with further reductions in the average rate of inflation... Ministers noted that the substantial international payments deficit on current account of OECD countries as a group, which has recently declined, is nevertheless likely to persist for some years. They also underlined the importance of ensuring that economic policies are such as to secure, among OECD countries, a less unbalanced distribution of current account positions, more compatible with a sustainable pattern of capital flows.'

Concerning international *trade*, the Ministers decided to prolong for a further year the Declaration adopted on 30 May 1974 in which 'all the OECD governments state their determination to avoid recourse to new restrictions on trade and other current account transactions, and the artificial stimulation of visible and invisible exports'. The Ministers opted in favour of an arrangement of a general nature, between as many as possible of the industrialized countries of the OECD, with regard to the conditions attached to export credits.

The Council's final Communiqué sets forth its position on *energy* problems, *commodities*, and relations with the *developing countries*.¹

¹ Point 1408.

International Energy Agency

2326. The *Governing Board* of the OECD International Energy Agency met at Ministerial level in Paris on 27 May.¹

Dragon Agreement

2327. On 22 May, the Commission laid a draft Decision before the Council to give Directives to the Commission to negotiate the extension for five years (i.e., until 31 March 1981) of the Dragon Agreement, relating to the high-temperature, gas-cooled reactor project. Signed on 8 December 1972, the Agreement is due to expire on 31 March 1976. The Commission thus approved the extension proposed by the project management board, which met in London on 17 April and recommended a budget of £28 000 000 over five years.

The Commission took this Decision in view of the medium and long-term value of the high-temperature concept in both electricity production and applications not concerned with electricity generation, and considering the major role which the Dragon project could play in easing and spurring the attainment of the objectives.

United Nations*Conference on the Law of the Sea*

2328. The Community attended as an observer the third leg of the United Nations Conference on the Law of the Sea, which ran in Geneva from 17 March to 9 May. It culminated in the compilation of a single negotiating text drawn up by the Chairman of the three principal Conference Committees. The text is not to be regarded as the conclusions drawn by the 3rd leg of the Conference; it is simply an instrument of procedure and a basis for negotiation.

The text indicates that the limits of territorial waters should be set at twelve miles. Beyond territorial waters an 'economic zone' would be established, with a maximum limit of two hundred miles from the shoreline, wherein the coastal State would enjoy rights in respect of natural resources.

An international authority is also contemplated, which would specify the conditions for prospecting and working the sea bed beyond national limits.

The next leg of the Conference will be held in New York from 29 March to 21 May 1976.

Mediterranean countries**Overall Mediterranean approach**

2329. During May, the Council on several occasions reviewed the status of negotiations with the various Mediterranean countries, and the problems involved for agriculture, within the overall Mediterranean approach.

Although positions were clarified and negotiations actually began on certain items involved (fruit and processed vegetables, wine, potatoes), no agreement has yet been reached; but the Ministers plainly indicated their determination to succeed before the end of June.

In the communiqué published after the meeting of 26-27 May, the Council stated that discussion had allowed a firmer grasp of the various facets of the agricultural problems involved in the negotiations: that is to say, the measures for the

¹ Point 1407.

common organization of the markets which govern the agricultural concessions to the Mediterranean countries.

The same communiqué states in general terms that substantial headway was made. But it emerged from the debates that a number of items require more searching analysis. The Special Committee on Agriculture will go on with this work on the strength of further data and suggestions to come from the Commission. When the Ministers of Agriculture have laid out more clear-cut guidelines, 'the Council will adopt its Decision when it meets to discuss agricultural matters in Luxembourg on 23 and 24 June'.

Earlier, at the meeting of 5 May, the Council had proposed a date for the Agreement with Israel to be signed (with the proviso that application of some of its provisions would be waived until internal Community market organization action had been taken). On the same terms, it had authorized the Commission to continue the negotiations with Algeria, Tunisia and Morocco.

Lastly, in respect of Spain, the Council had asked the Committee of Permanent Representatives to examine outstanding problems and draw its own conclusions to enable negotiations to resume.

Greece

Official visit of President Ortoli

2330. President Ortoli of the Commission paid an official visit to Athens from 6 to 8 May. He had talks with Mr Karamanlis, Prime Minister, Mr Papaligouras, Minister for Coordination and Planning, Mr Bitsios, Minister for Foreign Affairs and Mr Pasmazoglou, Chairman of the Greek Delegation to the Joint Parliamentary Committee of the EEC-Greece Association. The conversations focussed on the future association relations between Greece and the EEC.

Application date of the Interim Agreement

2331. On 16 May, the EEC and Greece advised one another that the required internal procedures had been completed for the EEC-Greece Interim Agreement to take effect. The Agreement,¹ which stipulates advance application of the trade arrangements in the Additional Protocol (extending the Association to the three new Member States) can now come into force on 1 July 1975.

Portugal

2332. Meeting on 26 May in Dublin, the Council discussed the position the Community will take at the meeting in Brussels on 28 May of the Joint Committee assigned to apply the present EEC-Portugal Agreement.

The Council also defined the arrangements which the Community and the Member States intend to make between now and the summer recess. The President, who was soon to go to Lisbon,² was asked to examine, with the Portuguese authorities, the terms and conditions on which the Community and Portugal could meet at Ministerial level in the near future in order to strengthen the ties uniting them and assist Portugal's development.

2333. The EEC-Portugal *Joint Committee* held its fifth meeting in Brussels on 28 May. It noted a report on the work of the special Working Party which, at the Joint Committee's last meeting, had been instructed to prepare its present meeting. The Joint Committee expressed its satisfaction with the work accomplished by this group on the Portuguese requests regard-

¹ OJ L 123 of 15.5.1975.

² The visit took place on 2 and 3 June.

ing trade in industrial and agricultural products, labour, social security and industrial, technological and financial cooperation.

On the basis of this report and in accordance with Article 35 of the Agreement, which provides for the possibility of developing the relations established by the Agreement by extending them to fields which are not covered by it, the Joint Committee recommended that the Contracting Parties enter as soon as possible into negotiations to develop cooperation under the Agreements signed in 1972 and thus encourage closer links between the Community and Portugal.

Israel

Signing of the EEC-Israel Agreement

2334. The new Agreement between the Community and Israel¹ was signed in Brussels on 11 May by Mr Garret FitzGerald, President of the Council, Mr François-Xavier Ortoli, President of the Commission and Mr Yigal Allon, Israel's Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs. The Agreement which supersedes, by consolidating, the 1970 Agreement is due to take effect on 1 July 1975. Apart from trade arrangements, it carries a 'cooperation' facet not present in the 1970 Agreement.

On the industrial side, apart from a few sensitive products which will come under ceilings or strict surveillance, the Agreement stipulates complete elimination of tariff and quota barriers for all products. In respect of Israeli exports to the country, they will be finally eliminated on 1 July 1977. By 1 January 1980, 60% of Israel's imports from the Community will be free of restrictions and the remainder by 1 January 1985.

In *agriculture*, the Community is granting substantial tariff reductions over some 85% of

Israel's exports (this mainly applies to products which she normally exports to the Community markets, such as citrus fruits and fruit juices).

Two meetings to take place in 1978 and then 1983 will offer the opportunity to study any improvements which could be made on either side to the substance of the Agreement, on the strength of experience and objectives. At those meetings, both sides could, if necessary, also agree to defer for two years the due dates of Israel's industrial tariff phase-out, which should at all events be completed at the latest by 1 January 1989.

At the same time an Agreement was signed between the ECSC and Israel, which contains similar provisions to the industrial folio of the EEC-Israel Agreement. The Agreement is to be ratified by the Member States but the trade section will be put into effect independently by the contracting parties on 1 July 1975.

2335. On 14 May 1975,² the *European Parliament* passed a Resolution on the Agreement between the EEC and Israel.

African, Caribbean and Pacific countries

Lomé Convention

Interim Committee

2336. The second meeting of the ACP-EEC Interim Committee, which took place in Brussels on 16 May, devoted most of its proceedings to the information and consultation procedure.

¹ OJ L 136 of 28.5.1975.

² Point 2415.

The ACP States stressed the importance they attached to an adequate information procedure, notably in respect of the autonomous arrangements to be made by the Community to implement in advance, as from 1 July next, certain provisions in the Lomé Convention. Moreover, the Sugar Protocol, which took effect last March, stipulates consultations which should be finalized.

The Community endorsed the Opinion of the ACP States and felt that there were no conflicting views on the matter. At the same time, the Community advised the ACP States of the draft Decisions and Regulations which it is planning to adopt as the autonomous arrangements above-mentioned, texts of which will be forwarded promptly.

The Committee was also advised of the work undertaken at the initial meetings of the Study Groups on Sugar and on Trade Cooperation. Finally, it vetted the draft of its own internal working rules.

Guinea-Bissau signs the Convention

2337. The Lomé Convention was signed in Brussels on 16 May by Guinea-Bissau. So the forty-six ACP States who attended the negotiations have now all signed the text of the Convention.

Ratifications

2338. After Nigeria, which ratified in April, two other ACP States deposited in May the ratification instruments of the Lomé Convention, namely Togo on 13 and Malawi on 27 May.

Visit of Kenyan delegation

2339. A delegation from Kenya, led by Mr Kabuchi, Deputy Permanent Secretary at the Ministry of Finance and Planning visited the

Commission from 12 to 14 May. The aim was to set up a dialogue between Kenya, the Commission and the European Investment Bank, in the context of the Lomé Convention.

The discussions bore mainly on Kenya's economic situation, the commercial and financial implications of the Convention, sugar, industrial cooperation, trade and the institutional arrangements of the Convention. Consideration was also given to organizing and scheduling a Community mission to Kenya. This was the first visit by an ACP country to discuss applications of the Lomé Convention.

Yaoundé Convention

Association Parliamentary Conference

2340. The *Joint Committee* of the EEC-AASM Association Parliamentary Conference met in Dublin from 21 to 23 May 1975, chaired by Mr Spénale, President of the European Parliament and Mr Yacé, President of the Ivory Coast National Assembly and the last titular Chairman of the EEC-AASM Parliamentary Conference. It was the Committee's last meeting before its counterpart under the Lomé Convention comes into being. The eighteen European MPs gathered together with twenty-five delegates from the ACP States, including eleven new partners in the Lomé Convention.

The discussions centred on the prospects opened by the Lomé Convention, especially on the institutional side. To facilitate swift installation of the new institutions, especially the Consultative Assembly, it was decided to plan a preparatory meeting, on a joint basis, between European MPs and the ACP representatives, to be held in Luxembourg next autumn. Already ideas have been put forward from various quarters concerning the composition of the Consultative Assembly and of its Joint Committee, which

will serve as a platform for future work in this connection.

Although the temporary arrangements came in for no special consideration by the Joint Committee, it did hear an urgent appeal by Commissioner Cheysson for the Lomé Convention to take effect as rapidly as possible; Mr Cheysson dwelt on the need to speed up as much as possible the ratification procedures in the Community and all the signatory States. A final statement adopted unanimously by the Joint Committee calls for prompt and comprehensive application of the new Convention.

European Development Fund

New financing decisions

2341. After a favourable Opinion from the EDF Committee, the Commission, on 12 May, approved five new financing Decisions for a sum of 7285000 u.a. out of the 2nd and 3rd EDF. The projects are:

Rwanda: A bridge on the river Nyabarongo for 820000 u.a. (2nd EDF) and 680000 (3rd EDF). This is a new bridge to be built across the Nyabarongo on the main road linking the capital, Kigali with Butaré on the Burundi border. The old bridge, built twenty-five years ago, can no longer carry the traffic now flowing at 1210 vehicles a day.

Cameroon: Improving and extending the Garoua hospital (2197000 u.a.; 2nd EDF). This covers improvements and extensions to the Garoua hospital and equipment for the new buildings, so that it is better able to serve as a regional hospital for the North.

Ivory Coast. Two projects:

(i) Market gardening in Ferkessédougou (1188000 u.a.; 2nd EDF). This project will create a market-gardening complex of 300 ha of irrigable farmland near Ferkessédougou in the

north. It will be operated by 120 landworkers and in a normal production year will yield 1500 tonnes of tomatoes, 1875 tonnes of onions, 150 tonnes of lettuce, 250 tonnes of rice and 200 tonnes of maize.

(ii) Restructuring the road network of the Kosou-Bandama region. This project, formerly financed under the 3rd EDF, enabled appropriation savings to be made, and this Decision concerns how they are to be used. As an extension of the project, some 19 km of the Gouitafla-Zuenoula, road-link will be improved.

New Caledonia: building the Moindou-Bourail road loop will be partially covered by this financing of 2400000 u.a., in the form of a loan on special terms (duration 25 years, interest 3%, grace period 5 years). When completed this 25.8 km stretch, which is part of Highway 1 between the townships of Moindou and Bourail has proved necessary owing to arduous traffic conditions.

Following these Decisions, the total commitments of the 3rd EDF amount to 826087000 u.a. for 307 financing Decisions since the Fund began operations on 1 January 1971.

Non-member countries

Industrialized countries

United States

2342. There was a meeting in Brussels on 30 May between President Ford, Dr Kissinger, the US Secretary of State, President Ortoli and Vice-President Sir Christopher Soames of the Commission.

2343. The tenth series of *high-level half-yearly talks* between the Commission and the United

States' authorities took place in Brussels on 29 and 30 May. The Commission Delegation was led by Vice-President, Sir Christopher Soames and the American Delegation by Mr Charles Robinson, Under-Secretary of State for Economic Affairs.

The talks centred on bilateral relations in commercial and agricultural policy, and on international economic problems, in particular on the new developments since the last talks in Washington on 5 and 6 December 1974.¹ Other matters discussed were policies towards the developing countries, the raw materials problem and energy.

2344. *The Special Trade Representative of the President of the United States*, Mr Dent, accompanied by senior officials, called on Commission Vice-President, Sir Christopher Soames on 22 May 1975.

During the talks, intended as a preparation for the meeting of the Trade Negotiations Committee, due to take place under GATT in Geneva in July, both parties agreed that the swiftest possible progress should be made so as to demonstrate the effectiveness of the multilateral trade negotiations. With this in mind, agreement was reached on the need to find out which sectors called for the most strenuous efforts now.

The United States and the Community both expressed their concern with regard to the developing countries. In respect of generalized preferences, Mr Dent indicated that in the autumn the United States would have finalized the list of products and countries to be covered by the scheme.

Canada

Proposed Agreement between the Community and Canada

2345. In a Communication to the Council on 22 May, the Commission recommended that

negotiations be started with Canada for an outline Agreement on economic and trade cooperation. The Commission feels that to initiate such negotiations would be a major development in fostering relations between the Community and Canada. Such an agreement would actually be the first with a highly industrialized country and would highlight a meaningful trend in the Community's external relations.

The Commission's decision follows on exploratory talks with Canada on the substance and form of negotiations. The talks were conducted in line with the agreement reached when Prime Minister Trudeau visited the Commission in October 1974² and with the wishes expressed by the Council when it met in Luxembourg on 14 and 15 October 1974.²

The Agreement proposed by the Commission would be a non-preferential one. It would define a broad Community theatre of economic and trade cooperation, reaching well beyond the confines of standard commercial policy. Besides embracing the present state of relations between the Community and Canada, it would enable both parties to exploit the scope for economic cooperation.

Thus, Community-wide cooperation could later consolidate the cooperation already existing between the different Member States and Canada.

High level talks

2346. The fifth series of regular high level talks between the Community and Canada were held in Ottawa on 21 and 22 May. They focussed on all relationships between the Community and Canada from both the multilateral

¹ Bull. EC 12-1974, point 2329.

² Bull. EC 10-1974, points 2334 and 2423.

and bilateral angles. Special attention was paid to the course of multilateral trade negotiations, relations with the developing countries, and problems of energy and industrial cooperation.

Developing countries in Asia and Latin America

Iran

2347. Commission Vice-President, Sir Christopher Soames, made an official visit to Teheran on 13 and 14 May, where he had detailed talks with Prime Minister Hoveida and the Minister for Economic Affairs, Mr Ansary.

The aim of the meeting was to give a fresh impetus to the exploratory talks between the Commission and the Iranian Government, to arrive at negotiations for a new Trade Agreement and to define, at political level, the approach to be taken towards the discussions.

The 1963 Trade Agreement between the EEC and Iran, since extended for twelve-month periods, which expired on 30 November 1973, was not renewed.¹ Its now limited content no longer met the needs of the developing Iranian economy. So it had been agreed to see whether an Agreement could be made on a broader footing. Exploratory talks had been held in Brussels in January 1974² but had not yielded firm results.

The outcome of the Teheran visit will enable the talks to be resumed very shortly. The discussions in Teheran highlighted a very clear political resolve on both sides to give a more substantial turn to relations between them.

Association of South-East Asian Nations

2348. The first institutionalized links the Commission and the ASEAN (which embraces

Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore and Thailand) were forged when the Joint Commission-ASEAN Group was formed after the exchange of letters in Brussels on 7 May.

This Study Group, the idea of which had been adopted in September 1974 at the Djakarta talks between Sir Christopher Soames and the ASEAN Trade Ministers,³ will be designed to: foster and intensify the regular dialogue between the ASEAN and the Commission; serve as a mechanism for joint exploration in all fields where cooperation could be broadened and intensified, by paying special consideration to the development needs of the ASEAN countries and considering the Community's position and its development.

The Group will normally meet twice a year, but other meetings can be called at the wish of either party.

Guatemala, Ecuador and Paraguay

2349. Invited by the Governments of Guatemala, Ecuador and Paraguay, a Commission delegation visited all three countries, where it ran seminars on the Community's 'generalized preferences' and talked with the authorities about developing bilateral relations with the Community.

The seminar in Guatemala was intended for the member countries of the Tratado General de Integracion Economica Centroamericano (Central American Common Market), namely Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras and Nicaragua. The Commission delegation explained the Community's generalized preference scheme and its foreseeable development; it endeavoured to boost exploitation of the

¹ Bull. EC 12-1973, point 2316.

² Bull. EC 1-1974, point 2324.

³ Bull. EC 9-1974, point 2329.

4. Institutions and organs of the Communities

Diplomatic relations of the Community

scheme's advantages. The delegation also stressed the Community's determination to support the drive for regional integration among the member countries of the Central American Common Market.

In *Ecuador*, apart from the work on generalized preferences, the Commission party took care to dispel fears in Ecuador with regard to the Lomé Convention, especially the Protocol on bananas.

In *Paraguay*, the visit led to the following conclusion: Paraguay could make better use of the various generalized preference plans to develop her external relations, by diversifying both her outlets and her exports; the Paraguayan authorities will step up their efforts to publicize the Community's preferences scheme among the country's industrialists and traders.

State-trading countries

China

2350. Commission Vice-President Sir Christopher Soames paid an official visit to China from 4 to 11 May 1975.¹

Diplomatic relations of the Communities

2351. Following recent events, the Mission of the Republic of *Vietnam* to the Community (EEC) has terminated its activity on 1 May, in accordance with international practice.

European Parliament

Part-session in Luxembourg, 28-30 April 1975

2401. The main feature of the Luxembourg part-session from 28 to 30 April was the final reading of the draft Supplementary and Amending Budget for the European Regional Development Fund. Parliament also took note of a draft budget for the UN Emergency Operation for the poorest developing countries, debated EEC development aid policy and took up the question of *de facto* equality of treatment between men and women workers, which is to be implemented through a Directive.¹

Budgetary matters

First Supplementary and Amending Budget for 1975

2402. Parliament finally approved the first Supplementary and Amending Budget for 1975 for a sum of 152 129 416 u.a., thus giving the green light for disbursing resources from the

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 Group. B = Belgium, DK = Denmark, G = Federal Republic of Germany, F = France, IRL = Ireland, L = Luxembourg, NL = Netherlands, UK = United Kingdom, I = Italy.

² The complete texts of the Resolutions passed by Parliament are reproduced in OJ C 111 of 20.5.1975 and the verbatim report of the part-session is contained in OJ Annexe 190.

¹ Points 1201 to 1205.

European Regional Development Fund. But in a Resolution passed with 127 votes in favour, four against and six abstentions, the House opposed the Council's intention to classify this expenditure as 'non-compulsory'.

Parliament justified its decision not to uphold the increase of 150 000 000 u.a. for the Fund, which it called for in the first reading' on 8 April (which were to be entered under provisionally included and not specifically allocated funds) and to endorse the Council's Proposal, in that it did not want to delay the course of the Fund any further. With its original amendment, the House had held to the decision of the Paris Summit of December 1974, which had foreseen 300 000 000 u.a. for 1975. The Council took the contrary view, that no such need existed for this year, although it did not wish to rule out the possibility of making additional resources available in a supplementary budget.

Clash between Parliament and the Council

With Parliament's insistence on the right of final say on Regional Fund Expenditure, the clash since approval of the general budget for 1975 is still unresolved. The House also rejected the Council's compromise proposal that for the first three years, the Council should have the last word, which would pass to Parliament from 1978. In the Resolution, the House 'emphatically and formally' reiterated its belief that the budgetary powers at present vested in the European Parliament were indispensable to the further growth of democracy in the European Communities and therefore resolutely opposed the Council's attempt to revoke, by a unilateral decision, these powers of the Parliament which are laid down in the Treaties.

During the debate, speakers on all sides of the House made it clear that the argument with the Council over the budget for 1976 would again come to a head in the autumn.

Mr *Aigner* (C-D/G), the rapporteur of the Budget Committee, attacked the Council for trying to usurp Parliament's rights under the 1970 agreement instead of making up the Community's 'democratic deficit'.

The House must guard against this from the outset. Since there was agreement on the global finance of 1300 million u.a. for the financial years 1975-1977 as stipulated by the Paris Summit, the split between the Council and Parliament was not over finance but over the basic issue of Parliament's rights. Most of the Group spokesmen endorsed Mr *Aigner's* remarks. For the Socialists, Mr *Lange* (G), Chairman of the Budget Committee said that the essential concept of democracy was not necessarily the right to raise expenditure, but the right to cut it. This was why budgetary rights were so crucial. Mr *Kirk* (C/UK) stressed that classification of expenditure was not, as argued by the Council for the Regional Fund, to be decided by a Regulation. The Treaty decided the issue and it was explicit. Mr *Johnston* (L/UK) and Mr *Cointat* (EPD/F) both supported the Budget Committee's Resolution motion.

Only Mr *Albertsen* (S/DK) and Mr *Maigaard* (COM/DK) opposed it; they endorsed the Council's proposed compromise. Mr *Fabbrini* (COM/I) substantiated his Group's abstention with the Group's objection that the Fund was too limited in scope and that a majority of MPs had on several occasions shown weakness. Nevertheless, the Group accepted the spirit of the Resolution.

Putting the view of the Commission, Mr *Cheyson* felt that the question of classifying Regional Fund expenditure involved the fundamental 'political issue of whether the EEC was a community or merely a common market and whether, in that community, Parliament was gradually to be

¹ Bull. EC 4-1975, point 2402.

accorded the role which would fall to it in a democratic system. The Commission was entirely on Parliament's side; it did not see the Regional Fund resources as 'non-compulsory' expenditure. He parted company with the budget rapporteur only in so far as he did not think that any and all expenditure resulting from the application of Article 235, as in the case of the Regional Fund, would automatically fall under the heading of 'non-compulsory'.

On the matter of the Fund's endowment, Mr Cheysson assured the House that in its projects and Proposals for regional development, the Commission would work on the basis of the 300 000 000 u.a. allocated by the 1975 Summit Conference. It would execute the Supplementary Budget in the form now approved by Parliament and would draw the relevant conclusions in preparing the preliminary draft budget for 1976.

For a solution to the conflict of principle, which ranged the Commission and Parliament on one side and the Council on the other, he supported the proposal of Mr Lange (S/G), the Chairman of the Budgets Committee, to clarify the interpretation of the disputed Treaty Article 203 in a three-cornered discussion.

Draft second Supplementary Budget for 1975 (29 April)

2403. Parliament approved the draft of the second Supplementary Budget for 1975 for a sum of 84 178 277 u.a. (US \$ 100 000 000). This is the last instalment of the EEC contribution to the United Nations Emergency Aid Programme for the hardest hit developing countries. The first instalment (US \$ 150 000 000) was approved on 17 November 1974. The Community had stated its readiness to make a total of US \$ 500 000 000 available. The remaining US \$ 250 000 000 were being contributed bilaterally by the Member States.

The rapporteur, Mr Aigner (C-D/G) made it clear that the House had foregone the conciliation procedure with the Council so as not to hold up this humanitarian project.

In contrast to the Commission and Council, who classified this as 'compulsory' expenditure, however, Parliament adhered to the 'non-compulsory' classification.

External relations

EEC overall development cooperation policy with developing countries (30 April)

2404. In the Resolution Parliament urged the Commission and Council to set priorities for Community development aid. The priorities were to improve the scheme of generalized preferences, amplify technical assistance for marketing promotion, expand industrial, scientific and technological cooperation, promote the conclusion of world raw material agreements and develop financial cooperation. The basis of the debate was a report by the Committee on Development and Cooperation which, two months after signature of the Lomé Convention, made an in-depth assessment of Community policy so far and future action regarding cooperation with Third World countries.

The House came to the conclusion that aid must be channelled first and foremost to where it was most urgently needed. More attention must be paid to the efforts of the recipient countries to get all groups of the population involved in progress. But the Community was not to interfere in the internal affairs of those countries.

At Community level, the possible repercussions on the other economic sectors of every measure taken must be considered. Through permanent contacts with the social partners, public opinion must increasingly be won over. As the Com-

munity aid projects were reinforced, Member States' bilateral assistance must be better coordinated in the interests of efficiency.

The development of the EEC's special relations with the ACP countries must on no account be compromised.

Mr *Bersani* (C-D/I), the rapporteur, reminded the House that the discussion on an overall cooperation policy was set off by the Paris Summit of 1972. Of the Group spokesmen, Mr *Deschamps* (C-D/B) strongly opposed any interference in the domestic affairs of the recipient countries. Aid must be granted without any political strings. Mr *Broeks* (S/NL) described the highest aim of development aid as a radical change in the relationship between rich and poor countries. The Community must participate in the current formative discussion within the United Nations on a new economic order. For Miss *Flesch* (L/L), if development aid was to work, it was vital to keep public opinion informed. Lord *Reay* (C/UK) warned against thinking that Britain's departure from the EEC would be to the Asian countries' advantage. Mr *Kaspereit* (EPD/F) said that Europe could and must set an example for other industrialized countries in respect of development aid. Mr *Sandri* (COM/I) announced the support of his Group, which set great store by the principle of non-interference.

For the Commission, Mr *Cheysson* said he was glad that all the Groups recognized the need for an overall cooperation policy.

Humanitarian aid for Cyprus (29 April)

2405. In an Oral Question with debate on 29 April, the Political Affairs Committee asked the Commission about guarantees that its humanitarian aid, especially food, for the Cypriot population was actually reaching the needy on the

island. As the Committee spokesman, Mr *Kirk* (C/UK) emphasized: the Community must take care that the aid was distributed among the Turkish and Greek communities alike.

In his reply, Commissioner *Cheysson* recalled that Cyprus had already on previous occasions received a substantial proportion of Community food aid. For 1974, 5 000 tonnes of cereals and 250 tonnes of butteroil had been provided for distribution by the legal government. In September, after the Cyprus crisis, the Council had approved further emergency aid for the whole population. Part of it (50 tonnes of skimmed milk powder) was given out via the International Red Cross to 14 000 people in more than twenty refugee camps. The rest (200 tonnes of skimmed milk powder, 200 tonnes of butteroil and 3 000 tonnes of cereals) had been distributed through the United Nations refugee relief. By a Council Decision of March 1975 a further 5 000 tonnes of cereals and 300 tonnes of butteroil were to be distributed. All in all, Cyprus had received emergency food aid worth 1786 000 u.a., on top of regular aid.

Mr *Fellermaier* (S/G) called on the Commission to make special efforts, as Cyprus was associated with the EEC. Aid for the island must set an example for active Community policy in the Mediterranean.

Lord *Bethell* (C/UK) reported on his tour of refugee camps in Cyprus. Thanks to European aid nobody was suffering from serious malnutrition. But the Turkish authorities were obstructing distribution in the areas under their control. For greater efficiency, aid services between the north and south of the island must be more closely coordinated.

Mr *Cheysson* declared that Red Cross and United Nations intervention in distributing food offered adequate guarantees. A Community distribution agency, set up rather late in the day,

would have given poor results and would have been very costly. But a detailed report would be sent to the House on how the aid was used.

Social policy

Equality of treatment between men and women workers (29 April)

2406. At a time when women formed about 35% of the labour force in the EEC, there was a pressing need to change attitudes towards women at work through effective legal provisions. This was stressed by Parliament in its Opinion on the Commission's proposed Directive on equality of treatment for men and women at work.

The House approved the Commission's Proposal, which was to serve Member States as a blueprint in enacting statutory provisions to bring about real equality, and called for controls with penalties for breaches of the Directive.

Vice-President *Hillery* of the Commission stressed that the Proposal covered only some of the major features of discrimination, which arose from the direct immediate responsibility of the authorities. More extensive measures were needed and would be described in a paper to be presented to the House.

Lady *Elles* (C/UK), the rapporteur for the Committee on Social Affairs and Employment illustrated the unfairness of the widespread prejudice against female labour, which meant that women everywhere were still performing low-paid jobs as unskilled labour and were even paid less for the same work. In her criticisms, Lady *Elles* did not spare the staff policy of the Community institutions, where with some 44% of the staff women, only a few were to be found in senior positions.

In the debate, the Groups were all of one mind. Mr *Härzschel* (C-D/G) contended that the term 'working woman' must be re-defined. Bringing up children must also be recognized in its way as a service for the Community and be honoured by accepting motherhood into social security. Mothers must be allowed to devote themselves entirely to their child for two years and attend courses on career training.

Mr *Bertrand* (C-D/B) said that it was vital for a woman entering motherhood to be free to decide whether she wanted solely to look after her children or return to a job. Much still had to be done, before such a decision was really and truly a free one.

For the Socialist spokesman, Mr *Glinne* (B), the proposed Directive was a major stride forward in the campaign to eliminate discrimination against working women. There was no need to come up with special Regulations, workers of both sexes must be allowed, for instance, to opt for part-time work or flexible hours; there must be an end to exaggerated protection of women, which had brought them more liabilities than assets.

Mrs *Orth* (S/G) urged that the most favourable, individual State legislation should be taken as a model at European level, since the provisions of individual States concerning working women vary sharply from country to country.

Water pollution by wood-pulp mills (30 April)

2407. Parliament welcomed the Commission's proposed Directive on reducing water pollution by wood-pulp mills as a first step towards eliminating pollution of the environment by industrial concerns. The economic and social consequences of applying the 'polluter pays' principle should be kept within limits for smaller

and older companies by means of subsidies. The House called for prompt measures against the air and soil pollution also caused by this industry.

Agricultural policy

The beef market (30 April)

2408. In answering an EPD Group Question which was on the agenda for discussion under urgent procedure, Commissioner *Lardinois* presented a report on the beef and veal market. He explained that the EEC had maintained a ban on beef and veal imports since July 1974. The Commission had now decided on certain reliefs, which the Council had approved. Under the new role a total of 50 000 tonnes of beef could be imported between now and 1 October. This meant that firms who exported beef from the Community without refund would be authorized to import a corresponding quantity under the applicable duties and levies.

The importation of 67 000 head of young cattle, mainly for Italy, had also been authorized. Thus there would be no extra beef on the EEC market in 1975. But the traditional exporters would be better placed. The export-import arrangement referred to the various qualities which could be imported or exported.

Fisheries (30 April)

2409. In an Oral Question, Mr *Corrie* (UK) for the Conservatives, asked the Commission for details of what had been done to restore market equilibrium in the fishing sector, and what progress had been made at the International Conference on the Law of the Sea. Mr *Corrie* substantiated his Question by referring to the

current problems in the fishing industry due to mounting costs and falling prices for fish. He suggested that the Commission support the market with a series of practical measures akin to the action taken earlier in respect of beef and veal. Mr *Spicer* (C/UK) feared a fiasco at the Conference on the Law of the Sea and that this might lead to unilateral action by Norway and Iceland which would negate the Trade Agreement with the EEC.

Mr *Lardinois* admitted that the fishery industry and market were going through a crisis. The difficulties stemmed from the fact that a combination of favourable factors had led to huge catches being made, while the adverse general economic situation had curbed demand. On top of this came the higher prices for oil. The Commission had now decided to extend the aid arrangement until 1 January 1976 which had been applied on account of the mounting outlay in oil (up to 50% of the increased costs since 1973). A decision in principle on aid for temporary private storage had also been taken, and the arrangements concerning minimum import prices had been extended.

There was little new to report concerning the Conference on the Law of the Sea. The informal talks were still going on. The Commission would react to any unilateral action by Norway and Iceland, but hoped that it would not come to that.

Standing Veterinary Committee

2410. After a brief debate, Parliament approved the Commission's Proposals for a Directive and a Decision on the procedures of the Standing Veterinary Committee. The House firmly opposed any extension of the previous arrangements and urged that the Committee's working procedure be changed, as proposed by the Commission, so that the Council could not by simple majority reject Commission Proposals.

Moreover, the House also wanted to see the definitive working procedure laid down in such a way, that the Commission decided directly on the implementary arrangements and these could then be directly applied.

If the hearing of the Standing Veterinary Committee led to a negative opinion, then the Council should have the possibility of taking another decision, but after the matter had been heard by Parliament.

Question Time

(29 April)

2411. During Question Time, Mr *FitzGerald*, President of the Council, together with Vice-President Sir Christopher Soames, Mr *Cheysson* and Mr *Thomson* of the Commission, answered twelve questions.

Speeding up decision procedures

Mr *Broeks* (S/NL) to the Council:

'What actual measures has the Council taken since 7 February 1974 to speed up decision procedures in the Community?'

Mr *FitzGerald* replied that since the October 1972 Summit Conference, at which these measures were decided, an appreciable advance had been made. In Council Decisions since January 1975 no Member State had invoked the unanimity principle on account of 'vital interests', in terms of the Luxembourg compromise.

Amalgamation of Embassies

Lord *Reay* (C/UK) to the Council:

'Has the Council considered the possibility of amalgamating the embassies of Member States into a single Community embassy in any third country?'

Mr *FitzGerald* answered in the negative. The matter was outside the Council's jurisdiction.

Regional Fund

Mr *Herbert* (EPD/IRL), Mr *Lenihan* (EPD/IRL) and Mr *Durieux* (L/F) to the Council and the Commission:

'Does the Council consider that the recent statement by the President-in-Office of the Council of Ministers "that a majority of Member States will opt to use fund assistance in part repayment to their exchequers of expenditure of state aids, rather than apply it to increase the level of aid granted to some individual projects" is contrary to the spirit and intention of the Regional Fund, which is to supplement national aids and not to be a substitute for them?'

'When setting up the European Regional Development Fund, did the Commission make a detailed appraisal of the future relationship between this Fund and the European Investment Bank?'

Mr *FitzGerald* explained that the scope for using Fund resources, as indicated above, was on the basis of the Regulation on setting up the Regional Fund. Mr *Thomson* refused to comment on the Council's comments, but made it understood that, in his view, Regional Fund resources should consolidate national means. Coordination was planned between the Fund and the EIB to avoid overlapping.

Energy Conference Preparatory Meeting

Mr *Van der Hek* (S/NL) to the Commission:

'What were the respective positions of the Community and the Commission to the main questions raised at the Preparatory Meeting on energy, in particular: oil, primary commodities, development cooperation (industrialization, transfer of technology, etc.), international finance and the number of countries represented at the Conference?'

Sir Christopher Soames replied that the Community was represented at the Conference by a single delegation led by the representative of the Council and by the Commission representa-

tive. Together with the USA and Japan, it had not accepted that questions be dealt with, which were not directly bound up with the energy problem. This Conference should not duplicate other Conferences (UNCTAD, GATT).

The remaining countries had urged that the raw material problems and reform of the international monetary system be included. Therefore at the end of the Preparatory Meeting the agenda was still not agreed. But the Community had spoken with one voice.

Recycling of waste products

Mr *Normanton* (C/UK) to the Commission:

'What measures do the Commission propose to adopt for promoting the recovery and recycling of waste products?'

Mr *Cheysson* explained that waste products came under the free movement of goods in the EEC. The question of recycling was being examined by the technical committees and was covered in the second environmental programme. In November 1974, the Council had passed a Directive on waste oil.

Fisheries

Mrs *Orth* (S/G) to the Commission:

'As stipulated in the Regulation on a common structural policy for the fishing industry, why has the Commission not yet submitted the annual report to Parliament?'

Mr *Thomson* assured the House that the report would be ready this autumn. On its contents, he mentioned that one of its major features was unification of State aids.

Debate after Question Time

2412. In the debate requested by the Socialist Group after Question Time and in connection with Mr Van der Hek's question, the House dealt in detail with the results of the Energy Conference Preparatory Meeting.

Sir Christopher *Soames* made the point that the European countries had opted for dialogue and not confrontation with the Arab countries. The Commission had always taken the view that the Preparatory Meeting could also deal with raw materials and major financial questions in connection with the energy problem, but should not infringe on the work of other international bodies which were themselves dealing with this. The meeting had been a test for Community relations with the USA and the rest of the world and had prevented a confrontation between the oil-producing and oil-consuming countries.

Mr *Espersen* (S/DK) said it was disappointing that the Community had apparently not been in a position to put forward concrete proposals. Mr *Leonardi* (COM/I) criticized the tight bond between the EEC and the USA in respect of energy. Mr *Springorum* (C-D/G) countered this by saying that the consumer countries should not again allow themselves to be split by the producer countries.

In conclusion Council President *FitzGerald* emphasized that the Community could in no way be blamed for the failure of the meeting. Despite the unsuccessful outcome, it was still a positive result that the meeting had not broken up in a spirit of animosity or confrontation.

Part-session in Strasbourg, 12-15 May 1975

2413. Parliament honoured its first President, *Robert Schuman*, on the 25th anniversary of the Declaration, which, as France's Minister for

Foreign Affairs, he made on 9 May 1950 and which was the foundation stone of the Community.

Various features of the tense situation in the Mediterranean were discussed; in connection with the new EEC-Israel Trade Agreement, the problem in Cyprus, aid for Portugal and the 'black list' of the Arab league. Other important matters on the agenda were the difficulties in the motor industry, unification of banking systems and the Statute of the European Investment Bank.¹

25th Anniversary of Robert Schuman's Declaration

2414. On 9 May 1950, Robert Schuman, France's Foreign Minister, proposed in a Declaration that the whole of Franco-German coal production be placed under a common 'High Authority', within an organization open to the participation of the other countries of Europe. This Declaration set off negotiations which led to the signing on 18 April 1951 of the Treaty, forming the European Coal and Steel Community. This, in Mr Schuman's words, was to be 'the leaven from which might grow a wider and deeper Community between countries'.

In a celebration on 14 May, the House honoured Robert Schuman, who with his epochmaking Declaration also laid the foundation stone of the Assembly, the forerunner of the European Parliament, whose first President he became. Today's President, Mr Georges Spénale welcomed many European figures of 'that first hour', companions of Robert Schuman.²

External relations

Agreement with Israel (14 May)

2415. Parliament welcomed the conclusion of negotiations for a new Agreement between the Community and Israel³ and in the unanimously adopted Resolution expressed its approval that the text of the Agreement would facilitate further development and a dynamic interpretation of relationships, and cooperation on financial and technological matters. Regular links should be set up in due course between the European Parliament and the Knesset (Israel's Parliament).

The Rapporteur, Mr *Patiijn* (S/NL) reminded the House that as far back as 1965 Parliament had called for a more active relationship between the Community and Israel, in fact even for her association with the EEC. He complained of the attitude of the Arab States towards the Agreement, since similar agreements would certainly follow with the Arab countries.

The President of the Council, Dr *FitzGerald*, emphasized that the Agreement was the first fruit of a balanced Community policy towards the Mediterranean countries. He highlighted the close link between the recently concluded negotiations with Israel and the talks still running with Algeria, Tunisia and Morocco.

Mr *Blumenfeld* (C-D/G) expressed the hope that the Trade Agreement would be consolidated by

¹ The full texts of the Resolutions passed by Parliament are contained in OJ C128 of 9.6.1975 and the complete report on the debates in OJ Annex 191.

² Extracts of the celebration speeches by Mr *Spénale*, Mr *FitzGerald*, Council President and President *Ortoli* of the Commission are reproduced under points 1113 to 1115.

³ OJ L136 of 28.5.1975. Bull. EC 1-1975, point 2320, Bull. EC 4-1975, point 2337.

financial and technical cooperation. On the Arab criticism, he said that in its policies towards non-member countries the Community should not brook any pressure or attempts at subornation.

Mr *Giraud* (S/F) was convinced that the Israel Agreement and the outstanding Agreements with Algeria, Tunisia and Morocco would help to ensure peace and reconciliation in the Mediterranean.

Lord *Reay* (C/UK) was confident that the apprehensions of the Arab States would be dispelled when their own Agreements were concluded. Mr *Terrenoire* (EPD/F) said that his Group was relying on the Arab States being granted terms at least just as favourable as those accorded to Israel.

Closing the debate, Commissioner *Cheysson* told the House that the Agreement would have a corrective effect on trade relations. The EEC's exports to Israel were still three times as much as Israel exported to the EEC. He was optimistic about the negotiations with Algeria, Tunisia and Morocco. He opposed preferential treatment for Israel.

Situation in the Mediterranean

(14 May)

2416. A comprehensive debate ranged over the situation in the Mediterranean and the Middle East. It started from a question by Mr *Kirk* (C/UK), for the Committee on Political Affairs. The Chairman of the Foreign Ministers' Conference was asked for an assessment and details of any action by the governments of the Nine to coordinate their policies. The Greek members of the Joint EEC-Greece Parliamentary Committee, which has lately resumed its activities, attended the debate as observers.

Mr *Kirk* was afraid that after the recently signed Trade Agreement with Israel, the dialogue between the Arab countries and the Community could take a more difficult turn. He wondered what role Europe could play in the resumption of the Geneva Conference. On the Cyprus crisis, he was pleased with the way relations were developing with the new democratic Government in Greece and hoped that the Vienna talks between Greece, Turkey and Cyprus would lead to positive results. He welcomed the results of the elections to the Assembly in Portugal and asked for information on aid which the Community would give to Portugal.

In his reply, Mr *FitzGerald*, Chairman of the Foreign Ministers' Conference on Political Cooperation, recalled the Community's efforts to resolve the Cyprus crisis, which involved three countries associated with the Community. The three were now negotiating under the sponsorship of the UN Secretary-General, Mr Waldheim. The Community supported these efforts and hoped for a happy conclusion to the Vienna talks. It was also hoped that the dispute between Greece and Turkey over the continental shelf in the Aegean would soon come before the International Court. But the continuing tension in the Middle East was still a constant danger.

Mr *Blumenfeld* (C-D/G) called on the Community to take an active part in the efforts for peace in Cyprus and the Middle East. Mr *Jahn* (C-D/G) also urged the Council to do more towards reconciliation in the Mediterranean. Mr *de la Malène* (EPD/F) too, appealed for more forceful action by the Community, especially in mediation on the Cyprus question.

Mr *Fellermaier* (S/G) called on the Council of Foreign Ministers to shoulder its global responsibilities more substantially, together with the world powers. He was pleased with the election results in Portugal, because the country had shown its political maturity. Portugal now needed help from the Community. The question

of full membership for Greece should be sympathetically considered. Mr *Lange* (S/G) endorsed this, urging that aid for Portugal be promptly approved.

Mrs *Goutmann* (COM/F) criticized the Member States' attitude towards Portugal. Instead of deploring the supposed danger of a dictatorship of the Left, they should be actively aiding her. The Community's policy towards Portugal was coloured by the imperialistic aims of the United States.

For the Commission, Mr *Cheysson* explained that so far Portugal had said nothing whatever on her future relations with the Community. As soon as she made proposals, they would be given the most sympathetic consideration from the Commission. On relations with the Arab countries, he said that in its relations with the whole Mediterranean theatre, the Community was now involved in a dynamic development process, the basis of which was balanced relationships with all the non-member countries in the region. Every one of those countries had a right to existence and to linking its economy with the EEC with a view to further developing its potential.

*Economic discrimination
by the Arab League States
(15 May)*

2417. In a Question on behalf of the Socialist Group, Mr *Fellermaier* (G), Mr *Albertsen* (DK), Mr *Broeks* (NL), Mr *Dondelinger* (L) and Mr *Giraud* (F) brought up the matter of economic discrimination by the Arab League States against Community nationals and firms, who entertain relationships with Israel. They asked the Commission to promise that, in the negotiations with the Mediterranean countries, it would hold strictly to the conditions in the currently applicable Trade Agreements, which rule out any discrimination.

Mr *Broeks* (S/NL), speaking of the Question, pointed out that the Member States' reactions to the Arab boycott had not been uniform. The Community *in toto* should oppose discrimination.

Commissioner *Cheysson* explained that the boycott was triggered off when the Arab League had decided on 11 September 1954 to draw up a periodically revisable 'black list' of companies, guilty of relations with Israel. The way the boycott was applied varied from country to country. It was impossible to pinpoint its economic repercussions.

Mr *Cheysson* then spoke of the content of the various Trade Agreements, which are now running or being hammered out between the Community and the Mediterranean countries. The Agreements with Morocco and Tunisia, for instance, contained no distinct discrimination clause. The Commission had heard of no difficulties with those countries or Algeria, which pointed to discrimination. The Trade Agreement with Egypt very clearly ruled out discrimination. An Agreement with the Lebanon was now on the stocks, which would have a similar clause.

These Agreements covered trade, but not the clearance of banking business and transport. In the earlier Agreements, the discrimination ban had worked without trouble. Mr *Cheysson* stressed that in principle the Commission held any discriminatory measure to be inadmissible. In the negotiations which had now begun with four Arab States, certain non-commercial spheres also had to be covered by agreements. Anti-discrimination clauses had to apply to everything.

In this connection he referred to the limits imposed on the Commission in negotiating agreements with non-member countries: it could demand no guarantees which exceeded its powers and went beyond the boundaries of the agreements under negotiation. The banking

sector was not run on a Community basis; it came, as always, under the authority of the Member States. At all events, the Community must resist any form of discrimination, including for example the 'black list', which the United States had made in respect of companies trading with Cuba.

Social policy

(13 May)

Social Fund: Contribution to structural adaptation measures

2418. The Social Fund is to have broader possibilities to contribute to structural adaptation measures entailed by mounting unemployment. A Commission Proposal to this effect was approved by Parliament.

But the House considered the financial resources allocated by the Commission as inadequate; no really penetrating action was there by feasible. Parliament also urged that all sectors of the economy, in which the unemployed could find work, be included, so as to improve mobility, and asked for supplementary pay for the unemployed during retraining, over and above unemployment relief. The spokesmen of all Groups all called for a comprehensive Community employment policy.

The rapporteur, Mr *Bertrand* (C-D/B) pointed to the alarming figure of four million workers, who had been hit by unemployment or short time in the Community. This was no longer a cyclical phenomenon but a structural one. The financial measures now being considered in what he called a goodwill Proposal were therefore no more than a first step.

Mr *Härzschel* (C-D/G) in his turn highlighted the 'model' character of the measures and alluded to the close relationship with the European

Regional Development Fund. For the Council's benefit, he contended that retraining was not enough. What mattered far more was to create new jobs.

Mr *Adams* (S/G) stressed the need for priority action to help unemployed young people and women. The need to create new jobs was also echoed by Abbé *Laudrin* (EPD/F) and Mr *Lio-gier* (EPD/F) who pointed to the special problems in the textile industry.

Mr *Marras* (COM/I) was severe. He said that for Parliaments to criticize the measures as inadequate and then accept them was a contradiction in terms. He urged the House to reject the Proposal and insist that the Commission bring forth a specific programme to deal with unemployment. Mr *Girardin* (C-D/I) endorsed this inasmuch as Parliament could no longer put up with unsatisfactory 'single shot' measures.

For the Commission, Vice-President *Hillery* highlighted the fact that this Proposal was not the only measure to combat structural unemployment. Three other working papers had been drawn up, which for technical reasons had not yet been published. In any event, it was not the task of the European Social Fund to finance long-term action to eliminate unemployment.

Pilot projects and studies to combat poverty

2419. Relative to the Commission's Communication to the Council on a programme of pilot projects to combat poverty, which the House had approved on 10 April,¹ Parliament endorsed the Commission's Proposal concerning implementation.

¹ Bull. EC 4-1974, point 2407.

The rapporteur of the Committee on Social Affairs and Employment, Mr *Dondelinger* (S/L) said he was glad that the Commission had fallen in with Parliament's April Recommendation and given its programme a more binding legal form. He also welcomed the news that the House would be getting reports on mounting the programme. The Proposal came under heavy fire from the spokesman of the Communist and Allied Group, Mr *Marras* (I) who found it ridiculous, that when millions of European citizens were existing on the bare necessities, the Community was financing a crowd of experts to work out theoretical concepts.

*Safety and health protection
in the mines and the iron
and steel industry*

2420. The Mines Safety and Health Commission and the Steel Industry Safety and Health Commission should investigate how far thorough training and guidance for miners and iron and steel operatives could cut down the ever mounting number of industrial accidents. The question of cost must take second place to the need for effective health protection. Parliament's Resolution on the eleventh report of the Mines Safety and Health Commission and the fifth report of the Steel Industry Safety and Health Commission, asked both these expert bodies to undertake this work in order to monitor and enhance safety and health in the coal and steel industries. The House criticized them for having done nothing over the 1973 report period to promote industrial health protection.

Vice-President *Hillery* of the Commission said that both groups were doing worthwhile work. The safety training of workers, urged by Parliament, was not within their province. He conceded, however, that there was room for closer collaboration with the trade unions.

Protecting the environment

Safety in nuclear energy production
(15 May)

2421. Action and not statements of intent was needed to do well by the safety of people and the environment in respect of nuclear energy production. Parliament rated the Commission's Communication on the technological problems of nuclear safety as basically positive but too vague. It asked the Commission to put forward practical proposals for harmonizing national safety provisions, especially for the transport of radioactive substances, the distribution and storage of radioactive waste and the decommissioning of nuclear power stations. The House approved the negotiation of an appropriate protocol with the United States and contacts with the non-member States bordering the EEC in order to minimize dangers to the public on both sides of frontiers. The Member States should work more closely together on research and studies, particularly via the Committee for Scientific and Technical Research (CREST), under the central guidance of the Commission.

In its report, the Committee on Public Health and the Environment pointed out that the heavier use of fast breeders, which, besides energy, also produced large quantities of radioactive plutonium, would bring to a head the environmental hazards of transporting and storing radioactive material.

Mrs *Walz* (C-D/), Mr *Noè* (C-D/I) and Lord *Bessborough* (C/UK) warned against exaggerating the dangers of nuclear energy production. Mr *Lemoine* (F), for the Communist and Allied Group, praised the scientific and technical progress, but felt that in developing nuclear energy production, it was essential to probe the possibilities of all the other energy sources.

Mr *Scelba* (C-D/I) called for renewed efforts to investigate the still unsettled safety questions. The dangers of fast breeder reactors, which were to come into heavier use in Europe, were highlighted by Mr *Espersen* (S/DK); he could understand why the public was afraid.

For the Commission, Mr *Spinelli* said it was for his institution to work forwards from the Proposal, thus endorsing the House's comments. The Proposal was part of the Community's general 1973 programme. He called for broad public discussion of the safety problems involved in nuclear energy production, before any final decisions were taken.

Consumer questions

Consumer Advisory Committee (14 May)

2422. In a Question, the German Christian Democrats, Mr *Jahn*, Mr *Aigner*, Mr *Burgbacher*, Mr *Früh*, Mr *Klepsch*, Mr *Mursch* and Mr *Schulz* complained that on the EEC Consumer Advisory Committee, only six seats were allotted to the 'actual consumer associations', while three had gone to the consumer cooperatives and six to the trade unions. They called for a fresh allotment of the fifteen committee seats; ten should be given to consumer associations and five in all to the unions, cooperatives and retail trade.

Vice-President *Scarascia-Mugnozza* of the Commission replied that the Consumer Advisory Committee had come into being after the European Consumer Organization had broken up on account of internal difficulties. It was the result of a decision by all consumer organizations. Only later had the Commission learned of the claims of other groups, the retail trade, industry, the banks etc.

Mrs *Orth* (S/G) rebutted the criticism against union representation on the Committee. Mr *Nyborg* (EPD/DK), however, felt that the unions' presence on the Committee was unwarranted. Mr *Giraud* (S/F) firmly opposed any representation of traders and manufacturers, since 'the wolf was certainly not the best spokesman for the interests of the lambs'.

Credit institutions: Coordinating the legal basis

2423. The House felt that the Commission's proposed Directive on 'coordinating laws, regulations and administrative provisions governing the commencement and carrying on of the business of credit institution',¹ was no more than a first step towards a unified European banking system. In the Resolution, the House asked the Commission for further coordination Proposals for uniform controls over the solvency and liquidity of credit institutions. Parliament acknowledged that the harmonization of Community banking systems bristled with difficulties. But care must be taken that exemptions provided for in the Directive did not lead to distortion of competition through disparate application in individual Member States. In this respect, it must be ensured that the different types of credit institution on the respective national sub-markets were subject to the same conditions regarding competition.

Parliament's tabled amendment to the Commission's draft provided a more flexible administration of admission terms, stricter controls on exemptions, a clear-cut version of private capital requirements, and excluded the Commission from certain deliberations of the Contact Committee.

¹ OJ C12 of 17.1.1975.

Commissioner *Spinelli* firmly opposed Parliament's Proposal to exclude the Commission from the deliberations of the Contact Committee on matters involving control over banking business, such as the liquidity problems of a bank. The Commission's officials were as equally bound to professional secrecy as the representatives of national supervision authorities and could therefore take part in deliberations involving banking secrecy. Mr Spinelli regarded the draft Directive as a first step towards harmonizing the credit system. It would ease the task of the supervision authorities and promote the settlement of credit institutions in other Member States.

The car industry crisis (15 May)

2424. Prompted by two Oral Questions, Parliament discussed the steps taken by different Member States to support the car industry in its present difficulties.

The EPD Group asked the Commission about its overall policy concept for the Community car industry and its attitude to the measures applied by the Member States to mitigate the economic and social impact of the energy crisis in this sector.

In its Question, the Communist and Allied Group stressed the need for emergency action by the Community to alleviate the worst effects of the crisis; measures to preserve buying power, safeguard jobs without discrimination against migrant workers, improve employment conditions, counter the excessively high prices for motor vehicles and what the Group called the unlawful profits of the oil companies.

Mr *Spinelli* replied that the Commission had already run talks with experts to work out measures. The crisis was both cyclical and structural. It must be tackled carefully, so that

short-term cyclical measures did not obstruct medium-term structural action.

Mr Spinelli then turned to the aid which the Member States were giving to the motor industry. The Commission had been informed and was keeping in touch with the governments, and the employers' and workers' representatives.

The Future Role of Eurocontrol (13 May)

2425. Parliament considered the air navigation safety authority, Eurocontrol, to be the kingpin of a future European air transport policy and not therefore to be compromised. The Member States' governments should see to it that Eurocontrol would in future be fully able to perform its vitally important job. This was the message of the Resolution moved by the Socialist Group under urgent procedure. It was urgent because the very next day the Permanent Commission of Eurocontrol was to meet in Brussels to examine the report from one of its own study groups formed in 1974. Thus there was a danger that an appreciable cutback in the work of Eurocontrol could be decided.

Since 1960, Eurocontrol has been responsible for air safety for all civil and military aircraft, regardless of national frontiers. It runs air safety centres in Maastricht (Netherlands) and Karlsruhe (West Germany), a testing centre in Brétigny (France) and an air safety school in Luxembourg. It is not a Community institution, but, with the exception of Denmark and Italy, is supported by the EEC countries.

Mr *Seefeld* (S/G) stressed the dangers of 'renationalizing' air safety in Europe and criticized the responsible ministers for pursuing selfish interests. He put Eurocontrol's troubles down to the behaviour of the national authorities and contended that the problems would disappear, when Eurocontrol no longer depended on those auth-

orities, with whom it was actually competing, but was responsible to the European Community or the European Parliament.

On behalf of their Groups, Mr *Notenboom* (C-D/NL) and Mr *Osborn* (C/UK) expressed agreement. Mr *Noè* (C-D/I) urged that the Committee on Regional Policy and Transport examine any doubtful points in respect of Euro-control's work up to now.

Information policy

(13 May)

2426. With its information programme for 1975, the Commission intends to make the citizen more aware of the Community. More information is to be channelled to the trade unions, politicians, consumers and the younger generation. It will be more intensively relayed via radio and television and through tours and exhibitions, publications and collaboration with other information services.

In its Resolution, the House approved the 1975 programme and a complementary programme.

The rapporteur, Mr *Petersen* (L/DK), explained that the idea was to renew the interest of a rather disillusioned public in the Community and to demonstrate that it was not a design in the abstract. A permanent link-up with the citizens was therefore essential.

Today's political realities must find expression even in schoolbooks. The 1975 planned Youth Forum could also relay important information. The same applied to youth exchanges.

Regarding the mass media, there should be more intensive collaboration with the television networks.

Mr *Klepsch* (C-D/G) urged the Commission to make a careful appraisal of the programme's impact on public opinion. He approved the

Commission's overall concept. Mr *Broeksz* (S/NL), Chairman of the Committee on Cultural Affairs and Youth, was less optimistic. Effective information hit or missed according to the success or failure of the policy. The optimum information was therefore a sound policy.

Mr *Corrie* (C/UK) described the problem of information in connection with the British referendum on staying in the Community. Mrs *Carettoni Romagnoli* (COM/I) said that the Community's decision-making process must be made as transparent as possible. Both the difficulties and the benefits of the construction of Europe must be clearly depicted.

For the Commission, Vice-President *Scarascia Mugnozza* welcomed the fact that the House had increased the Commission's funds for information when considering the 1975 Budget. The Commission had never obscured the difficulties in the construction of Europe. It would not have been able to do so anyway, owing to the host of existing information channels. In its efforts to keep the Community citizen closely informed, the Commission would try to decentralize its information activity to a greater extent and use a less technical vocabulary in its literature.

The three new Member States were in need of a more forceful information drive. Here, he regretted that the British trade unions had spurned any contact with the Community. He was optimistic in respect of the Youth Forum.

Statute of the European Investment Bank

(12 May)

2427. On 12 May, Parliament recommended that the Statute of the EIB be amended. The draft of a new Statute had been prepared by the Dutch Government, whose Finance Minister was currently Chairman of the Bank's Board of Governors. The Statute is an element of the

EEC Treaty and can therefore be amended only in accordance with the procedure of Article 236 (Treaty amendments), which stipulates consultation with Parliament.

The planned amendments concern the value of the unit of account used by the Bank, and the method for converting it into the Member States' national currencies. According to the Statute applicable up to now, the unit is valued at 0.88867088 g of fine gold. By amending the Statute the Board of Governors will be authorized to change, if need be, the method of conversion into national currencies, as proposed by the Board of Directors, to adjust them to the changes in the international currency situation. The arrangement up to now no longer corresponds with the reality of international currency relationships, since currencies are no longer firmly linked to the official gold price.

Question Time

(14 May)

2428. Vice-President *Scarascia-Mugnozza*, Mr *Spinelli*, Mr *Borschette*, Mr *Lardinois*, Mr *Gun-delach* and Mr *Cheysson* answered thirteen questions put by MPs to the Commission.

European textile industry

Mr *Normanton* (C/UK) to the Commission;

'Is the Commission aware of the growing anxiety throughout the textile industry of Europe at the combined effect of a decline in public consumption and an increase in foreign imports of textiles of all kinds, and what measures will be adopted on a Community basis to regulate the flow of textile imports at prices unrelated to their actual cost of manufacture?'

Mr *Spinelli* replied that the Commission had decided to speed up the negotiations on protection clauses in the textile sector, which the

Community intended to conduct with fifteen countries. The negotiations were expected to wind up this autumn. Moreover, imports of twenty-two different textile products into the EEC since 1974 would be monitored in respect of quantity and price.

Harmonization of oil product prices

Mr *Hougardy* (L/B) to the Commission:

'Does the Commission not think that, if the objectives of the common energy policy are to be achieved, priority should be given to fixing the prices for oil products?'

Mr *Cheysson* emphasized that the Commission's aim was to harmonize price levels, which was not the same thing as uniform rating. After conferring with the Member States, the Commission would present detailed Proposals for a price policy during the year, which must be based on the principles of competition and cost and price transparency.

Mediterranean policy

Mr *Durieux* (L/F) to the Commission:

'In the current negotiations with the EEC, the Maghreb countries are asking for extensive access to finance from the European Investment Bank. In view of the relative scarcity of capital in Europe, would it not be more expedient, in accordance with a recent proposal by the German Delegation in connection with Egypt, Syria, the Lebanon and Jordan, to give the Maghreb countries our technical assistance in the use of Arab capital?'

Mr *Cheysson* stressed that the Community's financing proposals in respect of the Maghreb countries ran to 339 000 000 u.a., of which 130 000 000 u.a. came from EIB funds. The Community had so far not agreed to any EIB financing beyond this top limit. The Commis-

sion was now examining the possibility of financing, for the whole of the Mediterranean area, outside the EEC Budget and the EIB.

Consumer subsidies for butter

Mrs Kellet-Bowman (C/UK) to the Commission:

'Is the Commission in favour of consumer subsidies for butter and can it estimate the extent to which the British consumer is benefiting from such subsidies?'

Mr Lardinois confirmed that the Commission was in favour of such subsidies in view of the current situation on the milk products market. Of the £100000000 paid out as subsidies in the United Kingdom, 20% came directly out of the EAGGF. The Community was also contributing 15% of the price of butter imported from the EEC countries and New Zealand.

Mountain and hill-farming

Lord St Oswald (S/UK) to the commission:

'Following the decision of the Council on 28 April, how much does the Commission expect to disburse under the Directive on mountain and hill farming in 1975 and in a full year and how much is expected to be in respect of the United Kingdom?'

Of the total 80000000 u.a. provided for hill-farming, the United Kingdom allocation was about 30%.

Beef supplies

Mr Howell (C/UK) to the Commission:

'How many days' supply of beef are at present held in intervention in the Community and what tonnage is deemed to constitute a beef "mountain"?''

Mr Lardinois replied that beef stocks were now running at one kilogram per head of population in the Community.

Number of Community and British civil servants

Mr Dykes (C/UK) to the Commission:

'How many Community officials are there per head of population in the EEC and how does this compare with the number of industrial and non-industrial civil servants in Britain?'

Mr Borschette replied that it was hard to compare national administrations with the EEC management organization. In the EEC service branches, there were many more officials with creative tasks and many more linguists; against this, there were proportionally less executive personnel. In figures, it meant 4 officials per 100000 of Community population, in the Community institutions, and 1300 officials per 100000 of the UK population, in the British civil service.

Cost of Community and British civil servants

Mr Osborn (C/UK) to the Commission:

'What is the cost per head of population in the EEC of the Community officials and how does this compare with the cost per head of the industrial and non-industrial civil servants in Britain?'

Each EEC official costs the Community citizen about 50 p a year. A British civil servant costs the UK citizen £24 per year.

Mutton and lambs

Mr McDonald (C-D/IRL) to the Commission:

'In the light of the Judgment of the Court of Justice of 10 December 1974 in Case 48/74, what is the Commission's opinion in regard to the compatibility with the relevant articles of the EEC Treaty of the import regime for sheep and lamb operated by France

vis-à-vis certain member States, including in particular the complete prohibition of imports from time to time and increases in the fees levied on imports?’

Mr *Lardinois* explained that, for the Commission, this Judgment exclusively concerned the six ‘old’ Member States. In the light of Case 48/74, the Commission was investigating the propriety of further safeguards for the French market. In principle, the Commission took the view that the French safeguards were in order until 1 January 1978.

Food prices

Mr *Scott-Hopkins* (C/UK) to the Commission:

‘Can the Commission explain why the rates of increase in food prices in Britain and Norway respectively over the last two years have been different?’

The heavy rise in food prices in Norway was due to the fact that Norwegian cereal prices were 40-50% higher than EEC prices. Mr *Lardinois* also pointed out that Norway was beginning to feel the impact of price movements on the world market.

Price of sugar

Mr *Kirk* (C/UK) to the Commission:

‘Is it true that the world price of sugar is higher than in the Community and that as a result of this and of the EEC sugar arrangements, the British consumer has benefited greatly?’

Mr *Lardinois* confirmed this.

Competitiveness of small and medium-sized companies

Mr *Krall* (L/D) to the Commission:

‘Is the Commission working on Proposals to improve the competitiveness of small and medium-sized enterprises in the common market, in particular to ensure

that such undertakings are able to compete for public contracts awarded within the Community, and to promote cooperation between such enterprises from different Member States by introducing the legal status of “European Cooperation Grouping”?’

For the Commission, Mr *Gundelach* said that small and medium-sized companies must have equal opportunity to compete with the big firms. But he ruled out any preference. The Commission was discussing the whole question in connection with the common industrial policy.

Council

During May, the Council held four meetings devoted to general matters, economy and finance and agriculture.

340th Meeting—General matters (Brussels, 5 May 1975)

2429. *President*: Mr *FitzGerald*, Ireland’s Foreign Minister.

From the Commission: Mr *Ortoli*, President; Mr *Spinelli*, Mr *Borschette*, Mr *Cheysson*, Members.

Energy and raw materials

The Council discussed the results of the Preparatory Meeting for the Conference proposed by the President of France, which was held in Paris from 7 to 15 April and confirmed the need to give priority to working out a comprehensive Community concept for raw materials.¹

¹ See Bull. EC 4-1975, point 1409 for the Communiqué published after the meeting.

Overall Mediterranean approach

The Council got down to an appraisal of the status of the negotiations with the different Mediterranean countries within the overall approach. Regarding the Agreement with Israel, the Council agreed to suggest to Israel that the Agreement¹ be signed. The Commission was authorized to continue negotiations with Algeria, Tunisia and Morocco.

International wheat agreement

The Council reviewed questions arising from the new internal allocation of charges deriving from the Food Aid Convention.

European Council

The Council debated the preparations for the next meeting of the Heads of Government in Council, scheduled for 16 and 17 July in Brussels.

341st Meeting—Economy and finance
(Brussels, 20 May 1975)

2430. *President:* Mr Ryan, Ireland's Finance Minister.

From the Commission: Mr Haferkamp, Vice-President

Community exchange system

The Council heard a statement from the French Minister concerning the French francs' return to the Community exchange system, known as the 'snake'.²

Proceedings of the International Monetary Fund

Preparing for the next meeting of the IMF Interim Committee in Paris from 9 to 13 June,

the Council reviewed problems to be dealt with there, particularly the IMF quota increases and certain amendments to the Fund Articles. Some guidelines were set out to assist the Member States at the Paris meeting.

342nd Meeting—Agriculture
(Luxembourg, 26 and 27 May)

2431. *President:* Mr Clinton, Ireland's Minister of Agriculture.

From the Commission: Mr Lardinois, Member.

Overall Mediterranean approach

The Council held a searching debate on the various problems involving agriculture, in the negotiations with the Mediterranean countries. The debate resulted in a firmer grasp of the different features. Solid headway was made on the ways in which solutions could be found.

Beef and veal

The Council discussed the beef and veal market. In view of the troubling situation in markets for mature cattle and calves in certain Member States, especially Ireland, the Commission was asked to keep a close watch on market developments.

343rd Meeting—General matters
(Dublin, 26 May)

2432. *President:* Mr FitzGerald, Ireland's Foreign Minister.

From the Commission: Mr Ortoli, President; Sir Christopher Soames, Vice-President.

¹ Point 2334.

² Point 2201.

Portugal

The Council considered the position to be taken by the Community delegation at the meeting on 28 May¹ of the Joint Committee responsible for applying the present EEC-Portugal Agreement.

Raw materials and forthcoming international deadlines

The Council took stock of preparations for the OECD Ministerial meeting in Paris on 28 and 29 May. A statement was heard from the President of the Commission who presented a Commission Communication on raw material problems in the context of relations with the exporting developing countries.²

Commission

Activities

2433. In May the Commission held four meetings. The main centres of concern were preparation of the report on European Union and the problems involved with Economic and Monetary Union.

Economic and monetary union

On the economic and monetary front, the Commission did further work in a series of practical Proposals to be laid before the Council in June on creating a European Export Bank and a Medium Term Research Institute.

Euratom Treaty

The Commission reviewed matters relating to the draft revision of Chapter VI of the Euratom Treaty. This deals with the supply of ores,

source materials and special fissile materials. The Commission plans to send the Council a Communication weighing up the present supply situation in ores and fissile materials and analysing how far the growth in Community needs can be met.

Raw materials

The Commission adopted a Communication to the Council on the problem of raw materials in respect of relations with the developing countries. The paper analyses various types of project which the Community could put forward in forthcoming international meetings on raw materials and particularly at the Special Session of the UN General Assembly in September 1975.

Steel

The Commission is studying the revised forward steel programme for 1975. The programme had to be revised owing to a radical change in the situation of the European iron and steel industry.

Shipbuilding

The Commission approved the amended draft of a third Directive on aid for shipbuilding. The aim is to make Community shipbuilding competitive on world markets.

Canada

The Community approved a Communication to the Council on opening negotiations for a Cooperation Agreement with Canada.

¹ Point 2332.

² Point 1406.

Other matters considered were the European unit of account, energy problems, regional policy and relations with Portugal.

President *Ortoli* visited Greece from 6 to 8 May, and Vice-President Sir Christopher *Soames* was in China from 4 to 11 May and Iran on 13 and 14 May.

Court of Justice

New Cases

Case 43/75—Mlle Gabrielle Defrenne, Ganshoren, v SA Sabena, Brussels

2434. The Brussels Cour de travail, deciding in a case involving discrimination between male and female flight personnel employed by Sabena, asked the Court of Justice on 2 May 1975 for preliminary rulings on whether Article 119 of the EEC Treaty (Principle that men and women should receive equal pay for equal work) was directly applicable, and whether Community legislation had been adopted to ensure its application.

Cases 44/75 and 44/75R—Fa. Karl Könecke Fleischwarenfabrik, Bremen, v the Commission

2435. The plaintiff alleged that it was prevented from importing products from non-member countries as a result of the safeguard measures adopted by the Commission in respect of certain beef and veal products. The plaintiff brought an action in the Court of Justice on 6 May 1975 to have those sections of the safeguard regulations concerned¹ which apply to products for which a contract of sale had been concluded before 7 March 1975 declared void. This action included a request for a stay

of application of Article 1 of Regulation 1090/75 and to allow the plaintiff to circulate its goods freely within the Community without import licences, which was rejected by the Court on 28 May 1975.²

Case 45/75—Rewe-Zentrale des Lebensmittel-Grosshandels eGmbH, Cologne, v Hauptzollamt Landau/Pfalz

2436. An action is currently pending in the Finanzgericht Rheinland-Pfalz relating to whether the monopoly equalization margin provided for in the German Law on the monopoly in spirits and applied to imported spirits (in this case, Italian vermouths) is compatible with the provisions of the EEC Treaty.

The Court of Justice was requested on 12 May 1975 to give a series of preliminary rulings on whether the methods of calculating this margin were compatible with the first subparagraph of Article 95 of the EEC Treaty. The Finanzgericht also requested a ruling on whether Article 37(1) of the EEC Treaty was directly applicable after the transitional period.

Case 46/75—IBC Importazione Bestiame Carni srl, Trieste, v the Commission

2437. An Italian meat importing company brought an action for damages against the Commission on 13 May 1975 in respect of loss suffered as a result of the implementation of Article 5(2) of Regulation 1463/73³ laying down detailed rules for the application of monetary compensatory amounts, the plaintiff contesting the validity of this provision.

¹ Regulation 610/75, OJ L63 of 8.3.1975; Regulation 888/75, OJ L85 of 5.4.1975; Article 1 of Regulation 1090/75, OJ L108 of 26.4.1975.

² Point 2446.

³ OJ L146 of 4.6.1973.

Case 47/75—Federal Republic of Germany v the Commission

2438. The German intervention agency for cereals had, as a result of the termination of leases by the owners of silos, to face additional transport costs from 1971 to 1974. The German Government requested that the Commission reimburse this expenditure on the basis of Article 4 of Regulation 787/69¹ on the financing of intervention expenditure on the internal market in cereals and rice. The Commission turned down this request by letter on 20 March 1975. The German Government brought an action in the Court of Justice on 27 May 1975 for the reversal of this Decision by the Commission.

Case 48/75—The Procureur du Roi, Liège, v Mr Jean Royer, Lisieux

2439. A French national had been convicted in the Belgian courts and deported from Belgium as an illegal immigrant. He returned to the country and was again deported on the grounds both that his presence was considered a danger to public order and that he had not fulfilled the registration formalities required by the Belgian authorities.

The Liège court of first instance requested the Court of Justice on 29 May 1975² to give a preliminary ruling on whether the deportation conformed with Community law and in particular the provisions on the free movement of persons, i.e. Articles 48, 53, 56 and 62 of the EEC Treaty and Council Directive 64/221³ on the coordination of special measures concerning the movement and residence of foreign nationals which are justified on the grounds of public policy, public security and public health, and Regulation No 1612/68⁴ on freedom of movement for workers within the Community.

Judgments

Case 133/73—Commission official v the Commission

2440. This action to have a Commission Decision relating to the payment of a retirement pension quashed was struck from the Court record in accordance with the ruling given on 28 May 1975.

Case 19/74—Kali & Salz AG, Kassel, v the Commission

Case 20/74—Kali-Chemie AG, Hanover, v the Commission

2441. The two companies concerned had requested the Court of Justice on 11 March 1974 to quash the Commission Decision⁵ adopted on 21 December 1973 laying down that the distribution agreement concluded between them on 6 July 1970 constituted an infringement of Article 85(1) of the EEC Treaty.

The Court quashed this Decision in its judgment of 14 May 1975.

Case 71/74—(1) Nederlandse Vereniging voor de Fruit- en Groentenimporthandel, The Hague, and (2) Nederlandse Bond van Grossiers in Zuidvruchten en ander geïmporteerd Fruit 'Fru-bo', The Hague, v the Commission

2442. The Commission had adopted a Decision⁵ on 25 July 1974 addressed to the plaintiffs and declaring that some of the provisions of the

¹ OJ L 105 of 2.5.1969.

² OJ L 56 of 4.4.1964.

³ OJ L 257 of 19.10.1968.

⁴ OJ L 19 of 23.1.1974.

⁵ OJ L 237 of 29.8.1974.

agreement concluded between them relating to the sale by auction of citrus and other fruit imported into the Netherlands, and the application of those provisions, constituted an infringement of Article 85(1) of the EEC Treaty, which the plaintiffs were requested to bring to an end immediately. An action was brought in the Court of Justice on 23 September 1974 to quash this decision.

In its judgment of 15 May 1975, the Court rejected the action as being unfounded.

Case 74/74—Comptoir national technique agricole SA, Paris, v the Commission

2443. An action had been brought in the Court of Justice on 1 October 1974 for damages for loss suffered by the plaintiff as a result of the adoption by the Commission of Regulation 189/72¹ repealing the compensatory amounts applicable on the market in oils and fats as a result of the temporary widening of the margins of fluctuation of the currencies of certain Member States, without adopting transitional measures in respect of transactions already commenced.

In its interlocutory judgment of 14 May 1975, the Court held that the Commission was liable for damages in respect of the loss sustained by the plaintiff, and that the agreed damages should be paid within six months.

Case 75/74—Commission official v the Commission

2444. This case, in which the plaintiff sought to have the implicit decision by the Commission to reject his claim in respect of the payment of an

expatriation allowance, was deleted from the Court record in accordance with the ruling given on 12 May 1975.

Case 92/75—Melkproduktenmaatschappij G. van den Bergh B.V., Nijmegen, v Produktschap voor Zuivel, Rijswijk

2445. The College van Beroep voor het Bedrijfsleven, deciding in a case involving a refusal to pay the premium on the denaturation of skimmed milk powder as a result of its excessive fat content, requested a preliminary ruling from the Court of Justice on 12 December 1974 on the interpretation of the words 'fat content' in Article 1(c) of Regulation 986/68² laying down general rules for granting aid for skimmed milk and skimmed milk powder for use as feed.

In its judgment of 15 May 1975, the Court held that these words should be interpreted as indicating the fat content of the skimmed milk powder, including lipid substances such as phosphatides, insofar as these lipid substances were not extracted by the analytical processes currently in use.

Case 44/75R—Firma Karl Könecke Fleischwarenfabrik, Bremen, v the Commission

2446. The Court of Justice, sitting at first instance, was requested by a German firm for a stay of application in special summary proceedings.³ This request was rejected by the Court in its ruling of 28 May 1975.

¹ OJ L24 of 28.1.1972.

² OJ L237 of 29.8.1974.

³ Point 2435.

Economic and Social Committee

130th plenary session

2447. The 130th plenary session was held in Brussels on 28 and 29 May, chaired by Mr Canonge, the regular Chairman. The session was attended by Vice-President Scarascia Mugnozza of the Commission who spoke on implementing the consumer protection programme. The Committee adopted fourteen Opinions.

Opinions

Restructuring economies

2448. The Committee prepared this Opinion as a contribution to the Community's fourth medium-term economic policy programme. The main point raised in the Opinion is the question of how far restructuration is absolutely necessary. Must we really reconsider the fundamental aims of our society? Are high unemployment, underutilization of production capacity, the high level of inflation and the towering deficits in the payment balances all permanent handicaps unless radical changes are made? Because of their high political implications, the Committee felt that it was well nigh impossible to answer these questions objectively. So it confined itself to opinions on the necessary adjustments to industrial and economic structures in the strictest sense of the terms. But it did review some of the social implications deriving from the structural adjustments proposed by the Commission. The Committee came out in favour of a restructured system which would combine the market process with selective promotion of investments which meet the needs of the new conditions.

Degree of convergence of Member States' economic policies and the extent to which they fit in with Community objectives

2449. This follows on the Opinion issued on 26 February 1975 concerning the Community's present economic situation and the short-term economic policy to be followed.¹ The first part of the Opinion frankly assesses just how far the Member States have managed to gain their declared objective of a high degree of convergence of their respective economic policies. It held that the setting of economic guidelines, as part and parcel of a harmonized monetary and economic plan, was valueless if the harmonization could not be achieved. In the second part, the Committee examined the basic problems involved in achieving the convergence of Member States economic policies

Updating the Social Action Programme

2450. Since the Council Resolution of 21 January 1974, which adopted the Social Action Programme,² the economic and social situation in most of the Member States has considerably deteriorated. This is evidenced by very high levels of inflation and employment and a worsening balance of payments situation. In this context, the Committee reviewed the status of the Social Action Programme and proposed certain priority measures for updating it. Since employment policy is particularly involved, the Committees reiterated the need and the urgency, seeing the current state of affairs, to define and implement a Community policy of full and better employment, in consideration of the guidelines to be adopted in what it has been agreed to call the restructuration of economies and definition of a type of growth adapted to new conditions and the social demands of our time.

¹ Bull. EC 2-1975, point 2461.

² Supplement 2/74 — Bull. EC.

Proposed Council Directive to coordinate, laws, regulations and administrative provisions governing the commencement and carrying on of the business of credit institutions

2451. The Committee stressed that the lack of harmonization in banking legislation, which, in each Member State, is mainly aimed to protect depositors and savings, were likely to provoke, in respect of this objective, serious inequalities, if not risks. While approving the proposed Directive subject to certain amendments, the Committee asked the Commission to follow up energetically its objective of harmonization, until it is achieved, by the swift presentation of the eventual Directives.

Proposed Council Decision on a programme of pilot schemes and studies to combat poverty

2452. The Committee welcomed and approved the proposed Council Decision on a programme of pilot schemes and studies to combat poverty.

Programme of research and development projects in energy

2453. The Committee approved the Commission's proposed programme. It felt that the resources allocated were adequate for the moment and that they were well tailored to the various projects, in line with the Committee's request, in its Opinion on 'Energy for Europe: Research and Development', namely that the bulk of financing resources be allocated to research and development projects which are likely to cut down oil dependence as extensively as possible.

Programme on the management and storage of radioactive waste

2454. The Committee warmly welcomed the programme, for it held that it would make a

decisive contribution towards developing nuclear energy in the Community. Although current methods for processing and storing radioactive waste are adequate for the moment, satisfactory solutions must be found which should yield more forceful methods enabling the Community to cope with the mounting volume of waste products, which derives from the heavier use of nuclear power stations.

Commission Communication to the Council on technological problems of nuclear safety

2455. The Committee held that the measures proposed by the Commission must be taken at once, especially because a growing section of the public fears that not enough attention is being paid to the safety and health protection side of nuclear energy. The lack of joint action in issuing licences for nuclear installations can only detract from achieving the nuclear energy objectives set for 1985.

Initial Proposals for priority action on data-processing

2456. The Committee warmly welcomed the first proposals for priority action in data-processing. As regards the financial implications, the Committee feared that the costs for the three-year period might well have been underestimated. It asked directly that the desired arrangements be made to ensure the quality and value of the studies.

European Investment Bank

Loans issued

2457. The EIB has signed a contract for a bond issue of Lfrs 500 000 000 on the Luxembourg capital market.

The bonds offered at par for public subscription in Luxembourg bear interest at 8.75%, payable yearly and free of withholding tax on coupons.

2458. In Belgium, the Bank has made a bond issue of Bfrs 1500 million. Offered at par, the bonds bear interest at 8.75% payable yearly.

Loans granted

France

2459. A loan of equivalent value of FF 150000000 (27300000 u.a.) has been granted over 12 years at 9.50% to the Société Nationale des Chemins de Fer Français (SNCF). The SNCF will use the loan to boost traffic capacity and improve operating conditions on the Paris-Bordeaux-Hendaye (Spanish frontier) line. Some 816 kms long, it is a trunk line of the French railway network.

The main investments will go into modernizing track, automatic block signalling, improvements to points, overhead catenary systems, and telecommunications.

2460. A second loan for an equivalent value of FF 25000000 (4600000 u.a.) was granted for ten years at 9.50% to Framatome S.A., a company specializing in heavy engineering and the design and manufacture of nuclear reactor components.

It will help to finance construction of a new plant, located in the industrial port area at Chalon-sur-Saône, to produce pressure vessels and steam generators for nuclear power stations. The total cost of the project amounts to FF 325000000.

Italy

2461. As part of telecommunication development, a loan equivalent to Lit 24500 million (29800000 u.a.) has been granted for 12 years to the Società Italiana per l'Esercizio Telefonica p.A. (SIP) for works extending and connecting up more than 11000 new subscribers to the telephone system in Veneto and Trentino-Alto Adige.

In both regions the telephone density is relatively low, a substantial handicap to their development.

The total cost of the project, which includes laying nearly 1000 km of underground cables, increases to exchange capacities, installation of radio relays and high frequency channel equipment, has been budgeted at Lit 142000 million.

2462. A loan equivalent to Lit 24000 million (29200000 u.a.) has been granted for 15 years to Autostrade - Concessioni e Costruzioni Autostrade S.p.A., part of the IRI group, for construction of a further stretch of the 'Tunnels Motorway' (Alessandria - Santhià) in Northern Italy. A loan of Lit 20800 million was provided by the Bank in July 1973 for the first part of the same motorway, from Voltri (near Genoa) to Alessandria.

The new section, 67 km long, will include a 900 m tunnel at Monferrato and a 1200 m bridge across the river Po. The total cost of the section has been estimated at Lit 82000 million.

Scheduled for completion towards the end of 1977, the 'Tunnels Motorway' will be an important contribution to the Italian and European motorway network, extending more than 260 km, and considerably improving the road links of Genoa and other industrial centres to the north, via connections with other motorways and main highways, the Mont Blanc and Great

St. Bernard tunnels and the Simplon Pass. It will thus draw a large volume of international traffic away from bottlenecks and detours around Milan and Turin.

United Kingdom

2463. The Bank has granted a loan equivalent to £12 000 000 (22 300 000 u.a.) to help finance construction of a whisky bottling plant.

The loan, at 9.50%, was granted to the Distillers Company Ltd., for 10 years, with repayment starting after 3½ years.

The new plant, at an estimated cost of £25 000 000, is due for completion by the autumn of 1978. It will have a blending capacity of 12 500 000 proof gallons of whisky per year and a bottling capacity of about 100 000 000 standard-sized bottles per year.

The project will create about 600 jobs, but has been designed with the possibility of further extension. If this materializes production capacity could be almost doubled and another 300 jobs created.

Financing Community activities

Accounts for the Financial Year 1973

2464. The text of the Commission's replies to the remarks in the Audit Board's report on the accounts for 1973¹ was adopted on 12 May. In accordance with the guidelines already adopted, and within the scope of the Financial Regulation of 25 April 1973,² the Commission made a point of giving a detailed answer to the observations and criticism of the Audit Board.

Unlike previous occasions, the Commission did not simply cover the many matters of detail raised by the external auditing body. In an ample introduction, it set the stewardship of Community appropriations against their political, economic and legal background. The enlargement of the Community, the expansion of Parliament's budgetary powers, the upheavals in the international monetary system and the gusts of inflation had all had a considerable impact on the Community Budget and its execution. It was absolutely necessary to highlight this. The replies could be taken as a contribution by the Commission to the process of intensifying and enhancing, which has already begun, as the Audit Board itself pointed out in its report on the dialogue with the external auditing body. As stipulated in Article 91 of the Financial Regulation, the Audit Board's report followed by the replies from the institutions was presented by the Commission to Parliament and the Council, in order to obtain the discharge in respect of execution of the Budget.

Own resources

2465. A sub-Working Party formed from the Advisory Committee on own resources, and chaired by the Commission, met for the first time on 14 May to examine problems of budgetary and multiannual forecasting in respect of own resources.

The group took a hard look at the problems in forecasting *customs duties*. It examined matters relating to an appropriate methodology, available statistics and the initial results obtained.

As accurate a harmonized forecasting system as possible will be needed, especially when the composite scheme of financing by both own

¹ Bull. EC 11-1974, points 2460 to 2462.

² OJ L 116 of 1.5.1973.

resources and contributions is superseded by financing through own resources.

The group's next meeting, to be held in the second half of this year, will review headway made as the result of the sounder statistical data available.

Financial control

2466. While the work begun following the suggestions in the two reports of the Special Committee of Inquiry¹ is actively going ahead the Commission decided on 5 March 1975 to apply other measures as action on the suggestions. It was decided:

- (i) to continue the work of the Special Committee of Inquiry;
- (ii) to go ahead with training auditors at Community level;
- (iii) to examine the possibility of financial penalties to be written into agricultural Regulations.

On 12 May 1975, the Special Committee met for the first time under its new mandate. The beef and veal sector was selected as a priority target for the Committee's work. It will also deal with compensatory amounts.

ECSC financial activity during the first quarter of 1975

2467. The salient features of ECSC financial activity during the first quarter were as follows:

- (i) *loan transactions maintained a high level:* the total amount of the six loans contracted over the first quarter on generally falling markets ran to 194 000 000 u.a.;
- (ii) *figures for loans issued were well up on those for 1974:* the sum total of loans amounted to over 201 000 000 u.a., consisting of

180 000 000 for industrial loans, 15 000 000 for redevelopment and just over 6 000 000 u.a. for low-cost subsidized housing.

The recipients were as under:

Industrial Loans

Coal

Rationalizing and modernizing pits: National Coal Board, London; Ruhrkohle AG, Essen

District heating installations: Société de climatisation interurbaine de la Défense (CLIMADEF) Courbevoie

Iron and steel

Creation of coking facilities: British Steel Corporation, London (Scunthorpe Coking Works)

Rationalization of pig-iron and steel production: Acciaierie di Piombino SpA, Piombino, Forges de Thy-Marcinelle et Monceau, Marcinelle, Fried. Krupp, Hüttenwerke AG, Bochum (Rheinhausen works), Manchester Steel Co. Ltd., Manchester

Rationalization of rolled products: Woodhead Components Ltd., Sheffield

General programme in coastal plants: Det Danske Staalvalseværk A/S, Fredriksværk, Italsider SpA, Genoa (Taranto plant)

Vocational Training Centre: Fondation Veuve Emile Metz-Tesch, Luxembourg

Protection of the environment: Acciaierie di Piombino SpA, Piombino

¹ Bull. EC 10-1974, point 2459 and 2-1975, point 2475.

5. Institutional questions— European policy

Financing Community activities

Redevelopment

ZF-Getriebe GmbH, Saarbrücken, British Steel Corporation, London (Scotland), Soc. Tubes de la Providence, Lexy (Lorraine)

During this period, the standard interest rate was cut from 10 to 9% p.a. The discount rate for certain investments acknowledged as priorities and for redevelopment loans is now three points below the standard rate.

ECSC Loans

2468. During May, the Commission carried out two loan transactions:

(i) a bond issue of Fl 60 000 000 issued on the Dutch capital market. The loan has been underwritten by a syndicate of Dutch banks, bears interest at 8.50%, matures over 15 years and was offered to the public at par;

(ii) a bond issue of Bfrs 125 000 000 issued on the international capital market.

The loan has been underwritten by a syndicate of banks, bears interest at 10%, matures over 7 years and was offered to the public at 100.50%.

Following these transactions, the total loans contracted by the ECSC, since it started activities, now amounts to an equivalent value of 2 228.46 million u.a.

Political cooperation

2501. In the work of political cooperation, the Ministers for Foreign Affairs met in Dublin on 26 May. The meeting, which had been prepared by the Political Committee on 12 and 13 May, dealt mainly with the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe.

Other matters discussed were the Middle East and the situation in the United Nations.

Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe

2502. The Ministers adopted the following statement¹ on the CSCE:

'The ministers discussed the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe. They reaffirmed the readiness of the Nine to conclude the negotiations in Geneva as soon as possible but noted that some important questions remained to be settled. Until these issues have been resolved it cannot be said that balanced and satisfactory results have been achieved on all the questions on the agenda.

The ministers agreed that only if the progress of the negotiations shows that the other participants in the Conference share this view and respond to the readiness and the initiatives of the Nine, will it be possible to complete the negotiations in Geneva within the next few weeks.'

Euro-Arab Dialogue

2503. It now seems certain that a European and an Arab delegation made up of experts in various fields will meet in Cairo from 10 to 15 June.

¹ Provisional translation.

European policy

To prepare for this, Mr E. *Gallagher*, the Deputy Secretary-General at Ireland's Ministry for Foreign Affairs, representing the Community Presidency, and Mr Klaus *Meyer*, Deputy Secretary-General of the Commission, went to Cairo on 15 May. There they met Mr Mahmoud *Riad*, Secretary-General of the Arab League and several of his colleagues.



3RD PART
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Gemeinschaftsrecht
Community Law
Droit communautaire
Diritto comunitario
Communautair recht

RÅDET · RAT · COUNCIL · CONSEIL · CONSIGLIO · RAAD

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lassenen Rechtsvorschriften*

*List of Laws and Regulations Adopted in the Member
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*Répertoire des dispositions législatives et réglementaires
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application des actes arrêtés par les Communautés*

*Repertorio delle disposizioni legislative e regolamentari
adottate negli Stati membri delle Comunità europee in
applicazione degli atti adottati dalle Comunità*

*Overzicht van de in de Lid-Staten der Europese Gemeen-
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schappen, vastgestelde wettelijke en bestuursrechtelijke
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Fællesskabsretten. Uddrag af »Ottende Almindelige Beretning om De europæiske Fællesskabers Virksomhed i 1974« (Særtryk).
(1975). 40 s. (DK.D.E.F.I.NL) FB 125,-
- 8465 (2)
Das Gemeinschaftsrecht. Auszug aus dem „Achten Gesamtbericht über die Tätigkeit der Gemeinschaften 1974“ (Sonderdruck).
(1975). 42 S. (DK.D.E.F.I.NL) FB 125,-
- 8465 (3)
Community Law. Extract from the 'Eighth General Report on the Activities of the Communities in 1974' (Offprint).
(1975). 38 p. (DK.D.E.F.I.NL) FB 125,-
- 8465 (4)
Le droit communautaire. Extrait du «Huitième Rapport général sur l'activité des Communautés en 1974» (tiré à part).
(1975). 41 p. (DK.D.E.F.I.NL) FB 125,-
- 8465 (5)
Il diritto comunitario. Estratto della «Ottava Relazione generale sull'attività delle Comunità nel 1974» (tiratura a parte).
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- 8465 (6)
Het communautair recht. Uittreksel uit het „Achtste Algemeen Verslag over de werkzaamheden van de Gemeenschappen in 1974“ (overdruk).
(1975). 43 blz. (DK.D.E.F.I.NL) FB 125,-
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Décisions nationales relatives au droit communautaire. Liste sélective de références aux décisions publiées
Decisioni nazionali riguardanti il diritto comunitario. Elenco indicativo di riferimenti alle decisioni pubblicate
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- 6429 (3)
Reports of Cases before the Court. 1966.
(1975). 592 p. (DK.D.E.F.I.NL) ?
- 6520/6 (3)
Reports of Cases before the Court. 1974-6.
(1975). p. 895-1200 (DK.D.E.F.I.NL) Vol. 1974
Annual Subscription FB 1.350,-
- 6520/7 (1)
Samling af Domstolens Afgørelser. 1974-7.
(1975). s. 1201-1298 (DK.D.E.F.I.NL) Vol. 1974
Årsabonnement FB 1.350,-
- 6520/7 (4)
Recueil de la Jurisprudence de la Cour. 1974-7.
(1975). p. 1201-1298 (DK.D.E.F.I.NL) Vol. 1974
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Gemeenschappelijke landenlijst voor de statistieken van de Buitenlandse handel van de Lid-Staten der Europese Gemeenschappen (NCP). 1975.

1975. 80 p. (DK/D/E/F/I/NL)

FB 120,-

8313

Fortegnelse over kompetente toldsteder i forbindelse med fællesskabsforsendelser. Rettelse nr. 3

Verzeichnis der für gemeinschaftliche Versandverfahren zuständigen Zollstellen. 3. Ergänzung.

List of Customs Offices Authorised to Deal with Community Transit Operations. Amendment No 3

Liste des bureaux compétents pour les opérations de transit communautaire. 3^e mise à jour

Elenco degli uffici doganali competenti per le operazioni di transito comunitario. 3^o aggiornamento

Lijst van de douanekantoren welke bevoegd zijn voor het communautair douanevervoer. 3^e bijwerking. 1.10.1974.

(1975). pag. diff. (DK/D/E/F/I/NL)

FB 200,-

7119 (4)

Code numérique statistique de la nomenclature du Tarif douanier commun des Communautés européennes. Édition 1972. Feuilles modificatifs.

1^{re} série – 1.1.1973.

(1975). pag. diff. (DK.D.E.F.I.NL)

Gratuit

Ἡ Εὐρωπαϊκὴ Κοινότης καὶ ἡ Ἑλλάς, ἡ Τουρκία καὶ ἡ Κύπρος.

Δελτίον πληροφοριῶν. 1975. No. 4.

1975. 19 p. (grec)

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Die allgemeinen Präferenzen der Europäischen Gemeinschaft.

Information. 1975. Nr. 82. Außenbeziehungen.

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Vierde verslag over het mededingsbeleid
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*L'harmonisation des caractéristiques techniques des
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*Armonizzazione delle caratteristiche tecniche degli auto-
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Informazioni. 1975. N. 84. Mercato interno.
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*Harmonisatie van de technische karakteristieken van
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*Studi. Serie Concorrenza – Ravvicinamento delle legi-
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 (1975). 160 p. (D.F.I.NL) FB 125,-

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*Code numérique statistique de la nomenclature du Tarif
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 Edition 1972. Feuilles modificatifs.
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6723 (3)
General Industrial Classification of Economic Activities
within the European Communities.
N.A.C.E. 1970.
(1975). 98 p. (DK.D.E.F.I.NL) FB 125,-

IX/1147/75
Législation communautaire en matière d'élimination des
entraves techniques aux échanges des produits industriels.
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B/13. 21.5.1975.
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7124 (6)
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ACS-EEG-Overeenkomst van Lomé ondertekend op 28
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Participation de la Communauté à l'opération d'urgence des Nations unies en faveur des PVD.
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6692 (3)
Ultrasonic Signature. By E. B. Borloo, S. Crutzen.
 1974. EUR 5108.
 (1975). 54 p. (E) FB 60,-

6695 (3)
Catalogue of Reference Materials of Interest to Nuclear Energy. 1974. EUR 5229.
 (1975). 36 p. (E) FB 70,-

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