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COMMUNITIES**

Commission

No 1
1976
9th year

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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 1-1976, point 2108.

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



BULLETIN OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES

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

Commission of the European Communities
General Secretariat
Brussels

No 1
1976
9th year

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- 1/76 European Union – Report by Mr Leo Tindemans to the European Council
- *2/76 Opinion on Greek application for membership

* In preparation.



1ST PART

**EVENTS AND
STUDIES**

1. Greece's request for membership

Greece

Favourable reply from the Community

1101. Approximately eight months after Greece's request for membership of 12 June 1975¹ the Council of the European Communities—after taking note of the opinion from the Commission—stated on 9 February that it was 'in favour of this request'.

In its opinion—adopted on 28 January—the *Commission* recommended to the Council that a clear positive answer be given to the Greek request and that negotiations for Greek accession should accordingly be opened. The Commission noted, however, that at the present time this request raised certain problems for both Greece and the Community and considered that it would seem desirable to envisage a period of time before the obligations of membership were undertaken. This point of view aroused a fairly strong reaction, especially in Athens.

The Commission's opinion

1102. On 28 January the Commission, in delivering the opinion² requested by the Council (on the basis of Articles 237 of the EEC Treaty, 98 of the ECSC Treaty and 205 of the Euratom Treaty regarding the procedure to be followed in the event of an application for membership), therefore recommended that a 'clear positive' answer be given to Greece's request. In adopting this position it also bore in mind:

- firstly, that the Greek request represented a remarkable affirmation of the overriding importance that the Greek Government and people attached to their country being committed to the cause of European integration;
- secondly, that the consolidation of democracy in Greece, which is a fundamental concern not only of the Greek people but also of the Community and its Member States, was intimately relat-

ed to the development of Greece's relations with the Community.

The Commission noted, however, that at the present time the Greek application for membership, without waiting for the full implementation of the Association, raised certain problems for both Greece and the Community. In particular, the Commission considered that in view of the size of the structural changes in the Greek economy that would be required, it would seem desirable to envisage a period of time before the obligations of membership, even subject to transitional arrangements, were undertaken.

What was needed was a substantial economic programme to enable Greece to accelerate the necessary structural reforms, using both the new financial protocol envisaged under the Association and the Community's Funds (Social Fund, European Regional Development Fund, EAGGF). This would be combined with measures to bring Greece into a closer working relationship with the Community's institutions, not only in the budgetary and financial context but also in other fields. At the same time—the Commission's opinion went on—negotiations should begin for Greek membership.

While taking a positive stand on the principle of Greek membership, the Commission identified a number of problems and proposed certain guidelines for approaching them.

Eastern Mediterranean

1103. The Community is not and should not become a party to the dispute between Greece and Turkey, the latter being an associated country whose agreement with the Community also has full membership as its final objective. The Community should urge Greece and Turkey to reach a just and lasting solution to their difficulties and examine how it could facilitate this

¹ Bull. EC 6-1975, points 1201 to 1212.

² Supplement 2/76 — Bull. EC.

process in parallel with the preparatory work for Greek accession, though without making Greek membership dependent on this solution. Furthermore, specific progress will have to be made to give substance to the Council's declaration of 24 June 1975¹ which stated that the examination of the Greek application for membership would affect neither relations between the Community and Turkey nor Turkey's rights under the Association Agreement.

Economic implications

1104. The Greek economy at its present stage of development contains a number of structural features (percentage of the population engaged in agriculture, structure of Greek agriculture and relatively weak industrial base) which limit its ability to combine homogeneously with the economies of the present Member States. Structural changes are necessary and the Community will have to bear a considerable share of the cost of carrying them out. It is impossible at this stage to estimate the volume of resources which will have to be transferred, particularly as that volume will depend on the timetable that is fixed.²

Although the Association Agreement has brought Greece and the Community a long way towards customs union this has not greatly reduced the impact which full membership would have. Progress towards agricultural harmonization has regrettably been limited, largely because the Agreement was frozen between 1967 and 1974. For complex political and social reasons, the integration of Greek agriculture with that of the Community will be a long, expensive process.

Moreover, so long as Greece is not a full member, it will be easier to deal with the kind of difficulties that might arise from the necessary structural changes, since Greece is currently to a large extent free to conduct its trade policy *vis-à-vis* third countries as it thinks fit. As a member, Greece would be obliged to grant various forms of preferential access to its market to a large

number of countries in Europe, the Mediterranean and elsewhere.

Development of the Community

1105. The prospect of further enlargement at a time when the full consequences of the preceding one have not yet been absorbed raises questions about the possible effects on the working methods and the future development of the Community. The Commission considers—in its opinion—that any further enlargement must be accompanied by a strengthening of the Community's institutions. In both the political and the economic fields the Commission believes it essential for the Community to make significant progress in its internal development in the period leading up to enlargement.

Specific aspects of the Greek application

1106. The Commission's opinion also examined the economic and technical problems which Greek membership might raise in specific sectors, though without, at this stage, indicating what solutions might be applied.

Reactions in Greece

1107. On 29 January the following press release was issued in Athens at the end of a meeting of the Inner Cabinet presided over by the Prime Minister, Mr Constantine Karamanlis:

¹ Bull. EC 6-1975, point 1209.

² The Commission's calculations of the budgetary implications of Greek membership are intended to serve purely as a guide. On the basis of the Community budget for 1976 and of existing policies as regards agriculture and the regional and social funds, there would be an overall increase of 450 million u.a. (+6%) in expenditure and 150 million u.a. in revenue, leaving a net additional cost of 300 million u.a. These figures take no account of the possible development of Community policies, the impact of any transitional arrangements or the present financing requirements of the Greek economy.

'The opinion of the EEC Commission contains both positive and negative points with regard to Greek membership.

The negative points are in complete contrast to the political will clearly expressed by the Governments of the Member States with a view to immediate Greek membership, for the benefit not only of Greece but of democratic Europe as a whole.

Before adopting its position the Greek Government will await the decisions of the Council of Ministers, which is the supreme body of the Community since it expresses directly the will of the Governments'.¹

1108. However, on 31 January Mr Karamanlis received the ambassadors of the nine Member States of the Community—in the presence of Mr Bitsios, Minister of Foreign Affairs, and Mr Paligouras, Minister of Economic Coordination—and reaffirmed his Government's reservations concerning the Commission's opinion.

Position adopted by the Council

1109. The following press release was issued following the Council meeting held on 9 February in Brussels:

'After noting—in accordance with the provisions of the Treaties—the Commission's opinion with regard to Greece's request for accession, the Council stated that it was in favour of this request.

It agreed that the preparatory talks essential to the establishment of a common basis for negotiation should take place as soon as possible in a positive spirit.

It instructed the Permanent Representatives Committee to prepare its discussions to this end, with the assistance of the Commission.'

1110. The Council's initial discussions revealed unanimous agreement on the matter. All the del-

egations backed Greece's request for membership. They also stated that they had noted with interest the Commission's opinion but had requested further clarification of its exact implications.

At a press conference at the end of the meeting, Mr Gaston Thorn, President of the Council, said that for the nine delegations there could be no trial period or political conditions attached to Greece's accession. He did not deny that a number of economic problems would have to be solved if Greece was to fulfil all the obligations of a full member of the Community; but answers would be found during the negotiations.

Mr Thorn did not say how long these negotiations would last. As for their preparation, about six months had been necessary—he recalled—for the last four applicant countries (three of which had become members in 1973).

Statement by the President of the Commission

1111. The matter was referred to by Mr François-Xavier Ortoli, President of the Commission, in his address to the European Parliament on 10 February when he presented the Ninth General Report on the Activities of the Communities. Mr Ortoli said:

'This question has been raised by Greece's application for membership of the Community. The Council considered the matter yesterday, after the Commission, as required by the Treaties, had delivered its opinion. This opinion, as you know, suggests that an unambiguously favourable response should be given to Greece's application. All I want to say here is that the Commission makes no reservations as to the ultimate aim, that it attaches no political strings, and that the steps it envisages are designed to facilitate

¹ Unofficial translation.

2. New impetus for the energy policy

Greece

Greece's accession while taking account of realities. It is with these realities in mind, moreover, that the Commission has proposed that Greece should have access to the facilities for structural improvement available to the Community.

The Council yesterday approved Greece's application. It was agreed that the preparatory work required to determine a common negotiating basis will be put in hand as soon as possible and in a constructive spirit.'

1201. On 20 January the Commission gave a new impetus to the Community energy policy along the guidelines drawn up by the European Council in Rome on 1 and 2 December 1975 and further to the proposals previously forwarded to the Council when it presented some important proposals and documents to the Council, namely 'Implementation of the energy policy guidelines laid down by the European Council', 'Report on the achievement of the Community energy policy objectives for 1985' and the 'First periodic report on the Community action programme for the rational use of energy'. The commission hopes that a Council meeting on energy will very soon discuss all the proposals currently on the table since these should form the basis for really getting the Community energy policy moving again.

Implementation of the energy policy guidelines

1202. This Commission respects the guidelines laid down by the European Council on 1 and 2 December 1975 in Rome;¹ its three main points are the establishment of genuine solidarity among Member States in the event of oil supply difficulties, the encouragement of energy conservation and the adoption of measures to protect or encourage the development of Community energy resources.

The Commission repeats the proposals which it has already made in these three areas and outlines the basic features of other proposals which it could make and on which it would wish the Council to hold a broad exploratory discussion.

Community solidarity in the event of oil supply difficulties

1203. The Commission makes no new proposals to the Council in this area, but draws atten-

¹ Bull. EC 11-1975, point 1104.

tion to the two proposals already sent in 1974¹ on measures to be taken in the event of supply difficulties, namely the setting of a Community target for a reduction in the consumption of primary energy and the monitoring of intra-Community trade in crude oil and petroleum products.

To the Commission, these two proposals, which affirm the principle of Community solidarity, constitute the absolute minimum required to safeguard the unity of the common market.

Encouragement of energy conservation

1204. The Commission stresses the decisions already taken by the Community in this sector, committing it firmly to a policy of rational utilization and conservation of energy.² A first report on the implementation of the Community action programme for the rational utilization of energy is contained in another document.³

Protection and development of the Community's energy resources

1205. Here again the Commission restates the targets which it has set itself for reducing its dependence on imported energy and forwards to the Council a report⁴ setting Member States' current forecasts against the targets for 1985.

The Commission's view is that the price of imported oil will continue to exert a considerable influence on the price of other energy sources and thus on the viability of future investments in the Community to develop these other sources. Incentive and protection mechanisms must therefore be set up to deal with any sharp drop in the price of imported oil.

The Commission asks the Council to state its position on a series of basic mechanisms in this connection, either by adopting the formal proposals which have already been put to it or, as re-

gards the other points, by giving its agreement in principle with the adoption of a resolution.

If these measures are to attain the objective of reducing dependence they should fulfil certain reasonable economic conditions. Furthermore, consumer prices must reach a sufficient level to guarantee an economic return to the industry and to encourage the consumer to use available supplies more efficiently.

The Commission's proposals cover the following points:

1. *Coal stocks* — A slack economic situation can boost stocks to an exceptionally high level, putting the mining industry under intolerable financial pressure and so jeopardizing the maintenance of the current level of Community production. To help finance these stocks the Commission proposes, on the basis of Article 235 of the EEC Treaty, to take counter-cyclical action— independent of any national measures—allotting a maximum 50 million u.a. per year.

2. *Aid to coking coal* — From 1967, the Community has had a support system for coking coal and coke for supplying the steel industry; this system will remain in force until 1978.

The Commission proposes that this system be extended to 1985, and that the contributions made by the Member States, the steel industry and the ECSC Budget to finance the aid should not be reduced in 1977 and 1978.

3. *Development of oil and gas resources* — The Commission calls on the Council to approve the proposals already before it for increasing support for technological development projects and for granting aid to exploration projects in the hydrocarbons sector.

4. *Introduction of a minimum import price for oil* — The introduction of a minimum price would

¹ Bull. EC 11-1974, point 2272.

² OJ C 153 of 9.7.1975 and Bull. EC 6-1975, point 2280.

³ Point 1208.

⁴ Point 1207.

create a 'safety net' to guard against the uncertainties affecting the world price of oil. This measure would primarily benefit the oil and natural gas, coal and nuclear sectors.

The Commission proposes that the Council approve the principle of this mechanism (based on Article 113 of the Treaty) which would come into force with a threshold price of \$7 per barrel FOB for reference crude and to begin with would cover crude oil and its heavy and intermediate fractions; the question of light fractions would require more detailed analysis.

5. *Financing nuclear installations* — The Commission calls on the Council to adopt without further delay the draft decision authorizing it to issue Euratom loans to the value of 500 million u.a. to finance nuclear power stations.

6. *Promotion of uranium prospecting* — In anticipation of the uranium supply problems which might occur in around ten years' time, the Commission wishes to give a further stimulus to uranium prospecting by invoking Article 70 of the Euratom Treaty.

1206. Furthermore, the Commission would like the Council to engage in a policy debate on the following types of measure:

1. *Promoting the use of coal in thermal power stations* — The Commission believes that consideration should be given to the possibility of backing up existing measures, either by granting special aids to power stations using coal, by imposing a tax on heavy fuel oil, or by encouraging refineries to equip themselves in such a way as to convert their fuel oil surpluses into intermediate or light products.

2. *Guarantee for new investments* — Some investment projects may be prone to exceptional risks. A guarantee system, which is still to be worked out, would give protection to certain specific projects according to well-defined criteria.

3. *Utilization of the Community's borrowing capacity* — The foreseeable increase in energy invest-

ments might justify a strengthening or greater diversification of Community action based on the Community's borrowing capacity.

4. *Examination of investment programmes* — The Commission, with the help of the Energy Committee, intends to monitor the progress made in developing energy resources and the associated problems of financing.

Achievement of objectives for 1985

1207. The Commission has carried out an examination of Member States' energy forecasts for 1985 comparing them with the objectives for 1985 adopted by the Council on 17 December 1974.¹ The report produced on the basis of this examination should enable the Council to hold comprehensive discussions on the various specific problems in the Member States, whereupon the Commission could draw up definite proposals.

Current forecasts by the Member States give the impression that the contribution of each energy source to meeting the Community's energy requirements for 1985 is broadly in line with the objectives set by the Council of reducing the Community's dependence on imported energy to 50%. Given these forecasts, however, it would not appear possible to attain 40% dependence on imported energy in 1985, which eighteen months ago the Commission believed feasible.

There are some disquieting factors, however, which affect even the attainment of 50% self-sufficiency, namely:

(i) the current forecasts of Community production in 1985 (solid fuels, oil and natural gas, nuclear energy) are lower in absolute terms than the objectives adopted by the Council;

¹ OJ C 153 of 9.7.1975 and Bull. EC 12-1974, point 2266.

(ii) the anticipated level of consumption is dependent on continued, intense efforts towards rational use of energy, the effects of which might be counteracted by the economic upturn;

(iii) the Member States' current forecasts assume a lower rate of economic growth than was believed likely when the objectives were fixed.

Therefore, if in the next ten years the rate of economic growth—and with it demand for energy—prove to be slightly higher than currently forecast by the Member States, the conservative objective of 50 % self-sufficiency would be unattainable. In that event, only imported oil could meet the increased demand, since the investment necessary for the development of internal resources would not have been made in time. Conversely, if economic growth were to be slower than is currently forecast, the objective might still be unattainable if, for example, economic difficulties prevented any more than the minimum production forecasts for North Sea oil from being reached.

Although the Commission is aware of the fact that there may at times be major obstacles to the attainment of the Member States' current forecasts, it would stress three points:

(i) the need to step up action to bring growth in demand for energy under control;

(ii) the vital need to intensify efforts to develop and protect available sources of energy in the Community;

(iii) the urgent need to intensify research and development with the aim of securing the contribution from new energy sources in due course.

Rational utilization of energy

1208. The first 'Periodic report on the rational use of energy' is the result of work carried out by the Steering and Coordinating Group set up in response to the Council Resolution of 17 Decem-

ber 1974.¹ The report begins by reviewing progress in the Member States.

Theoretically, the Member States' forecasts more or less coincide with those of the Community, i.e. a 15 % reduction in energy consumption in 1985 in relation to the estimates prepared in 1973. Nevertheless, the measures taken at national level are still inadequate, dealing, as they do, basically with information of the public and industry, without saying enough about how to change the pattern of consumption.

Some problems arising from implementation of the programme are also investigated, relating in particular to: the sharing of experience between the Member States in the organization of press and information campaigns; the establishment of statistical machinery to monitor effectively the impact of the measures taken; the fostering of investments to improve the technical efficiency of energy utilization.

The report also contains draft Council recommendations relating to the following: promotion of thermal insulation of buildings; rational utilization of energy in the heating systems of existing buildings; improving driver behaviour; urban passenger transport; use of electrical household appliances.

¹ OJ C 153 of 9.7.1975 and Bull. EC 12-1974, point 2266.

3. The Community and the Maghreb countries: The agreements negotiated

Community / Maghreb countries

1301. January saw a major event in the context of cooperation between the Community and the Maghreb countries (the Arab West): the negotiations of overall cooperation agreements with Tunisia and Morocco (in succession to the 'association agreements' of 1969), and the conclusion of the first agreement with Algeria as an independent State.

The signing of the agreements will represent an important landmark in the Community's Mediterranean policy ('the overall approach') and in the development of cooperation.

Lengthy negotiations

1302. *The declaration of intent annexed to the Treaty of Rome* stated that the Community was ready to conclude conventions of economic association with the independent countries of the Franc Area as it was anxious to maintain and intensify the transitional trade flows and to contribute to the economic development of those countries. At that time the only Maghreb countries concerned by this declaration were Morocco and Tunisia, since Algeria was not yet independent. This was also the case with the Protocol to the Treaty authorizing France to maintain preferential trade arrangements with the countries in question by way of derogation from the rules of the customs union.

1303. It was only after Algeria became independent that *Morocco and Tunisia* officially requested, in October 1963, the opening of negotiations for the conclusion of a convention of association for an unlimited period concerning not only trade arrangements but also financial and technical cooperation and labour questions. Following exploratory talks in late 1963 and early 1964, the negotiations proceeded in three stages (July 1965, November 1967 and February 1969) leading up to the signing of the agreements in March 1969. These lengthy negotiations gave an early indica-

tion of the difficulty of devising solutions that would reconcile the interests of both Community and Mediterranean agricultural producers, at a time when the Community's agricultural policy as regards a number of important products—such as wine, olive oil and citrus fruit—was progressively being defined. Although these agreements established '*conventions of association*', they were limited to trade arrangements: they merely represented a stage on the way to wider cooperation, as is borne out by the preambles (which refer to taking a first step towards the implementation of the declaration of intent annexed to the Treaty of Rome), and—more specifically—by the provision for the opening of negotiations at the end of the third year for the conclusion of new agreements on a wider basis.

The 1969 agreements were aimed at the eventual establishment of a free trade area; they guaranteed free access to the Community market for almost all Moroccan and Tunisian industrial products, and privileged treatment for certain agricultural products (for the products not covered, France retained the right to maintain previous preferential arrangements). Provision was made for a certain degree of reciprocity *vis-à-vis* the Community as regards quantitative restrictions (Morocco and Tunisia) and tariffs (Tunisia only).

1304. Independent *Algeria* made its first overtures in 1962. The aim then was to maintain the *status quo* in trade. But by 1963 the Algerian authorities were indicating that, like Morocco and Tunisia, they too wished to embark upon negotiations for the conclusion of an overall agreement. These negotiations did not really get under way until much later, in 1972.

In the meantime, trade arrangements between Algeria and the Community developed in a rather haphazard fashion: with some limitations, Algerian products continued to enjoy duty-free access to the French market (wine was excluded from 1971) but were subjected by Italy, as from 1968, to 'third country' treatment. In Germany and the Benelux countries, Algeria was granted

the tariff reduction existing among the Six in 1962. However, it only abolished tariff preferences in favour of European products on 1 January 1973.

It was not until 1972 that the Community decided to open negotiations, and its offer involved trade arrangements only. However, the same year saw the definition of the 'overall Mediterranean policy', through which the Nine attempted to fit their relations with the Mediterranean countries into an overall pattern and work out the essential points of the agreements to be concluded or renewed with the countries concerned.

1305. With this *new impetus*—formally endorsed by the Heads of State or Government at the Paris Summit in October 1972—parallel negotiations could at last be started with the three Maghreb countries for the conclusion of overall cooperation agreements. The negotiations, conducted by the Commission on behalf of the Community, got under way in July and October 1973, continued in autumn 1974 and April 1975 and were concluded in the first half of January. Once again the great practical difficulties, acknowledged on both sides, involved in finalizing certain aspects of the agreements—particularly as regards agriculture—necessitated long discussions, pauses for taking stock and, on the Community side, certain internal adjustments. These very difficulties are a measure of the will to succeed on both sides; but they also give some indication of the form the future cooperation is going to take. Although the negotiations were concerned above all with the compromises that had to be made between directly competing sectors of the parties' respective economies, the main contribution of cooperation will lie in developing the complementary aspects and the interdependence of those economies.

The agreements

1306. The aim of the agreements the negotiation of which was completed in January is the es-

tablishment of 'wide-ranging cooperation' between the Community and each of the Maghreb countries. They provide for the implementation of provisions in the fields of economic, financial and technical cooperation, trade and labour. Provision has been made for interim agreements to be concluded so that the trade provisions can be implemented as quickly as possible.

The agreements are of unlimited duration: they endow the 'overall cooperation' planned with the necessary scope to enable development problems extending beyond the short term to be tackled.

Moreover, the institutional machinery to be set up should make it possible to assess the results achieved, define certain measures more closely and, where appropriate, propose new measures. A Council of Ministers, assisted by a Committee of plenipotentiaries and, if necessary, by specialist committees, will provide a vehicle for an ongoing dialogue, and there could also be contacts between political representatives. Lastly, a specific timetable has been laid down for examining the results of each agreement and any improvements to be made, in the first place from the beginning of 1978 and then from the beginning of 1983.

Economic, technical and financial cooperation

1307. It is evident that such cooperation can only take the form of efforts complementary to those made by the countries concerned and must be set in the context of the objectives and priorities of their development plans and programmes. Special emphasis is placed on regional cooperation and on carrying out integrated schemes, that is schemes which combine several kinds of measures (training, investment aid, trade promotion).

The fields to be covered by the proposed cooperation are as follows:

- (a) *marketing* and sales promotion;
- (b) *industrial* cooperation, particularly through the organization of contacts between firms, mea-

asures to facilitate the acquisition on favourable terms of patents, efforts to eliminate non-tariff barriers, etc.;

(c) cooperation in the fields of *science*, technology and the protection of the environment;

(d) cooperation in the *fisheries* sector;

(e) *encouragement of private investment* in the interests of both sides;

(f) the exchange of *information*—insofar as may be necessary—on the trend of the *economic and financial* situation of the parties;

(g) as regards Algeria and Tunisia: cooperation in the field of *energy* in order to foster participation by Community firms in programmes for the exploration, production and processing of energy resources and to ensure that long-term contracts for the delivery of petroleum products are properly performed.

A *financial protocol* gives the details of the Community's contribution, which is to cover a five-year period beginning six months after the signature of the agreements. Before the end of the fifth year, the partners will examine the arrangements to be made for a possible further period.

The financial resources to be made available to each of the three countries (in the form of loans from the European Investment Bank, loans on special terms and grants) will amount to 114 million u.a. for Algeria, 130 million u.a. for Morocco and 95 million u.a. for Tunisia.

Trade arrangements

1308. The Maghreb countries' exports of products not covered by the common agricultural policy—that is *raw materials* and *industrial* products, including ECSC products—will have free access to the Community market (exemption from customs duties and quantitative restrictions).

This general principle is subject only to two temporary restrictions: exports of cork products and

refined petroleum products are to be subject to ceilings until not later than the end of 1979. Within the limits of the ceilings fixed, which are to be increased annually, (by 5 % in the case of refined petroleum products) access will be duty-free; if these ceilings are exceeded the Community may reintroduce the duties applied to third countries.

Non-agricultural products as a proportion of exports from the three Maghreb countries to the Community amount to 42 % for Morocco, 65 % for Tunisia and 92 % for Algeria. These non-agricultural exports still consist mainly of raw materials (crude oil from Algeria, phosphates from Morocco and Tunisia)—that is, products which are zero-rated in the Common Customs Tariff. The agreements are therefore geared to the progressive industrialization of the countries in question and in particular to the efforts made—with the participation of the Community—to develop the processing of raw materials on the spot.

1309. The proportion of agricultural products in the three countries' total exports to the Community varies considerably, being only 6-8 % for Algeria, around 35 % for Tunisia and 56-58 % for Morocco. However, other criteria should be taken into account when gauging the importance of these exports, in particular the number of jobs dependent on the products in question, some of which—wine, for example—are not marketed locally.

For most products—though not all—the access arrangements under the agreements are privileged by comparison with those for other third countries; however, certain precautions have been taken (quotas, timetable for imports, compliance with the rules resulting from the common organization of markets, safeguard clause) in order to safeguard the legitimate interests of Community producers.

The tariff concessions range from 30 % to 100 % and cover between 86 % and 89 % of agricultural exports. For Morocco and Tunisia this represents a significant advance on the much more limited

coverage granted under the 1969 agreements (around 50 %).

An attendant feature of the agreements is that the three countries may continue to enjoy privileged access to the French market for products not covered by the agreements—and for certain other products. However, this is a temporary measure, intended to give the Maghreb exporters time to distribute their sales more evenly throughout the Community (the bulk of sales of fruit and vegetables in particular are on the French market). The Community considers that these arrangements should come to an end on 1 January 1979.

1310. Community exports to the Maghreb countries (3 % of total Community exports) are to receive most favoured nation treatment, although exceptions may be made in respect of other developing countries or in the context of the economic integration of the Maghreb. One of the objectives of the agreement is 'to promote trade between the Contracting Parties, taking account of their respective levels of development' and gives the Maghreb countries the possibility to modify the customs regulations applicable *vis-à-vis* the Community (customs duties or quantitative restrictions) in accordance with their industrialization and development requirements.

At the meetings which are due to begin in 1978 and 1983 it will be possible to see whether the Maghreb countries can take further steps towards the elimination of obstacles to trade in the light of their development needs.

Cooperation in the field of labour

1311. Since a large number of Maghreb nationals are employed in the Community it was inconceivable that the establishment of cooperation links with these countries should not cover labour questions. The Maghreb countries made a point of stressing the importance they attached to this aspect of cooperation, even though bilateral

agreements continue to be valuable instruments in this field since the Maghreb workers are concentrated in certain Community countries.

Similarly, it was natural that privileged cooperation agreements should include a formal provision guaranteeing non-discrimination as regards working conditions and remuneration, although this obligation was already enshrined in international conventions.

Other problems, however, could be solved only in the context of an agreement with the Community: an example is the arrangement whereby periods of insurance or employment taken into consideration for the establishment of social security entitlement are added together in the case of workers employed successively in a number of Member States. Similarly, the transfer of pensions to the country of origin is now guaranteed, whichever Member State happens to be the debtor country. Lastly, exchanges of letters between the Community and each of the countries concerned make formal provision for exchanges of views on labour questions.

4. International monetary problems

1401. The Interim Committee¹ of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the Development Committee (IMF-IBRD) met in Jamaica on 7 and 8 January and on 9 January respectively.

Interim Committee

1402. The Interim Committee¹ of the International Monetary Fund (IMF), under the chairmanship of Mr De Clercq, Belgian Minister of Finance, reached a number of agreements at its meeting on 7 and 8 January 1976 in Kingston, Jamaica. These agreements, which will take the form of draft amendments to the IMF's Articles of Agreement, will enter into force once they have been formally approved by the IMF's Board of Governors and, if need be, ratified by the national parliaments; it is, however, planned to implement various key items in the agreements very shortly.

The main decisions concern the IMF quotas, the new role of gold, the exchange rate system and greater access to the Fund's resources.

Quotas

1403. The IMF quotas were raised for the coming five-year period from about SDR 29 000 million to SDR 39 000 million (about \$49 000 million). The share of the OPEC countries has doubled, from 4.5 % to 9.5 % of the total; the developing countries' share remains unchanged and that of the industrialized countries has been reduced, with the United States' and the United Kingdom's quotas accounting for most of this reduction.

New role of gold

1404. It was decided to alter radically the status of gold, which will no longer have an official role

to play within the IMF or in relations between the Member States of this institution: the central banks are now free to undertake transactions in gold. The IMF's holdings of gold (about 150 million ounces) will gradually be disposed of; under initial arrangements to be applied rapidly and simultaneously, 25 million ounces, or one-sixth of the IMF's gold holdings, will be restituted to the Member States in proportion to their quotas against payment by them of the official price (SDR 35 per ounce), while a further one-sixth (25 million ounces) will be used to assist the developing countries as follows:

(a) the amounts of gold paid in by the developing countries will be returned to them, in addition to the above restitutions;

(b) the remainder (about 17 million ounces) will be sold and the difference between the market price and the official price payable to the IMF (representing in all about \$1 700 million at the current price) made available to the Trust Fund;

(c) gold sales for the benefit of the developing countries will be spread over four years in order not to strain the resources and to avoid putting pressure on the price as a result of sales on the open market.

Decisions (the tenor of which is not yet known) concerning the remain 100 million ounces of gold, representing four-sixths of the IMF's gold holdings, will be taken by a 70 % majority for transactions authorized under the Articles of Agreement and by a majority of 85 % for transactions not specifically authorized. This makes it possible for the EEC countries together or the United States to block any such decisions.

The letter of the IMF's Articles of Agreement, which, as interpreted by that organization, does

¹ The Interim Committee of the Board of Governors on the International Monetary System (this is the Committee's official title) was established by virtue of a resolution of the Board of Governors adopted at the IMF's 1974 Annual Meeting; it comprises 20 members, who are finance ministers and central bank governors and its structure is similar to that of the Fund's Board of Directors.

not permit it to sell gold directly to the monetary authorities at a price above the official price, will be respected until the entry into force of the amendments repealing the relevant provisions. In the meantime, the Bank for International Settlements will be able to bid for the gold sold by the IMF and may then return it to the national monetary authorities concerned.

Altogether these decisions go a very long way to meeting the wishes of the Community and its member countries.

Exchange rate system

1405. The compromise reached between France and the United States on the exchange rate system, which was ratified at the Rambouillet Summit¹ in November 1975, was adopted by the Interim Committee without substantial change.

The system devised at Bretton Woods has been abandoned. The objective remains that of exchange rate stability. Under the new version of Article IV, Section 4 of the IMF's Articles of Agreement, which was the outcome of the negotiations between the French and US representatives, the Fund may, by an 85 % majority, decide that 'international economic conditions permit the introduction of a widespread system of exchange arrangements based on stable but adjustable par values'. However, it will not be able to compel a Member State of the IMF, either before or after such a decision, which could be blocked by the United States and also by the Community, to adopt a system of fixed parities and to introduce intervention arrangements designed to limit exchange rate fluctuations. A return to a system of 'stable but adjustable' parities is, therefore, postponed until some time in the future and must be voted by at least an 85 % majority of the total voting power. Floating exchange rates now have a basis in law and any country wishing to allow its currency to float may do so, even should a decision be taken to return to a system of fixed parities.

The conclusion of the negotiations on the reform of the exchange rate system was welcomed by all the members of the Interim Committee and notably by the ministers of the Community countries, who all played an active part in the discussions and upheld the joint positions arrived at by the Community.

Greater access to the Fund's resources

1406. In the discussions leading up to the Kingston meeting, the developing countries had put forward demands in the following three areas:

- (a) Reform of the Compensatory Financing Facility designed to offset temporary falls in commodity export earnings. This demand was met before the meeting of the Interim Committee in a decision taken by the IMF's Executive Directors on 24 December 1975, which eased the conditions governing the granting of loans under the Compensatory Financing Facility and raised credit ceilings. The Interim Committee, therefore, merely expressed its satisfaction at this decision.
- (b) Setting up of a Trust Fund to assist the poorest developing countries. This demand was met by an agreement on what should happen to the IMF's gold holdings. It was agreed that the profit from the sale of part of the Fund's gold holdings, augmented by voluntary contributions from the member countries, would provide the resources of the Trust Fund. The Committee also agreed on the type of aid to be allocated by the Trust Fund (grants or low-interest loans) and on the developing countries which would be eligible for aid, namely, at the outset, those with per capita incomes in 1973 not exceeding SDR 300.
- (c) Greater access to the IMF's general resources by increasing credit tranches. Under a compromise reached in the Interim Committee, the size of each credit tranche would be raised by 45%. In theory, this greater access to the IMF's general

¹ Bull. EC 11-1975, Third Part.

resources is intended for all Member States, but is aimed, in particular, at the developing countries.

The Interim Committee considered that it had fully discharged the task entrusted to it; there are, in fact, no plans at present to make any amendments to the IMF's Articles of Agreement other than those mentioned above. Consequently, no date has been set for its next meeting. Unless something unforeseen happens, the Committee will not, therefore, meet until the eve of the next Annual meeting of the Fund, to be held in Manila in September 1976.

Development Committee

1407. The meeting of the Interim Committee in Kingston was followed, on 9 January, by a meeting of the Development Committee.¹

After noting the decisions taken by the Interim Committee to extend, in the period ahead, the possible sources of IMF aid to the developing countries (its Compensatory Financing Facility, Trust Fund and greater access to its general resources), the Development Committee discussed five matters, in particular.

Trust Fund

1408. The IMF's Managing Director proposed that the part of the Trust Fund's resources, designed to help the poorest countries cope with their balance-of-payments problems, could be used to supplement the IMF's resources available for the Compensatory Financing Facility. As no agreement was forthcoming on this proposal, whereby the Trust Fund would play a twin role, it was agreed to refer the matter to the IMF's Executive Directors.

'Third Window' of the World Bank

1409. In 1975, the Development Committee had approved the establishment, for a one-year period, of a 'Third Window' at the World Bank, which would grant loans, totalling up to \$1 000 million, on intermediate terms between those applied by the Bank and those carried by loans granted by the International Development Association. However, voluntary contributions had provided only about \$100 million out of the \$225 million necessary to support the \$1 000 million target level of lending.

At the meeting, the Finance Ministers of Kuwait, Belgium and France announced that they already had made, or were planning to make, voluntary contributions. The representatives of the African countries stressed that voluntary contributions were not enough and repeated their desire to see the 'Third Window' made an additional, permanent feature.

Public development aid

1410. The non-oil-producing developing countries' deficits on current account, which amounted to \$35 000 million in 1975, will again be very substantial in 1976 (about \$31 000 million). If a minimum growth rate of 6% is to be achieved, public development aid will be needed on a very large scale since the expected flows of private aid will be inadequate. Almost all the delegates felt that the target of 0.7% of GNP being allocated as public aid, which is far from being met in

¹ The Joint Ministerial Committee of the Board of Governors of the Bank and the Fund on the Transfer of Real Resources of Developing Countries (this is the Development Committee's official title) was set up in autumn 1974 by parallel resolutions of the Boards of Governors of the World Bank and the IMF. The Development Committee's structure is similar to that of the Executive Directors of the World Bank and the IMF. Any member country which appoints a director and any group of countries which elects a director appoints a member to the Development Committee and not more than seven deputy members.

most countries, was still a reasonable and realistic proposition as well as a desirable objective.

Increase in the capital of the World Bank and the International Finance Corporation (IFC); replenishment of the International Development Association (IDA)

1411. A very extensive agreement was arrived at in this connection which stresses, in particular, the urgent need for replenishing the IDA, the negotiations on which had just begun. In addition, all the delegates recommended that the Executive Directors of the World Bank should rapidly produce proposals for increasing the capital of the World Bank and of the IFC, although no agreement was forthcoming on the form these increases should take.

Access of the developing countries to capital markets

1412. The Committee examined the interim progress report from its Working Group on Access to Capital Markets, which created lively interest among the developing countries, while a number of industrialized countries stressed the importance of the necessary guarantees, an area in which the World Bank could be of assistance. The OPEC countries referred to the strenuous efforts their group had made and felt that the same criteria should be applied to them as those used for the other countries giving aid.

Documents

Communiqué of the Interim Committee

1413. At the end of its fifth meeting in Kingston on 7 and 8 January, the Interim Committee issued the following communiqué to the press:

'1. The Interim Committee of the Board of Governors of the

International Monetary Fund held its fifth meeting in Kingston, Jamaica on 7 and 8 January 1976 under the chairmanship of Mr Willy De Clercq, Minister of Finance of Belgium, who was selected by the Committee to succeed Mr John Turner of Canada as chairman. Mr H. Johannes Witteveen, Managing Director of the Fund, participated in the meeting. The following observers attended during the Committee's discussions: Mr Henri Konan Bédié, Chairman, Bank-Fund Development Committee; Mr G.D. Arsenis representing the Secretary-General, UNCTAD; Mr Wilhelm Haferkamp, Vice-President, EC Commission; Mr Mahjoub A. Hassanain, Chief, Economics Department, OPEC; Mr René Larre, General Manager, BIS; Mr Emile van Lennep, Secretary-General, OECD; Mr F. Leutwiler, President, National Bank of Switzerland; Mr Olivier Long, Director-General, GATT; and Mr Robert S. McNamara, President, IBRD.

2. The Committee endorsed the recommendations contained in the Report of the Executive Directors on the Sixth General Review of Quotas and the proposed Resolution on increases in the quotas of individual members to be submitted to the Board of Governors for its approval. In this connection, the Committee reaffirmed its view that the Fund's holdings of each currency should be usable in the Fund's operations and transactions in accordance with its policies. Appropriate provisions for this purpose will be included in the draft amendments of the Fund's Articles. To give effect to the Committee's view in the period before the amendments become effective, it was agreed that, within six months after the date of the adoption of this Resolution, each member shall make arrangements satisfactory to the Fund for the use of the member's currency in the operations and transactions of the Fund in accordance with its policies, provided that the Executive Directors may extend the period within which such arrangements shall be made.

3. The Committee considered the question of the implementation of the agreement reached at its fourth meeting regarding the disposition of a part of the Fund's holdings of gold. It was agreed that action should be taken to start without delay the simultaneous implementation of the arrangements referred to in paragraph 6 of the Press Communiqué issued by the Committee on 31 August 1975. The sales of gold by the Fund should be made in public auctions according to an appropriate timetable over a four-year period. It is understood that the Bank for International Settlements would be able to bid in these auctions.

4. In its discussion of the world economic situation and outlook, the Committee noted that recovery from the severe international recession of 1974-75 was now under way in much of the industrial world. Nevertheless, current rates of both

unemployment and inflation were still unacceptably high. The Committee called on the industrial countries, especially those in relatively strong balance of payments positions, to conduct their policies so as to ensure a satisfactory and sustained rate of economic expansion in the period ahead while continuing to combat inflation.

A special source of concern to the Committee was the deterioration in the external position of the primary producing countries, especially the developing ones. The general picture for the developing countries in 1975 was again one of large balance of payments deficits on current account, financed through heavy external borrowing and through the use of reserves already eroded by the inflation in recent years. With large current account deficits still in prospect this year, the Committee felt that the ability of many developing countries to maintain an adequate flow of imports in 1976, and to follow appropriate adjustment policies, would also depend on the availability of adequate credit from the Fund.

5. The Committee welcomed the recent decision of the Executive Directors liberalizing the Compensatory Financing Facility. Under the new decision the Fund will be prepared to authorize drawings up to 75 % of a member's quota, as against 50 % under the 1966 Decision. Maximum drawings in any one year are raised from 25 % to 50 % of quota. Moreover, the decision enables the Fund to render assistance under the facility at an earlier stage of the development of a shortfall.

6. The Committee noted the Report of the Executive Directors on their review of the Fund's policies on the use of its resources, and also on the Trust Fund for the benefit of the low income members. After consideration of the issues involved the Committee reached the following conclusions:

(a) It was agreed that the necessary steps should be taken to establish the Trust Fund without delay. Its resources would be derived from the profits of the sales of the Fund's gold, which should be augmented by voluntary national contributions. It was agreed that the amount of gold available for sale in accordance with the agreement reached by the Committee at its fourth meeting should be disposed of over a four-year period. The resources of the Trust Fund should be used to provide balance of payments assistance on concessionary terms to members with low per capita incomes. Initially, eligible members would be those with per capita incomes in 1973 not in excess of SDR 300.

(b) It was further agreed, that, until the effective date of the amendment of the Articles, the size of each credit tranche should be increased by 45 %, which would mean that total access under the credit tranches would be increased from 100 % to 145 % of quota, with the possibility of further assistance

in exceptional circumstances. The present kinds of conditionality for the tranches would remain unchanged. The fund will in due course consider again the question of access to the Fund's resources if it becomes evident that the needs of members make it advisable to reexamine this question.

7. The Committee noted the Report of the Executive Directors on amendment, welcomed the progress made towards the solution of the outstanding issues, and commended them for the voluminous and successful work that they had done in order to achieve a major revision of the Articles. In particular, it welcomed the agreement that has been reached on provisions concerning the important problem of exchange rates. In this respect, it has endorsed a new Article IV of the Articles of Agreement which establishes a system of exchange arrangements. The new system recognizes an objective of stability and relates it to achievement of greater underlying stability in economic and financial factors. The Committee considered the remaining issues on which its guidance has been requested by the Executive Directors and agreed as follows:

(a) The amended Articles of Agreement should include a provision by which the members of the Fund would undertake to collaborate with the Fund and with other members in order to ensure that their policies with respect to reserve assets would be consistent with the objectives of promoting better international surveillance of international liquidity and making the special drawing right the principal reserve asset in the international monetary system.

(b) The amended Articles would contain an enabling provision under which the Fund would be able to sell any part left after the distribution of 50 million ounces in accordance with the arrangements referred to in paragraph 3 above, and use the profits (i) to augment the general resources of the Fund for immediate use in its ordinary operations and transactions, or (ii) to make balance of payments assistance available on special terms to developing members in difficult circumstances. On the occasion of such sales the Fund would have the power to distribute to developing members a portion of the profits on the basis of their quotas or to make a similar distribution by the direct sale of gold to them at the present official price. Any decision on such a distribution should be taken by an 85 % majority of the total voting power. These powers of the Fund would be in addition to the power that the Fund would have under another enabling provision to reconstitute to all members, on the basis of present quotas and at the present official price, any part of the gold left after the disposition of the 50 million ounces referred to above.

(c) Decisions of the Fund on the use of the profits from the sale of its gold in the regular operations and transactions of the Fund should be taken by a 70 % majority of the total vot-

ing power and on decisions on use of the profits in other operations and transactions by an 85 % majority of the total voting power.

(d) The Executive Directors are urged to review, during the final stage of their work on the draft amendments, the majorities for operational decisions that do not reflect compromises of a political character with a view to considering the reduction, if possible, of the number and size of the special majorities that would be required under the amended Articles for such operational decisions. Such a review should be completed within the coming weeks and should not delay the completion of the Comprehensive Draft Amendment.

(e) The majority required for the adoption of decisions on the method of valuation of the SDR under the amended Articles should be 70 % of the total voting power, with the exception of decisions involving a change in the application of the principle in effect, which should be taken by an 85 % majority of the total voting power.

(f) The Executive Directors should continue their consideration of the subject of a substitution account without delaying completion of the Comprehensive Draft Amendment.

(g) With respect to the obligation of participants in the Special Drawing Account to reconstitute their holdings of special drawing rights, it was agreed that the amended Articles should authorize the Fund to review the rules for reconstitution at any time and to adopt, modify, or abrogate these rules by a 70 % majority of the total voting power.

8. The Committee requested the Executive Directors to complete their work on amendment in the light of the guidance given by the Committee, and expects that the Executive Directors will be able to submit a Comprehensive Draft Amendment for the approval of the Board of Governors, together with a Report, within the coming weeks.'

Communiqué of the Development Committee

1414. At the end of its fifth meeting in Kingston on 9 January, the Development Committee published the following press communiqué:

'1. The Joint Ministerial Committee of the Boards of Governors of the Bank and the Fund on the Transfer of Real Resources to Developing Countries (the Development Committee) held its fifth meeting in Kingston, Jamaica, on 9 January 1976, under the chairmanship of Mr Henri Konan Bedie, Minister of Economy and Finance for the Ivory Coast. Mr Robert S. McNamara, President of the World Bank, Mr H. Johannes Witteveen, Managing Director of the International

Monetary Fund, and Mr Henry J. Costanzo, Executive Secretary, took part in the meeting, which was also attended by representatives from a number of international and regional organizations and Switzerland as observers.

2. The Committee reviewed the current situation and prospects of the developing countries and noted with concern that the non-oil developing countries in 1976 are likely to incur extraordinarily large current account deficits for the third successive year. The Committee also noted with grave concern that the minimum 6 % growth target of the Second Development Decade appears not likely to be met for the non-oil developing countries and that substantial amounts of additional external capital are still required if the shortfall from this target is to be held to modest proportions. The Committee also discussed the means of improving the current situation affecting resource transfers, aid targets and their implementation, current under-utilization of productive capacity in industrial countries in relation to their aid effort, and the status of current commodity issues. It was against this background that the Committee considered various measures to increase the flow of resources to the developing countries.

3. The Committee noted the decision of the Interim Committee to establish the Trust Fund to provide balance of payments assistance to low-income countries as well as understandings reached regarding increased access to IMF resources. The Committee discussed the use of Trust Fund resources and indicated various considerations to be taken into account by the Executive Directors of the IMF in completing their work on establishment of the Trust Fund. The Committee noted that the 'Third Window' for loans on intermediate terms by the World Bank had become operational, that contributions received and expected would permit 'Third Window' loans of \$600 million and urged those countries which have not already contributed to help to increase its resources.

4. The Committee received an interim progress report from its Working Group on Access to Capital Markets, discussed the proposed work programme on the review of regulatory and other constraints on access to capital markets by developing countries, and recommended the completion of studies on other appropriate mechanisms which might improve access to capital markets, including the possible use of multilateral guarantees, the strengthening of secondary markets, and the possible creation of an international investment fund.

5. The Committee noted the progress being made in regard to co-financing arrangements by international and regional development banks and urged that these arrangements be expanded.

6. The Committee was presented with an initial survey of

International monetary problems

programmes and capital resource situations of major international and regional lending institutions. The Committee expressed its full support for an adequate increase in capital financing of these institutions. In this context, the Committee requested the World Bank's Executive Directors to place before the Board of Governors at an early date a proposal for an increase in the Bank's capital. The Committee also supported an early increase in the capital of the International Finance Corporation. The Committee noted the particularly urgent need for assistance to low-income countries, and in this connection expressed its strong support of a substantially enlarged Fifth Replenishment of the International Development Association, which, in the opinion of many members, should be in real terms. The Committee noted that negotiations were under way to secure agreement in time to permit continuity of operations. The Committee urged timely action to replenish the resources of regional banks, including their soft-loan 'windows'.

7. The Committee gave special attention to the question of commodity price fluctuations and to their consequences on the export earnings of developing countries. The Committee agreed to give priority attention to these questions, including especially possible measures for the financing of buffer stocks, for the stabilization of export earnings, and other efforts to assist the developing countries in the area of trade.

8. The Committee expressed its unanimous appreciation of the excellent arrangements made for the meeting and the hospitality extended by the Government of Jamaica.'



2ND PART

**ACTIVITIES
IN JANUARY 1976**

1. Functioning of the common market

Customs union

Tariff measures

Suspensions

2101. On 20 January¹ the Council decided to suspend totally, until 28 March 1976, the autonomous Common Customs Tariff duty for certain potatoes in order to remedy the current potato shortage. This measure does not concern early potatoes or seed potatoes.

Tariff quotas

2102. On 20 January¹ the Council adopted, on a proposal from the Commission, a regulation opening, allocating and providing for the administration of a Community tariff quota of 5 500 tonnes for *unwrought magnesium*. The first tranches of this quantity, amounting respectively to 1 195 tonnes for unwrought magnesium not in alloy and 3 150 tonnes for unwrought magnesium in alloy, have been divided among the Member States; the second tranches of 130 tonnes and 425 tonnes respectively have been held in reserve. Similarly 600 tonnes of unwrought extra-pure magnesium has also been allocated to the Community reserve.

Community supervision of imports

2103. On 20 January,² on a proposal from the Commission, the Council adopted, pursuant to the agreements between the EEC and the non-applicant *EFTA* countries and in order to meet the Community's obligations towards those countries, a number of Regulations establishing Community supervision for imports of certain products originating in Austria, Finland, Iceland, Norway, Portugal, Sweden and Switzerland. Under these Regulations the Commission is respon-

sible for controlling and supervising a large number of products or groups of products. The importation at reduced rates of duty of some of these products in 1976 will be subject, under the agreements concluded with the *EFTA* countries in question, to *indicative ceilings* above which the CCT duties applicable to third countries may be reimposed. For the other products supervision has been introduced with a view to the possible establishment of other ceilings should the increase in imports of these products be such as to give rise to disturbances on the Community market.

Harmonization of customs legislation

2104. The Commission has presented to the Council a proposal for a regulation on the *repayment or remission of import duties or export duties*. The main purpose of this proposal is twofold: to eliminate any distortion here in treatment among Community importers of products from third countries (and Community exporters of products going to those countries) and to specify the cases in which the Member States may revise entitlements of the European Communities' own resources and thereby achieve better control of these resources.

Customs arrangements based on economic considerations

2105. The Commission has transmitted to the Council two proposals for implementing the Directive of 4 March 1969³ governing the inward processing system. The first is concerned with *repair operations* under this system, the second with inward processing authorizations in respect of

¹ OJ L 14 of 23.1.1976 and point 2229.

² OJ L 16 of 24.1.1976.

³ OJ L 58 of 8.3.1969.

certain products originating in *EFTA States and the Faroe Islands*.

Internal common market

Free movement of goods

Elimination of technical barriers to trade

2106. Under the programme for eliminating technical barriers to trade, on 20 January¹ the Council formally adopted a Directive on the approximation of the laws of the Member States relating to the *making-up by weight or volume of certain prepackaged products*. The purpose of the Directive is to open up the market to prepackaged products and to provide consumers with fuller information. The Commission's proposal was sent to the Council in October 1973.²

2107. On 15 January *Parliament*³ delivered its opinion on the proposal, which the Commission put before the Council in June 1975, for a Directive on the classification, packaging and labelling of paints, varnishes, adhesives and similar products.⁴

Proprietary medicinal products

2108. The Pharmaceutical Committee, set up by a Council Decision⁵ on 20 May 1975 when the second Directive on proprietary medicinal products was adopted, met for the first time on 15 January. After adopting its rules of procedure, it surveyed the problems it will have to consider at its forthcoming meetings. It will give top priority to updating the first Directive on proprietary medicinal products of 26 January 1965⁶ in the light of developments since its adoption.

Competition policy

State aids

Regional aid schemes

Italy

2109. The Commission decided on 19 January to terminate the procedure initiated in 1968 under Article 93(2) of the EEC Treaty in respect of Italian Law No 623 of 30 July 1959 on *low-interest loans for investments by small- and medium-sized firms* in Italy.

In practice priority has always been given to certain regions, loans being granted on different terms, particularly at different rates of interest, depending on whether the firms concerned are located in the Mezzogiorno or the depressed areas in the Centre and the North. There was some uncertainty, however, as to the terms on which aids were granted in other areas of the Centre and the North.

To restimulate the economy and industrial investment the Italian Government decided in 1975 to inject new funds into the aid scheme (Lit. 305 000 million for 1975-83), which had remained virtually inoperative for some years because of lack of funds. The terms on which loans are granted remain almost unchanged, and specific regional application is still inadequate, but the Italian Government has informed the Commission that, as regards individual cases of application of Law No 623 in areas other than the Mezzogiorno, it will henceforth accept the Commission's scrutiny procedure for the introduction

¹ OJ L 46 of 21.2.1976.

² OJ C 110 of 13.12.1973 and Bull. EC 10-1973.

³ Point 2419.

⁴ OJ C 166 of 23.7.1975.

⁵ Bull. EC 5-1975, point 2110 and OJ L 147 of 9.6.1975.

⁶ OJ 22 of 9.2.1965.

of general aid schemes, and give prior notification of those cases of application where:

- (i) the assisted investment amounts to at least 3 million EUA;
- (ii) the assistance accounts for at least 15% of the investment in net subsidy equivalent.

In view of this undertaking the Commission informed the Italian Government that it had decided to close the above procedure.

Aid schemes for specific industries

United Kingdom

2110. On 9 January the Commission decided under Article 93(1) of the EEC Treaty to propose 'appropriate measures' to the United Kingdom Government regarding the assistance granted for the purchase of off-shore installations.

This assistance takes the form of a 3% interest relief grant, mainly in respect of the purchase of oil and gas production platforms, provided these are manufactured in the United Kingdom. The Commission felt that this assistance could not continue to be granted in its present form, and that the relief grant should be extended to installations manufactured in other Member States.

Netherlands

2111. The Commission decided on 28 January that the aid measures planned by the Netherlands authorities for the reorganization of certain branches of the textile industry could be considered compatible with the common market and exempted under Article 92(3)(c) of the EEC Treaty.

These measures mainly affect the cotton, wool, clothing and textile printing branches, which are facing stiff competition from non-member countries (particularly those where labour costs are low), and which are running a deficit in trade

both with non-member countries and with the other Member States.

The Commission noted that the assistance planned—the aim of which is the selective reorganization of the industries concerned, without benefiting marginal activities—would not involve any increase in production capacity which might be harmful at Community level, and would probably facilitate the development of economically viable firms. For these reasons it decided not to object to the aid scheme. It also asked the Netherlands Government to forward any detailed reorganization plans drawn up by branches of the industry receiving assistance, as soon as they had been completed.

Taxation policy and financial institutions

Taxation

Indirect Taxes

Tax exemptions for travellers

2112. Under a Directive adopted by the Council on 20 January,¹ Denmark will be able to maintain up to and including 31 December 1976 the rules in force for exemptions applicable in international travel. This extends for one year the authorization, granted under the Act of Accession, to defer application of certain provisions of the Directive of 28 May 1969,² as amended on 12 June 1972,³ relating to exemption from turnover tax and excise duty on imports in international travel.

¹ OJ L 21 of 29.1.1976.

² OJ L 133 of 4.6.1969.

³ OJ L 139 of 17.6.1972.

The Act of Accession (Annex VII, part V) gives Denmark the right up to and including 31 December 1975 to exclude certain goods (tobacco products, alcoholic beverages and beer) from exemption for travellers laid down in Community Directives, provided that there is no discrimination between travellers from Community and from non-Community countries. The Council was to decide before 31 December 1975 'whether and how far this derogation requires to be prolonged, account being taken of the extent to which economic and monetary union, and particularly progress in tax harmonization, has been achieved'.

In October 1975, the Danish Government asked the Commission to take the necessary measures to extend the arrangements, unaltered, for a period of two years, in view of the lack of progress in tax harmonization; this request was repeated in December.

The Commission sent the Council a proposal for a Directive extending the derogation accorded to Denmark for a certain period, and the Council finally decided to grant an extension of one year only, in view of the fact that consultations are currently taking place between the Commission's departments and the Danish authorities with a view to bringing the Danish rules into line with Community Directives.

Financial institutions

Banks and other financial institutions

Admission of securities to the stock exchange

2113. The Commission has sent the Council a proposal for a Directive coordinating the conditions for the admission of securities to official stock exchange quotation. This proposal is the logical follow-up to the proposal of 5 October 1972¹ concerning the prospectus to be published

when securities issued by companies are admitted to official stock exchange quotation, to which the Commission decided, on 1 December 1975, to make a number of amendments.²

The main objective in coordinating the conditions for admission to the stock exchange is to remove the obstacles to the interpenetration of securities markets which result from the present differences between the Member States as regards the conditions for admission to the stock exchange. By establishing a catalogue of conditions and obligations to apply in all the Member States, the Directive should save issuers seeking quotation of their securities on several Community stock exchanges from having to comply with widely differing requirements. Thus, this coordination should facilitate the introduction of securities to official quotation on stock exchanges in different Member States. Similarly, it should promote equivalence of status and substance for officially quoted securities on stock exchanges in Member States and ensure effective protection of investors.

In a number of annexes the proposal lists the conditions and obligations which the Member States must impose on securities and their issuers before admission to official quotation is granted. However, the Member States retain the right to make these conditions more rigorous or to lay down additional conditions, provided that the more rigorous or additional conditions are of general application. The proposed Directive thus aims to achieve only a partial coordination of the conditions for admission.

It is none the less a first step towards subsequent closer alignment of national requirements in the field in question. The experience gained in applying, in the various Member States, the Community's minimum rules for admission should facilitate considerably the implementation of more extensive coordination during the second phase of harmonization.

¹ OJ C 131 of 13.12.1972 and Supplement 8/72 — Bull. EC.
² Bull. EC 12-1975, point 2137.

2. Economic and monetary union

Economic, monetary and financial policy

Suspension of official dealings on foreign exchange markets in Italy

2201. On 21 January, the Commission was informed by the Italian authorities that with effect from that date official quotation of foreign currencies against the lira would be temporarily suspended. This measure, which was made necessary by the growing speculative pressure on the lira over the previous few days, reflected the decision by the Italian authorities to abstain temporarily from any intervention on the exchange market. Dealings in foreign currencies between commercial banks—both spot and forward—remain unrestricted.

The communication sent to the Commission by the Italian authorities also states that no exchange control measures or trade restrictions are envisaged.

Monetary Committee

2202. At its 213th meeting, held in Brussels on 30 January, the Monetary Committee elected Mr Pöhl, Staatssekretär, Bundesministerium der Finanzen, Bonn, as its chairman to replace Mr Oort, whose term of office was ending.

As part of its customary reviews, it also carried out a detailed examination of monetary policy in a number of Member States. Finally, pursuing its usual examination of international monetary questions, the Committee discussed the action to be taken following the meeting of the IMF Interim Committee in Jamaica.¹

Economic Policy Committee

2203. At its 25th meeting, held in Brussels on 20 and 21 January, the Economic Policy Com-

mittee elected new officers. The following were elected: Chairman, Sir Bryan Hopkin, Second Permanent Secretary, Treasury, London; Vice-Chairmen: Mr Cortesse, directeur de la prévision, ministère de l'économie et des finances, Paris; Mr Maldague, commissaire général au Plan, Bruxelles (reduced medium-term composition); and Mr Middelhoek, Directeur-generaal der Rijksbegroting, Ministerie van Financiën, Den Haag (reduced budgets composition).

On the basis of a document prepared by the Commission's departments, the Committee also discussed the initial options and adopted the general outline of the fourth medium-term economic policy programme. This programme will begin by examining the content and the conditions of a new economic growth model, and will go on to deal with the fundamental problems to be overcome, namely employment and prices, analysing them and putting forward concrete solutions; it will then examine a number of more specific problems such as external equilibrium, public finance and investment.

The Committee unanimously expressed the wish that the preliminary draft of the programme should be the expression of a political choice and that it should have a real Community basis; in addition, although it would not propose norms, it should be sufficiently concrete to be implemented immediately; finally, it must be drawn up as quickly as possible. The Committee agreed to leave it to the Commission's departments to prepare a first draft, which would be made available during March so that it could be finally adopted at the end of April.

¹ Points 1401 to 1406 and 1414.

Regional policy

Financing operations

European Regional Development Fund

First allocation for 1976: 21.7 million u.a.

2204. On 27 January the Commission decided on the first allocation of grants for 1976 from the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF), amounting to 21.7 million u.a.¹

The projects receiving the grants had been endorsed by the Fund's Management Committee on 9 December 1975, the Regional Policy Committee having been consulted on 2 December on the large-scale infrastructure projects. The Commission had postponed its decision until this year for budgetary reasons.

The aid has been allocated to 63 investment projects, in Italy and the United Kingdom, costing a total of 169.62 million u.a.

Table 1 gives details of the first allocation of Regional Fund grants for 1976.

The 21.71 million u.a. breaks down as follows:

(a) 15.06 million u.a. to help finance eighteen *infrastructure* projects required to develop industrial activities and tourism, comprising:

- 6.26 million u.a. to help finance two projects costing not less than 10 million u.a. each, and
- 8.80 million u.a. to help finance sixteen projects costing less than 10 million u.a. each.

(b) 6.65 million u.a. to finance forty-five projects concerning *industrial handicraft or service activities*.

The aid granted by the Fund in this area breaks down into:

- 0.64 million u.a. to finance one project costing more than 10 million u.a., and
- 6.01 million u.a. to finance forty-four projects costing less than 10 million u.a. each.

Corrigendum

Bull. EC 12-1975, point 2212

Contrary to what was announced, no formal decision has yet been taken on the granting of a conversion loan to Courtauld's Ltd., London.

¹ The record of the Fund's activities will be presented in the report which the Commission must draw up before 1 July each year in accordance with the Council Regulation of 18 March 1975 establishing the ERDF. Moreover, under the same Regulation, a list of projects which have received assistance from the Fund must be published every six months in the Official Journal of the Communities.

TABLE 1 — Grants from the Fund (first allocation 1976)

Member States	Number of grant decisions	Number of investment projects	Investments assisted (million u.a.)	Assistance granted (million u.a.)
Italy	6	16	60.36	14.51
United Kingdom	12	47	109.26	7.20
Total	18	63	169.62	21.71

Social policy

Employment

2205. On 15 and 16 January, a meeting was held in Brussels of the participants in the third and fourth Italo-German exchange programmes for *employment officers* and also a first Italo-Belgian programme; employment officers from the three Member States concerned attended this meeting.

After agreeing that this Commission-sponsored initiative¹ had been worth while, it was decided to launch a fourth Italo-German programme on 1 March 1976. It would be limited to sending eleven Italian officials to the six German employment offices in regions where there are a large number of Italian workers. The presence of these officials has proved to be most useful as regards the information and assistance given to Italian workers by the German services.

Since there are no Belgian recruitment services in Italy, the Italo-Belgian programme would to a large extent be devoted to gaining experience of direct relations between the five Belgian employment offices and their five Italian counterparts.

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2206. At its meeting on 19 January, the *ECSC Consultative Committee* adopted a Resolution on the employment situation in the iron and steel industry.²

Freedom of movement and social security for migrant workers

2207. A Working Party set up by the *Administrative Commission on Social Security for Migrant Workers*, and containing in addition to experts on the coordination of social security schemes for

workers in paid employment, experts on social security for self-employed workers, started work on 15 and 16 January to promote the *coordination of social security schemes for self-employed workers*, pursuant to the Council Resolution of 21 January 1974.³ The Working Party examined a number of problems in respect of which the provisions set out in the Council Regulation of 14 June 1971⁴ on the application of social security schemes to paid migrant workers and their families cannot be applied to self-employed workers. The conclusions reached by the Working Party will be examined at the next meeting of the Administrative Commission.

2208. The *Advisory Committee on Social Security for Migrant Workers*—composed of representatives from the Governments as well as from employers' and workers' organizations—held its fourth meeting on 22 January. There was a broad exchange of views during that meeting on the recent decisions by the Court of Justice in the field of social security for migrant workers. The Committee also examined certain limitations to the rights of migrant workers which still existed in Community legislation, with a view to their gradual removal in accordance with the Resolution approved by the Council on 18 December 1975.⁵

2209. The *Economic and Social Committee*, meeting on 28 and 29 January, gave its Opinion on the proposal for a Directive from the Commission to the Council on the education of the children of migrant workers.

Social security and social action

2210. On 21 January, independent experts had a first exchange of views on the preparation of a

¹ Bull. EC 12-1974, point 2216.

² OJ C 24 of 4.2.1976 and point 2453.

³ OJ C 13 of 12.2.1974 and Supplement 2/74 — Bull. EC.

⁴ OJ L 149 of 5.7.1971.

⁵ This resolution was formally adopted on 9 February and published in OJ C 34 of 14.2.1976.

microeconomic study of the *cost of hospitalization*. This concerns a new and untried methodology which, by means of a comparative study of accountancy data available from ten comparable hospitals in five Community countries, is designed to give a clearer understanding of the inexplicable divergencies revealed by aggregate hospital statistics. When the study is completed, the Commission hopes to be in possession of information which will contribute to a better control of the ever-increasing costs of hospital treatment.

2211. In connection with the implementation of the Commission Recommendation of 23 July 1962¹ concerning the activity of the social services with regard to migrant workers, a seminar of *social workers* from Community countries was held in Oxford from 5 to 8 January. This seminar, organized by the Commission in conjunction with Oxford University, was attended by some 50 specialists in social work among migrant workers. Discussions mainly concerned the problems facing migrant women and the gap which opens up between migrant workers and their children (the 'second generation gap'). The problems raised were examined in the context of the Action Programme to help migrant workers and their families.²

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2212. On 15 January,³ the *European Parliament* adopted a Resolution on the third report on the activities of the new European Social Fund during the 1974 financial year.

Industrial relations

2213. The Commission carried out a study on the circumstances in which accidents occur in the *sea-fishing industry*. This study, covering accidents which occurred in 1974, was undertaken to meet the wishes of the European shipowners' and

fishermen's organizations represented on the Joint Committee on Social Problems in Sea Fishing. The information obtained should enable preventive measures to be strengthened. A similar study will be carried out on the accidents which occurred in 1975.

2214. Consultation with the representatives of the trade union organizations in the *steel industry* took place on 14 January. During the examination of the present situation in the iron and steel industry, the main item on the agenda, the Commission obtained opinions on the possibilities offered by the ECSC Treaty to deal with the difficulties in this sector: compensatory allowances on the basis of Article 95, fixing of minimum prices, obtaining better information for the parties concerned, increases in investments, reduction in hours of work, etc. It was agreed that more specific points connected with general social policy would be examined subsequently in the workers' group of the Joint Committee for Steel.

2215. At a meeting in Brussels on 12 and 13 January the two sides of the *railways industry* examined a Commission working paper in the context of the preparatory work on the drafting of a proposal for a regulation to harmonize the working conditions (hours of work and rest, composition of crews). This proposal would be based on the Council Decision of 13 May 1965⁴ regarding harmonization of the conditions affecting competition between the three modes of land transport. A meeting devoted to the rules for overtime and the composition of crews will take place in the coming months.

2216. The two sides of the *inland waterways industry* met on 16 January. They approved, in broad outline, a new draft statute of the Joint Advisory Committee for Social Problems in In-

¹ OJ 75 of 16.8.1962.

² Bull. EC 12-1975, point 2217, OJ C 34 of 14.2.1976 and Supplement 3/76 - Bull. EC.

³ Point 2415.

⁴ OJ 88 of 24.5.1965.

land Navigation, emphasizing in particular that the participation of employers and workers in such a Committee was on a voluntary basis. They also decided shortly to draw up two surveys, one on working conditions in inland waterways and the other on the economic outlook, structures and employment.

Health protection

2217. The Research Committee on *Pollution in the Iron and Steel Industry*, meeting in Luxembourg on 23 January, examined a list of research projects, of which six were adopted. They are concerned with the removal of phenols and cyanides from the water in coking plants, the treatment of phosphated waste, the measurement of air pollutants emitted by coking plants, the ratio between the emissions and the immissions occurring at iron and steel plants, the dust-loaded smoke discharged when a blast-furnace is tapped and the descaling of flat rolled products. Since the launching of the third research programme for the prevention of pollution in the iron and steel industry (February 1974), the Commission has decided to grant financial aid to 28 projects, and 4 others are still being examined. At the beginning of 1976, total aid granted amounted to 3 396 672 u.a.

Paul Finet Foundation

2218. The Executive Committee of the Paul Finet Foundation met on 16 January in Luxembourg, when 436 applications were examined and financial aid was granted in 294 cases for a total amount of Bfrs 2 649 000. Since the Foundation was set up on 30 June 1965, 7 529 applications have been received and financial aid has been granted in 5 316 cases, for a total amount of Bfrs. 43 295 000. So far, the Foundation has

enabled 1 407 students to complete their studies under better conditions.

Environment and consumer protection

Environment

Dumping of waste at sea

2219. On 12 January the Commission laid before the Council a proposal for a Directive on the dumping of waste at sea, the aim being to prevent marine pollution.

Under this proposal, which comes under the Community action programme on the environment, the dumping of certain particularly dangerous substances at sea is prohibited, prior authorization is required for the dumping of waste and materials other than prohibited materials, uniform criteria are laid down to guide national authorities when issuing permits and the Commission will examine particulars of the permits issued.

This proposal for a Directive must not be confused with the one concerning pollution caused by certain dangerous substances discharged into the Community's aquatic environment,¹ general agreement on which was reached at the meeting of the Council on the environment on 8 December 1975. The aim of the proposed Directive on the dumping of waste at sea is quite different. Its scope is limited to the sea (including the high seas) whereas the other proposal applies to inland surface waters, territorial waters, inshore coastal waters and underground water. Its purpose is to harmonize, at Community level, the laws and regulations required to implement the interna-

¹ Bull. EC 12-1975, point 1502.

tional conventions (of Oslo and London, with a third one on the Mediterranean now being drafted) which have been ratified by some Member States but not by others.

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2220. At its 12 to 15 January part-session,¹ the *European Parliament* delivered Opinions on three proposals for Directives from the Commission to the Council concerning waste from the titanium dioxide industry ('red sludge'), the quality of water for human consumption and biological and air quality standards for lead. The *Economic and Social Committee*² also delivered an Opinion on this last proposal at its meeting on 28 and 29 January.

Agricultural policy

The Council and agricultural prices for 1976/77

2221. On 20 January the Council held a policy discussion on the fixing of agricultural prices for the 1976/77 marketing year and on certain related measures,³ which elicited the views of delegations on the line to be followed with regard to the more important products, and the consequential action required.

At this meeting the Council considered a number of general questions, one of which was the 'objective method' adopted by the Commission in framing its price proposals and agri-monetary measures. At the same time, the delegations brought out the importance they attached to reaching a satisfactory arrangement for a number of products, in particular cereals, beef and veal, milk, wine and olive oil.

This discussion enabled the Council to evolve certain policy guidelines for its subsequent proceedings in this field; these will be taken up by the competent bodies with a view to preparing

the next Council meeting on agriculture which is set for mid-February.

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2222. At its meeting on 28 and 29 January, the *Economic and Social Committee* delivered its Opinion on the Commission's proposals;⁴ it was in favour of a slightly higher increase than the average proposed by the Commission and expressed a number of reservations concerning the development of the agricultural policy in general.

Measures related to the monetary situation

2223. The monetary compensatory amounts were altered with effect from

- (i) 1 January for imports into the United Kingdom of butter and cheese from New Zealand to take account of the new cif prices for those products;⁵
- (ii) 5 January for beef and veal to take account of the application of the new representative rates for the UK pound and the Irish pound;⁶
- (iii) 1 February for pigmeat, as a result of the changes in the accession compensatory amounts used in the calculation of the monetary compensatory amounts.

Common organization of markets

2224. The Commission took a number of measures in January to deal with the shortfalls on

¹ Point 2418.

² Point 2448.

³ Bull. EC 12-1975, points 1401 to 1409.

⁴ Point 2444.

⁵ Bull. EC 11-1975, point 2228.

⁶ Bull. EC 19-1975, point 2229.

certain agricultural markets (cereals and potatoes) and surpluses on others (sugar, milk products). By contrast, the market in beef and veal stabilized enabling trade flows to be restored to some extent. Prices for pigmeat are rising but the suspension of import levies is not necessary, in view of the probable trend of production in the medium term and the seasonal trend of prices in the short term (decrease likely in the spring). The very limited pig supplies on the world market would in any case have rendered such measures virtually ineffective.

2225. On 8 January¹ the Commission found it necessary to shorten the validity of import licences for basic *cereals*. Instead of sixty days,² from 15 January they will be valid for forty-five days for common wheat and thirty days for rye, barley, oats, maize and durum wheat. The reasons for this measure are the lack of stability on the world market and the overall world shortage of cereal supplies. However, advance fixing of the import levy on barley and maize, which was suspended on 20 February 1975,³ was again permitted.

2226. Since 29 October 1975⁴ the amount of the refund on exports of *white sugar* to non-member countries has been fixed by tender every two weeks. Owing in particular to the Community's sugar availabilities and the trend of sugar prices on the world market, the Commission decided⁵ to revert to weekly invitations to tender, which would make it possible, if necessary, to dispose of Community surpluses more rapidly.

2227. On 23 January⁶ the subdivision of sub-heading No 15.07 A II of the Common Customs Tariff, which was decided on 23 December⁷ in order to distinguish different kinds of *olive oil* according to their chemical characteristics, became effective. The fixing of a single levy for all non-refined oils had meant that the levy was insufficient for certain kinds of oil. This situation has therefore been rectified.

2228. The problems relating to *wine* were examined by the Council at its meeting on 19 and 20 January. The President of the Commission, Mr François-Xavier Ortoli, emphasized the political importance of a satisfactory solution being found to the questions still outstanding as regards the adjustments required in this sector. The Council requested Mr Lardinois, the Member of the Commission with special responsibility for Agriculture, to take all the necessary steps to enable a satisfactory solution to be reached at the earliest opportunity. The dispute between France and Italy has still not been settled and delays which have occurred in adjusting the rules on wine are hardly likely to facilitate a decision on the price proposals for 1976/77.

In the same sector, the new agreements negotiated by the Community with Tunisia, Morocco and Algeria⁸ include trade concessions in particular for wines: certain quantities may be imported into the Community duty-free with an 80% reduction in duties.

In addition, the transitional arrangements introduced by the Council on 28 December 1973⁹ for importation of the wine product exported as Cyprus sherry, originating in and coming from Cyprus, and the granting of aid for similar wine products produced in the Community as originally constituted and exported to Ireland and the United Kingdom, were extended until 30 June 1976¹⁰. The 1974 vintage was not all marketed in 1975, owing in particular to the maturing process which a proportion of this wine must undergo.

Since the reduced supply, caused by a poor har-

¹ OJ L 4 of 9.1.1976.

² OJ L 213 of 11.8.1975.

³ OJ L 47 of 21.2.1975 and Bull. EC 2-1975, point 2230.

⁴ OJ L 270 of 21.10.1975.

⁵ OJ L 30 of 5.2.1976.

⁶ OJ L 11 of 19.1.1975.

⁷ OJ L 333 of 30.12.1975 and Bull. EC 12-1975, point 2111.

⁸ Points 1301 to 1311.

⁹ OJ L 359 of 28.12.1973 and Bull. EC 5-1973, point 2227 and 12-1973, point 2239.

¹⁰ OJ L 337 of 31.12.1975 and L 353 of 30.12.1974.

vest, resulted in an increase in the price of *Potatoes* on the Community market, the Council decided on 20 January¹ to suspend totally the autonomous Common Customs Tariff duty on main-crop ware potatoes until 28 March 1976; seed potatoes and early potatoes are not affected by this measure.

2230. In January² the Commission amended the import arrangements arising from the application of the protective clause in the *beef and veal sector*, by replacing the Exim³ system by a system linking imports with purchases of intervention stocks.

Operators who purchase by tender unboned frozen beef or veal from an intervention agency will, in exchange, be entitled to import licences for an equivalent quantity of beef and veal products covered by the protective clause.

The price at which the meat put up for tender will be sold each month will be such as to permit the partial suspension of the levies on imported products (the degree of suspension will be greater for frozen meat intended for processing). In addition, preserved beef and veal held by the intervention agencies have been included in the linked-sales system.

Structural policy

2231. The Commission decided on 14 January⁴ that the laws, regulations and administrative provisions communicated by the Federal Republic of *Germany* concerning the implementation in 1975 in Germany of the reform of agricultural structures fulfil the conditions for Community financing. These measures derive from the Directives of 17 April 1972⁵ on the modernization of farms—incentives to the cessation of farming and the reallocation of utilized agricultural area for the purposes of structural improvement—and of 28 April 1975⁶ on mountain and hill farming and farming in certain less-favoured areas. The Com-

mission has also delivered opinions on the provisions communicated by the United Kingdom Government.

Harmonization of legislation

2232. On 23 January⁷ the Commission decided to make 350 000 doses of *foot-and-mouth* vaccine available to the FAO as the EEC's contribution to the campaign to eradicate foot-and-mouth disease in the countries of South-East Europe.⁸

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2233. The *European Parliament*⁹, at its part-session from 12 to 15 January, and the *Economic and Social Committee*¹⁰, at its meeting on 28 and 29 January, delivered Opinions on a number of Commission proposals to the Council on agricultural policy.

¹ OJ L 14 of 23.1.1976.

² OJ L 10 of 17.1.1976 and L 26 of 31.1.1976.

³ Bull. EC 4-1975, point 2247 and Bull. EC 12-1975, point 2247.

⁴ OJ L 18 of 27.1.1976.

⁵ Bull. EC 4-1972, Part One, Chapter I.

⁶ Bull. EC 5-1975, points 2223 to 2225.

⁷ OJ L 33 of 7.2.1976.

⁸ Bull. EC 12-1975, point 2254.

⁹ Points 2420 and 2421.

¹⁰ Point 2444.

Industrial and technological policy

Industry

Iron and steel

Investment trends

2234. The propensity to invest in 1975, represented by the total investment returns notified to the Commission during the same year, remained higher than might have been expected in the light of the iron and steel industry crisis and its repercussions on the self-financing possibilities open to undertakings which come within the scope of the ECSC Treaty (see Table 2).

TABLE 2 — Investment returns submitted by iron and steel undertakings during the period 1970-75

(million u a.)

	1970	1971	1972	1973	1974	1975
Community of the Six	3 994	669	770	693	1 939	1 429
Community of the Nine	—	—	—	—	2 284	2 179

Nevertheless, this table shows that, even at current prices, the amount has decreased as compared with 1974. It is a fact that, out of the total, a very considerable amount is earmarked for a single programme aimed at modernizing and extending a coastal plant in the United Kingdom. The effects of the crisis have gradually made themselves felt through the year and for the last quarter investment returns totalled some 100 million u.a.

Investments in 1975 were aimed more at reor-

ganizing and modernizing iron and steel plants than at extending steel production capacity—at least as far as oxygen-blown steels are concerned. Furthermore, stress should be laid on the amount of expenditure approved in respect of extensions to the continuous casting plants.

However, from the breakdown of the iron and steel undertakings' performance as well their debt burden, it is seen that a number of these undertakings face the risk that certain planned investment programmes will have to be postponed (in some instances on a large scale).

The report on the 1975 survey on investments in the coal and steel industries had already noted the fact that, taking into account the deterioration in the undertakings' performance, the expenditure forecasts announced for 1975 would not be fully borne out.

2235. The *ECSC Consultative Committee* meeting on 19 January 1976, delivered its opinion on the advisability of introducing measures to fix minimum prices for steel products, a matter on which the Commission had decided to consult it last December.²

The *European Parliament*,³ for its part, delivered an opinion, on 12 January, on the communication from the Commission to the Council regarding Community policy in the field of data-processing.⁴

¹ Point 2452.

² Bull. EC 12-1975, point 2260.

³ Point 2405.

⁴ Bull. EC 9-1975, point 2236.

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

Science, Research and Development

Energy research

2236. The CREST Sub-Committee on Energy Research and Development met in Brussels on 21 January with Professor De Meester in the Chair. It took note of the status of the work carried out during 1975 by the Advisory Committees on Programme Management (ACPM) responsible for the five objectives of the energy research and development programme adopted by the Council in mid-1975. It put on record that it was entirely satisfied with the time scales for these programme objectives and with the procedures for implementing them.

The Sub-Committee also had a wide-ranging discussion on questions relating to the comparison and coordination of national policies, objectives, programmes and budgets in the field of energy research and development. In view of the magnitude of the problems to be dealt with, it decided to set up an *ad hoc* working party to coordinate all the information supplied by the delegations, gather any additional data that might be required, and evaluate the technical content of the national programmes. The *ad hoc* working party will have to present to the Sub-Committee, by the end of July, a condensed report setting out its conclusions and any relevant suggestions.

Scientific and Technical Research Committee

2237. The Scientific and Technical Research Committee (CREST) held its 20th meeting in

Brussels on 22 and 23 January with Mr Schuster in the Chair. It examined the first report by the Sub-Committee on R & D *Raw Materials*, pinpointing the main fields that might be eligible for R & D projects in connection with raw material supplies and raw material recycling. CREST gave the Sub-Committee new terms of reference for a period of two years, instructing it to draw up proposals for concrete projects to be carried out at Community level.

The Committee also took note of the report by the Sub-Committee on *Materials for Chemical Plant*; it called on the Commission to put forward any proposals it thought appropriate on the basis of this report, and to make a further study of the projects in progress at national level.

The Committee then had a preliminary discussion on the role that R & D might play in the field of *cooperation with developing countries*; this topic will be further discussed at a forthcoming meeting. Finally, it approved its programme of work for 1976, the main feature of which will be the report on the implementation of the Community's R & D policy, which has to be presented to the Council in accordance with the Resolution of 14 January 1974.¹

Meeting of Senior Officials in the field of scientific and technical research

2238. The Committee of Senior Officials in the Field of Scientific and Technical Research (COST) met on 29 January 1976 with Mr Silver in the Chair. It took note of the report by the *ad hoc* group appointed to examine a Swedish proposal on *food technology*, and resolved to place the main emphasis on the physical properties of these foodstuffs when defining a Community project with which non-member countries could be associated within the COST framework. The project should get off the ground at the earliest possible date.

¹ OJ C 7 of 27.1.1976.

The Committee noted the results of the work carried out by the various regional study groups for the COST 43 project, which is concerned with the setting-up of a *European Oceanographic and Meteorological Data Buoy Network*. The Committee agreed to the appointment of a Norwegian expert to coordinate the project, and noted that the national contributions would be adequate for the establishment of most of the regional networks envisaged by this project.

The Committee also discussed the legal form of a new project relating to *electronic traffic aids* on major roads (COST 30 project). The decision as to the legal form would enable the project to be implemented after the exchange of a memorandum of understanding not requiring prior ratification by the national parliaments.

Choice of site for Jet

2239. The Commission has proposed to the Council that Ispra be selected as the site for the JET (Joint European Torus) project. On 15 December 1975,¹ the Council had noted the Commission's intention to present a proposal on this subject in January 1976, and thus enable the Council to take action on the whole of the 'Fusion' programme.

In a communication forwarded to the Council on 28 January, the question of the site was examined from the scientific, technical, Community and financial viewpoints, with special reference to the report submitted by a group of experts (the 'site committee').

From the scientific angle, the Commission does not feel that previous experience in plasma physics, or the lack of it, need be an essential criterion for the selection of the site. Technically, Ispra is in a strong position in relation to the other sites proposed. Financially, it would have an advantage over the other sites in that a number of savings could be made, particularly in the installation of electric power lines and the buildings

themselves (some of which are already available).

The Commission considers, moreover, that the assignment to the project of a hundred officials now working at the JRC, and the use of existing infrastructures, would amount to a major saving for the Community budget. Finally, the Ispra site is the best situated from the Community angle, and offers the advantage of a European school which has been established in the area for a number of years.

The Commission concludes, therefore, that the most suitable site for the JET is Ispra, and requests the Council to take a decision on this choice.

Measurement and control methods

2240. A special meeting was held in Brussels on 30 January with a few Community experts responsible for national research in metrology, calibration and control measurements. It was a sequel to the meeting held in November 1974² in the context of the scientific and technological policy programme adopted by the Commission in July 1973.³

The experts recommended the Commission to set up an *ad hoc* group of specialists in the calibration of high-pressure gas meters, such as those used for natural gas pipelines. The *ad hoc* group will make an inventory of the techniques in current use and put forward recommendations for a programme to compare these techniques and the calibration equipment used.

¹ Bull. EC 12-1975, point 2264.

² Bull. EC 11-1974, point 2258.

³ Bull. EC 7/8-1973 and Supplement 14/73 — Bull. EC.

Multiannual Programme

Advisory Committees on Programme Management (ACPM)

2241. The joint ACPM for the direct-action project *standards and reference materials*' and the indirect-action project *'reference materials and methods'* (Community Bureau of References – CBR) met in Brussels on 28 and 29 January with Professor Becker in the Chair.

The Committee discussed the work to be carried out on the direct-action project as part of the next multiannual research programme of the Joint Research Centre (JRC) in the years 1977-80. In the course of these talks, guidelines were worked out for the preparation of a proposal for a JRC programme in this field.

With regard to the indirect-action programme, the ACPM was concerned about the situation caused by the Council's failure to reach a decision on the multiannual programme for 1976-80 at its meeting on 15 December 1975; the Committee discussed the measures that will have to be taken to maintain the continuity of several priority projects during the months ahead, using the existing appropriations from the 1973-75 programme.

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2242. On 13 January,¹ the *European Parliament* adopted a resolution on the results of the Council meeting of Research Ministers on 15 December 1975.²

Education

Education Committee

2243. The Education Committee set up by the Council and the Ministers of Education meeting

within the Council on 10 December 1975³ held its first meeting on 26 January, under the chairmanship of Mr Schmit (Luxembourg).

The Committee concentrated its attention on the part of the action programme to which the Council had attached special urgency, namely the preparation by 1 July 1976, of a report on measures which could be taken in the field of education to prepare young people for work, to facilitate their transition from study to working life, and to increase their chances of finding employment. The report will also cover the provision of further education to enable young workers and young unemployed persons to improve their chances of finding work.

The Committee agreed with the Commission's proposal to establish forthwith a small group of experts who will prepare a draft report in collaboration with liaison officers appointed by each Member State.

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2244. At its meeting on 28 and 29 January, the *Economic and Social Committee*⁴ gave its Opinion on a draft Directive on the education of the children of migrant workers which the Commission has presented to the Council.

Doctors

2245. The *Committee of Senior Officials in the field of Public Health*, set up by the Council on 16 June 1975⁵ in pursuance of the directives relating to the mutual recognition of diplomas and the right of establishment for doctors, held its second meeting on 29 and 30 January; it had been officially installed on 9 October 1975.⁶

¹ Point 2404.

² Bull. EC 12-1975, point 2264.

³ Bull. EC 12-1975, points 1101 and 1102.

⁴ Point 2450.

⁵ Bull. EC 6-1975, point 2272.

⁶ Bull. EC 10-1975, point 2261.

The Committee studied the draft statistical tables on medical demography which it had agreed to draw up, and decided to continue its work in this field. The Committee members also exchanged information on their Governments' intentions regarding various aspects of the implementation of the 'Doctors' directives adopted on 16 June 1975,¹ and the problems that are arising, or may arise, in this connection.

The Committee will hold its next meeting in June.

2246. At its meeting on 28 and 29 January, the *Economic and Social Committee*² delivered its Opinion on an amended Commission proposal for a Council Directive to facilitate the exercise of the freedom to provide services by lawyers.

Energy policy

Formulation and implementation of a Community energy policy

New stimulus for the energy policy

2247. On 20 January the Commission sent a communication and two reports to the Council with a view to getting the Community energy policy moving again. The first of these concerns the implementation of the energy policy guidelines drawn up by the European Council at its meeting in Rome on 1 and 2 December 1975. The other two documents are reports, supported by proposals and recommendations, on the achievement of the Community energy policy objectives for 1985 and on the programme for the rational utilization of energy.³

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2248. At its 12 to 15 January part-session, the *European Parliament* delivered⁴ its Opinion on a Commission proposal to the Council on a Com-

munity procedure for information and consultation on the prices of crude oil and petroleum products in the Community and passed a Resolution on the conditions for a Community policy on the siting of nuclear power stations. The Economic and Social Committee also delivered an opinion on the Commission proposal at its meeting on 28 and 29 January.⁵

Transport policy

Alignment of conditions of competition

2249. On 20 January⁶ the Council formally adopted the Directive on *reciprocal recognition of navigability licences* for inland waterway vessels approved in principle at its meeting on 10 and 11 December 1975.⁷

2250. On 20 January⁸ the Commission decided to address a favourable *opinion* to the *Belgian* Government on the draft Royal Decree setting out in greater detail certain provisions of the Royal Decree of 23 April 1971 implementing the Council Regulation of 20 July 1970 on the introduction of recording equipment in road transport.⁹

The main points covered by the draft decree are the scope and period of application of the Council Regulation, the authorities empowered to examine applications for type approval, the staff responsible for checking for infringements and the authority responsible for intervening in case of dispute as to the accuracy of the information provided by the equipment.

¹ Bull. EC 6-1975, point 2272.

² Point 2449.

³ Points 1201 to 1208.

⁴ Point 2403.

⁵ Point 2447.

⁶ OJ L 21 of 29.1.1976.

⁷ Bull. EC 12-1975, point 2283.

⁸ OJ L 23 of 30.1.1976.

⁹ OJ L 164 of 27.7.1970.

3. External relations

Transport policy

Infrastructures

2251. The Commission and the Dutch transport institute (NVI) have signed a contract for a forward study on *goods transport requirements for 1985-2000*.¹ As the study will be an important factor in determining the Community's major transport links, which the Commission hopes to work out in collaboration with the Member States, discussion with certain non-member countries began on 26 January with a view to their participating in the study. The results should be available in about two years' time and will be combined with those of a forward study on passenger transport between large conurbations now in progress as part of the COST programme (COST Project 33).

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2252. On 15 January the *European Parliament*² adopted a resolution on safety glass for motor vehicles. The *Economic and Social Committee*,³ meeting on 28 and 29 January delivered opinions on two Commission proposals to the Council concerning recording equipment in road transport and regular and special regular services by coach and bus between Member States.

Multilateral negotiations

Trade Negotiations Committee

Agriculture

2301. The Sub-Group on cereals, which met from 22 to 30 January, continued its examination of the import and export policies of the countries taking part in the negotiations.

The Community illustrated its proposal for a world agreement on cereals,¹ which has aroused keen interest. This proposal was founded on two basic ideas:

- (i) there should be a 'bracket' comprising at world level a 'floor price' and a 'ceiling price';
- (ii) there should be a buffer stock to ensure some degree of stability of prices and therefore of producers' income.

Lastly the Sub-Group discussed the organization of its future work, endeavouring to keep its work in Geneva running parallel to that in London. The next meeting is scheduled for the end of May.

Commercial policy

Preparing and implementing the common commercial policy

Common rules for imports

2302. On 19 January the Commission presented the Council a proposal aimed at achieving greater standardization of the common rules for imports through revision of the Regulations of 19 December 1969 concerning imports from State-trading

¹ Bull. EC 6-1975, point 2290 and 12-1975, point 2290.

² Point 2413.

³ Points 2445 and 2446.

¹ Bull. EC 5-1975, point 2305, and 10-1975, point 2303.

countries¹ and of 4 June 1974 on common rules for imports.²

The purpose of the Commission proposal is to extend the rules established in June 1974 to all the products covered by the EEC Treaty and to effect certain technical improvements including simplification of the consultation procedure, rationalization of the surveillance procedure and improvement of the safeguard clauses.

Trade protection

2303. On 23 January³ the Commission adopted a regulation subjecting to a system of quotas imports into Italy of tube and pipe fittings (for example, joints, elbows, unions and flanges) of malleable cast-iron originating in *Taiwan*. The reasons for this safeguard measure, which is applicable until 30 June, are the exceptional crisis situation at present facing this sector of Italian industry and the particular conditions (very low prices) under which Taiwanese products are imported.

Specific measures of commercial policy

Textiles

Romania

2304. Romania has agreed to the Community's proposal that negotiations be opened for the conclusion of an agreement on trade in textiles. The Commission will therefore recommend that the Council authorize it to open such negotiations⁴ within the framework of the Arrangement regarding International Trade in Textiles, known as the Multifibre Arrangement (MFA), to which the Community and Romania are parties. The Community considers that the obligations resulting from the MFA can best be fulfilled by concluding bilateral agreements with its principal suppliers.

Such agreements have already been negotiated with India, Pakistan, South Korea, Japan, Hong Kong, Malaysia, Macao and Singapore, and are now in operation. Negotiations are in progress with Brazil, Colombia and Mexico and will shortly begin with Yugoslavia. The Community has also proposed to Poland and Hungary—which, like Romania, are parties to the MFA—that negotiations be opened, but these two countries have not so far responded to the Community's suggestion.

Colombia

2305. The negotiations with Colombia for the conclusion of an agreement on trade in textiles began on 19 to 22 January in the context of the Arrangement regarding International Trade in Textiles. This initial meeting enabled the two parties to state their points of view and rough out the main points to be included in the agreement. Since the Colombian Delegation wanted time to examine certain points in the proposed agreement, the two delegations agreed to resume the negotiations around the middle of February.

Brazil

2306. The negotiations with Brazil for the conclusion of an agreement on trade in textiles continued from 22 to 29 January. There had been two previous rounds of negotiations in October and December last year.⁵

India and Bangladesh

2307. On 20 January the Council authorized the Commission to open negotiations with India and

¹ OJ L 19 of 26.10.1970.

² OJ L 159 of 15.6.1974.

³ OJ L 18 of 27.1.1976.

⁴ The Commission made a recommendation to the Council to this effect on 9 February.

⁵ Bulletin EC 10-1975, point 2312 and 12-1975, point 2317.

Bangladesh for the conclusion of new agreements on trade in *jute products*.

Since the agreements with these two countries expired on 31 December 1975, it was essential that fresh negotiations be opened in order to determine the rules to be applied to the products in question from 1 January 1976, particularly as the agreements enabled India and Bangladesh to benefit under the generalized tariff preferences for jute products. Pending the opening and conclusion of these negotiations, the Community has proposed to the two countries concerned that the provisions of the agreements which have just expired should continue to apply *de facto*.

Quantitative control of reimports of certain textile products

2308. On 27 January the Commission presented to the Council a proposal for a regulation on the common arrangements applicable to imports of textile products under the outward processing system. The purpose of this regulation is to establish Community provisions for the quantitative control of certain textile products reimported into the Community after processing in a third country, without prejudice to the provisions relating to the *tariff* aspect of such outward processing traffic (which comes under customs administration). The regulation is one of the measures for implementing the common commercial policy as regards textiles.

Development and cooperation

Development cooperation policy

Conference on International Economic Cooperation

2309. The work of the Conference on International Economic Cooperation (North-South Dia-

logue), the first ministerial meeting of which was held in Paris from 16 to 19 December 1975¹, continued on 26 and 27 January at the level of the co-Chairmen (of the Conference and its four Commissions) with the participation of the Community representatives.

Agreement was reached on the Conference's work schedule up to July and on procedural questions. The four Commissions set up within the Conference (on energy, raw materials, development and finance) will meet on five occasions between now and July. The actual dates for the meetings are 11 to 20 (possibly 24) February, 17 to 27 March, 21 to 28 April, 8 to 15 June and 12 to 17 July. The co-Chairmen of the Commissions may meet in the intervening periods in order to keep one another informed about how the work is progressing. In agreement with the twenty-seven participants, the two co-Chairmen of the Conference may call a plenary meeting of the twenty-seven countries at the level of senior officials between 16 and 18 June.

The Commissions will adopt their own agendas and choose the questions to be examined. The nineteen developing countries taking part in the Conference presented on 26 January a list of the topics they would like to see raised. The eight industrialized countries (seven plus the Community as such) have not presented a corresponding list.

The meeting of 26 and 27 January was prepared at Community level, and this practice will continue for the future work of the Commissions. The Council and Commission filled the two commission co-Chairmen posts allocated to the Community by appointing Mr Edmund P. Wellenstein² as co-Chairman of the Development Commission

¹ Bull. EC 12-1975, points 1201 to 1207.

² Mr Wellenstein was Secretary-General of the ECSC High Authority from 1956 to 1968. He then became the Commission's Director-General for External Trade (1968-70), Head of the Commission Delegation to the Negotiations on the Enlargement of the European Communities (1970-72) and finally Director-General for External Relations (1973-January 1976).

and Mr Albert Dondelinger¹ as co-Chairman of the Finance Commission.

Industrial Development

2310. The Committee responsible for drafting the constitution of UNIDO as a specialized agency of the United Nations held its first meeting in Vienna from 7 to 19 January. The Commission attended this meeting as an observer.²

Non-governmental organizations specializing in development cooperation

2311. A seminar took place in Brussels from 7 to 9 January between the Commission's departments and some forty representatives of non-governmental organizations (NGOs) in the nine Member States specializing in development cooperation. This was the second seminar of its kind, the first having been held under the aegis of the Commission from 10 to 12 June 1975.³

The representatives of the NGOs expressed their satisfaction at the fact that the Commission had been able, with the support of the European Parliament, to secure the inclusion in the 1976 Community budget of an appropriation of 2.5 million u.a. for the *cofinancing of cooperation projects* carried out by the NGOs in the developing countries. The discussions dealt in particular with the general conditions governing these cofinancing arrangements.

The NGO representatives stressed the importance they attach to the problem of *educating public opinion in development matters*. A resolution adopted during the seminar called for the extension of the education of public opinion to all fields relating to development in the context of the new economic order, the involvement of the NGOs in the Community's process of deliberation and decision-making in development matters and the cofinancing of schemes. It is proposed to hold a seminar devoted specifically to this theme.

The representatives of the non-governmental organizations expressed their satisfaction at the adoption by the Commission on 5 December last⁴ of a regulation facilitating access by the NGOs to *sales at a reduced price of skimmed-milk powder* from public stocks for supply to developing countries. A resolution adopted at the seminar stressed the importance of food aid and regretted that products such as fish and beef and veal were not included in the Community food aid programmes.

Generalized preferences

2312. The Community was represented at the seventh meeting of the UNCTAD Special Committee on Preferences held in Geneva from 5 to 16 January. The Committee examined the various generalized preferences schemes implemented by the donor countries since 1971 and in particular the United States scheme introduced on 1 January.

The Community delegation was very much to the fore throughout this work, particularly because of the role the Community has played to date in the field of generalized preferences. The Commission representative informed the Committee of the improvements made to the Community scheme last year and this. He replied in detail to the observations made by the beneficiary countries about certain points of the Community scheme, and drew the first conclusions regarding the use made by the beneficiaries of the Community scheme.

At the conclusion of its work, the Committee adopted a resolution on technical assistance. In addition, a draft resolution presented by the Group of 77 was annexed to the report of the Committee. The western countries group was

¹ Mr Albert Dondelinger is the Commissaire au contrôle des banques in Luxembourg.

² Point 2319.

³ Bull. EC 6-1975, point 2315.

⁴ OJ L 316 of 6.12.1975.

unable to give its agreement to this draft, which was mainly aimed at the United States scheme. As a result of the work of the Committee, the question of generalized preferences can be expected to occupy an important place at the fourth session of UNCTAD in Nairobi.

Food aid

2313. The Commission released the balance of its special reserve for *Somalia*;¹ the quantities involved were 1 000 tonnes of skimmed-milk powder and 10 000 tonnes of cereals.

2314. As a result of events in *Western Sahara*, the Community decided to supply via the International Committee of the Red Cross² 100 tonnes of skimmed-milk powder as emergency aid for Western Saharan refugees in Southern Algeria. This quantity was supplied cif under the Agreement of 3 February 1975 with the ICRC.³ The operation is costing 65 000 u.a.

Commodities and world agreements

Wheat

2315. On 26 January the Commission adopted a communication to the Council calling on it to decide in favour of Community participation in the protocols for the further extension of the 1971 *International Wheat Agreement* (which expires on 30 June 1976). It advocated a two-year extension, while not precluding the possibility of accepting a shorter period (one year), if general consensus could be reached only on that basis. Lastly, it recommended that the Council deposit at the appropriate time a declaration of provisional application of the protocols of extension pending the completion by the Community of

the institutional procedures regarding the latter's accession to the protocols.

Jute

2316. The Commission was represented at the meeting of the FAO Intergovernmental Group on Jute, Kenaf and Allied Fibres which was held in Rome from 19 to 21 January with eighteen countries participating.

The Group recommended that new target prices be adopted for jute in order to improve the market situation in 1976 through an informal agreement. The market has been characterized by a sharp drop in consumption in Europe (a 24 % reduction for yarn and a 30 % reduction for woven products in the first half of 1975 compared with the corresponding six months of 1974). The Community is the biggest importer of jute and allied fibres (38 % of the world total), obtaining its supplies mainly from Bangladesh.

International organizations

Council of Europe

2317. The Commission was represented at the third part of the twenty-seventh ordinary session of the *Parliamentary Assembly* of the Council of Europe, which was held in Strasbourg from 26 to 30 January.

The Assembly heard a speech by Mr Peart, the United Kingdom Minister of Agriculture, in which he stressed the merits of the common agricultural policy. He said that the policy had to be geared to man's needs and not vice-versa. It had already been adapted to the requirements of

¹ Bull. EC 3-1975, point 2320.

² OJ L 19 of 28.1.1976.

³ OJ L 75 of 24.3.1975.

the new Member States of the Community, but would go on evolving constantly while taking account of the interests of the developing countries.

The Channel tunnel project was the subject of a resolution in which the Assembly stressed its political and economic importance, requesting that studies be resumed, and called upon the European Communities to facilitate the search for a solution, in particular by studying the possibility of European financing for the access infrastructures.

At the conclusion of a discussion on the situation in Spain, the Assembly deplored the fact that no practical liberalization measures had yet been taken in the most important fields and decided to promote the establishment of conditions which would enable Spain to take its place among the democratic nations of Europe.

General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade

Advisory Group on Meat

2318. A fourth consultation meeting on the measures taken by the Community in the beef and veal sector was held in Geneva on 6 January.

Australia, which had asked for this meeting to be called, reaffirmed its doubts regarding the conformity of these measures with the General Agreement. For its part, the Commission once again stressed that apart from the tariff quotas, which had been respected, the products in question were not bound under GATT. The Community nevertheless accepted the application of the procedures provided for in Article XXII (regarding consultations) in order to safeguard the legal rights of the exporting countries.

After giving a summary of the situation and of the short-term trend of the meat market, the Commission stated that it was relatively optimistic about the chances of returning to a normal si-

tuation in this sector. It was agreed that the consultations would continue in the near future.

The Advisory Group on Meat was set up within GATT, at Australia's request, in February 1975.¹ Its previous meetings were in March, June and October 1975.²

United Nations Industrial Development Organization

2319. The Commission was an observer at the first meeting of the Committee responsible for drawing up the constitution of UNIDO as a specialized agency of the United Nations. This meeting was held in Vienna from 7 to 19 January. The Second General Conference of UNIDO, held in Lima from 12 to 27 March 1975, had recommended that the Organization's role be extended and that it be converted into a specialized agency of the United Nations. This recommendation was approved by the seventh special session of the United Nations General Assembly.³

The discussion of the draft constitution remained on a very general level and was muted in tone. While the Group of 77 wanted the new organization, endowed with appropriate resources, to put the stress firmly on the industrial development of the developing countries, the industrialized countries, for their part, indicated that they wanted to keep a certain amount of control over its activities and, in particular, its budget, and to give UNIDO a more universal role than that envisaged by the Group of 77.

There will be two further meetings of the Committee before a conference of plenipotentiaries scheduled for the end of 1976.

¹ Bull. EC 2-1975, point 2317.

² Bull. EC 3-1975, point 2330, 6-1975, point 2327 and 10-1975, point 2327.

³ Bull. EC 9-1975, point 1104, sub-heading industrialization.

Mediterranean countries

2320. January saw several important developments in relations between the Community and the Mediterranean countries.

On 28 January, in response to the Council's request, the Commission adopted its position on Greece's application for accession to the Communities, and at its meeting of 9 February the Council came out in favour of the application. The negotiations with the three Maghreb countries (Tunisia, Morocco and Algeria) were completed between 7 and 17 January. On 20 January the Council adopted the directives enabling the Commission to open formal negotiations with the Mashrek countries, and negotiations actually began with Egypt on 28 January, Syria on 2 February and Jordan on 4 February.

The EEC-Portugal Joint Commission held its first meeting in Brussels and the Council adopted terms of reference for the opening of trade and cooperation negotiations with Portugal. At its meeting of 20 January the Council adopted an initial position on the possible resumption of negotiations with Spain. Lastly, it agreed that Yugoslavia could apply for loans from the European Investment Bank in view of the political importance of cooperation with that country.

Greece

2321. On 28 January the Commission adopted the opinion requested by the Council on the *Greek application for accession* to the Communities.¹ It recommended that 'a clear positive answer' be given to the Greek request, but stressed that the problems posed by accession might make a certain transitional period necessary. At its meeting of 9 February, the *Council* stated that it was strongly in favour of Greece's request and agreed that negotiations should be opened as soon as possible.

Malta

2322. Following the conclusion on 22 December 1975² of the negotiations with Malta, for the conclusion of protocols to supplement the existing Association Agreement, the Commission presented to the Council on 14 January a communication on the results of the negotiations, recommending that the texts be approved. At its meeting of 20 January, the Council expressed its satisfaction at the successful conclusion of the negotiations, the substance of which it approved on the understanding that the texts would be formally adopted immediately following their technical examination. The agreement should therefore be signed in the very near future.

Maghreb

2323. The negotiations for the conclusion of agreements between the Community and Tunisia, Morocco and Algeria, under the overall Mediterranean approach were completed in Brussels on 7, 8 and 17 January respectively.³

The Council was informed of the outcome of these negotiations at its meeting of 20 January and welcomed their successful conclusion. The Council expressed the wish that, once formally approved by the parties concerned, the agreements could be signed in the near future.

Spain

2324. The following press release was issued by the Council at the conclusion of its meeting of 20 January:

'The Council noted that the present situation no longer precluded the resumption of contacts with Spain regarding the negotiations which were interrupted in October 1975.

¹ Points 1101 to 1111 and Supplement 2/76 — Bull. EC.

² Bull. EC 12-1975, point 2333.

³ Points 1301 to 1311.

The Council exchanged information on the talks held recently with representatives of the new Spanish Government and noted that further conversations would be held in the near future.¹

On 6 October 1975 (following the executions in Spain) the Council had stated that 'negotiations between the EEC and Spain cannot be resumed at this time'.¹

Portugal

2325. The EEC-Portugal *Joint Commission* met for the first time in Brussels on 9 January. The Commission was set up at the time of the Council Decision of 7 October 1975² to grant Portugal exceptional emergency aid in the form of loans from the European Investment Bank to the tune of 180 million u.a.—an arrangement that will stand until a financial protocol taking its place is implemented. The Joint Commission, composed of representatives of Portugal and of the Member States, the European Investment Bank and the Commission, constitutes the framework within which the aid measures are coordinated.

This first meeting offered the Portuguese Delegation an opportunity to give an account of the present economic situation in Portugal and of the outlook for the future, bearing in mind the Government's general policy of economic recovery which is seen as essential for the strengthening of democracy. Here the Delegation stressed the great importance Portugal attached to economic and financial cooperation with the Community. Lastly, the Delegation listed the projects already selected by the Portuguese authorities in the priority sectors—namely industry, energy, transport, agriculture, tourism, and internal trade—and also drew attention to the fact that Portugal lays great store by the rapid implementation of these projects.

2326. On 20 January the Council authorized the Commission to open *negotiations* with Portugal, pursuant to the evolutive clause of the Free

Trade Agreement concluded with that country on 22 July 1972. The aim of these negotiations will be to *extend the present agreement*, thereby promoting a strengthening of the links between the Community and Portugal and giving tangible form to European solidarity. The opening of these negotiations is scheduled for 13 February.

2327. Mr Melo Antunes, the *Portuguese Minister of Foreign Affairs*, was received by Mr François-Xavier Ortoli, President of the Commission, on 28 January. Their talks covered relations between Portugal and the Community, the Community's financial aid to the Lisbon Government and the planned negotiations for the extension of the 1972 Free Trade Agreement.

Egypt

2328. The negotiations between the Community and Egypt for the conclusion of a wide-ranging cooperation agreement under the overall Mediterranean approach opened in Brussels on 28 January. This first round of negotiations lasted two days.

The Egyptian Delegation, while expressing satisfaction at the broader approach proposed by the Community compared with that of the current preferential agreement, stressed that because of the present structure of the Egyptian economy and its level of development Egypt would not be able to benefit significantly from an agreement which did not include provisions on financial and technical cooperation. Egypt considered that a section dealing with such cooperation should be an integral part of the future agreement.

The two delegations carried out an initial detailed examination of the trade and economic cooperation provisions to be included. They found that there was considerable convergence of views on numerous points of the future agreement and agreed to reflect further on certain outstanding

¹ Bull. EC 10-1975, point 2330.

² Bull. EC 10-1975, point 2333.

questions in those fields (as was stated in the joint press communiqué issued at the conclusion of this meeting).

The Community delegation noted the Egyptian requests for improved trade terms and for the addition of a financial and technical cooperation section. The Egyptian Delegation considered that such a section was essential for the conclusion of the future agreement and that its inclusion would also permit triangular cooperation to the mutual benefit of the two parties.

Yugoslavia

2329. On account of the political importance which it attaches to cooperation with Yugoslavia, the Council, for its part, agreed that Yugoslavia might approach the European Investment Bank (EIB) to seek a contribution (up to a certain amount and subject to market conditions) to the financing of projects of common European interest, on the understanding that any decision on actual projects would be taken by the Board of Governors in accordance with the Statute of the Bank.

African, Caribbean and Pacific countries

ACP-EEC Convention of Lomé

Ratifications

2330. During January, three ACP States (Ethiopia, Ivory Coast and the Bahamas) and one Member State (Ireland) deposited their instruments of ratification of the Lomé Convention. At 31 January forty-two ACP States and eight Member States had ratified the Convention.

In view of the ratifications that have taken place since, the Convention can probably enter into force on 1 April. Measures have already been taken by the General Secretariat of the Council of the European Communities to enable the Council formally to conclude the Convention as soon as all the ratification procedures have been completed.

ACP-EEC and EEC-OCT trade arrangements

2331. A number of provisions were adopted by the Council in respect of the trade arrangements with the ACP States and the Overseas Countries and Territories (OCT). These concerned particular measures or specific products:

On 20 January,¹ the Council adopted a regulation on the *safeguard measures* provided for in the ACP-EEC Convention of Lomé; this lays down detailed rules for the application of Article 10 of the Convention, which provides for the implementation of a safeguard clause.

Another regulation adopted on the same day¹ concerns the implementation (collection of statistical data) of the system (known as Stabex) for guaranteeing the *stabilization of export earnings* from certain commodities to benefit the ACP States and the Overseas Countries and Territories associated with the Community.

The Council also signified its agreement to the arrangements applicable to imports of *rum* originating in the OCT from 1 March 1976.² This measure supplements that adopted in December in respect of the ACP States.³

The previous month, the Council had already renewed until the end of June the arrangements

¹ OJ L 18 of 27.1.1976.

² OJ L 37 of 12.2.1976.

³ OJ L 321 of 12.12.1975 and Bull. EC 12-1975, point 2106.

for the reduction of import charges on *beef and veal* products originating in certain ACP States,¹ and had decided to allow *cut flowers* and *ornamental foliage* originating in the ACP States to be imported free of customs duties.¹

Yaoundé Convention

Administration of financial and technical cooperation

2332. On 21 January the Commission forwarded to the Council its Report to the EEC-AASM Association Council on the Administration of Financial and Technical Cooperation in 1974. The purpose of this report is to provide the Association Council with information on the conditions under which the Community's financial and technical cooperation with the Associated African States and Madagascar under the second Yaoundé Convention was administered in 1974. It covers the general pattern, financing decisions by sector and the implementation of aid. A similar report on the administration of cooperation with the OCT was presented to the Council in December 1975.²

Training

2333. As the entry into force of the Lomé Convention draws nearer, a provisional assessment can be made of a specific training scheme carried out under the Yaoundé Convention, namely the scholarships and traineeships for AASM nationals.

The Yaoundé Convention programme in this field—which was linked to the economic and social objectives being pursued in certain areas of education and technical, agricultural, commercial and industrial training—began in 1960/61 with a few dozen scholarship holders. Three years later,

their number had increased tenfold, and in 1974/75 they numbered around 3 200.

At the outset this programme was financed entirely by the Commission, but the EDF started to bear part of the cost in 1964 and took over completely as from 1969. It was originally organized on an annual and overall basis, but this system was replaced as from 1972 by a multiannual programme (covering three years) for each Associated State on the basis of its stated requirements.

Of the scholarships granted for the period 1972-75 approximately 33 % were for technical subjects, about 30 % for agriculture, 22 % for economics and the remainder for various other disciplines. There has been a marked trend towards an 'academic' training; 63 % of the scholarships were for higher education, 33 % for intermediate-level training and the remainder for vocational training.

Under the current multiannual programme, for which approximately 30 million u.a. is earmarked, the Commission has made a special effort to ensure that the training can increasingly take place in Africa. In 1974/75 more than two-thirds of the 3 200 scholarship holders were studying or on training courses in Africa, the reverse of the situation two years earlier.

Other countries

Cooperation agreements

2334. On 20 January, following a communication from the Commission regarding the general application of the consultation procedure for cooperation agreements established by the Council on 22 July 1974,³ the latter agreed that this procedure should now extend to cooperation agree-

¹ OJ L 329 of 23.12.1975.

² Bull. EC 12-1975, point 2342.

³ OJ L 208 of 30.7.1974 and Bull. EC 7/8-1974, point 2342.

ments between Member States and all non-member countries.

Industrialized countries

United States

2335. In talks held in Brussels on 22 January with Mr Frederick Dent, President Ford's Special Trade Representative, Sir Christopher Soames, Vice-President of the Commission, and Mr Gundelach, Member of the Commission, expressed the hope that the US administration would use the opportunities provided by the Trade Act to avoid adopting new protectionist measures, the danger of which they stressed. The Commission representatives were here referring to the recommendation of the International Trade Commission to make imports of *special steels*—the main suppliers of which are the Community, Sweden and Japan—subject to quotas for five years. According to the ITC the increase in imports of special steels has caused serious harm to certain US industries.

Apart from the warning given by the Commission's representatives on this matter, the discussions dealt with the *Multilateral Trade Negotiations* under GATT and the means which the United States and the Community should bring to bear in order to enable sufficient progress to be made this year for the negotiations to be concluded in 1977 in the interests of world trade.

State-trading countries

Sir Christopher Soames's visit to Romania

2336. Sir Christopher Soames, Vice-President of the Commission with special responsibility for external relations, visited Romania from 8 to 10 January at the invitation of the Romanian Association of International Law and International

Relations in order to give a lecture on the development of European economic relations following the Helsinki Declaration.

During his visit Sir Christopher was received by President Ceaușescu and by Mr Ion Pățan, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Trade and International Economic Cooperation, and Mr Gheorghe Macovescu, Minister of Foreign Affairs. These talks took place in a cordial atmosphere and proved to be useful and constructive.

The fact that this was the first visit by the Vice-President of the Commission responsible for external relations to a member country of the Council for Mutual Economic Assistance (CMEA) gave this visit special significance, even though it was not an official one. The discussions with the Romanian authorities dealt with the development of the EEC's economic and trade relations with Romania and the other Eastern European countries and with major international economic issues.

Sir Christopher found that the viewpoints of the two sides were very close and, in particular, that the Romanian leaders shared the Commission's opinion that the development of good working relations between the Community and the CMEA as such should in no way hamper, nor be hampered by, the development of bilateral relations between the Community and Romania or other member countries of the CMEA. On a more specific level the Romanian leaders informed Sir Christopher that they intended to negotiate a bilateral agreement on textiles with the EEC under the Multifibre Arrangement.¹

¹ Point 2304.

4. Institutions and organs of the Communities

European Parliament

European Parliament

Part-session in Luxembourg from 12 to 16 January

2401. At its first part-session in 1976, Parliament heard Luxembourg's Head of Government and Foreign Minister, Mr Gaston Thorn, who has just taken over the Chair of the Council for the next six months, outline the programme for his term of office. The statement was followed by a general debate.

The other major topics of the January sittings were research policy and problems connected with building nuclear power stations. Economic and energy policy matters also took up considerable time.¹

State of the Community (14 January)

The new Council President in the House

2402. Loud applause greeted the programme address by Luxembourg's Head of Government and Foreign Minister, Mr Gaston Thorn, who had taken over the Chair of the Council on 1 January.

The main theme of Mr Thorn's speech was his concern over the slow and timid progress in internal Community matters—a disturbing contrast to the drive manifested in external relations. He assured the House that during his term of office his first personal concern would be to press for ratification of the Convention on the direct election of the European Parliament. Then came the Tindemans Report on European Union,² which, he said, must be transformed into firm decisions without delay.

The time had also come for action on the individual aspects of the Community's Mediterranean policy: Greece's application for membership, the association with Turkey, negotiations with Tunisia, Morocco and Algeria, Egypt, Syria, Lebanon

and Jordan, and the rapprochement with Spain. Then in the field of external relations, the Lomé Convention was to be implemented after its ratification.

At the outset of his address, Mr Thorn had said that he would speak about the world economic conference in Paris in December 1975 (North-South Dialogue) and the crucial question of the minimum oil price on some future occasion. On the home front, Mr Thorn said that two of the priorities for the Council were to hold a second Tripartite Conference between the two sides of industry, the Council and the Commission and to undertake action in all fields of research policy.

In conclusion Mr Thorn gave the House some impressions from his experiences as President of the United Nations General Assembly. Looking back, he saw the lack of unity among the European States or the absence of common policies as an act of self-destruction, an anachronism compared with other world groupings which always looked more resolute and effective in their action. The new Council President concluded with a word of appreciation for the much disparaged 'Eurocrats'.

The spokesmen for all the Groups acknowledged Mr Thorn's European conviction and spirit. Not all of them put their priorities in the same order. Direct election of Parliament was at the top of the list for the Socialists, Christian Democrats and Conservatives. Mr Radoux (S/B) also mentioned the economic crisis, energy policy and the

¹ This report was prepared from the German edition of 'Information' published by Parliament's Secretariat.

The political group and nationality of members are indicated in brackets by the following abbreviations: C-D = Christian Democrats, S = Socialists, L = Liberals and Allies, C = European Conservatives, EPD = European Progressive Democrats, COM = Communists and Allies; B = Belgium, DK = Denmark, D = Federal Republic of Germany, F = France, IRL = Ireland, I = Italy, L = Luxembourg, NL = Netherlands, UK = United Kingdom.

The complete texts of the Resolutions passed by Parliament are reproduced in OJ C 28 of 9.2.1976 and the verbatim report is contained in OJ Annex 198.

² Supplement 1/76 — Bull. EC.

export bank and Mr *Bertrand* (C-D/B) highlighted the Tindemans Report, energy and raw material policy and the battle against inflation: Mr *Durieux* (L/F) and Mr *de la Malène* (EPD/F) put the accent on the common policies and the Mediterranean policy. Mr *Scott-Hopkins* (C/UK) recognized the need for direct elections but felt that they would have to be coupled with wider powers. Mrs *Iotti* (COM/I) felt that the most important task of the Council President should be to combat unemployment.

Later in the debate Mr *Fellermaier* (S/D) complained that the Council was sitting in a closed chamber from which nothing got through to the public. He called on the Council to demonstrate what interest it would take in a directly elected House by collaborating more closely with this Parliament. Mr *Aigner* (C-D/D) pointed to the gulf between the lofty Summit statements and reality. By their close cooperation the Council and Parliament had to overcome much of the negative autonomy of democracy.

In his final remarks Mr *Thorn* warned the House not to expect from him things which, in the short time available, he could scarcely provide.

Research and Technology

Common siting policy for nuclear power stations
(13 January)

2403. In its Resolution, based on a comprehensive own-initiative report, on the conditions for a Community policy on the siting of nuclear power stations bearing in mind their effects on the population, the House insisted that the public must be kept fully informed on the development of nuclear energy and the alternatives, and called for close cooperation between the Community authorities and local and regional government. A Community policy for site planning should include the preparation of a Community map showing potential sites and the harmonization of authorization procedures. Only in this way could all Community citizens be offered the same guarantees and equal protection. A danger did exist

for the environment, but was so slight as to be felt acceptable.

In her statement the rapporteur, Mrs *Walz* (C-D/D), put the policy of site selection into the wider context of the common energy policy. Since oil and coal deposits and water power were all limited, there was no way of avoiding nuclear energy, and the problems had to be tackled promptly. She urged the Commission to put forward practical proposals for protecting the environment and for transport, storage and disposal of radioactive material.

Speaking for the Socialists, Mr *Flämig* (D) declared that the watchword today must be 'safety first'. He complained that the Resolution motion did not make adequate allowance for the environmental aspects and urged that it be revised by the Committee concerned. Like Mr *Flämig*, the Liberal spokesman, Mr *Premoli* (I) highlighted the urgent need for contacts between neighbouring Member States when power stations were built in border regions. Mr *Vandewiele* (C-D/B) said the report was a well-timed move since the number of power stations was steadily growing. Mrs *Kruchow* (L/D), Mr *Krieg* (EPD/F) and Lord *Bessborough* (C/UK) also endorsed it.

On behalf of the Commission Mr *Simonet*, Vice-President, thanked the House for its bold initiative on an issue where feelings ran high. He summarized the studies now in hand with the Commission: authorization criteria, transport of materials and the economic and environmental problems in building 'nuclear parks'.

In the division the Socialist Group abstained because its request to have the Committee revise the Resolution—which it felt did not take sufficient account of environmental aspects—was rejected.

*Outcome of the Council meeting of
Research Ministers on 5 December 1975*
(13 January)

2404. Parliament criticised the Research Ministers for their indecision at the Council meeting in

Brussels on 15 December.¹ In the Resolution it warned that any delay in decisions on continuing Community research in the various disciplines could wipe out the Community's lead in the fields of nuclear fusion and plasma physics. The Council was strongly urged at its next meeting in February to take a positive decision in line with Parliament's views.

Mr *Springorum* (C-D/D), Mr *Giraud* (S/F), Mr *Noè* (C-D/I) and Mr *Krieg* (EPD/F) declared their Groups' support. Mr *Brunner*, Member of the Commission, thanked the House for the support it was providing in championing the cause of European scientific research. All that was needed now was a majority decision in the Council on the site for the JET plasma machine, which he regarded as a secondary matter. Prestige should not enter into it.

Support for the European data processing industry
(12 January)

2405. The debate centred on the question of which companies deserved support and on what line to take in the face of the all-powerful American competition.

Mr *Spinelli*, Member of the Commission, stressed that it was not a question of pressing a particular American company out of the market but of diminishing the Americans' dominance of the market—they account for 60-70%—and give the medium-sized and small European firms a chance. In a remark directed at various British members who believed that the planned measures carried risks for jobs provided, especially in the United Kingdom, by non-European companies, Mr *Lange* (S/D) also emphasized that the aim was not to handicap non-European companies but to try and afford other firms a share of the market, in particular the small-scale computer market. But he also sounded a warning note against any attempts by Europe to assure self-sufficiency.

In conclusion the House approved the Commission's proposals.² It was critical, however, of what it considered to be inadequate efforts to open up the public procurement market for European firms—a step which was essential if any support action was to succeed. It also criticized the Council for deleting from the Community draft budget for 1976 the appropriations earmarked for this purpose, thereby making a supplementary budget necessary. Without the substantial funds required and a firm political resolve the objective would not be attained.

Economic affairs

*Information on prices of crude oil
and petroleum products*
(13 January)

2406. Parliament approved the Commission's proposal for a Regulation concerning a Community procedure for information and consultation on the prices of crude oil and petroleum products in the Community.³ To appraise the practical value of the proposed measures, the House called for annual reports on how the Regulations worked in the first three years of application. In its Resolution, Parliament also highlighted the importance of cooperation between the Commission, the Member States and the oil companies.

On behalf of their Groups, Mr *Vandewiele* (C-D/B), Mr *Hougardy* (L/B), Mr *Nyborg* (EDP/DK) and Mr *Normanton* (C/UK) endorsed the proposed Regulation, which Mr *Simonet*, Vice-President of the Commission, described as a first step towards a common energy policy.

¹ Bull. EC 12-1975, points 2264 and 2417.

² Bull. EC 9-1975, point 2236.

³ OJ C 231 of 10.10.1975.

Merger control
(14 January)

2407. Mr Lange (S/D) warned against any further delays in the Council in approving the proposed Regulation on merger control, or else the Community would soon be nothing but oligopolistic markets. The Council had originally undertaken to approve the proposal by 1 January 1975. The questioner, Mr Leenhardt (S/F), was not satisfied with the reply from the Council President, Mr Hamilius, who had explained that a number of important points had to be cleared up before a final decision could be taken.

Multinational companies
(14 January)

2408. To a question from Mr de la Malène (EPD/F), Mr Haferkamp, Vice-President of the Commission, pointed out that the transfers of multinational companies from European countries into developing countries with its effects on the labour market had to be seen in the overall context of the problem of attracting investment. Efforts had to concentrate on creating economic conditions which would provide an incentive for all undertakings to invest.

Difficulties in the textile industry
(14 January)

2409. The European Progressive Democrats Group put two questions to the Commission on the current problems in the textile industry. Reductions in social security costs and more assistance from the Social Fund in the textile industry were urged as measures to remedy the market upheavals and the deterioration in the employment situation. Mr Schwörer (C-D/D) referred to the special importance of textile companies in economically weak regions and the female employment situation, women providing the industry with most of its labour.

For the Commission, Mr Gundelach promised to do all he could to support this vital European industry.

For the Council, the President, Mr Hamilius, pointed to the obligations deriving from international agreements such as the Multifibre Arrangement, which include the removal of quantitative restrictions. The Community was trying to offer some protection for the textile industry through voluntary restraint agreements with the major supplier countries. The President went on to remind the House that Social Fund resources could now be used for measures to support the geographical and occupational mobility of people whose jobs in the textile industry were directly at risk.

Medium-term economic policy
(14 January)

2410. The Commission's fourth medium-term economic policy programme will be ready this summer. This was promised by Mr Haferkamp in reply to a question from Mr Leenhardt (S/F). Mr Haferkamp again stressed the need for close collaboration between the Nine to solve their economic problems.

Direct insurance
(13 January)

2411. The July 1973 Council Directive on taking up the business of direct insurance other than life insurance¹ had eliminated some of the disparities between national laws and in particular had coordinated the rules governing financial guarantees to be provided by insurers. The House approved an amendment to this Directive concerning the reference period of the unit of account used in determining the guarantee fund of companies.

¹ Bull. EC 7/8-1973, point 2122.

Energy price increases and competitiveness
(13 January)

2412. The own-initiative report by the Committee on Economic and Monetary Affairs concerning the effects of higher energy prices on the Member States' productivity and competitiveness was referred back to the Committee. The House wanted to wait for the Commission's analytical report on the same subject before taking a final position.

Transport

Laminated safety glass for all Community vehicles
(15 January)

2413. The mills of the Council of Transport Ministers, said Mr *Seefeld* (S/D) grind more slowly than the mills of God. As rapporteur for the Committee on Regional Policy and Transport, he strongly urged the Council to approve the Commission's proposal, which dated back to 1972, to introduce laminated safety glass for the windscreens of all road vehicles. The failure to take a decision demonstrated that the Community's transport policy was floundering. The Council's wavering was doubly incomprehensible; first because the Regulation offered greater safety for all road users and second because it would serve to provide equal conditions of competition in the motor industry. Laminated glass had so far been made compulsory only in Italy. But manufacturers in the other countries had meanwhile realized that such regulations were inevitable.

The own-initiative report was endorsed by all the Groups; the Conservatives alone had doubts as they found no proof that laminated glass offered better safety guarantees. But in the division the House was unanimous.

Congratulations to airlines?
(15 January)

2414. After Mr *Fellermaier* (D), the Chairman of the Socialist Group had protested strongly, Mr

Scott-Hopkins (C/UK) and Mr *de la Malène* (EPD/F) withdrew their request for the urgent procedure to be applied to a resolution motion congratulating the airlines which were planning to put the Concorde into regular service. The Socialist Group contended that this had no place among the urgent tasks of the European Parliament. The Group also referred to the environmental problems of supersonic flight. The motion was referred to the relevant Committee for further review.

Social affairs

Activity of the European Social Fund in 1974
(15 January)

2415. In its Resolution on the activity of the European Social Fund during 1974 (third Commission report),¹ Parliament noted with regret that in its present form and with the resources at its command, the Fund offered too little opportunity to make an effective contribution towards reducing unemployment. In view of the unfavourable trend in the social situation, the existing possibilities should be used not only against structural unemployment but on a general front as well. In this connection the House deplored the Council's refusal to allow the ESF resources to be used for vocational adaptation measures to help counter the effects of the recession. Calling for greater care in establishing criteria for allocating funds and in checking that they are used more effectively, Parliament approved the Fund's activity as a whole.

The rapporteur, Mr *Kavanagh* (S/IRL) attacked what he regarded as the Community institutions' inadequate efforts to combat the economic crisis. Five million out of work demanded concerted action on the taxation and monetary policy side for

¹ Bull. EC 7/8-1975, point 2227.

a start. Nothing had been done so far. Mr *Van der Gun* (C-D/NL) supported the rapporteur's argument about the 'dualism' in social policy. While the governments were constantly crying for a European social policy, the same governments in the Council were slashing the Social Fund's resources. Sir Brandon *Rhys Williams* (C/UK) described the appropriations earmarked for the Social Fund as a drop in the ocean when some of the social problems were assuming tragic proportions. Mr *Yeats* (EPD/IRL) urged priority measures to help school-leavers who were unable to find work. Commission Vice-President, Dr *Hillery*, warned against neglecting the disabled in times of economic difficulty.

Public health and the environment

Quality of drinking water (15 January)

2416. Parliament approved the Commission's proposal for a Directive on the quality of water for human consumption;¹ the Resolution called for frequent analyses and a review of standards every five years. When laying down exceptional provisions, any special local conditions should be taken into consideration.

Dangers of lead (15 January)

2417. Parliament also approved two proposed Directives on biological standards for lead, screening the population for lead² and on air quality standards for lead.²

Titanium dioxide waste (13 January)

2418. The rapporteur, Mr *Premoli* (L/I) pointed out that among the industries polluting the environment, the titanium dioxide industry was

one of the worst culprits. Its waste ('red sludge') was discharged into the open sea and river estuaries and in the Mediterranean protests were being voiced. In view of the steadily increasing demand for titanium dioxide, the consequences for the marine environment would soon be disastrous. Parliament approved the Commission's proposal for a Directive on waste from the titanium dioxide industry³ and emphasized the importance it attached to the 'polluter pays' principle.

Paints, adhesives, etc. (15 January)

2419. Parliament approved the Commission's proposal for a Directive on approximation of laws, regulations and administrative provisions for the classification, packaging and labelling of paints, varnishes, adhesives, etc. But the House wanted more precise rules to ensure that instructions for use, storage or first-aid should be clearly visible, easily understood and indelibly marked.

Agriculture and Fisheries (15 January)

Measures to help the fishing industry?

2420. The problems in the Community fishing industry were the subject of a question from Mr *Scott-Hopkins* (C/UK) and Mr *Corrie* (C/UK) in which they pressed the Commission for early proposals to improve the financial situation of the fishing industry. Both members stressed that the problems were by no means confined to the United Kingdom, although the question was largely of interest to the British members in the House.

Mr *Lardinois*, Member of the Commission, acknowledged that 1975 had been a bad year for the

¹ OJ C 214 of 18.9.1975.

² OJ C 151 of 7.7.1975.

³ Bull. EC 7/8-1975, point 2237.

fishing industry, but things had taken a turn for the better over the last two months. Proposals were now in preparation.

Organization of the sheepmeat market
(15 January)

2421. The Commission is seeking to secure the free movement of mutton and lamb by means of a transitional common organization of the market which would apply until 31 December 1977. Hitherto there have been no Community rules, as special transitional arrangements have applied for the United Kingdom, Ireland and Denmark. Parliament asked the Commission to revise its proposals, which in their present form could give rise to discrimination.

New structure for Parliament's Committees
(13 January)

2422. When the 1976/77 session begins (March part-session) Parliament will have the following twelve Committees:

1. The Political Affairs Committee;
2. The Legal Affairs Committee;
3. The Committee on Economic and Monetary Affairs;
4. The Committee on Budgets;
5. The Committee on Social Affairs, Employment and Education;
6. The Committee on Agriculture;
7. The Committee on Regional Policy, Regional Planning and Transport;
8. The Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Consumer Protection;
9. The Committee on Energy and Research;
10. The Committee on External Economic Relations;
11. The Committee on Development and Co-operation;

12. The Committee on the Rules of Procedure and Petitions.

New features are the combination of the former Committee on Social Affairs and Employment with the Committee for Youth and Culture (5); the wider responsibilities of the Committee on Regional Policy and Transport which becomes the Committee on Regional Policy, Regional Planning and Transport (7); inclusion of consumer protection in the title of the old Committee on Social Affairs and Employment; the new name of the old Committee on Energy, Research and Technology (9) and the disappearance of the Associations Committee.

Parliament also formed Permanent Delegations to the Joint Parliamentary Committees of the EEC-Greece and EEC-Turkey Associations.

Question Time
(14 January)

2423. In the hour and a half of Question Time the Council and Commission answered eighteen questions.

These concerned the surplus stocks of skimmed-milk powder, air fares within the Community, discrimination against women employed by the Commission, the limit of age for retraining workers, regional aid in France and regional aid in general, vocational training policy, raising of loans, the Social Fund, the Business Cooperation Centre, EEC structural schemes, Scotland and Wales, investments in developing countries, trade with Romania and the mediocre results of the last meeting of the Transport Ministers in December 1975.

The highlights of Question Time were two questions on the direct election of the European Parliament and concerning Parliament's headquarters in connection with the expected increase in rent for the new building in Strasbourg.

Direct elections

Answering a question from Mr *Dykes* (C/UK), the Council President, Mr *Thorn*, reminded the House that direct elections were to be held for the first time on the same day in May or June 1978 for all countries, though a Member State which could not hold the election on this day could designate its delegates to the European Parliament from among the members of its national Parliament. This had been agreed by the European Council in Rome in December 1975. Nevertheless he could see no reason to assume that any Member State would have to fall back on that possibility.

Parliament's headquarters

A question from Mr *Dalyell* (S/UK) on the anticipated rental charges for the new Council of Europe building in Strasbourg—which was also to be used by Parliament—led to a heated argument on the question of its permanent seat. Members were not pleased with President *Ortoli's* statement that it was not for the Commission to present proposals but that the headquarters of the Community institutions were established jointly by the Member States' governments.

Mr *Fellermaier* (S/D) reminded Mr *Ortoli* that some time before, he had undertaken, on behalf of the Commission, to put forward proposals. Mr *Burgbacher* (C-D/D) emphasized that the choice should be made on political grounds and not from 'petty' considerations such as rent. Mr *Ortoli* felt that all the arguments, including Mr *Seefeld's* (S/D) point that a directly elected larger House in 1978 needed more congenial working conditions, did not warrant any action on the part of the Commission.

Council

2424. As Italy's term of office expired, it was Luxembourg's turn, for six months from 1 January, to take the Chair at meetings of the Council and its subordinate bodies, at conferences of

the Representatives of the Governments of the Member States and at meetings on political co-operation.

In January, the Council held two meetings on foreign affairs and agriculture.

379th Meeting — Agriculture
(Brussels 19 and 20 January)

2425. *President: Mr Hamilius*, Luxembourg Minister of Agriculture

From the Commission: Mr Ortoli, President; Mr *Lardinois*, Member

Farm prices for 1976/77: The Council examined the broad lines of the farm price policy for the 1976/77 marketing year.¹

Structural policy: The Council discussed in general terms a set of measures under the agricultural structures policy—proposals concerning forestry measures, special aid for young farmers who have been engaged in farming for less than five years and have put in hand a development plan, producer groups and associations of such groups and joint action to improve the conditions under which agricultural produce is processed and sold.

Wine: The President of the Commission, Mr *Ortoli*, highlighted the political importance of finding a satisfactory answer to the questions still outstanding in the wine sector. Mr *Lardinois*, Member of the Commission with special responsibility for agriculture, was asked to take any steps which might help to find an appropriate solution as swiftly as possible.²

The Council also discussed problems arising in the fisheries sector in particular the position as regards *fishing quotas*, and adopted a Regulation on total suspension of the autonomous CCT duty in respect of ware potatoes until 28 March 1976.³

¹ Point 2221.

² Point 2228.

³ Point 2229.

380th Meeting — Foreign Affairs (Brussels, 20 January)

2426. *President:* Mr Thorn, Luxembourg Minister of Foreign Affairs

From the Commission: Mr Ortolí, President; Sir Christopher Soames, Vice-President; Mr Cheysson, Mr Brunner, Members

Work programme: The Council heard a statement from the Chair on the programme of work for the first months of 1976. The three political key-notes are the Conference on International Economic Cooperation, preparation of the Convention on the election of members of the European Parliament by direct universal suffrage and action to be taken on the Tindemans Report.

The statement also outlined the other areas where the Council should concentrate its attention: as much in the field of external relations as in the other sectors. On this point Mr Thorn was particularly concerned about the marked contrast between the Community's drive in its external relations and its slow progress on internal matters.

The Council was also informed by the President of the status of the work in hand in the Council in its various compositions.

Conference on International Economic Cooperation: The Council and the Commission agreed that Mr Wellenstein would represent the EEC as co-Chairman of the Development Commission and Mr Dondelinger as co-Chairman of the Finance Commission. The Council also approved the internal arrangements concerning procedures and organization of Community activities in connection with the Conference on International Economic Cooperation.

It was also informed of the progress made in preparing the Community's position for the meeting of the co-Chairmen on 26 January and the meetings of the Commissions on 11 February.¹

Overall Mediterranean approach: The Council wel-

comed the results of the negotiations with the Maghreb countries² and with Malta³ and formally adopted the Directives enabling the Commission to open negotiations with the Mashrek countries.⁴

Spain: The Council found that in view of recent developments contacts could be made with Spain with a view to resuming the negotiations which were broken off in October 1975.⁵

Portugal: The Commission was authorized to open negotiations with Portugal to expand the free-trade agreement and foster stronger links between the Community and Portugal.⁶

Yugoslavia: The Council signified its agreement that Yugoslavia could approach the European Investment Bank to request financial assistance for projects of common European interest.⁷

Canada: The Council noted that the Community was ready to start negotiations with Canada with a view to concluding an outline agreement on economic and trade cooperation.

The Council also discussed the negotiations under way within the EEC-Greece and EEC-Turkey Association Councils and on the matter of a Community contribution to the International Fund for Agricultural Development.

Commission

Meeting with the new President of the Council

2427. On 19 January the Commission met Mr Gaston Thorn, President of the Luxembourg Government and Minister of Foreign Affairs and President of the Council for the first half of 1976,

¹ Point 2309.

² Point 1301 to 1311 and 2323.

³ Point 2322.

⁴ Point 2320.

⁵ Bull. EC 9-1975, points 2326 to 2331.

⁶ Point 2326.

⁷ Point 2329.

to study the priority issues for his term of office. All sectors of Community policy were systematically reviewed and broad agreement was reached on the choice of priorities, both political (election of Parliament by universal suffrage, the North-South Conference and related questions, preparation for the next Tripartite Conference with the two sides of industry) and structural. The Presidents of the Council and of the Commission will, as in the past, work in close cooperation.

Activities

2428. The Commission held four meetings in January. The main items discussed were the preparations for the programme for 1976,¹ the Opinion on Greece's application for membership and energy policy.

Greece's application for membership: The Commission devoted much of its time and thought to preparing and finalizing its Opinion on the action to be taken in respect of Greece's application to join the Community.²

Energy policy: The Commission wound up its discussions on the implementation of the energy policy guidelines which the European Council had adopted in December,³ on the achievement of the quantitative energy production objectives and on measures to encourage energy saving.⁴

In its Communication, the Commission first asks the Council to approve the decisions laid before it two years ago on action to be taken in the event of supply problems to preserve the common market and ensure solidarity in matters of supply.

It then proposes a number of measures to safeguard and develop the Community's energy resources.

The Commission also adopted a report to the Council on the achievement of the energy policy objectives which the Community had set for 1985.⁴

Report on European Union: The Commission began a detailed examination of Mr Tindemans's report on European Union.⁵ A useful basis for the discussion was the meeting which Mr Tindemans had had with President *Ortoli* and most of the Members of the Commission after the report was published, when he elucidated his main proposals.

The Commission intends to continue the examination of the Tindemans report at its forthcoming meetings in order to decide what positions it will take at the European Council meeting in April when the report will be discussed and to prepare any suggestions for adjustments or additions which it might put forward then.

European Export Bank: After considering the new report from the interdepartmental working party, the Commission adopted the main lines of a proposal for a Council Regulation establishing a European Export Bank. On the strength of the instructions approved by the Commission, the departments concerned will now be able to finalize the proposal and the explanatory memorandum for transmission to the Council in February.

The Commission feels that the job of the Export Bank should be to assist exports to non-member countries by multinationals (i.e. companies from two or more Member States) where major transactions of interest to Europe are involved.

Nuclear fusion programme: The Commission adopted a Communication to the Council concerning the site for the Joint European Torus (JET) project. After considering the opinion of a group of technical experts, the Commission feels that Ispra is the most suitable place for this important plant.⁶

¹ Ninth General Report, Introduction.

² Supplement 2/76 — Bull. EC.

³ Bull. EC 11-1975, point 1104.

⁴ Points 1201 to 1208 and 2247.

⁵ Supplement 1/76 — Bull. EC.

⁶ Point 2239.

Relations with workers' and employers' organizations

2429. In January the Commission arranged three meetings with trade union organizations. The first, with the European Trade Union Confederation (ETUC), was chaired by Mr Thomson, Member of the Commission, and concerned regional policy. The main points discussed were regional policy projects implemented in 1975, prospects for 1976 and the development of contacts between the Commission and trade unions.

The second, with the European Metalworkers' Federation, enabled the Federation to voice its opinion on the Commission's proposed action programme for the aircraft industry.¹ The third meeting, with the same Federation, considered problems in the shipbuilding industry, especially wages, working hours and supplementary social security in some Community shipyards.

Court of Justice

Appointment of a judge

2430. The representatives of the Governments of the Member States decided on 20 January to appoint Mr Francesco *Capotorti* judge at the Court of Justice of the European Communities until 6 October 1976 in place of Mr Riccardo *Monaco* who has resigned.

New cases

Case 1/76 — Commission official v Commission

2431. This action is to annul the Commission's decision rejecting the applicant's complaint concerning the grant of expatriation allowance.

Case 2/76 — Commission official v Commission

2432. This is an action to annul a decision of the Commission rejecting a complaint in respect of a refusal of leave on personal grounds.

Cases 3, 4 and 6/76 — Officier van Justitie bij de Arrondissementsrechtbank te Zwolle and others v Kramer, Urk, and others

2433. The Arrondissementsrechtbanken of Zwolle and Alkmaar asked the Court of Justice for a series of preliminary rulings on the compatibility with Community law of certain Dutch provisions on fishing restrictions, on the power of Member States to conclude agreements ensuring the protection of fishing resources and on the direct applicability of Articles 30, 31 and 34 of the EEC Treaty.

Case 5/76 — Commission official v Commission

2434. An action has been brought before the Court to annul the Commission's rules concerning the procedure to be adopted prior to decisions transferring officials in the scientific or technical services from category B to category A.

Case 7/76 — S.p.A. Industria Romana Carni e Affini (IRCA), Roma, v Amministrazione delle Finanze

2435. When hearing an action concerning the importation of beef and veal from Argentina the 6th Ufficio Conciliazione di Roma asked the Court of Justice about the validity of Commission Regulation (EEC) No 905/73 fixing the amounts by which the monetary compensatory amounts are to be adjusted² insofar as it may infringe the principles of non-retrospectivity and non-discrimination and may be *ultra vires*.

¹ Bull. EC 10-1975, points 1201 to 1204 and Supplement 11/75 — Bull. EC.

² OJ L 92 of 7.4.1973.

Case 8/76 — Official of European Parliament v European Parliament

2436. This is an action to annul an appointment following a competition.

Case 9/76 — Commission official v Commission

2437. This is an action to annul a decision of a selection board for internal competitions refusing to include the applicant in the list of candidates, and the competitions and subsequent appointments.

Judgments

Case 40/75 Société des produits Bertrand SA, Grigny, v Commission

2438. On 22 April 1975 a French pasta manufacturer brought a claim for damages in respect of the loss alleged to have been sustained as a result of the Commission's failure to exercise the powers conferred on it by the first and second subparagraphs of Article 93(2) and Articles 155 and 169 of the EEC Treaty to secure abolition of the indirect aid granted by Italy to Italian meal and pasta manufacturers by selling them durum wheat at prices below market rates.

The Court dismissed the action by its judgment of 21 January.

Case 46/75 — IBC Importazione Bestiame Carni, srl, Trieste, v Commission

2439. An Italian beef importing company brought a claim for damages against the Commission on 13 May 1975 in respect of loss alleged to have been sustained as a result of the implementation of Article 5(2) of Regulation (EEC) 1463/73 laying down detailed rules for the application of monetary compensatory amounts.¹ The applicant contested the validity of this provision.

By its judgment of 27 January, the Court dismissed this action as inadmissible.

Case 55/75 — Balkan-Import Export GmbH, Berlin, v Hauptzollamt Berlin-Packhof

2440. In an action concerning the payment of monetary compensatory amounts in connection with imports of sheep's milk cheese from non-Member States the Finanzgericht Berlin asked the Court of Justice for a preliminary ruling on the validity of Regulation (EEC) 974/71 on certain measures of conjunctural policy to be taken in agriculture following the temporary widening of the margins of fluctuation for the currencies of certain Member States,² as the text stood on 25 April 1975, in the light of the exemptions for other types of cheese provided for in Regulation (EEC) 1265/73 altering the monetary compensatory amounts.³ The request also related to the methods for calculating the compensatory amounts.

By its judgment of 22 January, the Court of Justice held that the disputed compensatory amount was valid. This finding concerns the validity of applying the compensatory amount as such and the correctness of the amount fixed by reference to the calculation system used since 1973.

Case 60/75 — Russo v Azienda di Stato per gli Interventi sul Mercato agricolo

2441. In an action in which an Italian durum wheat producer claimed damages from the Italian agricultural produce intervention agency on account of the purchase by the latter of durum wheat on the world market and its resale in Italy at prices below the purchase price and the intervention price, the Pretura di Bovine had asked the Court of Justice on 7 July 1975 for a preliminary ruling on whether such action constitutes an infringement of Regulation No 120/67/EEC on the common organization of the market in

¹ OJ L 146 of 4.6.1973.

² OJ L 106 of 12.5.1971.

³ OJ L 130 of 17.5.1973.

cereals.¹ If so, the Pretura asked if there is a principle in Community law whereby private individuals are entitled to be compensated for loss resulting from such infringement.

By its judgment of 22 January, the Court of Justice held that the acquisition by a Member State of durum wheat on the world market and its subsequent resale on the Community market at a price lower than the target price is incompatible with the common organization of the market in cereals. The Court also ruled that an individual may claim on the basis of Community rules that he shall not be prevented from obtaining a price close to the target price and in any event not less than the intervention price, and that in the event of loss, it is for the State to determine the consequences under the provisions of national law relating to the liability of the State.

Case 61/75 — Official of the European Parliament v European Parliament

2442. This action to annul the report at the end of the applicant's probationary period was removed from the register of the Court by order of 21 January.

Economic and Social Committee

136th Plenary Session

2443. The 136th plenary session of the Economic and Social Committee was held in Brussels on 28 and 29 January with the Committee Chairman, Mr Canonge in the chair.

The Committee held an initial discussion on the Green Paper on Employee Participation and Company Structure and decided to form a sub-Committee to prepare an Opinion on it.

The Committee also adopted ten Opinions.

Opinions

Farm Prices for 1976/77

2444. The Committee's discussion on the Commission proposals for certain agricultural prices for 1976/77 and on certain related measures revealed radical differences of opinion. After a heated debate, the Committee finally decided by a close vote (30 for, 23 against and 20 abstentions) that a 7.5-8% increase in the general level of prices could be accepted this year; this is virtually what the Commission has proposed. This approval was nevertheless qualified by many requests that a better balance be created in the prices policy by means of structural measures and especially by applying temporary measures, where required, to remedy difficult situations. The Opinion was prepared from the report by Mr de Caffarelli (France — General Interests).

Mr Lardinois, Member of the Commission with special responsibility for agriculture, attended the meeting and taking the floor sketched the economic background against which the Commission's proposals must be seen. The present situation in agriculture was marked by a slackening in the upward movement of costs. Furthermore the trend of agricultural incomes was now more satisfactory than in 1974 and at the beginning of 1975. A point to note was that generally speaking agriculture had been less hard-hit by the recession than other sectors of the economy and that the common agricultural policy had certainly helped towards this. Calmer economic conditions should now make it easier to agree on the broad lines which had guided the Commission in proposing its measures.

Introduction of a recording device in road transport

2445. Subject to certain comments, the Committee approved the Commission's proposal and particularly the introduction of an appropriate conciliation procedure if faults in the device or

¹ OJ No. 117 of 19.6.1967.

inaccurate readings on the recording disc led to disputes. It was also pleased to see that a Committee had been formed to ensure that the Regulation was regularly adapted in line with technical progress.

*Regular and special regular services
by bus and coach between Member States*

2446. The Committee unanimously approved the proposed Regulation which, to allow for certain special features of traffic between the mainland and some island countries, would amend the Regulation establishing common rules for regular and special regular services by bus and coach between Member States.

*Information and consultation procedure concerning prices
of crude oil and petroleum products in the Community*

2447. In its Opinion the Committee endorsed the aim of providing clearer information on costs and prices on the crude oil and petroleum products markets. It was more cautious, however, as to how it was proposed to achieve this.

Protecting the environment from lead

2448. The Committee endorsed the proposed Directive on the biological standards for lead and the screening of the population to protect against its dangers, since the proposal made a practical contribution towards safeguarding human health. The Committee did have some suggestions to make in respect of the establishment of certain standards.

The Committee also approved the proposed Directive concerning air quality standards for lead but recommended that a third intermediate zone be created with its own standard so that lead pollution emanating from certain industrial activities could be monitored.

*Effective exercise of the freedom
to provide services by lawyers*

2449. The Committee unanimously adopted its Opinion on the amended proposal for a Directive to facilitate the actual application of the freedom to provide services by lawyers. It was pleased that the amended proposal contained measures liberalizing the provision of services by lawyers which went further than those in the first Commission proposals. Nevertheless the Committee considered that the new proposals were only a first step and that further efforts must be made to give effect to the lawyers' freedom to provide services. The Committee endorsed the rule that the 'double deontology' should be respected when the services provided involved representation and defence in courts. Conversely, in respect of other services, it felt that the interests of the various parties concerned, especially those of the client and of the other side, required that lawyers should respect the professional rules of the Member State from which they came, but that they should also comply with the basic deontological principles of the bar of the host Member State.

Education of the children of migrant workers

2450. This Opinion prepared by Mr Sloman (United Kingdom — General Interests) was adopted by an unanimous vote except for two abstentions. In its general comment the Committee emphasized its view that any discrimination based on nationality must be eliminated. The children of migrant workers had to receive an education in keeping with the rules, standards and general practice in the host countries. They had to have the same opportunities of access to all forms of education and training as those enjoyed by the local children and that included nursery and infant school. The Committee also stressed that migrant workers' children were to get equal consideration in respect of study grants and similar assistance.

ECSC Consultative Committee

175th Meeting

2451. The ECSC Consultative Committee held an extraordinary meeting in Luxembourg on 19 January, with Mr *Capanna*, the Committee Chairman in the chair; Mr *Spinelli*, Member of the Commission, was present.

Two important items appeared on the agenda: consultation of the Committee on a proposal to introduce minimum prices for steel products within the common market and the vote on the Committee's draft resolution on the employment situation in the iron and steel industry.

Minimum prices for iron and steel products

2452. Mr *Spinelli* described the action taken by the Commission in the iron and steel industry and informed the Committee of the proposal to apply Article 61 of the ECSC Treaty, under which minimum prices may be fixed for certain products within the common market. The Commission saw nothing in recent developments to make it alter the conclusions it had reached at its meeting on 10 December. Speaking on behalf of the Markets and Prices Sub-Committee, Mr *Arnaud* outlined the arguments put forward by those who opposed the introduction of minimum prices in the present situation: the proposal had come too late, the market had bottomed out, the system was inflexible, would require considerable staff numbers for its implementation, would be difficult to monitor and would lead to an increase in imports.

It emerged from the discussion that two conditions would have to be satisfied for the system to be accepted: the minimum prices would have to comply with the provisions of the Treaty by covering costs, depreciation and interest payments and there should be no loopholes which might be exploited by imports.

Mr *Robert*, speaking on behalf of Mr *Conrot*, proposed the following addition to the draft opinion from the Sub-Committee for Markets and Prices: 'Having received the assurance from the Commission that minimum prices can in no circumstance be considered as fixed prices and that, in particular, the freedom of undertakings to publish price lists and to apply prices above the minimum prices will be protected, in accordance with the provisions of Article 60 of the ECSC Treaty'.

It was also pointed out that the proposed arrangements would not provoke anti-dumping measures from non-member exporting countries, as would have happened had the minimum prices been fixed when prices within the Community were at their lowest.

Those supporting the Commission proposal pointed to the difficulties facing the iron and steel industry and to the need to redress the position. The introduction of minimum prices would certainly improve a situation which was still fundamentally bad and which would affect employment over the coming months.

The Committee finally adopted the amendment proposed by Mr *Robert* on behalf of Mr *Conrot*. It then adopted the first three points of the draft opinion as follows:

The Consultative Committee:

1. Records its adherence to the safeguard clauses provided for in the Treaty of Paris in the event of a manifest crisis;
2. Refers to the unanimous position it adopted in its resolution of 29 September 1975 pointing out the seriousness of the situation in the steel industry;
3. Concurs with the analysis of the current situation by the Commission which confirms that the crisis is continuing notwithstanding an easing in certain sectors.

After lively discussion, a vote by nominal roll was taken on the fourth point of the draft. It was approved by 31 votes to 22 with 9 abstentions.

The text is as follows: the Consultative Committee gives a favourable opinion on the introduction of a system of minimum prices for steel products within the common market in pursuance of Article 61(b) of the ECSC Treaty.

Employment in the iron and steel industry

2453. In its draft resolution on the employment situation in the iron and steel industry, the Committee called on the Commission to examine the structural problems in the industry and to propose measures to solve them. The Committee approved the resolution by 26 votes to 4 with 7 abstentions.

European Investment Bank

Loans granted

Greece

2454. The European Investment Bank has granted two loans totalling the equivalent of \$9.032 million (7.38 million u.a.), both carrying an interest rate of 9.5%. They will help to finance industrial projects involving about \$65 million in new investments which will create, between them, over 600 new jobs.

A loan of \$5 million has been granted for nine years to the Hellenic Industrial Development Bank (ETBA) and will be used to help finance the building of a factory at Volos (Thessaly) by Chandris Cables SA. The plant will have an annual production capacity of 20 000 tonnes of electrical and telecommunications cables, which will be sold on the home and export markets.

A further \$4.032 million has been granted to ETBA, for a term of ten years, to contribute to the financing of a new, one million tonnes-per-year works of the Titan Cement Company at Kamari in Boeotia. This is the third EIB loan to

help build up the Greek cement industry. In 1965 \$1.5 million was granted for expansion of the Titan cement works at Eleusis, near Athens, and the following year the Bank made available a further \$1.5 million for a new works at Drepanon, near Patras, which today also belongs to Titan.

The output from the new Kamari works is earmarked for the domestic market, but this will allow the Eleusis plant to concentrate on exports to the Middle East and other relatively near markets where cement is in heavy demand.

With these latest loan contracts, the EIB has now provided \$121.5 million of finance to aid development of the Greek economy from the ceiling of \$125 million provided for under the terms of the Financial Protocol annexed to the Association Agreement between Greece and the Community, which came into effect in 1962.

Financing Community activities

ECSC Loans

2455. In January the Commission completed the following loan operations:

(a) a private placement of SF 100 million. This loan is for six years and carries an interest rate of 7.25%;

(b) a \$125 million issue made up of \$65 million of five-year notes at 8.75% and \$60 million of ten-year bonds at 9.25%. Both the notes and the bonds were issued at par and were offered for subscription by an international banking syndicate. They constitute the largest public issue to have been floated on the Eurodollar market;

(c) a private placement of \$50 million which was also offered for subscription by an international banking syndicate. The loan is for seven years, carries an interest rate of 9% and was issued at par;

(d) a private placement of Fl 60 million. The

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loan is for seven years, carries an interest rate of 8 % and was issued at 99.75 %;

(e) a Fl 25 million private loan for twenty-five years carrying an interest rate of 8.75 %.

These issues brought the total of loans contracted by the ECSC since its inception to the equivalent of 2 843.4 million u.a. on 31 January.

European Union

2501. On 7 January Mr Leo Tindemans, the Belgian Prime Minister, made public his report on European Union.¹ The report, which was drawn up at the request of the Heads of Government, was sent to the European Council and the President of the Commission on 29 December.² It will be discussed at the meeting of the European Council to be held on 1 and 2 April.

Political Cooperation

2502. The Political Committee met in Luxembourg on 19 and 20 January with Mr Wurth in the chair. At the meeting a number of reports from the specialized political cooperation working parties were adopted. The Committee also discussed the state of play in the Euro-Arab Dialogue, matters relating to the United Nations and relations with ASEAN.

The Heads of Political Departments paid tribute to Mr Wellenstein who was attending the meeting for the last time as Director-General for External Relations of the Commission. Mr Wurth stressed that Mr Wellenstein had played a noteworthy part in the work of the Committee and on establishing a closer relationship between matters under the political cooperation head and Community matters proper.

² Supplement 1/76 — Bull. EC.

³ Bull. EC 12-75, special item.

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