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* To be published.



PART ONE

SPECIAL FEATURES

1. The tasks facing the Community

Statements by Mr Anthony Crosland and Mr Roy Jenkins

Mr Crosland, President of the Council

1.1.1. Addressing the European Parliament on 12 January, Mr Anthony Crosland,¹ the first British President of the Council, defined the medium-term tasks facing the Community; we must improve our sectoral policies, define and speed up convergence to greater effect, determine the true role of a Parliament elected by universal suffrage, enhance further the Community's influence in the world and encourage enlargement without compromising the Community's ideals.

After tracing the development of relations between the United Kingdom and Europe and highlighting the Community's political weight and its achievements, particularly in its relations with the outside world, Mr Crosland spoke of a certain disillusionment caused by the Community's failure to make sufficient progress in its internal development.

'Our task is therefore to draw together into a coherent shape the various threads of the Community's development so far; to recognize realistically its setbacks or excessive ambitions, but also its true achievements and the solid foundation that these have laid; and to establish on this basis a sense of priorities and strategic direction that will serve us, not simply in the next six months, but in the years ahead.'

For the President, the priority tasks lie in the following areas: sectoral policies, economic and monetary union, political purpose and European union, and the Community's international influence.

Sectoral policies

1.1.2. On this first issue, Mr Crosland said: 'I refer in particular, of course, to agriculture, fish-

eries and energy; for if we cannot begin to settle these matters, the Community, while it will no doubt survive, will decline into a state of permanent bickering, wrangling and mutual recrimination... The common agricultural policy has almost reached an impasse. The review of the common fisheries policy has not even approached the heart of the controversy, on the internal regime. And there is no such thing as a common energy policy.

There is naturally much wringing of hands over this situation; and clever critics sneer at the endless hours which Ministers and Members of the Commission spend in arguing over skimmed-milk powder or quotas for cod and mackerel. But of course from time immemorial the land and the fish in the sea have excited the most violent human passions; and oil is perhaps a modern equivalent as a primary source of wealth. Strong national interests are at stake, reflecting the livelihood of thousands of our citizens. I know this only too well, owing as I do my seat in Parliament—and so indirectly my Presidency of the Council—to an English fishing constituency, where fishermen cannot understand why they should be condemned to the dole when British waters contain over half the fishing stocks available for the Community as a whole.

So we shall need patience, understanding and a great deal of Community spirit as we seek to strike the right balance between specific national interests and wider Community interests. And yet the two sets of interests interlock. It is, after all, a shared interest of all Member States that the Community's policies should work well. Equally it is to the Community's advantage that the deep-seated interests of Member States should be recognized and as far as possible accommodated. It is in this spirit that we must make progress in these three most crucial areas...'

¹ Mr Crosland, the British Foreign Secretary, died on 20 February; he had been struck by a massive brain haemorrhage on 13 February.

Economic and monetary union

1.1.3. '... I turn, secondly, to the central economic question of internal integration within the Community. There was always in the past, whether in the context of economic and monetary union by 1980 or of the more modest proposals in the Tindemans Report, a widespread hope and expectation that economic and financial policy-making would steadily pass from the hands of Member States into those of the Community. Thus would the Community be gradually transformed from a mere customs union into a fully integrated economic union complete with its own central bank, a single fixed exchange rate and a growing harmonization of taxation.

But this has not happened; nor are we even moving in that direction... The necessary condition was, at a minimum, a growing convergence of standards of living and of inflation, and a pattern of trade which did not produce persistent surpluses and deficits. For measures of integration are readily possible only between economies where living standards and economic performance are broadly similar. Only on such a basis could a common monetary and exchange-rate policy rest. But the basis was drastically undermined by the cataclysmic events of 1973 and the subsequent years—the oil price rise, followed by an inflation and recession both unprecedented in the post-war period.

Member States reacted differently to these untoward events. As a result, economic performance grew more, not less, divergent... The essential basis for economic integration is therefore wholly lacking... Our economies, while all performing at an excessive level of unemployment, are diverging in other ways to an extent that in practice rules out major measures of integration...

The attempts to achieve economic union have foundered because the degree of divergence which they sought to correct was beyond their power to correct. This was conspicuously true of attempts to attain a total or even a limited uni-

formity of exchange-rate policy. The Regional and Social Funds, valuable as they are, have not had a significant impact in reducing the disparities in wealth and growth rates between different regions of the Community... We cannot hope to achieve a better convergence or more integration until all our economies are once again on the path of full employment and healthy growth.

That must be our priority for the next few months. But we must look even further ahead and start to devise new policies that will help us, once we have left recession behind, to counteract the uneven growth in the economies of Member States. We should explore ways in which the Community could help further to promote investment in those countries and regions where the economic performance is below average. We should explore, as finance ministers are already doing, what contribution the Community can make to greater exchange rate stability. We should examine successor arrangements to the Regional and Social Funds which would promote a far more effective transfer of resources than hitherto from richer to poorer regions. The more the Community can succeed in putting building blocks of this kind into place, the greater the chances of getting its internal economic development on the road again...'

Political purpose and European union

1.1.4. 'We all recognize the need for a greater sense of political purpose within the Community... But at the same time we recognize that the debate between federalists and confederalists is now irrelevant and unreal. We do not know what shape the Community will finally take; and to seek to define it now will get us nowhere. This was the insight which illumined the Tindemans Report.

The Community is now a *unique political institution* combining elements of domestic policy, as well as external policy, and with a built-in dynamism which has no parallel in other interna-

tional organizations. This is due partly to the way in which the Treaty of Rome was originally framed; and partly to the way in which the Community has subsequently shown itself able to develop its practices and institutions to meet events. The Community is thus the creature partly of a written constitution, a feature which it shares with Latin and Napoleonic Europe as well as the United States; and partly, and perhaps increasingly, of a developing and almost instinctive constitutional process, not dissimilar in principle from that which has characterized British history. The dynamic motor of these developments is the dialectic between the national interest, as represented by the Member States, and the collective interest, as represented by the Community's institutions and particularly the Commission. This dialectic is inherent in the Treaty of Rome. But we find it also in the organic development of the Community's institutions, especially in the changing role of the Presidency and the growing vitality of the European Parliament.

These developments are perhaps as important a landmark in European history as the emergence of the secular nation State at the end of the Middle Ages. Just as European man at that time could not possibly predict where Renaissance Europe would lead, so we are equally ill-placed to say how the process set in motion by the Treaty of Rome will culminate. While we must know where we are going in the medium and short term and set our priorities accordingly, a simplistic and abstract goal-setting approach for the long term is even less viable than before. What we can do immediately—and in our Presidency we shall do our best—is to make the Community work as effectively as possible, thereby demonstrating that it exists politically as well as economically, even if the emergence of a new political structure is for tomorrow and not for today.

In one field, at least, we have an encouraging example of practical political development. We now have the prospect of making the Community a more democratic institution when *direct elections*

to the European Parliament take place. A directly-elected Parliament will be in a better position to strengthen the democratic voice in the Community. It will be better able to fulfil its existing role in relation to the Commission, and it will no doubt wish to influence the Council of Ministers. As to the latter point, I am sure that it will be conscious of the need to ensure a proper balance between the three institutions of the Community which propose, control and determine its policies.

Meanwhile, I for my part want to think hard about the *role and modus operandi of the Council*. I am conscious of the basic complication that this role must be partly legislative, and akin to that of a Parliament, but mainly executive, policy-making and negotiating, and here akin to that of a Cabinet. I doubt if any change of procedures would make possible a distinction between these various functions. Yet I am worried both by the degree of detail which comes to the Council, and by the sometimes higgledy-piggledy nature of its agenda. However that may be, my crucial aim will be the closest possible cooperation with the Parliament and the Commission in the interests of Community cohesion...'

The Community's international influence

1.1.5. 'Certainly the world more and more expects to hear the Community's voice in international affairs. Whatever our internal disappointments, the Community's potential is enormous ...

In the field of *external trade relations* there is already much on our agenda. We shall shortly sign agreements with the Mashrek countries and Israel; with that the global Mediterranean approach, approved as long ago as October 1972, will be virtually completed. Following my predecessor's visit to Belgrade in December our relations with Yugoslavia are assuming a profound political importance. We certainly have a vital role to play in the North-South dialogue, as the CIEC has so clearly demonstrated. And in the spring the joint Ministerial Council of the Lomé

Convention takes place in Fiji. I can see good possibilities for developing our relations with other areas of the world, for example Latin America. In relation to Japan, our recent experiences show the value of our speaking with one voice and demonstrated the influence which the Community exercises.

I want here to mention in particular the scope for extending the common Community policies towards the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe. This is already happening naturally in some areas. For example, the common fisheries policy means that the Community as a whole will need to negotiate with the Soviet Union and some of its partners about reciprocal access. The common commercial policy puts in the hands of the Commission the responsibility for negotiating trade agreements with the Eastern European countries as with other third countries...

Turning to *political cooperation*, there is a possible role for the Community, at the appropriate moment, in Cyprus and in the Middle East; though this must be in close concert with the United States, and underlines the importance of making early contact with the incoming Carter Administration. And an area in which we shall, I hope, see much hard work is in preparing a common position on the Belgrade Conference to review progress in implementing the Helsinki Final Act of the CSCE; this follows on logically from the close cooperation between the Nine during the two years of negotiation of the Final Act itself. All this surely demonstrates that whatever the hesitations one sometimes feels in Brussels or Luxembourg, no one in the world outside doubts the collective importance of the Community.

Lastly, enlargement. This will absorb much of the Community's time and effort in the months and years ahead, and will decisively condition its development in both its internal and external aspects for the rest of the century. It presents the Community with perhaps its most testing challenge; though that challenge arises precisely because of the growing strength and attractive pow-

er to which I have alluded earlier. The countries knocking at our door feel that attractive power, even though we occasionally doubt ourselves.

We must not underestimate the problems which enlargement will involve. It will make the economic divergence between the countries of the Community still greater. The gap in per capita GNP between Germany and the United Kingdom is almost trivial compared with that between Germany and Portugal, and the effort required to bridge that gap will be correspondingly greater. The demands on Community funds will be substantial, with obvious implications for the Regional and Social Funds in particular.

Enlargement will also make it harder to improve the overall operation of the common agricultural policy. We shall need somehow to reconcile the demands of French and Italian farmers with the demands of farmers in Greece, Portugal and Spain, without heaping an unacceptable burden on Community taxpayers and consumers. Even Roy Jenkins' powers of conciliation are going to be stretched to the full by this job of circle-squaring. And there is of course the deep concern that the Community might become looser rather than tighter as a consequence of enlargement.

Why then enlarge? Because, simply, the political benefits of enlargement outweigh all the practical difficulties. I do not refer only to the accretion of power which the new members will bring to Europe's common pool. Far more important is the new strength which enlargement will give to European democracy. By sustaining the fledgling democracies at the most crucial stage in their evolution, we shall protect them against their enemies within and without. In one part of the world at least, we shall be able to say that democracy is a blooming flower and not a fading one. In one part of the world at least, totalitarianism, whether of the left or of the right, will have suffered a decisive setback. Enlargement is an investment in the democratic future of Europe; and in the long run the benefits will far outweigh the costs...'

Mr Roy Jenkins, President of the Commission

1.1.6. Mr Roy Jenkins addressed Parliament for the first time on 11 January, just a few days after the new Commission¹ took office. The full text of his speech is given below.

1.1.7. 'Today is both an intimidating and a moving occasion for me. Over a long span in national politics I have devoted much of my energies, and invested most of my political capital to and in the cause of European unity. I have done so instinctively because I felt it in my bones to be the most worthwhile cause to which a European citizen could apply himself. But I have constantly been able to fortify this instinctive belief with the intellectual cement of seeing in detail how few problems we are any of us able to solve on a purely national basis.

Britain and the Community

1.1.8. Despite this deep, long-standing and active commitment to the European cause, I have never previously worked closely within the institutions of the Community. I recall a remark of Winston Churchill. When asked what was his relationship with the Church of England, he said: "I could hardly be called a *pillar* of the church. I am more in the nature of a *buttress*. I have supported it from the outside." This being so, I now enter the portals with some humility towards those who have long worked within, but also with the complete commitment and determination which is necessary in order to undertake any great task.

I am also aware of coming from outside in another sense. I am the first President of the Commission from a country which was not, alas, present at the creation of the original Six. Britain may still in some ways appear remote from the heart of Europe. But Britain is now decisively a

part of the Community, the decision confirmed by an overwhelming public vote 19 months ago. It was indeed the most recent, great popular victory won by the European cause. That should not be forgotten, either in Britain or elsewhere. I do not, however, intend to be a *British* President. I intend to be a *European* President. I do not of course wish to deny my national origins. Anyone who attempted to do that would be a narrow man, with at least one dimension lacking. He would also be a foolish man, particularly at a time when the desire for local cultural identification, erupting within nation States but in no way necessarily contradictory to the broader European concept, is taking on a fresh force throughout many of the Community countries.

We are of course all of us in large part a product of our national, cultural, linguistic and political background. That is one reason why we are able to talk with meaning about the richness and diversity of Europe. As a result, we all want our countries to benefit from the success of the Community. But here we are at a delicate hinge. To wish to benefit from the success of the Community is a very good thing. But what is quite different, and indeed highly undesirable, is constantly to try to strike a narrow arithmetical balance as to exactly how much day-to-day profit or loss each country is getting out of the Community. The Community is not a betting-shop, or a lottery stall, into which one takes one's stakes and hopes to come away with more than one went in, but knowing always that the pool is fixed, that nothing can be created therein, and that a gain can therefore only be at the expense of another member's loss. Such a narrow approach would soon recoil upon the head of any nation, rich or poor, which attempted to live by it. The Community can and must be more than the sum of its parts. It can create and give more than it receives, but only if the Member States, people and governments alike, have the vision to

Bull. EC 12-1976, points 1108 to 1112.

ask what they can contribute, and not just what they can get.

The Commission and Parliament

1.1.9. I also come before you as a politician, a Minister intermittently—that tends to be the way with ministers—over a span of 12 years, and a parliamentarian continuously over a span of 29 years. I do not think that is a bad thing. The Commission should be a political rather than a technocratic body, constantly aware of the public impact of its proposals, but combining vision with practicality, efficiency with humanity. The diversity of our respective backgrounds and experience will strengthen and broaden our ability to do the job before us.

The Commission must also work most closely with this Parliament. No doubt we shall occasionally have disputes, but we, the Commission and Parliament, are on the same side. Although we have thought it right in this Commission to designate a member with special responsibilities for relations with Parliament, we should all of us as Commissioners, have close links with Parliament, and be prepared to answer to you for our various responsibilities. We should none of us seek to shelter behind an intermediary. Apart from the Commissioner with special parliamentary responsibilities, the budget Commissioner, as has been historically the case with evolving Parliaments, may well also develop an especially close relationship. His portfolio, I think, demands a concentration of attention. And that is why we have not associated it with a totally disparate one, as was previously so. But the lead in relations with Parliament must be given by the President. I shall endeavour to the best of my abilities to give that lead, and to establish close relations with the political groups within Parliament. We are a coalition Commission, as is wholly right, at least at the present stage of development. And I shall therefore need to be a coalition rather than a partisan President. I shall be a partisan only for the unity of Europe.

I attach the highest importance to the prospect of direct elections. Europe is a political enterprise, which we have so far endeavoured to advance by mainly economic means. It is concerned with the hearts of men and women and not merely with the management of packages. Let us manage the packages well, as we have mostly but not invariably done in the past, but let us never forget the objective and the purpose. We must therefore greatly welcome the introduction of this new political dimension of universal suffrage. For the target date to be missed would be a major setback. The responsibility on any country which impeded this development would be heavy and damaging.

The direct election of the Parliament will not in itself, give greater legal powers. But it will have greater moral authority. I believe that the best contribution that the new Commission can make towards this beneficent transition, which will make a dramatic divide in the four-year lifespan of the new Commission, is to anticipate this development: to get used to treating the present Parliament as it will treat the new directly-elected one. I intend from here forward to inject into our consideration of any proposal we put forward to the Council the systematic and serious consideration of whether it is one for which we can reasonably expect the support of a majority in this Parliament. So, allowing for the pull of leadership as well as the response of democracy, do enlightened national governments behave. We will do the same.

I have emphasized the high priority I intend to give to Parliament. This, the first occasion on which I address you, is the right moment to make that emphasis clear. But I shall also be addressing you next month on the occasion of the presentation of the Programme of the Commission. That speech—that February speech¹—is obviously the one in which I should go into the detail of the policies which the Commission intend

¹ A chapter in Part One of Bull. EC 2-1977 will give the main extracts of this programme-address and will also report on the ensuing debate in the House.

to pursue. None the less, I should like, at this time, to set out some indication of the direction in which I believe both the Commission and the European Community should be pointing.

Distribution of portfolios

1.1.10. I most naturally start with the distribution of portfolios in the new Commission. In taking the decisions of the night of 6/7 January, the Commission has sought both to give emphasis to some developing and crucial policy areas, and at the same time to try to bring, where possible, greater coherence to certain key functions.

First, all the information activities of the Commission have been brought under my authority as President. It is, I believe, of fundamental importance, especially in the lead up to direct elections, that the informative role of the Commission should be seen to have and receive a single clearly collegial sense of direction and purpose. This can best be done under the authority of the President, and I am determined to try to ensure a vigorous presentation to the public of the Commission's activity.

Secondly, over the lifetime of this Commission, the Community will be making decisions about those countries which seek membership. This is a key task and the questions inherent in the future enlargement of the Community are so important that we have thought it right to make it a priority task, not the sole task, but a priority of one Commissioner. But we have not approached the creation of this portfolio for special responsibilities solely on the basis of a single policy issue. There is, in my view, a real need for a senior member of the Commission to be in a position to take on and concentrate on a wide and changing range of vital *ad hoc* issues of this sort.

Thirdly, the portfolio for employment and social affairs provides for a greater concentration on the problem of unemployment, particularly structural unemployment, which confronts all member countries, even the most economically successful

of them. To ensure that the Commissioner responsible for these tasks can operate on a broad enough canvas, we have linked the Tripartite Conference with this portfolio.

Fourthly, there is the closely-related issue of the manner in which the various financial instruments available to help correct imbalances within the Community are administered. There has, I think, been too great a tendency to see the various Community funds in isolation one from the other. The policy in relation to them should be seen and coordinated as a whole.

Finally, in this field, we have decided substantially to reorganize the area of the internal market and industrial affairs by bringing together the existing Directorates-General and placing them under the authority of a single member of the Commission. Industry throughout the Community is undergoing a sustained period of rapid structural change and it is therefore important that the Commission services dealing with industry should be brought under one hand and organized as rationally as possible.

There are the principal changes in the shape of the portfolios by which we have sought to emphasize the priorities as we now see them. But there is one other aspect which, although it is most clearly embedded in a single portfolio, is a theme which should run through all Commission responsibilities. The Community is designed to protect and advance the interests of *all* its citizens. Policies to safeguard the producer need to be balanced by policies to safeguard the consumer. That balance has not always been struck in the past. This means that we should give greater weight to the protection of the consumer as well as to that of the environment in which we all live. The common agricultural policy can serve as an example. In the difficult times which lie ahead, the Commission must work to maintain and improve the common agricultural policy. But I believe we can best do this by showing clearly that it can serve the common good by providing stable supplies of food at reasonable prices, as

well as stable markets for an efficient European agricultural system.

The Community and the Member States

1.1.11. In short, we must seek to ensure that the Europe of the Community, and especially the Commission, which is its servant, is seen to have, and has in fact, a human face which individual citizens in Member States can both recognize and trust.

The previous Commission under the dedicated leadership of François-Xavier Ortoli, has had to operate for three-quarters of its mandate under the pall of the most discouraging economic weather which we have known for a generation. In this climate they have brilliantly defended the citadel. They have even with great courage and skill made some successful forays out of it, particularly, but not exclusively, in the area of relations with the outside world, both developed and developing. But essentially they have had to live in winter quarters. I am bound to tell you that I do not yet feel any stirring of the breezes of spring. But what I do feel is that there comes a time when you have to break out of the citadel or wither within it. That time is now very close upon us. Nor are the omens necessarily unpropitious. The Member States have recently gone too much their own way.

They cannot possibly congratulate themselves upon the result. One aspect of the result has been a greater sense of apprehension, a greater sagging of hope than Europe has experienced since the beginning of its post-war resurgence. Out of this morass they may be more inclined to listen to Commission proposals for the future, provided they are cogently, firmly and selectively presented. And across the Atlantic we have a new President who has made it clear in his public statements that he is anxious to work in partnership with Europe as a Community. But what this will mean in practice, and how effectively we can have an equal relationship across the Atlantic,

will depend essentially on how seriously we take ourselves as a Community. Our own attitude is a prerequisite for the reactions of others.

The logic of working together must be clearly argued. The 25 years up to the end of 1973 were among the most stable, prosperous and hopeful in the whole long history of this continent. But there is a paradox about this achievement. Precisely because we became so prosperous, and enjoyed such a degree of political stability, we came to take it for granted and to forget that the foundations on which these rest are in reality extremely fragile.

We may forget also how our prosperity and stability were achieved, and in forgetting, behave in ways which will put their continuation in jeopardy.

The job to be continued

1.1.12. The truth is that the prosperity and stability which Europe has enjoyed are in large measure due to the vision and statesmanship of those who created the European Community in the late 1940s and '50s. But if our children are to enjoy comparable prosperity and stability in the 1980s and '90s, this generation will have to display the same vision and statesmanship as did our predecessors. It is easy today to think in terms of anniversaries. It is 30 years since the first stirrings of the modern European Movement. It is 25 years since the Coal and Steel Community took up its tasks in this city of Luxembourg. It is 20 years since the signature of the Treaty of Rome. It is also easy to praise the great names of the past, and praise they certainly deserve.

Yet I believe that our duty at the present juncture is not to invoke history, but to start once again to make it: not to praise famous men by sitting idly on the scaffolding of a half-finished building and drinking toasts to those who laid the foundations so well. The best tribute we can pay to them is not praise them, but to emulate them—to get on

with *our* job and add at least another storey to the building. We cannot live indefinitely on the triumphs of half a generation ago. If we do this, we will ensure that the idea of Europe means little to the hearts of the young, and is only an evocative evening memory in the minds of the middle-aged and the old.

We are indeed at a potentially dangerous junction of generations. Those who made the Community were mostly well advanced in life, but they were sustained by a great wave of European enthusiasm amongst the young, to whom the conflicts and the suspicions and the narrow nationalisms of the past were not merely repugnant, but almost incomprehensible. It was the older generation who had been brought up to hate and distrust those whom they had fought who found it difficult to bury the past. Now, if we are not careful, it may be the other way round. It may be the young who will yawn at Europe and only their elders who will remember its great message.

That would be a most dangerous balance for the future. And we must be determined to avoid it. And that can only be done by showing that Europe has a direct relevance not only to the mechanics of our economies but to combating the uglinesses and frustrations and injustices of everyday life; and relating it too to the transcendent purposes of world peace and human freedom. We must graft the idea of Europe into the lives of its people. No matter how technical are the proposals which come before us, the prior question we must ask ourselves is: 'How will this improve the lot of the European citizen? How in particular will it affect those whose future seems purposeless and unrewarding? Will it make them more content at work? Will it indeed give them a better chance of finding work? Will it make the individual citizens feel that this Europe of ours is not just an affair of professional politicians but is a better place to live in, and thus attach the citizens to its higher purposes, not as an abstraction, however noble, but as a continuum, extending from world influence to job opportunity?

To underpin this public impact we must, of course, endeavour to end the growing divergence of the economies of the Member States. This cannot be done overnight or by simple decree. And it certainly cannot, and should not, be done by asking the strong to become less strong and less effectively managed. It is certainly no part of our business to promote an equality of weakness. Common disciplines and learning from success are an essential part of the philosophy of convergence.

But on this basis we must, like any civilized community, help the weaker members. This is in the interests of the strong as well as the weak, for if the weak were to fall by the wayside an essential part of the foundation of unity on which the strong have built their prosperity should be destroyed. Nor in my view should we be too surprised that divergencies have arisen. We would have been singularly lucky had they not. What greater unity in the world, from the Roman Empire to the United States of America, would ever have been created if divergencies were regarded as a recipe for despair? The test is how we face them. Help for the weaker members, provided they are also prepared to help themselves, is one of the distinguishing signs of the existence of a community. It applies to the community of the family. It applies to the community of the State. And it must apply to our Community of European nations. The larger the Community the easier it is for the weaker areas to be neglected. We cannot do this without ultimately destroying the Community.

The size of the stakes

1.1.13. And in all our activities we must remember our underlying political purposes. Our means are largely economic. But our end is, and always has been, political. It is to make a European Union. It is to preserve and fortify our peace and liberty. It is to restore to Europe the influence in the world which we have so wantonly

2. 1976 Agricultural Report

The Community's tasks

ly thrown away in a generation of European civil wars.

Much has already been accomplished. However great may be our present difficulties, they are as nothing compared with the problems which confronted those who had to build afresh out of the rubble and bitterness of the late forties.

Let us not bemoan too much. But let us at the same time be aware of the size of the stakes. The values of justice for all, individual freedom and intellectual integrity, which were the norms of a civilized society, and to which can now happily be added a sense of social fairness, are genuinely at risk. There are not many countries in the world which can be counted upon to sustain them. We here represent about a half of that number. If our Community cannot be made to work, what can? If we, among the richest and certainly among the most favoured and talented of the populations of the globe, cannot learn to work together, what prospect is there for humanity? Or for a decent civilized life for ordinary men and women? These are the stakes and these are the issues. Let us approach them with an awesome sense of responsibility, but also with a courageous and determined optimism.'

1.2.1. In January the Commission published its annual report¹ on the agricultural situation in the Community (1976). It is on the basis of this report that the agricultural price proposals for the 1977/78 marketing year were drawn up.

The Commission's report emphasizes that agriculture was affected by two main phenomena in 1976: the repercussions of monetary instability which led to a break-up of the single market and the exceptional drought which seriously affected agricultural production and farmers' income in several regions of the Community.

As in previous years the Agricultural Report takes a general look at the situation, reviewing the general environment of agricultural problems, the factors of production, the various aspects of the agricultural common market (trade, the situation on the various agricultural markets, and obstacles in the shape of monetary compensatory amounts and State aid), the position of the producer and the consumer, the financial aspects of the common agricultural policy and lastly the outlook for 1977.

The general situation

1.2.2. Placing European agriculture in its general environment, the report notes with regret the adverse effect on agriculture of economic divergence and the resulting monetary instability.

World stocks of the main commodities, which reached a relatively low level in 1975, generally began to build up again in 1976 as a result of good harvests. As regards prices of agricultural products on the world market, the downtrend which began at the end of 1974 and persisted during the first half of 1975, was followed by an uptrend for almost all products; in 1976 world

¹ The Agricultural Situation in the Community. 1976 Report (report published in conjunction with the Tenth General Report on the Activities of the European Communities). Brussels, Luxembourg, January 1977.

prices substantially exceeded the low levels of 1975.

The relative calm on the world agricultural markets did not prevent the Community from continuing to expand its trade relations and increasing its contribution to the campaign against world hunger.

The most serious internal problem facing European agriculture was the severe drought in 1976 accompanied by freak weather in the south of France and in Italy.

The factors of production

1.2.3. As regards the factors of production, where structural change is slow to come about, the rate of change has slackened slightly as a result of the general economic recession in recent years; but the main feature to be noted is the persistence of very considerable structural differences between Member States, regions and farms.

Overall, farmers accounted for 8.7% of the labour force in 1975, whereas their contribution to the gross national product was under 5%. These new figures emphasize, if such emphasis is still necessary, the urgent need for the prices policy to be accompanied by a structural policy.

Recent trends in the development of agricultural structures in the Community reflect the following inter-related phenomena:

(i) The rapid fall in the number of persons aged 55 and over in the agricultural working population, coincides with an equally rapid fall in the number of farms of less than 20 ha. In so far as the oldest farmers are usually concentrated on the small farms, there is a fairly high correlation between these two phenomena;

(ii) The trend in the size of farms in recent years shows that in some Member States it is mainly farms of 50 ha and over which have increased in number. This would seem to indicate that the size of farms required for viable farming

will continue to increase. It is also clear that the biggest farms will continue to expand while the smallest ones are disappearing.

The market situations

1.2.4. For the products subject to common market organization, there were only minor problems in 1976 as regards adjusting supply to demand in the case of cereals, rice, sugar, raw tobacco, certain fruits and vegetables and pigmeat and there was a return to a more normal situation on the beef and veal market. While the withdrawal of 800 000 tonnes of apples is—it is hoped—a cyclical phenomenon, the persistence of the structural imbalance in the milk products and wine markets and the emergence of marketing difficulties for olive oil and colza were regrettable.

Despite the exceptional drought in 1976, milk production continued to increase in the Community and at the end of the year stocks of skimmed-milk powder totalled over 1.1 million tonnes and butter 260 000 tonnes. The cumulative effect of the process is a cause for concern and the situation at the end of 1976 fully justifies the Commission's proposals for restoring balance to this market.¹ As for the wine market its structural imbalance makes it comparable with the milk products market and the Commission's report notes somewhat anxiously that at the end of 1975/76 stocks totalled over 75 million hl compared with production of 142 million hl in 1975

Lastly, in 1976, a warning light was triggered on the olive oil market; from the 1975/76 marketing year held by the intervention agencies, only 26 000 tonnes of olive oil had been sold by the end of October 1976.² It should, however, be pointed out that the depression on the world markets in these products is a major cause of the present difficulties whereas the imbalances on the

¹ Bull. EC 10-1976, point 2229 and Supplement 10/76 – Bull. EC.

² By the end of the year sales had reached 44 000 tonnes

wine market and above all on the milk products market are mainly internal and call for immediate and radical treatment.

The consumer and the producer

1.2.5. The position of the *consumer* of agricultural products was influenced by the general economic situation and the drought in 1976, but the long-term trends continued while certain national disparities remained. Fruit and vegetables, sugar, durum wheat, vegetable oils and fats, meat, eggs, cheese and fresh cream continued to increase their share in the European consumer's food basket, while the relative shares of potatoes, bread grains, butter and fresh dairy products other than cream declined. Except in the case of certain fruit and vegetables affected by the drought the common agricultural policy managed in 1976 to continue to ensure security of supply for staple foods at relatively reasonable prices, despite large imbalances on the sugar, beef and veal, potatoes and milk markets. Moreover, this quantitative action was accompanied by qualitative action in improving consumer protection and information.

On the supply side, the value of final production by volume which was down 2% in 1975 on the 1974 level, again showed a downward trend in 1976, primarily because of the drought which particularly affected cattle farming, summer cereals, sugar beet and certain vegetables, while the price of inputs rose considerably. It can therefore be said that between 1974 and 1976 *producers'* incomes fluctuated considerably from year to year, while at the same time disparities between regions and between types of farming became more marked. To cope with the special situation in 1976, a number of measures were taken to assist producers, at regional level (national or Community aid following the drought), or Community level (storage of milk products, distillation of wine, protection at frontiers, slaughtering premiums, etc.).

But one of the basic principles of the common

agricultural policy as far as both consumers and producers are concerned—the unity of the market—was again seriously breached by the economic and monetary disorder which continued and became even worse in 1976. On 31 October there were seven monetary zones and the rates of monetary compensatory amounts ranged from +9.3% for Germany to -40.6% for the United Kingdom. Justifiably concerned by this situation and as still no progress was being made towards economic and monetary union, the Commission presented to the Council a number of proposals for restoring a certain degree of unity in the agricultural common market and cutting the budgetary costs brought on by such a situation.

The financial aspects

1.2.6. In 1976 expenditure earmarked or effected by Member States and the Community to finance the agricultural policy amounted to a total of almost 17 000 million u.a., representing about 24% of final agricultural production. About 37% of this (6 000 million u.a. or 0.5% of the Community's gross domestic product) comprised expenditure charged to the Community budget. Expenditure by the EAGGF Guarantee Section was estimated at 5 800 million u.a. for 1976, over 10% of it going on monetary compensatory amounts. Although one-third of the Guarantee Section's expenditure in 1976 was earmarked for milk products, expenditure on sugar, beef and veal and fruit and vegetables together with expenditure involved in applying the system of monetary compensatory amounts showed the largest increase compared with 1975, while agricultural levies and contributions rose from 590 million u.a. in 1975 to 911 million u.a. in 1976. Guidance Section expenditure estimates for 1976 totalled 325 million u.a.

3. Agreements with the Mashrek and Israel

1.3.1. The establishment of the Community's policy with regard to the southern and eastern Mediterranean countries was brought virtually to completion at the beginning of 1977 with the signing of the cooperation agreements with three Mashrek countries (Egypt, Jordan and Syria) and the additional and financial protocols with Israel.

These agreements are a practical expression of the undertakings on Mediterranean policy given by the Summit Conference of Heads of State or Government held in Paris in October 1972.¹ The signing, within a few days of each other, of agreements with three Mashrek countries and with Israel also reflects the desire of the Nine to develop balanced economic relations with the Mediterranean coastal States in this particularly 'sensitive' area of the world. All that remains now is for a similar agreement to be concluded with Lebanon;² here again early 1977 will have been a milestone since negotiations with this country will begin on 15 and 16 February.³

Cooperation agreements with the Mashrek countries

1.3.2. The agreements signed on 18 January³ with three of the Mashrek countries (the Arab east) follow in the wake of similar agreements signed in April 1976⁴ with the Maghreb countries (the Arab west): Algeria, Morocco and Tunisia. They are one aspect of the Community's overall Mediterranean approach.⁵

They strengthen the ties of cooperation between the Community and the Arab world already established with several member countries of the Arab League which signed the ACP-EEC Convention of Lomé⁶ (Mauritania, Somalia and Sudan) and also through the Euro-Arab dialogue.⁷ More generally, they come within the framework of Community policy towards developing countries.

These are not in fact the Community's first contractual ties with Middle-East countries, but the earlier ones were much more limited in scope. For example, an initial non-preferential agreement with Lebanon signed in May 1965 (which came into force on 1 July 1968) was regularly extended, and then a second commercial agreement of a preferential nature was signed in December 1972, but it was never ratified by the Lebanese Parliament. Moreover, negotiations with Egypt resulted in December 1972⁸ in the signing of an agreement on the gradual establishment of a free-trade area and involving a number of tariff reductions by both sides.

It was following the impetus given by the Paris Summit in 1972 and the Community's definition of its overall Mediterranean approach that negotiations finally got under way with the Mashrek countries, and these were completed at the end of October 1976.⁹

Scope of the agreements

1.3.3. Aimed at establishing wide-ranging cooperation between the partners, the agreement will combine the various measures which could contribute to the economic and social development of the Mashrek countries in the field of trade, and in economic, technical and financial cooperation.

The agreements being of indefinite duration, they provide a timescale for overall cooperation that will enable development problems extending be

¹ Bull. EC 10-1972, Part One, Chapter 1, point 11.

² Bull. EC 11-1976, point 2338.

³ Points 2.2.34 and 2.2.35.

⁴ Bull. EC 1-1976, points 1301 to 1311 and 4-1976, point 2332.

⁵ Bull. EC 6-1973, point 2303.

⁶ Bull. EC 1-1975, points 1101 to 1105 and OJ L25/30.1.1976.

⁷ Bull. EC 5-1976, points 1101 to 1107.

⁸ Bull. EC 10-1972, point 164 and 12-1972, point 93.

⁹ Bull. EC 10-1976, points 2332 to 2334.

yond the short term to be tackled. Cooperation councils, assisted when necessary by committees of experts, will ensure a permanent dialogue, which could also be set up between representatives of political forces. Meetings are planned to review the results of the agreements and to consider any improvements that can be made to them, the first round to begin in 1979, the second in 1984.

Economic, technical and financial cooperation

3.4. The economic, technical and financial cooperation provided for under the agreements will complement the efforts to be made by the countries in question in the framework of the objectives and priorities of their development plans and programmes. Special emphasis is placed on regional cooperation and the implementation of integrated schemes, i.e. those which combine several types of operation (e.g. training, investment aid, trade promotion).

Over and above the Community's financial contribution to the development of production and the economic infrastructure of each country, there is considerable scope in the following fields:

-) marketing and sales promotion;
- i) industrial cooperation, particularly by organizing contacts between business operators, facilitating the acquisition of patents on favourable terms, working towards the removal of non-tariff barriers, etc;
- ii) encouragement of private investment;
- v) cooperation in the fields of science, technology and the protection of the environment;
- v) the participation by Community operators in programmes for the exploration, production and processing of the resources of the parties concerned, and any activities which would develop these resources on the spot, and the proper execution of cooperation and investment contracts concluded to this effect between the respective operators;

(vi) cooperation in the fisheries sector.

The sums to be made available to each of the three countries (EIB loans, loans on special terms and grants) will come to a total of 170 million u.a. for Egypt, 40 million u.a. for Jordan and 60 million u.a. for Syria. A financial protocol sets out the procedures for utilizing the Community's contribution, for a period beginning as from the signing of the agreements and expiring (as for the Maghreb countries) on 31 October 1981; in addition to being a direct contribution by the Community in the development of these countries, it will act above all as a catalyst for raising capital from other sources.

These resources will be allocated to the partial or total financing of investment projects in the fields of production and economic infrastructure, the technical preparation of these projects and training measures.

The agreements explicitly provide for the possibility of joint measures in which other providers of funds or international financial organizations could participate along with the Community. This provision should allow in particular for triangular cooperation with the oil-producing countries.

The catalytic effect which the Community's financial assistance could produce is another dynamic aspect of this cooperation. In this respect, providers of funds will no doubt not only take fully into account the interest of the projects themselves, but will also bear in mind the guaranteed access to Community markets as a fundamental factor for assessing the chances of obtaining a return on their investments.

Trade arrangements

1.3.5. The access to a wide market offered by these agreements is a major asset for the industrialization of the Mashrek countries. There will be a 100 % tariff reduction as from 1 July 1977 for products other than those covered by the

common agricultural policy, i.e. raw materials and industrial products, including ECSC products.

There are some temporary exceptions to this rule: imports into the Community of certain products will be subject to ceilings until the end of 1979 as regards refined petroleum products, woven fabrics of cotton, phosphatic fertilizers and cotton yarn. It should be noted that the exports of the three countries to the Community contain a very high proportion of non-agricultural products (76 % for Egypt, 96 % for Jordan and Syria); for the most part they are raw materials (crude oil, cotton and phosphates) which are zero-rated by the CCT.

Exports of agricultural products from the Mashrek countries are proportionately lower than those of the Maghreb (especially Morocco and Tunisia). However, under the agreements they will benefit from a system of privileged access to Community markets.

These tariff concessions, which vary between 40 % and 80 %, cover most agricultural exports. They are however accompanied by certain precautions (quotas, import timetables, adherence to the rules of the common organizations of the markets, safeguard clauses) designed to safeguard the legitimate interests of Community producers.

Community exports to the Mashrek countries (1.8 % of the Community's total exports) will benefit from most-favoured-nation treatment, although exceptions may however be made with regard to other developing countries. The agreements do not require the Mashrek countries to grant reciprocity immediately: they undertake to consolidate the existing system, but may strengthen their customs protection where necessary for their industrialization and development needs.

However the liberalization of trade remains the ultimate objective of the agreements, and the measures which may be taken to this end must be reviewed as the gap between development levels narrows.

The additional and financial protocols with Israel

1.3.6. The additional and financial protocols between the Community and Israel¹ are the logical follow-up to the agreement signed on 11 May 1975.

This agreement, which came into force on 1 July 1976, was limited to trade and strictly commercial cooperation. The addition of these two protocols transforms it into a comprehensive agreement in accordance with the Community's overall Mediterranean policy, and similar to the agreements signed with the Mashrek countries.

Development of ties between the Community and Israel

1.3.7. The ties which unite the Community and Israel are—so to speak—as old as the EEC itself. As far back as 1958 the Israeli Government sought to open a dialogue with the Common Market, and the setting up of contractual ties with Israel was one of the Community's first foreign policy measures.

The negotiations begun in 1962 resulted in the conclusion of a non-preferential trade agreement for a period of three years, signed in June 1964. Before this agreement expired, Israel proposed that existing relations should be developed; exploratory talks, followed by the negotiations opened in 1968, culminated in the signing of a preferential agreement in June 1970. This new agreement was seen simply as one more step towards establishing even closer ties between the Community and Israel. The prospect of the Community's enlargement, and then the overall Mediterranean approach provided the opportunity to strengthen these ties.

¹ The two protocols were signed on 8 February 1977.

The new negotiations, which opened in July 1973,¹ led to the conclusion of a wider agreement containing, in addition to its trade provisions, a section on cooperation. This agreement, which was signed in Brussels in May 1975,² and came into force on 1 July 1976, has now been made comprehensive with the signing of the additional and financial protocols which supplement it and broaden its scope.

Additional protocol and cooperation

1.3.8. The most important new element in the additional protocol is the development of cooperation in relations between the Community and Israel.

Under this protocol, the aim of this cooperation, given the objectives and priorities of Israel's development plans and programmes and the need for integrated action through the converging use of different measures, is to promote in particular:

i) the development of production and economic infrastructure in Israel, in order to foster the complementarity of the economies and the industrialization of Israel;

ii) sales promotion for products exported by Israel;

iii) industrial cooperation, to be encouraged by the organization of contacts and meetings between industrial policy-makers or business operators, by easier access to technological know-how and facilities for the acquisition of patents or other forms of industrial property, by the elimination of non-tariff barriers to trade in industrial products, etc;

iv) complementarity in agriculture and fisheries;

v) the encouragement of private investment;

vi) joint projects in the fields of science, technology and the protection of the environment.

In the future, two 'appointments' have already been made (beginning of 1978 and beginning

of 1983) when the Community and Israel will meet to review the results and to decide what improvements could be made to the existing provisions.

A cooperation council replacing the Joint Committee set up by the 1975 agreement will be responsible for seeking ways and means of implementing cooperation in the fields covered by the additional protocol.

Financial protocol

1.3.9. The financial protocol, concluded for a fixed period, is intended above all to promote the industrialization of Israel. Through the European Investment Bank a total of 30 million ECU of loans is being made available to the authorities and business operators of that country.

These funds—which will have to be committed by 31 October 1981—may appear to be modest, but they should be sufficient to attract other sources of external financing, in the form of co-financing.

With this financial assistance and the enlargement of the cooperation aspect provided for under the 1975 agreement, the Community is making a unique contribution to the economic and social development of Israel, as part of the overall and balanced approach to the problems facing the countries in this part of the world.

¹ Bull. EC 7/8-1973, point 2308.

² Bull. EC 5-1975, point 2329.



PART TWO

**ACTIVITIES
IN JANUARY 1977**

1. Building the Community

Economic and monetary policy

Economic situation in the Community

2.1.1. In its last quarterly report (4/76) on the economic situation in the Community, the Commission noted that the lull in the recovery last spring gave way later to a phase of moderate growth. However, the disparities between countries grew sharper: export demand expanded—though more slowly—everywhere, but domestic factors continued to contribute to growth in only a few Member States, while in the others, real domestic demand remained weak.

For 1976 as a whole, the volume of the Community's gross domestic product grew by almost 4.5%, as against a fall of 2.2% in 1975. The number of wholly unemployed remained high throughout the year and the tendency for short-time working to decline was actually reversed in the autumn. On the average for the full year, the unemployment rate (wholly unemployed) is estimated at about 4.5%, as against 4% in 1975.

Most of the Member States had to contend with increasingly severe constraints as a result of the combined impact of several factors: the limited scale of the revival of demand from outside the Community, the rise in world commodity prices, exceptional weather conditions and the difficulty in reducing costs and scaling down budget deficits. As regards price trends and payments balances, the differences due to the fact that the impact of these constraints varied from country to country were further amplified by major changes in exchange rates.

Despite the success achieved by a growing number of Member States—and especially by the Federal Republic of Germany—in their fight against inflation, the rise in internal prices in the Community tended to gather momentum during the second half-year. At the retail stage, for the full year, it probably exceeded 10% for the Commu-

nity on average, compared with 12.5% in 1975. The Community's trade balance with non-member countries deteriorated sharply early in the year and in the summer. Despite the persistence of substantial surpluses in the Federal Republic of Germany and the Netherlands, it is estimated that the Community's overall current account with non-member countries closed with a deficit of some \$9 500 million for the year as a whole, compared with the modest surplus of \$500 million achieved in 1975.

The Commission notes that it is exceptionally difficult to predict developments for the coming year. The conditions which must be fulfilled if equilibrium is to be maintained or achieved are by no means the same in the various countries and this factor, aggravated by others, for example differences in output growth rates, is bound to inhibit expansion for the Community taken as a whole. However, if the stabilization policies embarked upon by the deficit Member States are successful and the level of economic activity does not decline unduly in the surplus countries, including the countries outside the Community, the Community's gross domestic product should grow by some 3% in real terms in 1977. This is not a high growth rate, and the labour market will suffer all the more because in most Member States the slackness of growth will be largely a matter of insufficient fixed investment. It is therefore conceivable that the unemployment rate will rise a little.

Inflation should lose some momentum, especially if the countries in which prices are rising fastest succeed, despite the latest increase in oil prices in making substantial progress on the price front. However, with regard more especially to consumer prices, there is at present little evidence to suggest that the slowdown will be sufficient, and the spread of inflation rates will remain unduly wide. Externally, despite the foreseeable worsening in the terms of trade, the deficits should contract for the Community as a whole, the balance of payments on current account should therefore stage a recovery.

In its report, the Commission also examines the major economic policy problems which confront the Community, imposing severe constraints on the Member States in 1977: the need to reduce inflation rates further, the need to achieve improved payments equilibrium, the problem of stimulating investment, and above all the objective of lower unemployment.

International support for the United Kingdom

2.1.2. Despite various measures taken by the British Government, developments in the United Kingdom economy in the second half of 1976 were unfavourable: Expansion lost a good deal of momentum, strong inflation continued, the payments balance deteriorated sharply, and unemployment increased. The result of these developments—and also, to some extent, their cause—was that sterling lost a good deal of ground on the exchanges, despite a heavy commitment of official foreign exchange reserves.

In view of this situation, the British authorities made known their intention to draw on the credit facilities still available to the United Kingdom with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and opened negotiations in the autumn with the IMF with a view to agreeing economic policy objectives which would be the conditions on which the credit would be granted. On 15 December, the British Government announced a recovery programme including a reduction in public expenditure (by £1 000 million for the 1977/78 financial year and £1 500 million for the 1978/79 financial year), a reduction in the central government borrowing requirement (of about £2 000 million for the 1977/78 financial year and nearly £3 000 million for the 1978/79 financial year) and specific objectives for domestic credit expansion (£9 000 million for the 1976/77 financial year, £7 700 million for the 1977/78 financial year and, provisionally, £6 000 million for the 1978/79 financial year).

IMF credit

2.1.3. Further to the request for credit submitted by the United Kingdom, the *IMF* proposed to the 'Group of Ten' countries¹ in December 1976 the activation of the General Arrangements to Borrow (GAB) which they had made in 1962. Under the Arrangements, whenever a country having a large quota with the IMF requests credit in an amount such as to raise liquidity problems for this institution, the Fund may ask the GAB signatories to grant it finance supplementing normal IMF resources.

After examination by a working party of the OECD Economic Policy Committee and the Group of Ten, which met on 21 and 22 December in Paris, the IMF proposal for the activation of the GAB was endorsed. This means that the Group of Ten (without the United Kingdom and Italy) has placed at the disposal of the Fund additional resources totalling the equivalent of 2 560 million SDR. A Swiss loan to the Fund of 300 million SDR was also negotiated.

Accordingly, the IMF Executive Board was able to grant, on 3 January, a stand-by credit to the United Kingdom, which is thus authorized to buy, in 1977 and 1978, currencies in amounts not exceeding the equivalent of 3 360 million SDR, or about \$4 000 million. This amount will be placed at the disposal of the United Kingdom by the IMF in successive tranches: about \$1 150 million at the beginning of 1977, after acceptance of terms accompanying the granting of the loan (indicated above), \$750 million by November 1977, but without exceeding a maximum figure set for August, and the remainder in 1978, without exceeding the limits set out in the drawing schedule. At all events there will be a meeting between the UK authorities and the IMF by 16 January 1978 at the latest.

¹ Belgium, Canada, France, Federal Republic of Germany, Italy, Japan, Netherlands, Sweden, United Kingdom and the United States; Switzerland subsequently joined the Group.

Safety net for sterling balances

2.1.4. A few days after the granting of the IMF credit, the Bank for International Settlements (BIS) announced that extended negotiations had led to general agreement, on 10 January, between the Central Banks of the *Group of Ten* and *Switzerland* on international support for the sterling balances. The guarantee being provided is designed to protect the exchanges from pressure liable to arise from sharp reduction in official sterling balances (assessed at nearly \$ 3 800 million at the end of September 1976), to enable the process of reducing the role of sterling as a reserve currency to be pursued in an orderly manner and to give greater stability to the international money markets.

The Basle Agreement includes the provision for the United Kingdom of a facility of up to \$ 3 000 million to finance over a two-year period net reductions in official sterling balances from the figure reached at the end of December 1976; any credits drawn by the United Kingdom would be repaid over the following four years. However, the BIS would call for assistance from the participating countries¹ only if the amounts to be financed exceeded its own resources, in which case each of the countries would contribute to the financing *pro rata* with the commitments accepted. The United Kingdom is planning to help scale down sterling balances by offering negotiable medium-term foreign currency bonds to official sterling holders in exchange for their assets; any such transactions would, however, be deducted from the figure for official sterling balances as at the end of December 1976, taken as reference date in the Basle Agreement.

2.1.5. In a statement released on 11 January, the *Commission* welcomed the granting to the Bank of England of this major financial facility, which 'would help to prevent fluctuations in the sterling balances jeopardizing the stabilization policy introduced by the British Government'.

Mr Ortolí, Vice-President of the *Commission*, stated that the Basle Agreement was further evi-

dence of solidarity among the industrialized countries, as a result of which the world economic outlook and that of the Community in particular, for 1977, could be viewed with more optimism. He added that the size of the sterling balances had long been an obstacle to the normal participation of sterling in efforts to build up an effective European currency system, and that the agreement was therefore fully in line with Community interests.

Bank loan

2.1.6. Lastly, on 24 January, the United Kingdom authorities announced that the Bank of England had concluded successfully its negotiations with a *banking syndicate* led by thirteen of the largest banks in the United Kingdom, the United States and Germany with a view to a seven-year *loan* on the Euromarket in an amount of \$ 1 500 million.

Monetary Committee

2.1.7. The Committee held its 226th meeting in Brussels on 25 January with Mr Pöhl in the chair. It resumed its regular review of the monetary policies being pursued in the Member States and examined, on the basis of reports submitted by an *ad hoc* working party, the balance of payments and reserves situation in the United Kingdom and the economic situation in Ireland. It also considered how far the economic policy conditions attached to the Community loan granted to Ireland in March 1976 were being complied with. Finally, it reviewed problems raised by the proposals to apply the European Unit of Account in the implementation of acts adopted by the institutions of the European Communities, and by the proposal to set up a European Export Bank

¹ The Group of Ten (except the United Kingdom, France and Italy) plus Switzerland.

The *alternates of the Committee* met on 18 January in Brussels with Mr Littler in the chair to begin work on that part of Mr Duisenberg's proposals concerning intra-Community currency exchange relations.

Internal market and industrial affairs

Free movement of goods

Removal of technical barriers to trade

Motor vehicles

2.1.8. On 5 January the Commission transmitted to the Council a proposal¹ to amend the Council Directive of 6 February 1970² on the type approval of motor vehicles and their trailers. The proposed amendments take into account experience since the Directive was adopted in 1970 laying down the Community type approval procedure for motor vehicles; the amendments cover technical as well as legal aspects.

Legal aspects — One of the Articles of the 1970 Directive has been amended to require that when a manufacturer applies for type approval the Member State must ascertain that his facilities are adequate. Under the provisions now in force, conformity of production examples with the approved prototype is monitored only by spot checks; they are considered inadequate and are to be replaced by a text intended to give the user greater protection. The proposal also provides that the makers of certain equipment not produced by the vehicle manufacturer and considered to be separate technical units, may put them up for type approval in isolation, i.e. without their being installed in vehicles; this means that the makers concerned must no longer have

motor vehicle manufacturers as intermediaries. Some of the amendments also require a Member State to justify refusal of type approval and lay down a specific procedure to be implemented where a Member State invokes the safeguard clause permitting refusal of approval for a vehicle considered to be a hazard to road safety although it complies with the requirements of the Directives.

Technical aspects — Here the proposed amendments concern the introduction of a provision on petrol consumption which will henceforth form part of the type approval of motor vehicles, pursuant to the Council Recommendation of 4 May 1976³ concerning the rational use of fuel consumed by road vehicles. Certain additions to the type approval certificate have become necessary as a result of the adoption of more recent directives (e.g. on fog lamps), and because of technical requirements which have to be met in certain Member States but are not included in the EEC type approval certificate.

*

2.1.9. On 14 January *Parliament* delivered its Opinion on two Commission proposals to the Council, one concerning ranges of nominal quantities permitted for certain prepackaged products and the other the classification, packaging and labelling of dangerous substances.

Industrial structures and problems

Iron and steel

Entry into force of emergency measures

2.1.10. As decided by the Commission on 20 December 1976,⁴ the emergency measures,

¹ OJ C 25 of 2.2.1977.

² OJ L 42 of 23.2.1970.

³ OJ L 140 of 28.5.1976; Bull. EC 3-1976, point 2285, and 5-1976, point 2282.

⁴ Bull. EC 12-1976, point 2257.

provided for in the document on the Community's iron and steel policy¹ adopted in November, were put into effect on 1 January in order to meet the critical situation in this sector.

Shipbuilding

2.1.11. The Commission continued its attempts, begun in December 1976² to obtain the agreement of the Japanese Government to Community proposals for preventing regional imbalance in new orders—but without practical, substantive results.

At the talks in Tokyo in late December, there was some progress towards adopting joint and sufficiently sensitive assessment methods. But where the basic problem of accepting the proposed discipline was concerned, Japanese Government representatives were non-committal and continuously expressed the strongest reservations concerning the proposed approach.

The Japanese attitude was confirmed at a meeting of the OECD working party on 11 January.³ Although some undertakings on improving the mutual information system were given, they were subject to confirmation, and discussion of the substance of the proposal was evaded. The Swedish, Norwegian, Finnish and Spanish delegations, however, fully supported the Community's move.

Bilateral meetings to prepare for the next OECD working party meeting on 8 and 9 February have since taken place, particularly on the occasion of Mr Masuda's visit to Brussels.⁴

Regarding the study of independent action to be introduced if international cooperation proves ineffectual, the Commission has continued its technical consultations with the circles concerned, in order to gather as much material as possible so that the necessary policy decisions can be made quickly.

The footwear industry

2.1.12. With a few reservations, Parliament adopted a Resolution on 14 January approving the proposal to carry out certain technological research projects in the footwear sector⁵ submitted by the Commission to the Council on 3 August 1976.

Commercial and economic law

Community trade mark

2.1.13. The Commission is now in a position to give practical effect to its memorandum of 6 July on the establishment of a Community trade mark.⁶ The Working Party⁷ set up to examine the memorandum completed work at its second meeting on 11 and 12 January. The discussions covered the following points: extending the protective scope of the trade mark, user obligations, incontestability of the trade mark, exhaustion and assignment of trade mark rights, cancellation and counterfeiting procedures. The Commission can now prepare a draft regulation on the basis of Article 235 of the EEC Treaty.

Civil liability in environmental matters

2.1.14. A working party with a remit from the Council to investigate the possibility of aligning the national laws on environmental matters met on 20 and 21 January 1976. The Council will be receiving a report on the findings of its deliber-

¹ Bull. EC 11-1976, points 1401 and 1402.

² Bull. EC 12-1976, points 2261, 2330 and 2350.

³ Point 2.2.32.

⁴ Point 2.2.44.

⁵ Bull. EC 7/8-1976, point 2265 and OJ C 209 of 4.9.1976.

⁶ Supplement 8/76 — Bull. EC.

⁷ Bull. EC 11-1976, point 2117.

ations, which concentrated mainly on the legal problem of the civil liability of polluters towards third parties in the same country or in other countries of the Community.¹

Customs union

Advisory Committee on Customs Matters

2.1.15. The Commission has decided² to alter the composition of the Advisory Committee on Customs Matters — set up on 7 November 1973³ — which represents the different economic, trade or social categories which have a particular interest in customs matters.

Firstly, the representatives of industry will gain an additional seat. Secondly, in order to provide representation on the Committee for the personnel of the national authorities responsible for applying Community customs regulations in the Member States, the Commission has decided to add a new category, under the heading 'other parties concerned with customs problems', and to give it one seat.

Tariff measures

Suspensions

2.1.16. On 18 January,⁴ the Council adopted a regulation temporarily suspending the autonomous CCT duty on certain *agricultural products* originating in *Turkey*. These duties are suspended, either totally or partially, until 31 December 1977, so as to ensure that Turkey receives treatment at least equal to that granted to developing countries and territories.

Duty-free entry

2.1.17. The Commission has authorized⁵ the Italian Government to import, free of customs

duty, the prefabricated components required for the construction of a *school* offered free of charge by Switzerland to the town of *Seveso*, in order to provide schooling for the children of displaced families who have moved to a non-polluted area following the contamination of part of this region by dioxin as a result of the accident on 10 July 1976. Since the effect of this contamination continues to be apparent, the displaced families must remain in the receiving area; however, the schools available there cannot take all the children, so it is essential to build a new one.

Competition

Restrictive practices, mergers and dominant positions: specific cases

Formation of a joint venture

2.1.18. The Commission has taken a favourable decision under Article 85 (3) of the EEC Treaty to agreements made in 1970 by which Associated Electrical Industries Ltd and Reyrolle Parsons Ltd jointly established a company, called Vacuum Interrupters Ltd, to develop, design, manufacture and sell vacuum interrupters.⁶

The Commission considered that the agreements notified were restrictive of competition and in breach of Article 85 (1) of the Treaty, because of the fact that two leading manufacturers of switchgear apparatus in the United Kingdom had agreed to develop jointly one particular product by means of a joint venture company, rather than in competition with each other. However,

¹ Point 2.1.33.

² OJ L 362 of 31.12.1976.

³ Bull. EC 11-1973, point 2101.

⁴ OJ L 21 of 25.1.1977.

⁵ OJ L 5 of 7.1.1977.

⁶ OJ L 48 of 19.2.1977.

the Commission, in the circumstances of the case, has exempted the agreements (as it may under Article 85 (3)), subject to two conditions requiring notification of any change in capital structure and of any extension of the activity of the joint venture, and valid from the date of accession of the United Kingdom to the EEC and until 1980.

The vacuum interrupter is a sophisticated type of circuit breaker at present in an early stage of development and is for use in switchgear apparatus. It has appreciable advantages in both efficiency and durability over the liquid and air types now in general use. It was these advantages that originally prompted firms in Japan and the United States, and later in the United Kingdom, to take an interest in the development of this type of appliance. However, even if the research were to be successful in the long term, the cost of development and design necessary was considered by the parent companies to be excessive, not alone in money but in technical skill, for them to engage independently in it. The companies involved decided the only practical way they could advance the development was by a joint venture company financed and staffed by each of them.

The new company will develop and make vacuum interrupters for incorporation into switchgear apparatus, even that designed and developed by other manufacturers of heavy electrical equipment.

The Commission concluded that in this case the consumer will get a durable and efficient interrupter at reasonable cost, even though at present of low power capacity only, and he may in time be able to get models capable of handling higher voltages, and is therefore assured of getting a fair share of benefit of the joint venture. Further, the Commission expects that the agreements should put the switchgear industry within the EEC into a better position to meet competition in the future from outside the EEC in the sphere of switchgear apparatus incorporating the vacuum type interrupter.

The position will be reviewed in 1980 when the exemption now granted expires.

Fertilizer manufacturers abandon restrictive practice

2.1.19. When reviewing the competitive situation on the Community fertilizer market¹ the Commission found that the Belgian manufacturer Fison-UCB SA and the German manufacturers Ruhrstickstoff AG (RSt) and Hoechst were operating a reciprocal supply arrangement. It concluded that the arrangement was incompatible with Article 85/EEC; the companies concerned have responded to the Commission's objections by terminating the arrangement.

The companies are major manufacturers of nitrogenous fertilizers, and particularly of that most widely used in the Community, calcium ammonium nitrate. Calcium ammonium nitrate is sold in Belgium and Germany at list prices which include the cost of carriage to the station or port of destination. The manufacturers grant rebates on these prices at rates which are in practice uniform, so that net prices are the same within each country. German prices are between 12 and 13 % higher than Belgian prices.

The reciprocal supply arrangement operated as follows:

Every month Fison sold RSt a quantity of calcium ammonium nitrate agreed on by contract. The fertilizer was delivered, not in Germany, but to RSt's Belgian customers. The sacks in which it was packed bore RSt's name.

RSt sold Fison equivalent quantities which were supplied in Fison's sacks to Fison's customers in Germany. The price for these reciprocal sales was the same; it was calculated from the Belgian price, which was lower than the German price

¹ Fourth Report on Competition Policy, point 145; Commission Decision of 26.6.1976 ordering the Dutch selling agency CSV to supply information: OJ L 192 of 16.7.1976 and Bull EC 7/8-1976, point 2123.

The two firms were free to determine the price for sales to their own customers, but in practice the price was always the same as, or only very slightly below, that charged in the country of destination. Actual carriage costs were compared with the high costs which would have been incurred if each company had sold direct, and the two companies shared out the difference.

Fison and Hoechst operated a similar system, though smaller quantities were involved.

In the 1975/76 crop year the volumes traded under the system represented roughly one-third of the total quantities of calcium ammonium nitrate exported by the firms concerned and roughly a quarter of all exports to Germany and to Belgium. Fison and RSt had planned that the system would continue to operate in 1976/77 and that the quantities would increase.

The companies allege that in the absence of the system, the cost of carriage and poor profit outlook would have prevented them from supplying their export customers. They also allege that their freedom to set their own prices remained intact.

The Commission held that the system restricted trade between Belgium and Germany. It felt it was quite inconceivable for long-term reciprocal supplies between competing manufacturers to continue if one of the two firms were to compete with the other in such a way that the second firm might fear for part of its market share. Even in the absence of formal price collusion, the Commission considered the system to be tantamount to coordination between the companies on distribution policy, with adverse effects on trade between Member States.

Copyright

2.1.20. The Commission has acted on a complaint by the Irish Government in the case concerning 'The Old Man and the Sea': Ireland's complaint was that the Penguin edition of Hemingway's work was unavailable in Ireland and the United Kingdom although it could be bought

anywhere else in the common market. The Commission reasserted its view that any clause in a copyright licence which directly or indirectly restrains trade between common market countries violates the rules of competition in the EEC Treaty.

Jonathan Cape Ltd, to which copyright in 'The Old Man and the Sea' had been licensed for the whole of the Community, had sublicensed Penguin Books Ltd to publish a paperback edition in all Community countries except Ireland and the United Kingdom.

Shortly after the Commission objected to this, Cape entered into a new agreement with a different publisher for Community-wide publication of several of Hemingway's works, including 'The Old Man and the Sea'. By virtue of this new agreement a paperback edition will now be on sale in Ireland and the United Kingdom, and the Commission has closed the case.

Steel mergers

2.1.21. The Commission has authorized Johnson & Firth Brown Ltd, Sheffield, (JFB) under Article 66(2) of the ECSC Treaty, to acquire a controlling shareholding in Dunford & Elliott Ltd, Sheffield (D & E).

Both JFB and D & E are holding companies which control undertakings engaged in the special steels and engineering industries. Together they would form the largest group in the private sector of the British steel industry for the production of special steel billets, bars and forging ingots. There would remain active competition from other producers on the United Kingdom market including, in particular, the British Steel Corporation with its much larger production of special steel products. In the case of special steel bars, imports are a significant factor, accounting for about 10% of the British market. The examination of the effects of the proposed merger in the steel field has reached the conclusion, therefore, that it satisfies the tests for authorization laid down in Article 66(2) of the ECSC Treaty.

The Commission also examined the proposed merger in relation to products made by JFB and D & E which come within the scope of the EEC Treaty including, particularly, forged steel rolls for use in rolling mills. On the available evidence the Commission has concluded that there is no case for opposing the merger under Article 86 of the EEC Treaty.

State aids

Industry aids

Wool industry

United Kingdom

2.1.22. The Commission has decided not to oppose the measures to assist the restructuring of the wool industry notified by the British Government in October 1976. These measures partially extend an aid scheme for the same industry, which had been in force in the United Kingdom since 1974 and on which the Commission had already taken a decision.

The Commission decided not to oppose implementation of the measures, on the grounds that they could assist operations for rationalizing firms in the wool industry and the amounts involved were limited.

State monopolies of a commercial character

Alcohol

France

2.1.23. On 4 January the Commission decided to take the next step in the infringement procedure against France begun on 9 April 1976¹ by commencing an action in the Court of Justice under Article 169 of the EEC Treaty.

By letter dated 14 September 1976 the French Government asked for extra time to consider the situation following notification of a reasoned opinion on 15 July.² On 4 January, however, the Commission informed the French Government that extra time could not be given. Article 37 of the EEC Treaty being directly applicable, the grant of extra time would be tantamount to an authorization to maintain in force national legislation which had in effect lapsed and to ignoring Treaty provisions which alone governed the situation, even in the context of internal law.

Financial institutions and taxation

Taxation

Indirect taxes

Tax exemptions

Derogation accorded to Denmark

2.1.24. On 18 January,³ the Council adopted a Directive authorizing Denmark to maintain until 31 December 1977 current arrangements concerning turnover tax and excise duty exemptions applicable in *international travel*. This is a further extension of the *derogation* granted to Denmark by the Act of Accession and already extended by one year on 20 January 1976.⁴ At the request of the Danish Government, the Commission had proposed a three-year extension of the derogation with certain adjustments designed to reduce its scope.⁵ The Council decided simply to extend the present derogation, but by only one year.

¹ Bull. EC 4-1976, point 2113.

² Bull. EC 7/8-1976, point 2132.

³ OJ L 23 of 27.1.1977.

⁴ Bull. EC 1-1976, point 2112.

⁵ Bull. EC 12-1976, point 2141.

Employment and social policy

Employment and vocational training

2.1.25. The Advisory Committee on Vocational Training met in Brussels on 27 January and examined a report on the guidelines for the implementation of the common vocational training policy. It next heard reports on the progress of work by the Commission on the vocational rehabilitation of handicapped persons, and the stage reached in the programme of work of the European Centre for the Development of Vocational Training.

European Social Fund

2.1.26. The European Social Fund Committee met in Brussels on 20 January and gave its opinion on a Commission staff paper containing draft guidelines for Fund operations on the 1977 financial year. The Commission should adopt these guidelines in the near future in the light of comments made by the Committee.

Social protection

Social security

Dynamization of social security benefits

2.1.27. On 12 January, the Commission sent to the Council a communication concerning the dynamization of social security benefits. The document was drawn up pursuant to the Council resolution of 21 January 1974¹ on the social action programme² which made provision 'progressively to introduce machinery for adapting social security benefits to increased prosperity in the various Member States'.

This communication sets out the problems stemming from the present social and economic situation and new social policy trends in the Member States.

Action against poverty

Pilot schemes

2.1.28. On 17 January, the Commission presented to the Council its first annual progress report on the programme of pilot schemes and studies to combat poverty,³ which had been approved by the Council on 22 July 1975.⁴

The report reviews the history and aims of the programme and lists the twenty-one projects elected, grouped in four categories: Community action, action in favour of special groups, action to improve social service institutions, and lastly, the exploration of poverty (the latter consists of two cross-national studies financed entirely by the Commission). The nineteen other action research projects were proposed by Member States to the Commission which usually provides 50 % of the finance involved.

Lastly, the Commission advocates continuing the programme and proposes that new projects be launched.

Health and safety

2.1.29. The *Steel Industry Safety and Health Commission* met in Luxembourg on 25 January. It approved the 1975 and 1976 annual reports, the conclusions of its working group on the organization of accident prevention and of the group on safety—oxygen lines (on the precau-

¹ Bull. EC 1-1974, point 2210.

² OJ C 13 of 12.2.1974.

³ Bull. EC 1-1975, point 2217.

⁴ Bull. EC 7/8-1975, point 2231.

tions to be taken in preparing materials to be used for oxygen gas under pressure). It also decided to set up a working group on the meaning and interpretation of accident statistics.

Lastly, at the request of the ECSC Consultative Committee, it examined the proposal for a Council Directive to harmonize Member States' legal and administrative provisions on posting safety signs at work.¹ It felt that this Directive could be applied in the iron and steel industry.

Paul Finet Foundation

2.1.30. The Executive Committee of the Paul Finet Foundation met in Luxembourg on 14 January and sent a message of congratulations to its new Chairman, Mr H. Vredeling, Vice-President of the Commission, and expressed its gratitude to Mr Jean Monnet who had given the Foundation the amount of the Adolph Bentinck Prize, which he had been awarded.

The Committee examined 470 applications and awarded 324 grants totalling FB 2 695 000. Since the Foundation was set up on 30 June 1965, financial aid totalling FB 51 975 000 has been granted to 6 315 children of workers in ECSC industries who had lost their lives as a result of an accident at work or an industrial disease. The 1 741 recipients of this aid had thus been able to complete their vocational, secondary or university education in better conditions.

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2.1.31. At its 13 January sitting, *Parliament*² adopted a Resolution on unemployment in Europe and delivered its Opinion on the progressive extension of social protection to categories of persons not covered or insufficiently covered by existing schemes. The *Economic and Social Committee*,³ meeting on 26 and 27 January, delivered its Opinion on vocational training for young people who are unemployed or threatened by unemployment.

Regional policy

Financing operations

European Regional Development Fund

First allocation for 1977: 54.60 million u.a.

2.1.32. On 5 January, the Commission approved the first allocation of grants for 1977 from the European Regional Development Fund, totalling 54.60 million u.a. The aid has been allocated to 109 investment projects costing a total of 376.77 million u.a. In accordance with the Regulation of 18 March 1975⁴ establishing the ERDF, the Fund Committee had been consulted on all the projects and the Regional Policy Committee on those infrastructure projects costing more than 10 million u.a. Funds having run out during the 1976 financial year, the Commission had had to postpone the relevant decisions until 1977.

Table 1 gives a breakdown of the amounts granted.

The 54.60 million u.a. break down as follows:

(a) 28.12 million u.a. to help finance 50 *infrastructure* projects required to develop industrial or tourist activities, comprising:

(i) 13.80 million u.a. to help finance 2 projects costing more than 10 million u.a. each;

(ii) 13.60 million u.a. to help finance 43 projects costing less than 10 million u.a. each;

(iii) 0.72 million u.a. to help finance 5 infrastructure investment projects in the areas referred to in the Directive on mountain and hill farming and farming in certain less-favoured areas.

¹ OJ C 96 of 29.4.1976 and Bull. EC 4-1976, point 2228.

² Point 2.3.15.

³ Point 2.3.42.

⁴ OJ L 73 of 21.3.1975.

Table 1 — Grants from the ERDF (first 1977 allocation)

Member State	Number of grant decisions	Number of investment projects	Investments assisted (million u.a.)	Assistance granted (million u.a.)
Ireland	2	6	29.87	3.19
Italy	12	74	247.47	39.83
United Kingdom	4	29	99.43	11.58
Total	18	109	376.77	54.60

The infrastructure investments assisted from the Fund involve a total of 155.08 million u.a.

(b) 26.48 million u.a. to help finance 59 projects relating to *industrial, artisan and service activities*, comprising:

- (i) 9.66 million u.a. to help finance 4 projects costing more than 10 million u.a. each; and
- (ii) 16.82 million u.a. to help finance 55 projects costing less than 10 million u.a. each.

The industrial and services investments assisted from the Fund involve a total of 221.69 million u.a.

Environment and consumer protection

Environment

Civil liability of the 'polluter'

2.1.33. The problems raised by the polluter's civil liability *vis-à-vis* third parties—whether in the same country or in another Member State of the Community—were considered on 20 and 21 Jan-

uary by a Working Party under a remit from the Council. The Working Party is to look more closely into the problems associated with 'trans-frontier pollution' and measures that may be envisaged in this field.

Sewage sludge

2.1.34. On 5 January the Commission transmitted to the Council a proposal for concerted action on a research programme on the treatment and utilization of sewage sludge.¹ This substance is an environmental hazard and, since its disposal is extremely costly, the aim of the proposed programme is to find suitable ways of utilizing the sludge (e.g. as fertilizer) and of storing the non-recyclable constituents inoffensively.

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2.1.35. On 14 January² *Parliament* delivered its Opinion on two Commission proposals to the Council for Directives, one concerning the quality requirements for waters capable of supporting freshwater fish, the other concerning toxic and dangerous wastes.

Consumer protection

Doorstep selling

2.1.36. On 17 January the Commission sent to the Council³ a proposal for a Directive concerning contracts negotiated away from business premises, i.e. doorstep selling.

A proposal of this kind was envisaged in the preliminary programme of the European Economic Community for a consumer protection and information policy adopted by the Council on 14 April 1975;⁴ among the priority measures, refer-

¹ Point 2.1.57.

² Point 2.3.14.

³ OJ C 22 of 29.1.1977.

⁴ OJ C 92 of 25.4.1975.

ence is made to protection against unfair commercial practices, particularly in connection with doorstep selling.

Whilst accepting the principle that traders have the right to open negotiations with consumers away from their business premises, the proposal provides that where such contracts exceed a certain value they must be in writing. Furthermore, the contract must contain certain items of information explaining the basic terms of the contract to the consumer.

The consumer also has a 'cooling-off' period of at least seven days in which he has the right to revoke the contract. Other provisions are designed to ensure that the exercise of this right is not made too complicated or too disadvantageous by any special wording of the contract.

Lastly, the Member States may adopt additional provisions if they wish to provide greater protection for the consumer; these might relate to the length of the cooling-off period, a complete ban on the sale of certain goods or services away from business premises, a prior authorization system or measures designed to prevent contracts from containing an incorrect statement of the date of signature.

This does not prevent the Community from adopting special provisions for particular types of contracts, in such fields as consumer credit, home-study courses, securities and insurance.

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2.1.37. On 14 January *Parliament* delivered its Opinion on Commission proposals to the Council for Directives concerning EEC-approved plant-protection products and a ban on the placing on the market and the use of plant-protection products containing certain active substances.¹

Agriculture and fisheries

2.1.38. Apart from day-to-day management, the main event in January was the publication of the

1976 Report by the Commission on the situation of agriculture in the Community.²

After being notified of the measures to be taken by the British Government in the pigmeat sector, the Commission took action under the competition rules of the EEC Treaty.³

Measures in connection with the monetary situation

2.1.39. On the monetary front, the first two weeks of January saw relative stability in Member States' currencies, apart from the Italian lira, for which the compensatory amounts were changed by about -2.7 points. During the second half of the month there was a clear improvement in all the floating currencies, in particular the pound sterling, for which compensatory amounts were reduced by about five points.

Following this change and the alteration of the representative rate to be applied in agriculture for the Irish pound with effect from 17 January,⁴ the compensatory amounts for Ireland were considerably reduced (the gap closed to 9.5 points at the end of January against 23.5 points at the beginning of the month).

Transitional measures similar to those taken after the last devaluation of the Irish green pound in October 1976,⁵ were introduced by the Commission on 14 January⁶ for certain particularly sensitive sectors, to avoid speculation and deflection of trade between Ireland and the United Kingdom.

¹ Bull. EC 7/8-1976, points 2229 and 2256; OJ C 200 of 26.8.1976.

² Points 1.2.1 to 1.2.6.

³ Point 2.1.47.

⁴ Bull. EC 12-1976, point 2242.

⁵ OJ L 274 of 6.10.1976.

⁶ OJ L 14 of 17.1.1977.

Common organization of the markets

2.1.40. On 28 January the Commission approved¹ two regulations on the system of minimum stocks in the *sugar* sector for the 1976/77 marketing year. The first regulation lays down detailed rules for the application of the system of minimum stocks introduced in the basic regulation on sugar,² which is to be applied for the first time on 1 February 1977 in most areas of the Community. These detailed rules provide for an obligation to hold minimum stocks at all times, the assessment of these stocks and the calculation of the amount payable if the obligations are not fulfilled. The second regulation fixes the flat-rate amount provided for in the system of minimum stocks for the 1976/77 sugar marketing year.

2.1.41. On 25 January³ the Commission repealed the protective measures applicable to exports of *straw*. These measures, which were introduced at the end of July 1976⁴ because of the drought, remain in force for other fodder products such as hay and dehydrated fodder.

2.1.42. In the *wine* sector, a market which is always in surplus, the Commission on 25 January,⁵ fixed an additional rate for determining the quantities of alcohol to be delivered as part of the wine deliveries for the 1976/77 wine-growing year.

2.1.43. On 12 January the Commission sent the Council a proposal for a regulation for granting aid for skimmed *milk* and skimmed-milk powder for use as feed. These measures are part of the 1977-80 action programme to restore balance on the milk market.⁶

A start was made in January⁶ on transferring to the Italian intervention agency from the intervention agencies of the other Member States 10 000 tonnes of butter and 40 000 tonnes of frozen beef and veal in accordance with the decision

taken by the Council last October; the German intervention agency transferred 5 000 tonnes of butter and 30% of the total quantities of meat involved were available on 1 February.

2.1.44. As agreed in principle at the Council meeting on 20 and 21 December,⁷ the linked sales system for *beef and veal* has been extended⁸ to certain other products; under a tendering procedure to be implemented in February and March, imports will be allowed, as a protective measure, if linked with sales of boned beef held by intervention agencies.

Fisheries policy

2.1.45. On 15 January the Commission presented to the Council a proposal for a regulation defining certain interim measures for the *conservation of fishery resources* relating to the activity of vessels, use of fishing gear and the exploitation of certain defined fish stocks.

The internal measures, which supplement the proposals already submitted,⁸ are as follows:

- (i) as regards *fishing vessels*, a ban may be placed on vessels over 85 feet in length or with an engine power of more than 1 000 hp within 12 miles except for those which have traditionally carried on fishing activities in these areas; there is a ban on transshipment at sea except in certain cases;
- (ii) as regards *fishing gear*: application of the NEAFC (North East Atlantic Fisheries Commission) standards regarding the mesh of nets; the use of a seine or trawling way be temporarily prohibited;

¹ OJ L 25 of 29.1.1977.

² Bull. EC 9-1975, point 2224.

³ OJ L 22 of 26.1.1977.

⁴ Bull. EC 7/8-1976, point 1304.

⁵ Supplement 10/76 — Bull. EC.

⁶ OJ L 5 of 7.1.1977 and L 8 of 11.1.1977.

⁷ Bull. EC 12-1976, point 2244.

⁸ Bull. EC 12-1976, point 1203.

(iii) as regards fish *stocks*: special conservation zones may be established and a temporary ban placed on the fishing of particularly threatened stocks.

Structural policy

2.1.46. On 19 January the Commission adopted a Decision on the implementation of the reform of agricultural structures in the *Netherlands*¹ pursuant to the Council Directive of 17 April 1972 on the modernization of farms.

On 31 January it delivered two opinions on the draft provisions communicated by the Italian Government concerning the reform of agricultural structures in Tuscany and Liguria.²

Conditions of competition

2.1.47. On 25 January the Commission decided to initiate the procedure of Article 93(2) of the EEC Treaty³ in respect of the United Kingdom's proposed scheme of aid in the pigmeat sector. It considered that this aid threatened to distort competition and to affect trade between Member States and could not benefit from any of the exceptions provided for in Article 92(3) of the EEC Treaty.

2.1.48. On 20 January the Commission⁴ published its Decision requiring the Netherlands Government to forgo implementing proposed aid measures for horticulture under glass to offset the increase in fuel oil prices, where the total amount of the aid exceeds Fl 34.54 per tonne of heavy fuel oil and Fl 37.05 per thousand litres of light fuel oil. These amounts are higher than those authorized in the guidelines which the Commission communicated to the Member States on 25 June 1974 and 30 April 1975.

2.1.49 The Commission also decided on 12 January⁵ that the draft Italian regional aid scheme to

promote *beet* production in Campagna was not compatible with the common market.

2.1.50. Finally, under Article 93(1) of the EEC Treaty, on 28 January the Commission proposed 'appropriate measures' to be taken by the Member States to abolish aid for the production of isoglucose. It asked the Member States to discontinue granting State aid or aid from State funds in whatever form intended to encourage, directly or indirectly, investments to develop the isoglucose sector. It also decided that draft aids of this kind notified under Article 93(3) of the EEC Treaty would no longer be authorized.

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2.1.51. At its 14 January sitting *Parliament* adopted a Resolution on the marketing and use of certain plant protection products containing certain active substances. The *Economic and Social Committee*,⁶ meeting on 26 and 27 January, delivered an opinion on the common agricultural policy in the international context.

Transport policy

Approximation of structures

Opinion addressed to the Belgian Government

2.1.52. On 28 January the Commission decided⁷ to address to the Belgian Government a favourable opinion on a draft Royal Decree establishing a *freight broker's licence*.

¹ OJ L 33 of 4.2.1977 and Bull. EC 12-1976, point 2247.

² Bull. EC 12-1976, point 2247.

³ OJ C 22 of 29.1.1977.

⁴ OJ L 17 of 20.1.1977.

⁵ OJ L 24 of 28.1.1977.

⁶ Point 2.3.41.

⁷ OJ L 44 of 16.2.1977.

The Commission reasoned that as the principles underlying the Belgian draft, which seeks to impose a number of licensing conditions concerning probity, professional capacity and financial guarantees, are in keeping with the rules adopted by the Council in the Directive of 12 November 1974¹ on admission to the occupation of road haulage operator, the draft does not call for any comments as to the substance.

This opinion was delivered pursuant to the Council Decision of 21 March 1962,² as amended in 1973,³ instituting a procedure for prior examination and consultation in respect of certain laws, regulations and administrative provisions concerning transport proposed in Member States.

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2.1.53. *The Economic and Social Committee*,⁴ at its meeting on 26 and 27 January, delivered an opinion on the Commission's proposal to the Council on the harmonization of certain social provisions relating to goods transport by inland waterway.

Energy policy

Sectoral problems

Hydrocarbons

2.1.54. On 26 January the Commission adopted a Decision implementing the Council Directive of 4 May 1976⁵ establishing a Community procedure for *information and consultation on the prices of crude oil and petroleum products in the Community*. These provisions concern the form and content of the communications to be made to the Commission by the Member States every three months.

On the basis of the information obtained, the Commission will draw up and send to the Member States a quarterly digest of crude oil and pe-

troleum product prices, and a comparative survey of the trends in oil-supply conditions and ex-refinery revenue. These papers will serve as the basis for consultations between the Member States and the Commission on the state of the market.

Research and development, science and education

Recommendation on the implementation of the JET project

2.1.55. Apart from the site, all the questions still awaiting a decision in connection with the implementation of the JET project were the subject of recommendations unanimously adopted by the Advisory Committee on Fusion (ACF) at its meeting on 18 January. These recommendations, which were addressed to the Commission and the Council, relate to those points in the programme on which a Council decision is still awaited: costs and financing, the personnel and the legal form of the project. This decision, which could not be taken in 1976 owing to the cancellation of the Council meeting originally planned for 20 December,⁶ is of vital urgency if the Community is to keep its technological lead in the field of controlled thermonuclear fusion.

The ACF⁷ is composed of Government and Commission representatives with responsibility for nuclear and energy research. It is now under the chairmanship of Mr Teillac, the French High Commissioner for atomic energy and successor to Mr von Bülow.

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¹ OJ L 308 of 19.11.1974.

² OJ 23 of 3.4.1962.

³ OJ L 347 of 17.12.1973.

⁴ Point 2.3.43.

⁵ OJ L 140 of 28.5.1976 and Bull. EC 3-1976, point 2286, and 5-1976, point 2282.

⁶ Bull. EC 12-1976, point 2265.

⁷ Bull. EC 4-1976, point 2266.

2.1.56. On 12 January, *Parliament*¹ adopted a Resolution on the need to establish a site for JET as a prerequisite for effective research measures to secure the Community's energy supplies in the long term.

Science, research and development

Science and technical Research Committee

2.1.57. At its meeting on 24 and 25 January, CREST continued with the work of defining concerted action projects of interest to the Community on the basis of two draft projects. One related to the processing and utilization of *sewage sludge* (COST project 68), which was the subject of a proposal presented to the Council on 5 January, and the other to the setting-up of an oceanographical and meteorological data buoy network (COST project 43).

CREST also resumed the discussion started on 5 November 1976² on the continuation of scientific and technical cooperation with non-member European countries within the COST framework. In this connection, it recommended the Commission to draw up firm proposals at an early date with a view to opening up certain Community action programmes to participation by the countries concerned.

In the field of *medical research*, the Committee approved the scientific and technical contents of three proposals for concerted action projects relating to the registration of congenital abnormalities (1977-79), cell ageing and the diminution of the functional capacity of organs (1977-80) and extracorporeal oxygenation (1977-80). In the next few months, the Commission is to make suitable proposals depending on the progress in defining methods of concerted action.

Coordinating Committee on Fast Reactors

2.1.58. The Coordinating Committee on Fast Reactors, meeting in Brussels, went ahead with its discussion on the long-term forecasts relating to the use of nuclear energy and the role of breeder reactors in the Community on the basis of a report drawn up by the Commission. The delegations also presented their annual progress reports on national programmes.

Multiannual programmes

Advisory Committees on Programme Management (ACPMs)

2.1.59. The Advisory Committee on Programme Management responsible for the research on *solar energy* being conducted within the framework of direct and indirect-action projects met on 20 and 21 January. It devoted its attention to the indirect-action programme, the second phase of which (1 January 1977 to 30 June 1979) was the subject of a Council Decision on 21 December 1976.³

The Committee worked out guidelines for the research to be carried out during this second phase. In particular, it delivered a favourable opinion on the continuation of the work with a 1 MWe pilot power station using a solar boiler located at the top of a tower, upon which will be focused the rays from an array of heliostatic mirrors surrounding the tower. The feasibility study on the system, which was entrusted to four European companies, was completed with positive results at the end of 1976. The Commission will shortly begin the procedures for selecting contractors for the following work: detailed plans and specifications, manufacture and testing of the

¹ Point 2.3.9.

² Bull. EC 11-1976, point 2255.

³ Bull. EC 12-1976, point 2270.

fundamental components of the power station and finally the construction.

Education

Education Committee

2.1.60. At its meeting on 26 January, the Education Committee discussed the implementation of the action programme on education for 1977 and 1978¹ on the basis of a note prepared by the Commission.

This discussion, which ranged over all sections of the programme, is to be resumed at global level on 7 February with the aim of evolving a balanced programme of activities based on all the necessary political guidelines and budget estimates.

The Committee also began an examination of the projects proposed for the implementation of the Resolution of 13 December 1976² on measures to improve the preparation of young people for work and to facilitate their transition from education to working life.

Scientific and technical information and information management

Industrial innovation

2.1.61. The establishment of a real policy on industrial innovation now counts among the main matters with which the Commission is concerned. The various measures to be undertaken in this field should promote technological and economic convergence in the Community. Mr Brunner will be *chef de file*³ for this policy, which will cover all problems connected with transfer of technology, exploitation of ideas and inventions

and the introduction of new products or services on the market.

Euronet network

Meeting on data transmission techniques

2.1.62. At a meeting in Luxembourg on 10 and 11 January the representatives of some thirty computerized information centres in the Community were briefed on the characteristics of the on-line data network Euronet with which the centres intend to be connected. The Euronet data transmission subnetwork, financed by the Commission, is now being set up by the nine Postal and Telecommunications administrations of the Member States acting in consortium.⁴

At this meeting—the first of its kind—sixty national experts, together with experts of the Commission, described in detail the new techniques now in use and the standards (e.g. X 25 and ESP 25) which should make it possible to integrate terminals of different types into the Euronet network, thus providing an answer to the problems of compatibility between equipment of different origins. The information gathered during discussions on the network/computer interface should provide a starting point for planning the connection of centres wishing to participate in Euronet.

Documentation and Information System for Metallurgy

SDIM Management Committee

2.1.63. The Management Committee for the Documentation and Information System for

¹ OJ C 38 of 19.2.1976.

² OJ C 308 of 30.12.1976.

³ Bull. EC 12-1976, point 1111.

⁴ Bull. EC 2-1976, point 2255, 3-1976, points 2277 and 2278, 6-1976, point 2264 and 9-1976, point 2250.

2. External relations

Scientific and technical information

Metallurgy (SDIM), meeting on 24 and 25 January, discussed the future of the SDIM on the basis of a report prepared by an *ad hoc* working party.

In principle it approved the reorganization of the system recommended by the working party, and instructed it to follow up its work on the lines of those recommendations and of the remarks made by some of the delegations. A detailed proposal on the future of the SDIM should be presented at the meeting to be held by the Management Committee in May.

The Committee also approved the report on its activities in 1976, and a number of projects to be implemented in 1977.

Enlargement

Accession negotiations : Greece

2.2.1. The second meeting¹ at deputy level took place in Brussels on 31 January. The Greek Delegation presented working papers on external relations, the budget, competition and regional policy. The Community made a statement on the customs union.

During January the Commission and the experts from the Greek Government continued the examination of Community secondary legislation² in agriculture (general points and financial implications).

Political cooperation

Ministerial meeting

2.2.2. The Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the Nine met in London on 31 January, with Mr Anthony Crosland, the British Foreign Secretary, in the chair. The Commission was represented by Mr Roy Jenkins, President, Mr Wilhelm Haferkamp, Vice-President, and Mr Claude Cheysson, Member.

Discussions centred on the Middle East, preparations for the Belgrade Conference (continuation of the CSCE), the Euro-Arab dialogue, the Community's relations with Spain, Portugal and Cyprus and the situation in Southern Africa. At the end of the meeting, a statement was issued on Rhodesia.

¹ Bull. EC 12-1976, point 2338.

² Bull. EC 12-1976, point 2339.

Statement on Rhodesia

2.2.3. 'The Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the nine countries of the European Community recalled their statement of 18 October last, in which they reacted favourably to the British Government's decision to convene a conference on Rhodesia in Geneva. They were deeply concerned that on 24 January, Mr Smith's rejection of the British proposals for forming an interim government has, for the time being, endangered the British Government's efforts to establish a basis for negotiation that would be acceptable to all. The Ministers deplored the irresponsible attitude of the illegal regime.

They solemnly appealed to all parties concerned to continue to work for a negotiated settlement with a view to a rapid and peaceful transfer of power to the majority in Zimbabwe.

They declared officially that the present regime could expect no aid from the Nine. Indeed, they confirmed that they would continue to respect very strictly their obligations in respect of sanctions.'

Multilateral approaches**Conference on International Economic Cooperation**

2.2.4. On 18 January, the Council held an exchange of views on the resumption of the Conference on International Economic Cooperation (the North-South dialogue). Discussions centred on the timetable for and preparation of the ministerial meeting and the continuation of the finalization of the Community's basic position.

The Council agreed to continue to prepare the Community's position in parallel with the consultations to be held by the Community authorities with the Group of Eight, and particularly the

new United States administration and the new Japanese Government, and with the co-Chairmen of the Conference.

The Council and the Commission also agreed to appoint Mr Stanley Payton, Chief of the Overseas Department of the Bank of England, to replace His Excellency Mr D. Spierenburg as co-Chairman of the Commission on Financial Affairs of the CIEC.

Although no formal decision has yet been taken—pending the outcome of consultations with Japan, the United States and Canada, planned for February—the possibility of a meeting of the Conference at ministerial level towards the end of April or the beginning of May has not been ruled out.

As regards the Community's basic position, which remains to be defined,¹ it seems that the problems concerning the resumption of the North-South dialogue and the negotiations on the Common Fund—which should begin before the end of March within UNCTAD—are linked on a number of points.

Implementation of the UNCTAD IV programme**Preparatory meetings under the integrated programme on commodities***Rubber*

2.2.5. The Community took an active part in the preparatory meeting on rubber which was held in Geneva from 17 to 21 January, in the context of the integrated programme on commodities, adopted in Nairobi in May 1976 by UNCTAD IV.

¹ The Council failed to agree on the Community position at its meeting on 8 February.

In his statement, the Community representative emphasized the spirit of cooperation and constructive goodwill with which it hoped to participate in the dialogue with producing countries. He underlined the importance of the agreement on the stabilization of the price of natural rubber signed in Djakarta in November 1976 by five developing countries with a major interest in this product. With reference to comments made by delegations of producing countries, he pointed out that the Djakarta Agreement should pave the way for greater cooperation between producing and consuming countries.

The participants agreed to reconvene the preparatory meeting in April-May in order to discuss specific proposals and identify points which could form the basis of an international agreement. An intergovernmental restricted working party will meanwhile examine the proposals put forward by producers and consumers and will submit a report at the meeting.

Common Fund

2.2.6. The second meeting to prepare for the negotiating Conference on the setting up of a Common Fund (in accordance with the Resolution on commodities adopted at UNCTAD IV in Nairobi in May 1976) took place in Geneva from 24 to 29 January.

More detailed discussions were held on a number of questions raised at the first preparatory meeting from 29 November to 4 December 1976.¹ The following points were dealt with in particular: the financing of buffer stocks within the framework of international commodity agreements, the financing of operations other than storage, the financial requirements of the Fund and its profitability, the possibility of conversion measures and the possible role of existing international organizations (the IMF for example).

This work will continue at a third preparatory meeting, which will be held in Geneva from 21

February to 1 March, the negotiating conference being due to take place from 7 March to 1 April.

Multilateral trade negotiations

Entry into force of the EEC offer on tropical products

2.2.7. The offer of concessions made by the EEC on tropical products² came into effect on 1 January.

Trade Negotiations Committee

Non-tariff measures

2.2.8. The non-tariff measures group met briefly on 13 January to re-examine the question of the drawing up of the second list of non-tariff measures and also the problem of the procedures to be planned for non-tariff measures not falling within the scope of multilateral examination.

The group also drew up a timetable for the sub-groups' future meetings and fixed its next meeting for 18 April.

Development

2.2.9. January saw a number of meetings, discussions and decisions concerning relations between industrialized and developing countries.

The main points were as follows: consultations with a view to resuming the North-South dialogue;³ implementation of the resolutions adopted by UNCTAD IV, in connection with the Common Fund³ or the preparatory meeting for the negotiations on commodities³ under the integrat-

¹ Bull. EC 12-1976, point 2320.

² Bull. EC 10-1976, point 2304.

³ Points 2.2.4 to 2.2.7.

ed programme; the start of sectoral consultations within the United Nations Industrial Development Organization;¹ forwarding by the Community of the initial data necessary for operating the global information and early warning system on food and agriculture;¹ the entry into force, on 1 January, of concessions on tropical products made by the Community under the Tokyo Round.²

Development cooperation policy

Cooperation with non-governmental organizations

2.2.10. The annual meeting of the NGOs (non-governmental organizations) specializing in development cooperation³ took place in Brussels from 19 to 21 January, with some fifty representatives from the nine Member States taking part.

At the meeting positive conclusions were drawn from joint operations undertaken since 1976 and initial steps were taken towards stepping up co-operation between these organizations and Commission departments. The meeting dealt with the questions raised by the co-financing of projects and considered other matters where there is co-operation with the Commission, in particular the problems of educating the European public and food aid.

International institutions and development

2.2.11. The first consultation meeting on specific industries organized by UNIDO took place in Vienna from 17 to 21 January;⁴ it dealt with the fertilizer industry.

Food aid and emergency aid

2.2.12. In a communication presented to the Council on 21 January, the Commission proposed granting emergency food aid to Syria. This aid amounting to approximately 1.5 million u.a., would cover the allocation of 5 000 tonnes of cereals, 700 tonnes of skimmed-milk powder and 500 tonnes of butteroil.

2.2.13. On 18 January, the Commission decided to grant Chad, emergency food aid of 5 000 tonnes of cereals; the operation will cost approximately 1 300 000 u.a.

Commodities and world agreements

2.2.14. In addition to a preparatory meeting for the international negotiations on commodities—for which provision was made in UNCTAD's 'integrated programme' and which dealt this time with rubber⁵—the Executive Committees of the International Cocoa and Coffee Organizations met in London, where the third session of the Fifth International Tin Agreement had been held shortly before. While the meeting on coffee was routine, more important questions were raised at the meetings on the other products.

Cocoa

2.2.15. The Executive Committee of the International Cocoa Organization met from 17 to 21 January to review the price range fixed in

¹ Points 2.2.29 and 2.2.30.

² Points 2.2.4 to 2.2.7.

³ Bull. EC 6-1975, point 2315, 1-1976, point 2311, 7/8-1976, point 2324, 12-1976, point 2322.

⁴ Point 2.2.29.

⁵ Point 2.2.5.

the Agreement¹ and consider whether to revise the prices.

The producing countries asked for a revision of the minimum price of 39 US cents/lb fixed in the 1975 Agreement, pointing to the movements in the price of this product over the last four years, increases in production costs, monetary events and the rate of inflation.

On the basis of information supplied by the European Economic Community, the consuming countries expressed their concern regarding the inadequacy of production in relation to demand and the extremely sharp rise in the price of cocoa, which has been gaining further momentum for several months. They called for a follow-up, in the framework of the Organization to the efforts already made and the programmes for achieving a substantial increase in production. They reaffirmed their desire to cooperate in finding solutions acceptable to everyone.

Real negotiations on the possible revision of prices will begin at the meetings of the Executive Committee and the International Cocoa Council planned for March.

Tin

2.2.16. The third session of the Fifth International Tin Agreement took place in London on 6 and 7 January. Discussions dealt mainly with the situation resulting from Bolivia's failure to ratify the new Agreement² before 31 December 1976 as planned, thereby preventing its final entry into force.

The representative of the Bolivian Government explained his country's attitude by emphasizing the inadequacy of the present floor price, the absence of any indexation arrangements for the price scale, the need to change the voting system, and the unsatisfactory situation regarding voluntary contributions from consuming countries towards the financing of the buffer stock.

Discussions will continue at the fourth session of the Tin Council planned for the beginning of March 1977; until then the Agreement will remain in force provisionally until 30 June 1977.

Commercial policy

Preparing and implementing the common commercial policy

Import arrangements

Relaxation of restrictive measures

2.2.17. Under the Council Decision of 27 March 1975³ on unilateral import arrangements in respect of State-trading countries, the Commission decided in January to open, as an exceptional measure, a quota for imports into Italy of synthetic rubber from Poland.⁴

2.2.18. The Commission announced in January⁵ the termination of the anti-dumping/anti-subsidies procedure initiated in 1976 concerning ammonium nitrate fertilizers originating in Romania.⁶ In view of how the situation has developed, the Commission considered that defensive measures were no longer necessary for the time being.

¹ OJ L 321 of 20.11.1976 and Bull. EC 10-1975, point 2321.

² OJ L 222 of 14.8.1976.

³ OJ L 99 of 21.4.1975.

⁴ OJ C 45 of 22.2.1977.

⁵ OJ C 4 of 7.1.1977.

⁶ OJ C 183 of 7.8.1976.

Safeguard measures

2.2.19. The Commission has initiated an anti-dumping procedure concerning imports of *reinforcing bars of iron or steel* originating in *South Africa*.¹

2.2.20. On 26 January² the Commission decided to subject to quotas in 1977 imports into the Benelux countries of certain textile products (*stockings*) originating in *South Korea*. The imports in question have increased sharply and substantially and are offered at prices which are appreciably lower than the prices charged by Community producers, thus causing them considerable harm and disrupting the market.

Specific measures of commercial policy**Textiles***Brazil*

2.2.21. The *Agreement* concluded between Brazil and the Community on trade in textile products was *signed* on 13 January. The Agreement was negotiated in the context of the Arrangement regarding International Trade in Textiles—the Multifibre Arrangement (MFA)—and initialled on 1 April 1976.³ It provides in particular for the voluntary restraint by Brazil, at agreed levels, of exports of certain of its textile products considered to be sensitive; in return the Community is suspending the restrictions in force for the products covered by the Agreement. In addition a specific consultation clause was inserted in the text of the Agreement.

Colombia and Macao

2.2.22. The Agreements with Macao and Colombia on trade in textile products were signed

on 14 and 20 January respectively. These Agreements are of the same type as that concluded with Brazil, but they cover different products. They were initialled on 27 September 1975 (Macao⁴) and 29 April 1976 (Colombia⁵).

Thailand

2.2.23. An initial round of *negotiations* took place from 24 to 27 January between the Community and Thailand for the conclusion of an agreement on trade in textile products on the basis of the Multifibre Arrangement. As in the case of negotiations with other countries, the Community is endeavouring to obtain the voluntary restraint by Thailand of its exports of certain sensitive products. This initial round enabled both sides to state their point of view; a date has yet to be fixed for the resumption of the negotiations.

2.2.24. On 26 January *consultations* took place between the Community and Thailand with a view to dealing with the steep increase in Thai exports of *jute yarn* to the Benelux countries. At the consultations Thailand was requested—in view of the fact that the exports in question were disrupting the market, particularly in Belgium—to agree to limit its exports to an agreed level. The Thai authorities are to give their reply in the near future.

India

2.2.25. A 'round table' organized under the powers conferred on the Joint Cooperation Committee set up under the EEC-India Agreement on *coir products*, met in Brussels on 20 and 21 January.

¹ OJ C 26 of 3.2.1977.

² OJ L 24 of 28.1.1977.

³ Bull. EC 3-1976, point 2310.

⁴ Bull. EC 9-1975, point 2304.

⁵ Bull. EC 4-1976, point 2313.

The meeting—held under the auspices of the Commission—was attended by Community and Indian industrialists and persons engaged in trade in coir products. The main items discussed were supplies of raw materials for Community industry and the scope for cooperation in research, marketing and the improvement of production through the transfer to India of technology and machinery. The conclusions of this round table will be submitted to the sectoral agreements sub-commission of the overall EEC-India trade cooperation agreement.

Import arrangements for certain textile products

2.2.26. On 18 January¹ the Council adopted three regulations concerning import arrangements for certain textile products originating in Singapore, Malaysia and Macao. These texts lay down criteria for the allocation among the Member States of the voluntary restraint ceilings stipulated by the agreements in force between the Community and the countries in question.

Iron and steel products

2.2.27. The Commission adopted on 5 January² a Decision derogating from High Authority Recommendation 1/64 of 15 January 1964—concerning an increase in the protective duty on iron and steel products at the external frontiers of the Community—in order to permit the duty-free importation of the products in question in the context of the generalized tariff preferences for the *developing countries*.

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2.2.28. On 13 January³ *Parliament* adopted a Resolution on the advisability of enlarging the Community's competence in the field of external economic relations.

International organizations

United Nations Industrial Development Organization

Setting-up of a system for permanent consultation

2.2.29. The Commission was represented at the first of the consultation meetings on specific industries, which will be organized systematically by the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) in accordance with the recommendations adopted by its second general conference in March 1975 in Lima and by the seventh special session of the United Nations General Assembly in September 1975. The aim is to increase the developing countries' share in world industrial production through increased international cooperation.

The first of these consultation meetings—which dealt with the fertilizer industry—took place from 17 to 21 January in Vienna. It was of particular importance since it marked the first stage in setting-up the system, and will therefore directly influence the meetings to follow and even the future of these consultations. During 1977, there will be similar consultations on the iron and steel industry and the agriculture and food industries.

FAO

Global information and early warning system on food and agriculture

2.2.30. Since January, the Community has cooperated in running the global information and early warning system on food and agriculture,

¹ OJ L 19 of 22.1.1977.

² OJ L 18 of 21.1.1977.

³ Point 2.3.12.

which was set up by the FAO (United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization) following a recommendation made at the World Food Conference in November 1974.

The Commission has started to send systematically to the FAO, on behalf of the Community, the data and information on the agricultural situation in the EEC, which are necessary for the smooth running of the system.¹

Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development

Working party on shipbuilding

2.2.31. The OECD working party on shipbuilding held a further meeting on 11 and 12 January in Paris; no appreciable progress was made because of the attitude of the Japanese Delegation.

An agreement was reached, subject to confirmation, regarding the setting-up as from February of an improved information system on new orders. As regards the main point—namely the acceptance of Community proposals on a balanced regional distribution of orders to shipyards in 1977 and 1978—Japan remained very reserved, whereas the other members of the working party supported the Community position.²

Council of Europe

Parliamentary Assembly

2.2.32. The Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe held its first session of the year from 24 to 27 January in Strasbourg, in the chamber of the new Palais de l'Europe, which was inaugurated³ at a ceremony presided over by Mr Giscard d'Estaing, President of the French Republic and attended by Mr Roy Jenkins, President of the Commission, and Mr Georges Spénaile, President of the European Parliament.

The session of the Assembly saw the opening for signature by the Member States of the Council of Europe of the European Convention on the Suppression of Terrorism, which was signed by seventeen countries.

The Assembly also heard a statement from Mr Thorn, the Luxembourg Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs, who, while expressing satisfaction at the prospect of direct elections to the European Parliament, recommended caution regarding any extension of the Parliament's powers.

Following a debate on the sea and its resources, the Assembly recommended cooperation between Member States of the Council of Europe with a view to the resumption of the United Nations Conference on the Law of the Sea.

Lastly, it advocated the drawing-up of a convention on the protection of workers against the effects of unemployment.

Mediterranean countries

Greece

2.2.33. Following the completion on 13 January of the negotiations within the EEC-Greece Association Committee for the conclusion of a second financial protocol, the Council endorsed the agreement on 18 January; it instructed the Permanent Representatives Committee to take the necessary steps so that the protocol could be signed as soon as possible.

From the date on which the protocol enters into force until 31 October 1981, the Community will make 280 million u.a. available to Greece (225 million u.a. in EIB loans, and budgetary aid of 55 million u.a.).

¹ Bull. EC 12-1976, point 2333.

² Point 2.1.11.

³ Points 2.3.1 to 2.3.3.

Mashrek

2.2.34. The cooperation agreements between the European Economic Community and Egypt, Jordan and Syria¹ were signed in Brussels on 18 January.

These agreements were signed jointly by Mr Crosland, President of the Council of the European Communities, Mr Claude Cheysson, Member of the Commission, the Foreign Ministers of the Member States, Mr Zacharia Tawfeik Abdel Fattah, the Egyptian Minister of Foreign Trade, Mr Nijmeddin Dajani, the Jordanian Minister of Industry and Trade and Mr Mohamed Imadi, the Syrian Minister of the Economy and Foreign Trade.

Lebanon

2.2.35. On 19 January, meetings took place between representatives of Lebanon and Commission staff to prepare the official opening of negotiations planned for 15 and 16 February. The aim of these negotiations is to conclude a cooperation agreement, similar to the ones signed on 18 January with Egypt, Jordan and Syria.¹ This preliminary meeting follows the visit to the Commission on 19 November 1976 of Mr Ghassam Tueni, the Lebanese Minister of Social Affairs.²

ACP States and the OCT

Lomé Convention

Official visit of President Mobutu

2.2.36. General Mobutu, President of the Republic of Zaire, accompanied by his Minister of Foreign Affairs and senior officials, made an official visit to the Commission on 21 January.

Following a private meeting with Mr Roy Jen-

kins, President of the Commission, he took part in a round table discussion with other members of the Commission.

President Jenkins, noting the particular difficulties facing Africa at present and the great importance of that continent to Europe, stressed the willingness of Europe to assume an appropriate role in founding new forms of cooperation between the developed and the developing world.

President Mobutu expressed his country's commitment to the Lomé Convention but was most unhappy about the limited progress of the North-South dialogue. He expressed the hope that the European Community could play an effective role in giving new momentum to the Conference in the future.

The economic difficulties of Zaire were discussed. In particular, there was a frank exchange of views on the problem of copper price stabilization and the grave transportation problems experienced by Zaire as a result of developments in Southern Africa. A project agreement was signed for a grant of 12.98 million EUA for the extension of a palm plantation in Gosuma (Equateur province).

Accessions to the Convention

2.2.37. At a meeting on 18 January, the Council took the final decisions concerning requests from Papua New Guinea, Sao Tome and Principe and Cape Verde³ for their accession to the Lomé Convention. It decided in particular that in connection with this accession the overall financial aid granted to the ACP States would be increased by 22.5 million u.a.

The Council also settled the last remaining problems concerning arrangements for the application

¹ Points 1.3.1 to 1.3.9.

² Bull. EC 11-1976, point 2338.

³ Bull. EC 7/8-1976, point 2347.

of the Lomé Convention to the three former overseas countries and territories—Surinam, Seychelles and the Comoros—which have already acceded to the Convention by depositing their acts of accession.¹ It agreed in particular that in connection with this accession, 30.6 million u.a. would be transferred from the OCT aid allocation to the ACP allocation.

Once these changes come into effect, the situation of the Lomé Convention will be as follows:

The number of African, Caribbean and Pacific countries, which was 46 when the Convention was signed and rose to 49 with the accession of the former OCTs, will now become 52 with the three new accessions.

The financial appropriation under the Convention for aid of all kinds to the ACP States, will increase from 3 390 million u.a. to 3 443.1 million u.a.

European Development Fund

New financing decisions

2.2.38. After receiving a favourable opinion from the EDF Committee, the Commission took six new financing decisions in January, five involving grant aid under the fourth EDF and one a loan on special conditions. These decisions bring the total amount of the commitments entered into under the fourth EDF to 425 856 000 EUA. The new decisions concern the following projects:

— Grant aid

Uganda — Nutritional rehabilitation centre: 320 000 EUA

Trinidad and Tobago — Study on facilities for blending fertilizers: 168 000 EUA

Ivory Coast — Technical assistance to the Ivory Coast Centre for Foreign Trade: 760 000 EUA

All ACP States — Financing the programme of participation in International Trade events during 1977 and 1978: 6 252 000 EUA

Upper Volta — Yatenga ORD: 1 577 000 EUA

— Loan on special terms

Ghana — Construction of the Kpong Dam: 8 980 000 EUA

Other countries

Fisheries problems

Establishment of a system of fishing licences for certain countries

2.2.39. Following the entry into force on 1 January of the decision of the nine Member States of the Community to extend the limits of their fishing zones in the North Sea and the Atlantic to 200 miles,² the Council in January took new interim measures for the conservation and management of fishery resources designed to implement those it adopted in December 1976.³

To ensure that the provisional fishing quotas fixed for certain non-member countries in December were respected, the Council decided on 18 January to send communications to the USSR, the German Democratic Republic and Poland requesting them to limit the number of their vessels fishing in Community waters during the first quarter of 1977. Finally, on 28 January⁴ the Council adopted a Regulation establishing the licensing system and the ways of implementing it for the three countries in question. Notifications were then sent to the three countries.

¹ Bull. EC 7/8-1976, point 2347.

² Bull. EC 10-1976, points 1501 to 1505.

³ Bull. EC 12-1976, points 1201 to 1203.

⁴ OJ L 25 of 29.1.1977.

The Regulation stipulates the number of licences that can be granted for each country; each licence is valid for one vessel only and for fishing definite species within certain geographical limits. The number of licences which may be issued for fishing vessels of between 2 000 and 3 500 gross registered tonnes is limited to five for Poland, six for the German Democratic Republic and twenty-seven for the USSR; moreover the maximum number of vessels permitted to fish at the same time is limited to five for each of the first two countries and to seventeen for the USSR. The Council Regulation also specifies what information is to be supplied on certain characteristics of the vessels, notably their tonnage, when an application for a licence is submitted.

It is up to the Member States to take all the relevant measures to monitor these fishing activities (including regular inspection of the vessels of third countries) in the maritime waters coming under their sovereignty or falling under their jurisdiction.

Industrialized countries

United States

Visit of Vice-President Mondale to the Commission

2.2.40. Vice-President Walter F. Mondale was received by President Jenkins and members of the Commission on 24 January. The Vice-President's visit to Brussels was the first stop on his tour of European capitals and Japan.

Mr Mondale said that the purpose of his visit was to demonstrate US awareness of the need for the closest possible coordination and cooperation with the traditional allies and friends of the United States. He reaffirmed US support for the principle of European integration.

Discussions with the Commission dealt with a wide range of matters of common interest, including the importance of economic recovery

among Western industrial nations, the need for progress in the multilateral trade negotiations, the North-South dialogue and the proposed economic summit meeting.

2.2.41. After this visit Mr Jenkins made the following statement:

'I greatly welcomed Vice-President Mondale's visit to the Commission today. He made it clear that his choice of Brussels as a first stopping point was not accidental but was a symbol of the high importance the new American Administration attached to close cooperation with the institutions of the European Community. My colleagues and I quickly established an easy working relationship with him and his team.

Our talks were necessarily exploratory, but none the less covered several matters of substance: the overall economic prospects, energy, the North-South dialogue, the proposed Summit, multilateral trade negotiations and the essential need to avoid any relapse into protectionism. The constant background was the need, without ignoring the problems of inflation, to give a stimulus to the world economy.'

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2.2.42. On 11 January *Parliament* adopted a Resolution on the present state of economic and commercial relations between the Community and the United States of America.¹

Japan

2.2.43. The Communiqué issued after the Council meeting of 18 January—during which it heard a report by the Commission on the talks currently being held with the Japanese authorities—confirmed 'the serious concern it felt at the present state of trade relations with Japan'.

¹ Point 2.3.11.

2.2.44. Mr Minoru Masuda, Japan's Deputy Minister for International Trade and Industry, had talks on 21 January with Mr Wilhelm Haferkamp, Vice-President, Mr Guido Brunner and Viscount Etienne Davignon, Members of the Commission. Both multilateral and bilateral questions were discussed.

The Members of the Commission placed particular emphasis on the problems in the shipbuilding sector, which call for an early solution. Mr Masuda confirmed his Government's will to cooperate in seeking an appropriate solution. However, the discussions also dealt with trade, energy and the Community's fisheries policy.

2.2.45. The Japanese Government has decided to allow European car manufacturers a three-year adaptation period regarding the application to cars exported to Japan of the new standards the Japanese authorities have decided to implement as from 1 April 1978.

Given that these new 'NOX' standards (to be the strictest in the world) would cause difficulties for imports of European cars into Japan, the Commission had requested in December 1976 that consultations be held on their application to vehicles from Europe. It is as a result of the requests made by the Community during these consultations—which took place in Tokyo on 13 and 14 January—that the Japanese Government has decided to allow this three-year grace period; so European cars will not therefore have to conform to the new Japanese standards until 1 April 1981. The Japanese authorities have agreed to hold consultations with the Community on specific problems, should the Community so desire.

Developing countries

India

2.2.46. Mr Sharma, India's Minister of State in the Ministry of Industry and Civil Supplies, paid a visit on 21 January to Mr Haferkamp, Vice-Pres-

ident of the Commission with special responsibility for external relations.

Mr Haferkamp welcomed the fact that, thanks at least in part to various trade policy measures taken by the Nine, India managed in 1976 to redress appreciably its balance of trade with the Community. He emphasized, however, that the very large increase in imports of clothing was causing real problems for some Member States. For his part, Mr Sharma confirmed that his country attached great importance to the extension of its economic relations with the Community and to the strengthening of the Community's cooperation policy at international level.

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2.2.47. On 13 January¹ *Parliament* adopted a Resolution on the advisability of enlarging the Community's competence in the field of external economic relations.

Diplomatic relations

2.2.48. The President of the Council and the President of the Commission have received His Excellency Mr Mamadou Traore (Mali) who presented his letters of credence in his capacity as Representative, Head of his country's Mission to the European Communities (EEC, ECSC, EAEC) with effect on 17 January.²

The two Presidents have also received letters of credence from Her Excellency Mrs Emeldah B. Mathe (Botswana) in her capacity as Head of her country's Mission to the European Communities (EEC, ECSC, EAEC) as from 18 January.²

His Excellency U Chit Mounng (Socialist Republic of the Union of Burma) has also presented his

¹ Point 2.3.12.

² OJ C 28 of 4.2.1977.

3. Institutional and political matters

Diplomatic relations

letters of credence to the President of the Council and the President of the Commission in his capacity as Head of his country's Mission to the European Economic Community (EEC), with effect on 18 January.¹

The three new Ambassadors take over from Mr Alioune Sissoko (Mali) who died in 1975, Miss Gaositwe K.T. Chiepe (Botswana) who was appointed to other duties in 1974 and U Ba Saw (Burma) who retired in 1974.

Institutional developments — European policy

Inauguration of the new Palais de l'Europe

2.3.1. The new Palais de l'Europe in Strasbourg, which will be the home of the Council of Europe and where the European Parliament will also meet, was inaugurated on 28 January by Mr Valéry Giscard d'Estaing, President of the French Republic. Speeches were also made at the ceremony by Mr Georg Kahn-Ackermann, the Secretary-General of the Council of Europe, Mr Pierre Pflimlin, the Mayor of Strasbourg, Mr Roy Jenkins, President of the Commission, Mr Georges Spénale, President of the European Parliament, Mr Karl Czernetz, President of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, and Mr Garret FitzGerald, President of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe.

Address by Mr Spénale, President of the Parliament

2.3.2. In his speech, Mr Spénale laid special emphasis on the election of the European Parliament by direct universal suffrage:

'This is the great transformation, the accession of the people, the citizens of Europe supporting the States of Europe. Far more than that, it is for us a fundamental act of consolidation of our democracies, for it would be unthinkable for any country belonging to the Community to renounce its own form of parliamentary democracy once it has to elect a European Parliament directly.

But although Parliaments and the peoples have ratified the Treaties in large part, the old quarrel surfaces once more.

Let us consider the powers: either Parliament does not have sufficient powers, so why elect it?

¹ OJ C 28 of 4.2.1977.

Or there is a risk that it will assume greater powers: so it must not be elected.

In actual fact the election procedure will have no effect on Parliament's powers, and any transfer of authority can only be made by way of the Treaties and with the agreement of all the national Parliaments.

There is talk of "government by assembly", and the instability to which it gives rise.

But there cannot be instability when the assembly cannot go against the wishes of the Council, and vice versa: here the only solution to disagreement is a desire for cooperation, and through the conciliation procedures which are already carrying out their functions satisfactorily.

There is concern for "national sovereignty" but in every nation there is only one national sovereignty, which in our democracies is that of the people; all the institutions are simply the representatives. So if an appeal is made to popular sovereignty it automatically means national sovereignty, and how could it thus be endangered?

The opposite is true: there is now a European legislation which has increasing influence on its citizens. Its application is direct, the people have never elected anyone to take part in its formulation. To allow the people to elect their representatives is to restore to national sovereignty those rights which were for a time suspended.

There are those who criticize, saying "Was there nothing more urgent to be done?"

Naturally there were more pressing needs: unemployment, inflation, energy, the fight against pollution, the world economy, etc., etc.

But should we wait until the table is clear before we keep those promises made to our peoples in the Treaties and at Summit meetings? That means never!

Those who complain of the lack of a joint approach, are they not the same men who continue

to demand the use of procedures from which this powerlessness stems?

Here again we have had only a glimpse of sovereignty: especially if we analyse it as a passive tendency, as the power to refuse, the right not to want to do something: active sovereignty has gone by the board: the right to want to take on something.

In this way the Council has become something less than an international conference because, after such conferences, those who are in agreement can act, whereas our States cannot if one member refuses.

It is thus that we have lost the true character of national sovereignty.

And this is not all. As the Community expands, so the number and size of the problems, and the number and likelihood of conflicts increase. As the filter narrows the flow decreases.

And here lies the danger, for today the Community can no longer put off deepening nor widening its influence.

As a general rule we too say that sovereignty must not be surrendered, but that at a time of interdependency and enormous challenges it can agree to carefully calculated limitations to ensure the survival of our nations, which we all love: this can and must be decided jointly, for the only way to exist independently is to survive together, and the surest form of egoism is in fact solidarity.

This will be the message of the elected Parliament, with greater authority, for tomorrow. Tomorrow and right here where it will find on its first day a fitting seat.'

**Address by Mr Jenkins,
President of the Commission**

2.3.3. In his speech, Mr Jenkins said:

'The building which is being inaugurated today is more than the sum of its physical components. It

is a symbol of the increasing participation of every citizen of the democratic nations of Europe in the parliamentary process of debate and democratic control.

Let me first say a word about the Council of Europe, our host today, and the senior European parliamentary institution. I feel a particular and personal affection for the Council, because nearly a quarter of a century ago it gave me my baptism into European parliamentary politics, and instigated in me a European faith which has not since weakened. It is a considerable achievement over twenty-seven years to have brought together parliamentarians from so many democratic States in a common enterprise, and to have achieved results and set standards which others can—and do—envy. We are proud members of a family committed to parliamentary democracy, the rule of law, and the maintenance of individual freedom in the precise juridical way set out in the Convention of Human Rights. Membership of the Council of Europe has always been a privilege and not a right. Only those States adhering to its standards can be—and remain—full members. In a world in which democracy is fragile, and Europe with its particular and glorious traditions is a vulnerable place, let us applaud the Council of Europe for the values it has upheld, and pray that in the future it will continue to flourish.

It is no accident that the roof which will cover the deliberations of the Nineteen should also cover those of the Nine. I make no comparisons between two organizations whose purposes and structure are very different, but I do remark upon the effectiveness of the cooperation which has taken place between what could be described as the inner Nine and the Nineteen as a whole. This was well shown in the work of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe which led to the Helsinki Agreement of 1975.

The European Parliament is now taking on a new dimension. In just over a year's time it will be directly elected by the citizens of the Member States of the Community. This event, the result

of new decisions but of course rooted in Article 138 of the Treaty of Rome, may well turn out to be a crucial point in the history of European institutions. If I should like the new European Commission to be remembered for one outstanding event, it would be for its part in changing the way in which the European institutions are regarded by the citizens of the Member States. I look forward to the day when people regard these institutions, and in particular the Parliament, as something with which they can personally identify themselves and towards which they feel a personal loyalty. To give this new aspect to the European institutions would not in my view limit or deny the character, variety and aspirations of the member States: it will rather be to create a new sense of participation—that of the region, that of the State, that of the European Community itself—which responds to the needs of our time.'

Functioning of the European Council

2.3.4. On 21 January, Mr Valéry Giscard d'Estaing, the President of France, wrote to the Heads of the Member States' Governments and the President of the Commission, discussing the functioning of the European Council and offering some suggestions for improvements. Here is the complete text of his letter:

'At the close of the last European Council meeting in The Hague, I said that I hoped to make proposals to you and our colleagues on ways of making the European Council operate to better effect. With two years' experience and six meetings behind us, it is now time to draw some conclusions.

The first thing to note is that we are working on the right lines. We have settled certain problems of major importance to our common future, such as the accession of the United Kingdom and the direct elections to the European Parliament, which, as we all realize, could not have been resolved in any other way. We have exchanged

views with candour and in privacy. No other setting could have provided for this. My feeling is that the European Council, bringing together, as it does, the Heads of State or Government, has enabled us to advance towards our objective, European Union.

This does not mean that the instrument is perfect. I can see room for improvements on two counts.

First, it has occurred to all of us that our failure to reach specific conclusions was sometimes due to inadequate preparation.

Second, because of the interest which our meetings inevitably arouse among the news media, they are prompted to probe and appraise the substance of our decisions, even if the material value of our talks lies more in exchanging opinions and information than in reaching conclusions.

I therefore offer the following suggestions for the three types of item which may appear on our agenda: mutual briefings, major or formal decisions and the conclusion of specific matters which have been dealt with under Community procedures.

1. Those who bear the responsibility of leading our States must have the opportunity to exchange their views on certain problems of European or international interest so that each may better appreciate the other's difficulties and sound out the other's reactions. The aim here is not to take decisions, but rather to clarify the situation and the political context in which the decisions will have to be taken. This sort of discussion is a cornerstone of the European Council's activity, and if it is to continue it must take place in complete freedom and privacy. This means a special sitting, without superfluous administrative paraphernalia. And it must be clearly stated beforehand that there is no question of adopting any final written text—formal or impromptu.

2. The Council's second task stems from the fact that the Nine may, on some occasions, wish to state their position on matters of the moment

more formally and more resoundingly. It is for the European Council to make Europe's voice heard in the international theatre—as we did at The Hague with regard to relations with Japan—or before our own public, by adopting declarations in which the words need to be carefully weighed, the writing kept free of any extemporization and the text not subjected between us to discussion of pettifogging detail.

3. Our third task bears on problems which have already been analysed by the Community institutions but which it is felt should be laid before the European Council either because they raise a question of principle or because they could not be settled lower down.

It is then for us to take the appropriate action. This may be in the form of a decision or of guidelines for Ministers so that they may find the solution.

When such matters arise, all the necessary facts and information are already available. But the Foreign Ministers must nevertheless prepare the ground carefully in order to limit the number of issues to be considered and ensure that drafts are compiled with as much detail as possible.

The list of matters requiring a decision or a declaration should therefore be drawn up by the Foreign Ministers, on a proposal from the country occupying the chair, at a meeting two or three weeks before our own sessions. They should endeavour to present full drafts of decisions or declarations, leaving it, where necessary, to the Council to define certain clear-cut basic options. It would be understood that, save for emergencies, no draft decision or declaration could be laid before the Council unless it had been prepared in this way.

If all the matters for discussion belonged to one or other of these clearly defined categories, and if the necessary preparations could be made by the Foreign Ministers, guided by the chair, I am convinced that the European Council would be able

to provide the leadership which we would have it display in the construction of Europe.

It was with this in mind that I thought it worthwhile to offer a few concrete suggestions, on which I should be pleased to have your views.'

Institutions and organs of the Communities

European Parliament

Part-session in Luxembourg from 10 to 14 January

2.3.5. At the January part-session,¹ two events caught the European political headlines: the first public appearances of the new President of the Commission, Mr Roy *Jenkins* and of the new President of the Council, Mr Anthony *Crosland*, it now being the United Kingdom's turn for a six-month term in the Council chair.

In the presence of the two men who will be directing the Community's fortunes for the next six months (Council) and four years (Commission), Parliament debated some urgent matters such as the controversial issue of the site for the JET project.

Other items on the agenda included economic and trade relations between the United States and the Community, the question of extending Community responsibilities in foreign trade, the Community's attitude towards South Africa and unemployment.

The Abu Daoud affair in France prompted a call for joint action to combat terrorism.

The new Commission (11 January)

2.3.6. The first British President of the Commission, Mr Roy *Jenkins*, the Labour politician, and his twelve colleagues appeared before Parliament. In his maiden speech, Mr Jenkins described his personal feelings on taking over the Commission and how he saw his new assignment.²

All the Group spokesmen offered initial encouragement but they will be presenting their detailed political opinions in February when the programme address is formally debated. Mr *Bertrand*, (C-D/B) alone was critical of what he felt to be the politically unbalanced composition of the new Commission.

M. *Fellermaier* (S/D) welcomed the prospect of more protection for the consumer, which his Group had been demanding for a long time. In particular he wished Mr Jenkins good luck for the proposed task of making the Commission what the treaties would have it: the driving force for European unification. He added that the overall European and world political outlook must also count.

For Mr *Durieux* (L/F), Mr Jenkins's assumption of office marked the United Kingdom's full integration into the Community. The new Commission was a guarantee for change and continuity. Sir Peter *Kirk* (C/UK) promised support for Mr

¹ This report was prepared from 'Information' published by Parliament's Secretariat.

The complete texts of the Resolutions passed by Parliament are reproduced in OJ C 30 of 7.2.1977 and the report of proceedings is contained in OJ Annex No 211.

The political group and nationality of members are indicated in brackets by the following abbreviations: C-D = Christian Democrats, S = Socialists, L = Liberals and Democrats, 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.

² Points 1.1.6 to 1.1.13.

Jenkins in everything which would benefit the Community.

Work programme of the British President of the Council (12 January)

2.3.7. After Mr Jenkins had presented the new Commission, Mr Anthony *Crosland*, the United Kingdom Foreign Secretary and new Council President for the next six months presented his work programme.¹

Combating terrorism (14 January)

2.3.8. Events in France in connection with the release of the Palestinian leader, Abu Daoud, prompted a move by all six Groups, which culminated in the adoption of a Resolution calling upon the governments and parliaments of the Member States to ratify immediately the Convention on the Suppression of Terrorism, drawn up by the Council of Europe and due to be signed by the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe on 24 January 1977.

Under this Convention, the signatory States agree on arrangements for extradition and possibilities for reciprocal official assistance in combating politically motivated crimes such as the hijacking of planes, the taking of hostages, bomb attacks, etc.

Research

JET (12 January)

2.3.9. Parliament held that only immediate implementation of the JET programme including

the overdue decision on the site for JET could effectively secure the Community's necessary long-term energy supplies. The six Groups unanimously called for a decision on the question of the site so as to free the research teams from uncertainty. The House pressed strongly for a decision at the next Council meeting and urged that it be taken on the basis of available studies and analyses. The Community, in the form of the Council, must prove that it is capable of reaching a decision when this is in the general interest, even if national egoism suffers in the process.

Moving the Resolution, the Chairman of the Committee on Energy and Research, Mr *Springorum* (C-D/D) stated that operational viability must be the prime criterion in choosing the site. He found it hard to sympathize with French insistence on a site in France (Cadarache). The site for JET was not a nationally vital issue since the facility would be available to all Member States without distinction. Either the French Government was raising the stakes very high, or this was the cost of some 'horse trading'.

The Member of the Commission responsible for energy policy, Mr *Brunner*, pointed to the disastrous consequences of the Council's failure to take a decision: accelerated loss of staff, waste of money already spent (15 million u.a.), solution of the problem shifted on to the bilateral level of relations with the United States. For the Community it would mean losing its lead in this area of research and its credibility *vis-à-vis* the countries with whom it had concluded agreements. Would the Council be willing to acknowledge publicly on behalf of the Community the failure of the research undertaking? He at any rate had no desire to preside over the winding-up process.

Closing the debate, the President of the Council, Mr *Crosland* could only promise that he would consider Parliament's wishes and assure the House that the discussions to reach agreement were still going on.

¹ Points 1.1.1 to 1.1.5.

External relations

Economic boycott of South Africa? (12 January)

2.3.10. On behalf of the Socialist Group, Mr *Waltmans* (NL), Mr *Hamilton* (UK), Mr *Radoux* (B), Mr *Seefeld* (D), Mr *Glinne* (B), Lord *Castle* (UK) and Mr *Evans* (UK) asked the Conference of Foreign Ministers about its past and future policy towards Namibia (implementation of the UN Resolution on independence), Zimbabwe (answer to the Rhodesia question) and South Africa (possibility of an economic boycott by the Community countries to compel South Africa to abandon the apartheid policy).

Answering in his capacity as Chairman of the Foreign Ministers' Conference, the new President of the Council, Mr *Crosland*, said that the Nine supported the people of Namibia in their desire for self-determination and independence. In a joint statement in October, the Foreign Ministers had welcomed the policy of the British Government in relation to the Conference on Rhodesia. The Nine also supported all efforts to achieve an independent Zimbabwe under majority rule, and they were unanimous in repudiating apartheid.

American import restrictions criticized (11 January)

2.3.11. In a Resolution on the state of economic and trade relations between the Community and the United States, Parliament considered that the Community's agricultural policy was less protectionist than it appeared at first sight. The House was critical of the latest American import restrictions under the Trade Act and pointed to the further increase in the American trade balance surplus, especially on agricultural products.

In particular, Parliament called for the quotas on special steel imports to be removed as quickly as possible and indicated that it expected the Carter Administration to make every effort to remove

existing barriers to trade and to counter protectionist tendencies in general. The House also hoped that the political links between the Community and the United States would be strengthened in the years to come.

The Community's competence in the field of external economic relations (13 January)

2.3.12. In its Resolution on an own-initiative report by the Committee on External Economic Relations, Parliament considered that the Community's present powers in the field of commercial policy were sufficient.

The report considered whether it was necessary to extend the Community's competence in the field of external economic relations. Parliament noted that because the Community was able to offer trade concessions, it inevitably commanded considerable political influence. The House noted with satisfaction that on various occasions in the past this influence had been used and agreed that this should continue in future, provided it was in the interests of freedom and democracy.

Opinions varied as to whether, when negotiating trade agreements, the Community should seek, in return for concessions, agreement on the conditions under which investment guarantees might be given, and concessions in the form of guaranteed raw material supplies and the lowering of non-tariff barriers. A narrow majority was in favour of obtaining such counter-considerations.

Parliament also wanted to see conditions governing export credit harmonized in a spirit of fairness. An effort should also be made to obtain agreement with the major trading partners on a common discipline concerning export aids. The aim must be fair competition. The House also called for the coordination of the industrial, regional, social and external trade policies, the simplification of trade formalities and better information for exporters.

Industrial policy

Aircraft industry (13 January)

2.3.13. A question from the Committee on Economic and Monetary Affairs triggered a wide-ranging discussion of the problem of a common Community policy for the aircraft industry. The Committee had referred to the inclusion of 8 million u.a. in the Community's 1977 budget for basic research in the aircraft industry and pressed the Commission to present the proposals already announced.

Environmental protection

Producers should be liable for dangerous wastes (14 January)

2.3.14. Parliament felt that in disposing of toxic and dangerous wastes, the prime consideration should be effective protection for people and animals. The House approved a proposal for a Directive reflecting this. It particularly urged that the underlying principle should be the unconditional liability of waste producers.

During the debate various speakers emphasized the urgent need for such measures in view of the recent disaster at Seveso.

Social policy

Unemployment (13 January)

2.3.15. In a Resolution moved by fifteen Christian-Democrat members, Parliament grappled with the still acute problem of unemployment. It called for an increase in the resources available from the Social Fund and Regional Development Fund. The Funds should coordinate their operations with the European Investment Bank and

the social aid provided under the common agricultural policy. Measures should concentrate on the hardest-hit sections of the population (women and young people). The House also called for a job-creating investment programme.

Mr *Vredeling*, the Member of the new Commission responsible for social affairs and employment, told the House that he considered the reduction of unemployment to be his most important task.

Agriculture

After the drought: a far-sighted water policy (11 January)

2.3.16. Last summer's drought had clearly shown up the inadequacy of water reserves and the lack of water supply facilities in the Community. On 11 January, several Socialist members pressed the Commission for emergency measures to protect water and a better approach to storage.

Council

2.3.17. In accordance with the principle of six-monthly rotation, the Netherlands stood down on 1 January to allow the United Kingdom to take its turn as President of the Council. For the next six months, the United Kingdom will therefore be occupying the chair at meetings of the European Council, the Council and its subordinate bodies, at the conferences of the Representatives of the Governments of the Member States and at meetings on political cooperation.

In January, the Council held one meeting on foreign affairs.

434th meeting — Foreign affairs (Brussels, 18 January)

2.3.18. *President: Mr Crosland, United King-*

dom Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs.

Relations with Japan: After hearing a report from the Commission on talks now under way with the Japanese authorities, the Council restated its grave concern about the present state of trade relations with Japan and agreed to reconsider this question at its next meeting.¹

Conference on International Economic Cooperation: The Council held a preliminary exchange of views on the resumption of the CIEC. The points discussed included the timetable and preparations for the ministerial meeting and further work on finalizing the Community's basic position.²

Portugal: In preparation for the visits to the nine Community capitals, which Mr Soares, the Portuguese Prime Minister, is intending to make, the Council discussed the outlook for relations between the Community and Portugal.

Euro-Arab dialogue: After discussing a draft Resolution on the financing of cooperation projects within the framework of the Euro-Arab dialogue, the Council agreed that at its meeting on 8 February, it would resume preparations for the second meeting of the General Committee due to be held in Tunis on 10 and 11 February.

Lomé Convention: The Council settled the last outstanding problems concerning the arrangements for applying the Convention to three former overseas countries and territories—Surinam, Seychelles and the Comoros—which have already acceded to the Convention. Agreement was also reached on the conditions of accession for three further States to the Lomé Convention, namely Sao Tome and Principe, Cape Verde and Papua New Guinea.³

Fisheries: The Council made considerable headway with the interim arrangements for monitoring the fishing activities of non-member countries in the Community's 200-mile zone. It also

discussed other aspects of this issue, in particular the Commission proposal defining the interim measures to conserve fishery resources.⁴

Commission

Composition

2.3.19. The outgoing Commission, under Mr Ortolí, held its last meeting on 5 January.⁵ The new Commission, under Mr Jenkins, took up office on 6 January.⁶

Activities

2.3.20. The Commission held five meetings in January. The principal items on the agenda were the working-out of the broad lines of Commission action, the preparation of the programme for 1977, which Mr Jenkins has to present to Parliament on 8 February, internal organization, preparations for the visit of the new Vice-President of the United States, Mr Mondale, the farm price review and matters concerning fisheries.

Planning the Commission's work programme: The greater part of the proceedings of the incoming Commission was devoted to defining the broad lines of its programme and the main tasks to be tackled by individual Members. Some of this ground had already been covered at the Ditchley Park meeting before Christmas.

The fight against inflation, and the associated fight against unemployment, emerged as a clear priority. The Commission intends to act realistically and decisively; it will have no illusions but will commit itself firmly to proposals it feels to be in Europe's interest.

¹ Point 2.2.43.

² Point 2.2.4.

³ Point 2.2.37.

⁴ Point 2.2.39.

⁵ Bull. EC 12-1976, points 1102 to 1107.

⁶ Bull. EC 12-1976, points 1108 to 1112.

It intends to make full use of the Community's existing financial instruments, which could go some way towards narrowing the gaps between Member States and regions. It feels that coordination of these instruments would make them more effective. It will also try to mobilize other funds without burdening the budget proper.

The Commission will endeavour in its programme to do what citizens, workers and consumers expect of it. It feels that this is the most effective contribution it can make in the context of direct elections.

This general exchange of views also provided an opportunity for Members to consider the prospect of enlargement.

Special responsibilities of the Members of the Commission: At the first meeting of the Commission on 6 and 7 January portfolios were assigned to individual Members.¹

Departmental organization: The Commission took a number of decisions on departmental organization.

It decided to form a new Directorate-General for the Internal Market and Industrial Affairs by merging the former Directorates-General for the Internal Market (DG XI) and Industrial and Technological Affairs (DG III).

The Commission also decided to bring all information activities under a single umbrella. Responsibility for this new unit, which will comprise both the Directorate-General for Information (DG X) and the Spokesman's Group—the latter will retain its identity and autonomy—will lie with the Spokesman-Director-General for Press and Information.

Farm prices: The Commission held a policy debate on farm prices for 1977/78, devoted primarily to briefing Members on the main points at issue and the political and economic factors to be considered. It adopted a work programme geared to the presentation of positive proposals on 11 February.

Relations with workers' and employers' organizations

2.3.21. A number of subjects were discussed during preliminary consultations with the trade unions in January.

Topics covered at a meeting with the European Trade Union Confederation (ETUC) included the humanization of work, the overhaul of the European Social Fund, collective agreements, the reduction of working hours and the agricultural policy (the aim here was to work out a common position); the energy group drew up its annual programme.

In addition, members of the Trade Union Committee for Textiles, Clothing and Leather also met in preparation for consultations on the footwear industry to be held with employers and the Commission in February.

Court of Justice²

New cases

Case 1/77 — Firma Robert Bosch GmbH, Gerlingen-Schillerhöhe, v Hauptzollamt Hildesheim

2.3.22. The Hamburg Finanzgericht requested the Court of Justice on 3 January for a preliminary ruling on the interpretation of Article 3 of Regulation (EEC) No 803/68³ on the valuation of goods for customs purposes, namely whether the normal price of goods also includes the value of the patent covering the manufacturing process.

¹ Bull. EC 12-1976, point 1111.

² For more detailed information see the material published by the Court of Justice in the Official Journal and in the European Court Reports.

³ OJ L 148 of 28.6.1968.

Case 2/77 — Hoffman's Stärkefabriken AG, Bad Salzflen, v Hauptzollamt Bielefeld

2.3.23. The Münster Finanzgericht asked the Court of Justice on 4 January to give a preliminary ruling on the validity of Article 1 of Regulation (EEC) No 3113/74¹ on production refunds in the cereals and rice sectors, the effect of which is that different refunds are granted accordingly as the starch is manufactured from maize or potatoes.

Case 3/77 — Mr Razanatsimba

2.3.24. The Ordre des avocats at the Lille Bar requested the Court of Justice on 6 January to interpret Article 62 of the Lomé Convention² as regards the freedom of establishment of a national of an ACP State to pursue the profession of lawyer in the territory of a Member State.

Case 4/77 — Firma F.X. Zollner KG, Regensburg, v (1) the Council and (2) the Commission

2.3.25. The series of cases questioning the validity of Regulation (EEC) No 563/76³ on the compulsory purchase of skimmed-milk powder is further extended by an action for damages brought on 10 January by a German firm specializing in poultry rearing to obtain compensation for the loss which it claims to have incurred as a result of the said Regulation which led to an increase in its feedingstuffs costs.

Case 5/77 — Mr Carlo Tedeschi v Srl Denkvit Commerciale, Crespitica

2.3.26. In connection with an action concerning the prohibition by the Italian authorities of the importation of certain animal feedingstuffs on account of their nitrate content even though this substance is not listed in Directive 74/63/EEC on the fixing of maximum permitted levels for undesirable substances and products in feedingstuffs,⁴ the Pretore of Lodi requested the Court of Justice on 11 January to give a ruling on the discretionary powers conferred on Member States

by Article 5 of the Directive and on the validity of this provision in that it would confer on Member States powers exceeding the limits laid down in Article 36 of the EEC Treaty, thus enabling them to evade the obligations consequential on the principle of the free movement of goods.

Case 6/77 — N.G.J. Schouten BV, Giessen, v Hoofdproduktschap voor Akkerbouwprodukten, The Hague

2.3.27. The College van Beroep voor het Bedrijfsleven asked the Court of Justice for a preliminary ruling on the interpretation of Article 15(2) of Regulation No 120/67/EEC on the common organization of the market in cereals,⁵ especially as regards the adjustment of the agricultural levy in the event of the alteration of the threshold price of a variety of cereals.

Case 7/77 — Commission official v the Commission

2.3.28. A Commission official brought an action before the Court on 12 January to annul the decision of the Selection Board for an internal competition refusing him admission as a candidate for such competition.

Case 8/77 — Mrs C. Sagulo, née Avolio, Mr G. Brenca and Mr A. Bakhouché, Reutlingen

2.3.29. In the course of criminal proceedings the Amtsgericht Reutlingen asked the Court of Justice on 18 January to give a preliminary ruling on a series of questions chiefly concerned with discovering to what extent Articles 48 *et seq* and 7 of the EEC Treaty enable a Member State to impose on nationals of other Member States heavier penalties than on its own nationals for failing to renew their passport or residence permit upon expiry.

¹ OJ L 332 of 12.12.1974.

² OJ L 25 of 30.1.1976.

³ OJ L 67 of 15.3.1976.

⁴ OJ L 38 of 11.2.1974.

⁵ OJ 117 of 19.6.1967 and 200 of 19.8.1967.

Cases 9 and 10/77 — Bavaria Fluggesellschaft Schwabe & Co., KG, Munich — Riem, *et al* v Europäische Organization zur Sicherung der Luftfahrt (Eurocontrol), Brussels

2.3.30. Following a judgment¹ in which the Court of Justice excluded from the scope of the Convention on jurisdiction and the enforcement of judgments in civil and commercial matters a judgment given in a case between a public authority and a private person where the public authority acted in the exercise of public powers (fees owed to Eurocontrol for air safety services), the Bundesgerichtshof requested the Court of Justice, in two similar cases, to give a preliminary ruling on whether Articles 55 and 56 of the Convention are to be interpreted in such a way that they enable judgments of a Belgian court to be recognized and enforced in Germany by virtue of the bilateral convention between those two countries of 30 June 1958.

Case 11/77 — Mr R.H. Patrick, Saint Germain-en-Laye, v the French Minister for Cultural Affairs

2.3.31. The Tribunal administratif of Paris asked the Court of Justice on 25 January for a preliminary ruling on whether, in 1973, a British national was entitled to invoke for his own benefit a right of establishment to pursue in France the profession of architect given that he possesses a qualification equivalent to that required of French architects and that there is a diplomatic convention between France and the United Kingdom laying down conditions of reciprocity.

Case 12/77 — SA Debayser, Paris, v the Commission

2.3.32. A French firm brought an action before the Court of Justice on 25 January for damages to compensate for the loss which it claims to have incurred as a result of the fact that the Commission was unwilling to accord exemption from the increases in monetary compensatory

amounts provided for in Regulation (EEC) No 1608/74 on special provisions in respect of monetary compensatory amounts² in relation to its sales contracts for sugar concluded prior to the date of the decision of the French Government to permit its currency to float, but performed after that date.

Case 13/77 — NV GB-Inno-BM, Brussels, v Vereniging van de Kleinhandelaars in tabak, Elsene

2.3.33. In a case involving the sale of tobacco at prices lower than those fixed by the Belgian State and shown on the tax band attached to the packet, the Belgian Cour de cassation asked the Court of Justice for a series of preliminary rulings on the interpretation of various articles of the EEC Treaty, namely Articles 3, 5, 86, 90 and 30 to 32, and on Directive 72/464/EEC on taxes other than turnover taxes which effect the consumption of manufactured tobacco.³

Case 14/77 — Commission official v the Commission

2.3.34. A Commission official brought an action in the Court of Justice concerning the deduction of the family holiday allowance and the special family allowance paid in Belgium from the allowance provided for in the staff regulations paid by the Commission in respect of each dependent child.

Case 15/77 — Diplomlandwirt Chr. Schwab, Gut Schwaben, Post Kehlheim v (1) the Council and (2) the Commission

2.3.35. The validity of Regulation (EEC) No 563/76 on the compulsory purchase of skimmed-milk powder⁴ has been questioned once again in an action for damages brought before the Court of 31 January by a poultry rearer who claims to

¹ Case 29/76, Bull. EC 10-1976, point 2461.

² OJ L 170 of 27.6.1974.

³ OJ L 303 of 31.12.1972.

⁴ OJ L 67 of 15.3.1976.

have suffered losses as a result of the increase in his feedingstuff costs arising from the implementation of the said regulation.

Case 16/77 — Firma Diamalt AG, Munich, v Hauptzollamt Itzehoe

2.3.36. On 31 January the Hamburg Finanzgericht asked the Court of Justice for a preliminary ruling on the compatibility of certain articles of Regulations 665/75,¹ 1955/75² and 2727/75³ on the common organization of the markets in cereals with Article 40 of the EEC Treaty in that they provide for a production refund for 'Quellstärke' and not for 'Quellmehl'. This case is similar to the referral for a preliminary ruling No 117/76.⁴

Case 17/77 — Mr A. Alonso *et al* v the Commission

2.3.37. Five Commission officials brought an action before the Court on 31 January to annul the Commission's implicit decision rejecting their complaint concerning the publication of a libellous document about them within the EEC buildings.

Judgments

Case 46/76 — Mr W.J.G. Bauhuis, Aalten, v Nederlandse Staat (Ministerie van Landbouw en Visserij)

2.3.38. The Arrondissementsrechtbank Den Haag before which proceedings had been brought in respect of the payment of charges for health inspections, requested the Court of Justice on 2 June 1976 to give a preliminary ruling on whether such charges, which are levied on exports of cattle to another Member State, are charges having an effect equivalent to customs duties within the meaning of Article 16 of the EEC Treaty, in view of the fact that the inspections are carried out pursuant to Directive 64/432 on animal

health problems affecting intra-Community trade in bovine animals and swine,⁵ or in order to ascertain whether the animals satisfy the specific requirements laid down by the importing Member State.

In its judgment of 25 January, the Court replied to the question in the negative provided that the cost does not exceed the actual cost of the inspection when the charges are levied. The Court ruled however that save in the exceptional circumstances provided for in the abovementioned directive, any additional inspection required unilaterally by a Member State is a measure having equivalent effect to a quantitative restriction and that fees charged for inspections that are not required under a Community instrument but which are made compulsory by an exporting Member State in order to check whether the requirements laid down by an importing Member State are met constitute charges having equivalent effect to customs duties.

Case 49/76 — Gesellschaft für Überseehandel mbH, Hamburg, v Handelskammer Hamburg

2.3.39. The Hamburg Verwaltungsgericht requested the Court of Justice on 8 June 1976 to give a preliminary ruling on the interpretation of Article 5 of Regulation 802/68⁶ on the common definition of the concept of the origin of goods, particularly in relation to crude casein acquired in a non-member country but ground in a Member State to render it fit for use.

On 26 January the Court ruled that the cleaning and grinding of a basic product, such as crude casein, imported from a non-member country into a Member State and the grading and packaging of the resulting product do not constitute a substan-

¹ OJ L 72 of 20.3.1975.

² OJ L 200 of 31.7.1975.

³ OJ L 281 of 1.10.1975.

⁴ Bull. EC 12-1976, point 2438.

⁵ OJ 121 of 29.7.1964.

⁶ OJ L 148 of 28.6.1968.

tial process or operation within the meaning of the abovementioned article and do not confer upon the product a Community origin.

Case 65/76 — M. le procureur du Roi, Oudenaarde v Mr M. Derycke, Ronse

2.3.40. The Correctionele Rechtbank of Oudenaarde requested the Court of Justice on 13 July 1976 for a preliminary ruling on the interpretation of Regulation 543/69¹ on the harmonization of certain social legislation relating to road transport. It wished to know whether the individual control book prescribed by the above regulation for the carriage of goods by a vehicle in excess of 3.5 tonnes must be completed if carriage is effected by a trader on his own account.

The Court held in its judgment of 25 January that Articles 1, 2 and 4 of the regulation must be interpreted as covering all forms of carriage falling within the scope of the regulation, irrespective of the capacity of the driver of the vehicle and that the provisions of the regulations applied therefore to carriage effected by a self-employed operator and by a driver who is an employee.

Economic and Social Committee

145th plenary session

Opinions

Common agricultural policy in the international context

2.3.41. By 29 votes to 19 with 8 abstentions, the Economic and Social Committee adopted an Opinion on the common agricultural policy in the international context (possible consequences and improvements).

This Opinion, prepared on the Committee's own initiative, is, in a way, the logical follow-up to the

Committee's Opinion of 17 July 1975 on the stocktaking of the common agricultural policy. The Opinion concludes that it was imperative to study the common agricultural policy against the international background, since the international situation could clearly jeopardize some of the Community's agricultural objectives and perhaps the policy itself.

In the first section, the Committee analyses the factors of the international background which, in varying degrees, directly influence the development of the agricultural policy, regardless of whether they can be controlled by the Community.

The second section attempts to determine the contribution that the agricultural policy can make to economic and social balance within the Community and the world agro-food sector.

In the third section, the Committee proposes a number of improvements which could be made to the common agricultural policy and the Community's external policy, particularly in the agro-food sector. These improvements are proposed in the light of the Community's internal and external requirements as brought out in the first two sections.

The Committee recommends the following *internal improvements* to the common agricultural policy:

- (i) price policy should be adapted to the need to contribute, in this way too, to full utilization of all resources and the overall development of Community agriculture in general;
- (ii) the instruments for implementing the policy on production structures should be strengthened, while an effort is made in research (coordination of national policies), in liaison with regional policy;
- (iii) the policy in respect of marketing structures should be strengthened, with emphasis, where appropriate, on cooperatives and similar bodies;
- (iv) an *ad hoc* body should be set up to guide

¹ OJ L 77 of 29.3.1969.

² Bull. EC 7/8-1975, point 2452.

production with a view to establishing medium-term planning in agriculture;

(v) a real Community trading strategy should be worked out for the agro-food sector, affording the Community the decision-making autonomy which it needs;

(vi) the Commission should prepare a medium-term programme for Community agriculture based on the recommendations of the *ad hoc* body mentioned above, setting out guidelines for production, and also tracing the general pattern for research, structural policy and international cooperation;

(vii) the Commission should convene a conference, at European level, of representatives of governments and the various social and occupational groups concerned to determine what improvements should be made to the common agricultural policy.

To adjust or confirm the Community position on world economic problems, the Committee proposes that the Community should:

(i) explicitly commit itself to a new world economic order and food supply system based on a voluntary sharing of power by the strongest countries and compliance with common rules which respect everyone's rights and responsibilities;

(ii) commit itself to establishing a new world monetary order, based on a return to a measure of discipline in respect of exchange rates;

(iii) commit itself to political surveillance of industrial and commercial power structures which could be used for purposes incompatible with Member States' policies and international agreements which they have signed.

Vocational preparation for young people

2.3.42. In this Opinion, adopted unanimously, the Committee felt that with regard to vocational training and similar preparation for young people who are out of work or threatened with unem-

ployment, a Directive would have been far better. But in view of the difficulties and time involved in passing a Directive, a Recommendation was acceptable to the Committee at this juncture.

The Committee stresses the need, expressed in the Recommendation, for the two sides of industry to be involved at all stages of the vocational preparation measures and urges that demand forecasting be done at regional level in liaison with representatives of economic and social groups. The Committee thinks it important that young people with inadequate qualifications should, with the help of vocational preparation, be put in a position to choose later, from the different activities in a given industry, the occupation which suits them best and to train for it. In this respect, if the length of basic training was extended a little, it could, in some cases, count towards later specialized training.

The Committee stresses that training centres and institutes which are to run the vocational preparation schemes must be carefully selected, especially with regard to the quality of the instructors.

The vocational preparation should be of real assistance to the young people concerned, who should grasp the opportunity. The Committee therefore emphasizes the need for incentives to encourage young people to make the effort required of them.

The Recommendation leaves the final choice of priorities and the final decisions on specific arrangements to the Member States. Nevertheless, the Committee urges the Commission to send the Member States a list of the steps which have already been taken in some countries, indicating how far they have been successful, so that the national authorities can be guided in their decisions.

The Committee felt that the Member States should see that young people were given comprehensive and detailed information about what had been done and what opportunities they opened up.

The Committee added that all concerned should call on the experience of the occupational research institutes in the Member States and on the findings of the European Centre for the Development of Vocational Training, in Berlin, and the European Foundation for the Improvement of Living and Working Conditions, in Dublin.

Harmonization of social provisions relating to freight transport by inland waterway

2.3.43. In this Opinion, adopted unanimously with 22 abstentions, the Committee took a position on three issues:

- (i) qualifications required of crew members;
- (ii) manning of vessels;
- (iii) working and rest periods.

The Committee thought that qualifications required of crews should follow the Regulation on the award of boatman's licences for navigation on the Rhine and the Regulation on the inspection of shipping on the Rhine.

But, within a period to be decided by the Council, the Commission might be able, at the request of a Member State and after consulting both workers and employers to allow exceptions, on certain waterways, to the rules on minimum age and number of years' experience required for certain crew members depending on the particular traffic conditions obtaining. The purpose of such exemptions must be to make it possible to adapt to the Community rules on the waterways concerned within the specified period.

On manning, the Committee, just like the Commission, advocates rules which, in regard to the categories covered by the Regulation, are identical with the provisions of the Regulation on the inspection of shipping on the Rhine. But exceptions should be allowed to enable operators on certain waterways to adapt to the Community rules within the period specified.

Regarding working hours and rest periods, the

Committee considered that the rules must be suited to the special features of inland shipping and allow operating flexibility.

European Investment Bank

Loans granted

Italy

2.3.44. The Bank has granted a loan equivalent to Lit 20 000 million (20.2 million EUA) to SIP—Società Italiana per l'Esercizio Telefonico pA—to finance improvements in the telephone system in the Friuli-Venezia Giulia region. The term is 12 years and the interest rate 8½ %.

An improved telephone service, especially on trunk lines, is a key factor in the development of this outlying region, the economy of which has been hard hit by the earthquakes in 1976. About four-fifths of the new investments concern the provinces of Udine, Pordenone and Gorizia.

Currently costed at some Lit 58 000 million, the works in question cover extension and modernization of the system, together with replacement of equipment that has been destroyed, the main elements being construction of 33 new exchanges and a major uprating of urban and trunk network capacities (by 21 % and 34 % respectively).

Portugal

2.3.45. The Bank has granted a loan of 12 million EUA¹ to contribute towards the cost of water supply and irrigation schemes in the Alentejo, Southern Portugal.

This brings to 102 million EUA the total amount so far provided by the Bank within the framework of the exceptional emergency aid of 150

¹ The conversion rate applied by the EIB for the period from 1 January 1977 to 31 March 1977 is 1 EUA = 35.43 escudos = \$1.13.

million EUA offered to Portugal by the Community in the form of long-term credit from the EIB.

The loan is for 17 years at an interest rate of 6.5%, after deduction of a 3% interest rebate (paid directly from the Community budget) as provided for under the terms of the aid agreement.

The project which the Bank is helping to finance concerns irrigation of about 4 700 ha; it includes the construction of a 130 million cubic metre storage capacity dam on the Odivelas river and the construction of a 17 million cubic metre dam in the Vale do Vasco, the provision of sprinkler equipment and also installations for the purification and supply of drinking water.

An increase in forage crops, meat and dairy products made possible by the irrigation will help to reduce the need for imports and will at the same time raise incomes and living standards of the farming community which numbers 40 000 people in the districts concerned.

The loan will also help to meet the cost of studies concerning the rehabilitation of an existing irrigation system in the Mira plain; this cannot be fully utilized at present because of soil problems, wind conditions and certain other complications.

The total cost of these works and studies is estimated at around 32 million u.a. They form part of a vaster, long-term programme designed to extend irrigation to 170 000 ha of the Alentejo.

Financing Community activities

ECSC financial operations

Loans

2.3.46. Pursuing the general objectives of the ECSC and acting under Articles 54 and 56 of the

ECSC Treaty, the Commission granted loans totalling 107.6 million EUA in January.

Industrial loans

Industrial loans (Article 54) granted during the period under consideration amounted to 106.8 million EUA. These loans were granted to four undertakings to finance the following programmes:

Coal industry

(i) Rationalization and modernization of collieries

Charbonnages de France, Paris (Houillères du Bassin de Lorraine, Simon, Wendel and Merlebach collieries);

(ii) Increase in coking capacity

Charbonnages de France, Paris (Houillères du Bassin de Lorraine, Carling coking plant).

Iron and steel industry

(i) Infrastructure project

British Steel Corporation, London (Hunterston project, Scotland);

(ii) Increase in coking capacity

British Steel Corporation, London (Port Talbot and Redcar coking plants);

(iii) Rationalization of pig iron and steel production

Acciaierie et Ferriere Lombarde Falck, Milan (Sesto S. Giovanni works),

Union Sidérurgique du Nord et de l'Est de la France SA, USINOR, Paris (Valenciennois and Thionville works);

(iv) Rationalization of the production of steel section

Acciaierie de Tirreno SpA, Messina (Milazzo works);

Financing Community activities

(v) Research stations

British Steel Corporation, London (Ladgate Lane and Grangetown stations, Teesside);

(vi) Environmental protection

British Steel Corporation, London (Stocksbridge, Aldwarke and Tinsley Park works, Sheffield),
Ferriere Acciaierie di Udine SA FAU, Udine.

Overseas project

Coking coal pit

Union Sidérurgique du Nord et de l'Est de la France SA, USINOR, Paris,
Société Lorraine et Méridionale de Laminage Continu, SOLMER, Paris,
Société Métallurgique de Normandie, Paris
(Hawley Charbon France/Hawley Coal Mining Corporation, United States).

Redeployment loans

One redeployment loan (Article 56) was granted in the period under consideration to facilitate the creation of new activities to provide employment for workers already redundant or about to be made redundant; the loan amounted to 0.8 million EUA. The recipient was:

Italy: Friuli-Venezia Giulia

Ferriere Acciaierie di Udine SA FAU, Udine.



PART THREE

DOCUMENTATION

1. Additional references in the Official Journal

Additional references in Official Journal

3.1.1. This section lists the titles of legal instruments and notices of Community institutions or organs published in the Official Journal during the month under review but relating to items appearing in earlier issues of the Bulletin; the references were not available when the Bulletin went to press.

The number of the Bulletin and the point to which this additional information refers is followed by the title shown on the cover of the Official Journal, the number of the issue and the date of publication.

Bull. EC 11-1976

Point 2115

Commission Decision of 17 November 1976 authorizing Ireland to maintain protective measures under Article 135 of the Act of Accession in respect of footwear with uppers of leather (Common Customs Tariff subheading 64.02 A).
OJ L 11 of 14.1.1977.

Point 2249

Aid from the Community pursuant to Council Regulation (EEC) No 1505/76 of 21 June 1976 on the Community contribution towards repairing the damage caused to agriculture by the earthquake in May 1976 in the Friuli-Venezia Giulia region.
OJ C 16 of 21.1.1977.

Point 2451

Judgment of the Court of 30 November 1976 in Case 21/76 (reference for a preliminary ruling made by the Gerechtshof of The Hague): Handelskwekerij G. J. Bier BV and the Reinwater Foundation v Mines de Potasse d'Alsace SA.
OJ C 18 of 25.1.1977.

Point 2452

Judgment of the Court of 23 November 1976 in Case 28/76 (reference for a preliminary ruling made by the Finanzgericht, Baden-Württemberg): Firma Milac GmbH Groß- und Außenhandel v Hauptzollamt Freiburg.
OJ C 18 of 25.1.1977.

Point 2454

Judgment of the Court of 30 November 1976 in Case 42/76 (reference for a preliminary ruling made by the Hoge Raad of the Netherlands): Jozef de Wolf v Harry Cox BV.
OJ C 18 of 25.1.1977.

Bull. EC 12-1976

Point 2116

Council Directive of 21 December 1976 on the approximation of the laws of the Member States relating to taximeters.
OJ L 26 of 31.1.1977.

Point 2115

Proposal for a Council Directive on the approximation of the laws of the Member States relating to the weights and dimensions of certain motor vehicles.
OJ C 15 of 20.1.1977.

Point 2119

Second Council Directive of 13 December 1976 on coordination of safeguards which, for the protection of the interests of members and others, are required by Member States of companies within the meaning of the second paragraph of Article 58 of the Treaty, in respect of the formation of public limited liability companies and the maintenance and alteration of their capital, with a view to making such safeguards equivalent.
OJ L 26 of 31.1.1977.

Point 2143

Council Directive of 13 December 1976 on measures to facilitate the effective exercise of freedom of establishment and freedom to provide services in respect of the activities of insurance agents and brokers (ex ISIC Group 630) and, in particular, transitional measures in respect of those activities.
OJ L 26 of 31.1.1977.

Point 2249

Aid from the Community pursuant to Council Regulation (EEC) No 1505/76 of 21 June 1976 on the Community contribution towards repairing the damage caused to agriculture by the earthquake in May 1976 in the Friuli-Venezia Giulia region.
OJ C 16 of 21.1.1977.

Point 2252

Council Directive of 21 December 1976 on protective measures against the introduction into the Member States of harmful organisms of plant or plant products.
OJ L 26 of 31.1.1977.

Point 2253

Council Directive of 21 December 1976 on the approximation of the laws of the Member States relating to foodstuffs for particular nutritional uses.
OJ L 26 of 31.1.1977.

Point 2253

Council Directive of 21 December 1976 on the examination for trichinae (*trichinella spiralis*) upon importation from third countries of fresh meat derived from domestic swine.
OJ L 26 of 31.1.1977.

Point 2283

Proposal for a Council Regulation on Community financial measures to promote the use of coal for electricity generation.
OJ C 22 of 29.1.1977.

Point 2437

Case 116/76: Reference for a preliminary ruling made by judgment of the College van Beroep voor het Bedrijfsleven, The Hague, dated 7 December 1976, in the matter of Granaria BV, Rotterdam, v the Hoofdproduktschap voor Akkerbouwprodukten, The Hague, and the Produktschap voor Margarine, Vetten en Oliën, The Hague.
OJ C 18 of 25.1.1977.

Point 2438

Case 117/76: Reference for a preliminary ruling made by order of the Finanzgericht Hamburg dated 8 November 1976 in the case of the consortium of Firma Albert Ruckdeschel & Co. and Firma Hansa-Lagerhaus Ströh & Co. v Hauptzollamt Hamburg-St. Annen.
OJ C 18 of 25.1.1977.

Point 2439

Case 118/76: Reference for a preliminary ruling made by order of the Finanzgericht Berlin dated 23 November 1976 in the case of Balkan-Import-Export GmbH v Hauptzollamt Berlin-Packhof.
OJ C 18 of 25.1.1977.

Point 2440

Case 119/76: Reference for a preliminary ruling made by order of the Finanzgericht Hamburg dated 2 December 1976 in the case of Ölmühle Hamburg AG v Hauptzollamt Hamburg-Waltershof.
OJ C 18 of 25.1.1977.

Point 2441

Case 120/76: Reference for a preliminary ruling made by order of the Finanzgericht Bremen dated 8 November 1976 in the case of Firma Kurt A. Becher v Hauptzollamt Bremen-Nord.
OJ C 18 of 25.1.1977.

Point 2450

Judgment of the Court of 14 December 1976 in Case 24/76 (reference for a preliminary ruling made by the Bundesgerichtshof): the undertaking Estasis Salotti di Colzani Aimò e Gianmario Colzani v Rüwa Polstereimaschinen GmbH.
OJ C 18 of 25.1.1977.

Point 2450

Judgment of the Court of 14 December 1976 in Case 25/76 (reference for a preliminary ruling made by the Bundesgerichtshof): Galeries Segoura, a limited partnership, v Rahim Bonakdarian, an import-export company.
OJ C 18 of 25.1.1977.

Point 2452

Judgment of the Court of 15 December 1976 in Case 35/76 (reference for a preliminary ruling made by the Pretore di Susa): Simmenthal SpA v Italian Minister for Finance.
OJ C 18 of 25.1.1977.

Point 2459

Removal of Case 67/76.
OJ C 18 of 25.1.1977.

Point 2470

Resolution of the European Coal and Steel Community Consultative Committee on the social measures to be taken in the regions affected by developments in the steel industry.
OJ C 3 of 6.1.1977.

2. Eurobarometer

Public opinion in the Community at the end of 1976

3.2.1. *Eurobarometer* No 6 was conducted in November 1976, a few weeks after the decision on direct elections to the European Parliament. The results were published in January of this year, shortly after the new Commission took office and a few weeks before the twentieth anniversary of the signing of the Rome Treaties. The timing makes this opinion poll a particularly interesting one, providing a *progress report on public opinion in the Community*.

As with earlier polls in the series—the first dates back to September 1973—some 9 200 people representing a cross-section of the population aged 15 and over in all nine countries were questioned.¹

Answers given by the 'general public' are presented separately from those given by 'opinion leaders', following the practice introduced with *Eurobarometer* No 5. There is one new feature: a special set of questions was put to 'opinion leaders' only. (The term is used here to describe interviewees (approximately 15%) with (a) a tendency to discuss politics frequently and (b) a capacity to convince others of a strongly held opinion.)

Only some of the findings are discussed in this report.²

Interest in Community problems

3.2.2. It is not enough to monitor public *attitudes* towards the European Community; public *interest* in Community problems is an important indicator too. For this reason a question first asked in September 1973 has reappeared on a number of occasions and was asked again in November 1976. 'Are you personally very interested,

a little interested, or not at all interested in the problems of the European Community (the Common Market)?' This was asked as a follow-up to another question so that replies to both could be compared: 'Generally speaking, are you interested or not interested in the major political problems of other countries?' A third question on the frequency of political discussions on subjects connected with the Community followed: 'Do you ever find yourself discussing the European Community (Common Market) among your family or friends?'

Interest in Community problems has remained remarkably stable from survey to survey: on average slightly more than two in every ten interviewed said that they were 'very interested', five in ten were 'a little interested', while three in ten were 'not at all interested' or gave no reply.

Reactions varied very little from country to country except in the United Kingdom, where interest has been above the Community average ever since the political campaign leading up to the 1975 referendum, and Belgium, where it is well below average; almost three times as many Britons as Belgians claimed to be 'very interested' in Community problems.

Generally speaking, considerably more interest was shown by men than by women, and by interviewees in a high income bracket, with a high level of education and a high leadership rating.

Those 'very interested' in Community problems also turned out to be interested in the major pol-

¹ Technical details (list of institutes which conducted the survey, date of interviews in each country, size of national samples, extent to which the findings can be interpreted and so on) are given in the Annex.

² All *Eurobarometer* data are stored at the Belgian Archives for the Social Sciences, 1 Place Montesquieu, B-1348 Louvain-la-Neuve, and can be consulted by all member organizations of the European Consortium for Political Research (Essex) and the Inter-University Consortium for Political Research (Michigan), and all those interested in social science research. The findings of this poll are analysed in greater detail in the Commission publication entitled '*Eurobarometer — Public Opinion in the European Community No 6, January 1977*'.

itical problems of other countries and tended to discuss the 'Common Market' with their family and friends. *But for every two interviewees who were 'very interested' in Community problems only one discussed them 'often', i.e. interest was passive rather than active.*

3.2.3. A further question related specifically to the 'future image' of the Community: *'In your opinion, is the way the Common Market (the European Community) is developing very important, quite important, not very important or not important at all for the future of your children or the children of people close to you?'* This question was inspired by surveys which had revealed the importance of the argument 'the future of British children' in shaping favourable attitudes towards Community membership during the campaign leading up to the June 1975 referendum.¹

The findings on that occasion have in fact been borne out in all the member countries where three-quarters (74%) of those interviewed felt that the Community was 'very important' (40%) or 'quite important' (34%) for their children's future. *This view was most widely held in the United Kingdom itself (80%).*

Opinion leaders in all countries considered that the Community was of much more importance for their children's future than did the general public; this was particularly true of Denmark, Germany and the United Kingdom.

Attitudes towards the Community

3.2.4. Several questions were asked in an attempt to arrive at a reliable assessment of attitudes towards the Community. It is after all a complex phenomenon, *today's* 'Common Market' foreshadowing *tomorrow's* 'ever closer union among the peoples of Europe' (see the preamble to the EEC Treaty).

If we could start all over again...

3.2.5. *'If there were to be a referendum tomorrow on the question of (this country's) membership of the Common Market (the European Community), would you personally vote for or against membership?'*

Despite the relative lack of interest in Community problems the answer to this first question was favourable: *if they could start all over again, 65% of those interviewed would vote for membership of the European Community; only the Danes would vote against (52%).*²

And since the normal practice in a referendum is to calculate the 'fors' and the 'againsts' as a percentage of votes cast, it is fair to say that in this opinion poll those in favour of the Community outnumbered those against by an overwhelming majority – 78% to 22%. A breakdown by country on this basis is given below.

	<i>For</i> %	<i>Against</i> %
Belgium	91	9
Italy	90	10
Luxembourg	89	11
Netherlands	89	11
Germany	89	11
France	85	15
Ireland	63	37
United Kingdom	50.4	49.6

However, Denmark would give quite a different picture with 39% for and 61% against.

3.2.6. The percentage in favour of membership is distinctly lower than in the 1972 and 1975 referendums, when the figures for Ireland were 83% for and 17% against, for Denmark 63.5% for and 36.5% against and for the United Kingdom 67% for and 33% against. Allowances must, however, be made for the fact that an

¹ See Gallup Poll quoted by David Butler and Uwe Kitzinger in *The 1975 Referendum* (Macmillan, London 1976), p. 253.

² Table 1.

opinion poll, held in a vacuum as it were, gives very different results to a referendum. None the less it would seem that the Community's current difficulties have produced a downturn in support from the electorate in all three countries.

This can in fact be checked against replies to a further question put to interviewees in the three countries in November 1976: *'There was a referendum here (in 1972 or 1975) in which we had to vote for or against the entry of (your country) into the Common Market. Can you tell me if you voted for entry, against entry, don't remember or didn't vote?'*

3.2.7. In Ireland 73% of those who voted for membership in 1972 would do so again in 1976, 20% would vote against and 7% 'didn't know'. 86% of those who voted against membership would do so again in 1976, but 11% would vote for. Of those who did not vote in 1972 43% would vote for and 36% against in 1976. In Ireland, therefore, the switch from actual 'yes' votes

in 1972 to hypothetical 'no' votes in 1976 is only slightly offset by the winning-round of a small percentage of those previously opposed to membership.

The pattern is more or less the same in the *United Kingdom*; 79% of those who voted in favour of membership in the 1975 referendum had not changed their views; this was echoed by 90% of those who voted against.

The pattern is more alarming in *Denmark* where only 61% of those who voted 'yes' in 1972 claimed that they would do so again, while 90% of those who voted 'no' remained unconverted.

A good thing or a bad thing?

3.2.8. *'Generally speaking, do you think that (your country's) membership of the Common Market is a good thing, a bad thing or neither good nor bad?'*

In May 1976, for the first time, there was a general drop in approval of the Community.¹ As we thought at the time, the results were influenced by current events and probably reflected what interviewees had heard or read in the weeks preceding the opinion poll about 'the crisis in Europe' and 'the failure of the European Council' in early April. *The number of people who think that the Community is a 'good thing' has increased slightly since then but the figure is still below the 1975 and 1974 averages.*

Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Italy and Belgium, in that order, are still the countries where the Community is most frequently considered to be a 'good thing'. Germany is slightly above the Community average once again but France is now slightly below. There are no signs of an upward trend in either Ireland or the United Kingdom, both of which are still at the May 1976 level. There has been a further significant drop in approval in Denmark (-7 points).

Table 1 — *Voting pattern if a referendum on Community membership were held tomorrow*

(By country¹)

	(in %)			
	For	Against	Don't know	Total
Netherlands	77	10	13	100
Italy	76	9	15	100
Luxembourg	75	9	16	100
Belgium	71	7	22	100
Germany	70	9	21	100
France	68	12	20	100
Ireland	55	33	12	100
United Kingdom	45	44	11	100
Denmark	33	52	15	100
Community ²	65	18	17	100

¹ Countries listed by relative frequency of 'for' votes.

² Weighted average.

¹ Eurobarometer No 5, Bull. EC 6-1976, Third Part.

Table 2 — *The Community: A good thing or a bad thing?*
(By country¹)

(in %)

	Good thing	Bad thing	Neither good nor bad	Don't know	Total
<i>Luxembourg</i>					
September 1973	67	3	22	8	100
May 1975	65	7	19	9	100
October/November 1975	78	4	12	6	100
May 1976	66	5	21	8	100
November 1976	77	2	17	4	100
<i>Netherlands</i>					
September 1973	63	4	20	13	100
May 1975	64	3	18	15	100
October/November 1975	67	3	12	18	100
May 1976	75	4	15	6	100
November 1976	74	4	14	8	100
<i>Italy</i>					
September 1973	69	2	15	14	100
May 1975	71	3	21	5	100
October/November 1975	75	4	16	5	100
May 1976	63	6	20	11	100
November 1976	68	5	16	11	100
<i>Belgium</i>					
September 1973	57	5	19	19	100
May 1975	57	3	21	19	100
October/November 1975	59	3	21	17	100
May 1976	62	5	17	16	100
November 1976	66	3	19	12	100
<i>Germany</i>					
September 1973	63	4	22	11	100
May 1975	56	8	28	8	100
October/November 1975	61	6	27	6	100
May 1976	48	12	30	10	100
November 1976	57	5	31	7	100
<i>France</i>					
September 1973	61	5	22	12	100
May 1975	64	4	25	7	100
October/November 1975	67	4	24	5	100
May 1976	57	7	30	6	100
November 1976	52	7	35	6	100
<i>Ireland</i>					
September 1973	56	15	21	8	100
May 1975	50	20	25	5	100
October/November 1975	67	12	17	4	100
May 1976	50	26	18	6	100
November 1976	50	22	22	6	100

¹ Countries listed by relative frequency of 'a good thing' replies in November 1976.

Table 2 (continued)

	Good thing	Bad thing	Neither good nor bad	Don't know	Total
<i>United Kingdom</i>					
September 1973 ¹	31	34	22	13	100
May 1975	47	21	19	13	100
October/November 1975	50	24	18	8	100
May 1976	39	35	18	8	100
November 1976	39	34	21	6	100
<i>Denmark</i>					
September 1973	42	30	19	9	100
May 1975	36	25	28	11	100
October/November 1975	41	27	24	8	100
May 1976	36	29	22	13	100
November 1976	29	34	28	9	100
<i>COMMUNITY²</i>					
September 1973	56	11	20	13	100
May 1975	59	9	23	9	100
October/November 1975	63	9	21	7	100
May 1976	53	14	24	9	100
November 1976	55	13	25	7	100

¹ Northern Ireland was not included in 1973.

² Weighted average.

The general impression is of a public still wavering in the face of a historical phenomenon; it is well-disposed on the whole (except in Denmark) but worried by current difficulties (inflation, unemployment, etc.). An improvement in the situation would probably restore confidence. But a further deterioration, or the conviction that nothing concrete was being done to deal with these difficulties, could swell the ranks of the critics, who are still in the minority at present.¹

Leaders and non-leaders

3.2.9. On average opinion leaders outnumbered non-leaders by a ratio of 3:2 in their belief that the Community is a 'good thing'. By contrast the

frequency of a 'bad thing' replies was not affected by leadership rating.

The views of non-leaders tend to be relatively stable, while the views of leaders seem to be more affected by current events: this is not surprising since they represent the section of the population which keeps abreast of current affairs, is interested in politics and hence, in the short term at least, more aware of developments and the coverage given them by the mass media.²

¹ Table 2.

² Table 3.

Table 3 — *The Community: A good thing or a bad thing?*

(By leadership rating — Community as a whole)

(in %)

		Good thing	Bad thing	Neither good nor bad	Don't know
<i>October-November 1975</i>					
non-leaders	(--)	43	10	31	16
	(-)	62	9	22	7
	(+)	73	8	16	3
leaders	(++)	74	11	13	2
<i>May 1976</i>					
non-leaders	(--)	37	15	29	19
	(-)	53	14	25	8
	(+)	59	13	22	6
leaders	(++)	63	17	17	3
<i>November 1976</i>					
non-leaders	(--)	41	13	31	15
	(-)	53	12	28	7
	(+)	65	12	19	4
leaders	(++)	66	14	18	2

Good or bad in what respect?

3.2.10. 'In a little more detail, can you tell me, in each of the following cases, whether the Common Market has had a good effect, a bad effect, or no effect at all on your job or profession (or that of your wife or husband), (your country's) economy, consumer prices (in your country) underdeveloped areas (in your country)?'

Although the public in eight of the nine countries was in favour of the 'Common Market', opinions on the actual effects were rather divided:

— Four in ten (40%) felt that the 'Common Market' had had a 'good effect' on their country's economy; almost three in ten (29%) thought the opposite and as many again had noticed no effect or 'didn't know'.

Favourable replies outnumbered unfavourable replies in each of the six original member countries, the reverse being true of the three new member countries.

— Slightly more than two in ten (22%) considered that the 'Common Market' had had a 'good effect' on the underdeveloped areas in their country; somewhat less (20%), disagreed but almost six in ten (58%) expressed no opinion.

Favourable replies were clearly in the lead in Luxembourg and Ireland. They also outnumbered unfavourable replies, though to a lesser extent, in five other countries. Unfavourable replies had a narrow majority in the United Kingdom and France.

— Almost two in ten (17%) felt that the 'Common Market' had had a 'good effect' on their job or profession or that of their wife or husband; 7% disagreed, while more than 75% expressed no opinion.

Thus the positive view prevailed but the vast majority had either noticed no effect or failed to reply.

— On the final issue of consumer prices half of those interviewed (50%) considered that the 'Common Market' had had a 'bad effect'; two in ten (22%) disagreed.

This negative opinion was most prevalent in the United Kingdom, Ireland and Denmark, but was also found elsewhere, the sole exceptions being Luxembourg and Belgium.

To sum up, the general public in the six original member countries tended to be predisposed (or prejudiced) in favour of the 'Common Market', at least as far as the effects on their country's economy were concerned. Hesitation or doubt was the order of the day on the subject of underdeveloped areas. Effects, if any, on job and profession had passed more or less unnoticed. Opinions on prices were generally adverse, particularly in the three new member countries.

Leaders and non-leaders

3.2.11. Generally speaking, opinion leaders tended to attribute positive effects to the Common Market more frequently than non-leaders.

The difference between the two groups is most significant in the question related to the economy: 50 % of leaders, as opposed to 27 % of non-leaders, felt that the 'Common Market' had had a 'good effect'.

The difference between leaders and non-leaders was less marked in the United Kingdom than elsewhere except on the question of underdeveloped areas. What this means in fact is that critical or dubious attitudes with regard to the effects of the 'Common Market' are pretty widespread in Britain but that regional policy is an issue which preoccupies leaders more than non-leaders.

Overall attitudes and effects attributed to the Community

3.2.12. An attempt was made to establish a relationship between overall attitudes towards the Community and the effects attributed to it.

An analysis of the findings shows that there is no strong correlation between the two. In other words overall attitudes—generally positive in most countries—would seem to be based on ideological beliefs rather than personal experience.

The positive overall attitude stems primarily from the conviction that the Community has had a good effect on the economy *in general*: 61 in every 100 who consider the Community to be a 'good thing' also see it as having a good effect on their country's economy; conversely, 81 in every 100 who think that the Community is a 'bad thing' see it as having a bad effect on their country's economy.

The negative overall attitude stems primarily

from the conviction that the Community has had an adverse effect on consumer prices.

The effect on underdeveloped areas also seems to be an important factor in determining overall attitudes.

The effect, if any, on job or profession has passed more or less unnoticed with the same very high percentage of 'don't knows' among both pro- and anti-marketeters.

The link between a positive attitude towards the Community and awareness of a favourable effect on the economy is particularly strong in Luxembourg, the Netherlands and Germany. In the United Kingdom and Ireland negative attitudes are strongly influenced by the alleged effect of the Community on prices. The regional problem is of particular importance in Ireland (where it works for the Community) and in Italy and France (where it works against the Community).

If your country were not a member?

3.2.13. *'All in all, if (your country) were not a member of the Common Market, do you think that for us things would go much better, a bit better, a bit worse, much worse?'*

The answers to these questions revealed the emergence of a new trend in public attitudes towards the Community.

Despite the various opinions regarding the effects of the Community discussed earlier, *the majority opinion is that 'all things considered' it is better to be inside than outside, and that without the Community things would be worse.*

41 % of all interviewees felt that things would be 'a bit worse' (29 %) or 'much worse' (12 %), if their country were not a member. On the other hand, 26 % thought that things would be 'a bit better' (19 %) or 'much better' (7 %). Quite a number thought that it would not make any difference (20 %) or did not know (13 %).

Attitudes obviously varied significantly from country to country:

(i) in Luxembourg, Italy, the Netherlands and Belgium there was a large majority in favour;

(ii) in Ireland, France and Germany those in favour still had a significant majority;

(iii) in Denmark, and even more so in the United Kingdom, the unfavourable view prevailed.¹

Table 4 — *Would things go better or worse if your country were not a member of the Community?*¹

(in %)

	Worse	Better	Difference
Luxembourg	63	16	47
Italy	60	14	46
Netherlands	60	17	43
Belgium	45	12	33
Ireland	49	34	15
France	34	20	14
Germany	36	26	10
Denmark	29	41	-12
United Kingdom	32	48	-16
COMMUNITY ²	41	26	15

¹ Interviewees answering 'no difference' (volunteered) or 'don't know' are excluded. Countries are listed in descending order by the difference between the two sets of replies.

² Weighted average.

Generally speaking, the view that things would be worse without the Community was more widely held by opinion leaders than by the general public. However, in certain countries (Germany, Denmark and even Italy) the frequency of the opposite view increased with leadership rating.¹

European solidarity

3.2.14. *'If one of the countries of the Common Market found itself in major economic difficulties,*

Table 5 — *Would things go better or worse if your country were not a member of the Community?*

(By leadership rating — Community as a whole)

(in %)

	Worse	Better	Difference
Non-leaders (--)	27	25	2
(-)	39	28	11
(+)	51	26	25
Leaders (++)	50	25	25

do you feel that the other countries, including (your own), should help it or not?'

'Do you think that this idea of Market countries helping one another has already worked to (your country's) benefit? To other member countries' benefit?'

What price solidarity?

3.2.15. The first of these two questions had already been asked in September 1973, a few weeks before the oil crisis broke. Even then there was a strong majority in favour of Community solidarity: 76% voted for helping any country in difficulty and only 11% against (9% 'didn't know').

The response this time was as good, if not better; with the exception of France and Germany, where the situation has remained more or less the same, the number in favour of solidarity is on the increase.

In 1976, as in 1973, the greatest advocate of Community solidarity was Italy, which, with the

¹ Table 4.

² Table 5.

Table 6 — *Solidarity among member countries of the Community*

(in %)

	In the event of one of the member countries being in major economic difficulties, the others:			Total
	Should help it	Should not help it	Don't know	
<i>Belgium</i>				
September 1973	78	9	13	100
November 1976	82	8	10	100
<i>Denmark</i>				
September 1973	62	25	13	100
November 1976	68	18	14	100
<i>Germany</i>				
September 1973	77	7	16	100
November 1976	74	12	14	100
<i>France</i>				
September 1973	78	9	13	100
November 1976	75	15	10	100
<i>Ireland</i>				
September 1973	80	10	10	100
November 1976	83	10	7	100
<i>Italy</i>				
September 1973	88	2	10	100
November 1976	95	1	4	100
<i>Luxembourg</i>				
September 1973	87	8	5	100
November 1976	86	4	10	100
<i>Netherlands</i>				
September 1973	79	9	12	100
November 1976	84	8	8	100
<i>United Kingdom</i>				
September 1973 ¹	59	28	13	100
November 1976	77	16	7	100
<i>COMMUNITY²</i>				
September 1973	76	11	13	100
November 1976	80	11	9	100

¹ Northern Ireland was not included in 1973.² Weighted average.

United Kingdom, had progressed most in this direction (+ 7 and + 18 points respectively).

This is significant from two points of view: firstly, it shows how little attitudes have changed over the last three years and, secondly, it demonstrates the reliability of Eurobarometer as a measuring instrument: in the present economic situation the British and the Italians stand to gain most from Community solidarity. There is, however, a difference: the Italians on the whole are enthusiastic supporters of the Community, while the British are still very divided. This can probably be explained by the time factor: the Italians have been in the Community for almost a quarter of a century—if we go right back to the ECSC—while the British are still tending to think in terms of what they can get out of the Community before committing themselves.¹

Has solidarity worked?

3.2.16. This question had not been asked before. The aim was to find out whether interviewees, irrespective of whether they were in favour of Community solidarity or not, felt that it had already worked to the benefit of their own or other countries—in other words, to identify those who felt that the Community was of direct benefit to them *as well* or considered that the reverse was true and that they were having to pay *for the others*.

It proved to be a difficult question: 25 % of those interviewed did not know whether the idea of Common Market countries helping one another had worked to their country's benefit and 34 % were unsure of whether it had benefited other countries. But the replies are particularly interesting.

More than four in ten (44 %) felt that European solidarity had benefited *their country*; this view was held by 58 % of the Irish and 73 % of the Italians.

¹ Table 6.

Almost six in ten (58 %) felt that solidarity had benefited *other countries*; this view was held by 79 % of the Germans.

To sum up, 80 % of the Europeans interviewed were in favour of a true Community spirit, and a least 58 % felt that the idea of helping one another had already worked.

3.2.17. For the moment we can do little more than analyse the views of the advocates of solidarity on application of the principle in their own or other countries.

A little over half (52%) of those in favour of solidarity feel that it has in fact worked to the benefit of their country. But 70% of those against solidarity feel that it has not worked to the benefit of their country.

In Italy and Ireland the link is even closer. Between seven and eight in every ten in favour of solidarity feel that their country has benefited.

Furthermore, 63 % of all supporters of solidarity feel that it has worked to the benefit of countries *other than their own*.

The vast majority of German supporters of solidarity feel that other countries have benefited.

To sum up then, it is clear that the general public sees the European Community as a force for mutual assistance between member countries.

In countries like Italy and Ireland, which have specifically benefited from Community aid, solidarity is highly valued and the public is well aware of the benefits derived from it.

Three-quarters of those interviewed in Germany were in favour of mutual assistance and the vast majority were aware of the benefits other member countries derived from it.

Movement towards European unification

3.2.18. Earlier studies, some conducted by the Commission, others by independent investigators, have demonstrated that the formation of overall attitudes—positive and negative—towards the existing Community and a ‘united Europe’, seen as an ideal to be sought after (or alternatively viewed as a prospect which makes the existing Community appear ‘the lesser of two evils’), is a highly complex process.

It is difficult to come to grips with the intricate pattern of images, aspirations and ideals. Support (or opposition) is sometimes based on experience, sometimes on ideology. It is only by analysing empirical data and in particular the results of opinion polls like Eurobarometer, that a clearer picture will gradually emerge.

In November 1976 a number of new questions¹ were added to the original set to gauge attitudes towards ‘European unification’ and the connotation, rational or emotional, of the European movement.

To speed up or slow down, that is the question

3.2.19. *‘Some people consider the Common Market as being a first step towards a closer union between the Member States. Personally, do you yourself think the movement towards the unification of Europe should be speeded up, slowed down or continued as it is at present? And, in your opinion, what is the present attitude of (your country’s) Government towards the unification of Europe?’*

The first part of the question has been asked on a number of occasions and the results obtained in November 1976 corresponded exactly to those of earlier polls, indicating great stability despite the difficulties being experienced by the Community,

¹ Questions relating to direct elections to the European Parliament are dealt with in the following chapter.

Table 7 — *Should the unification of Europe be speeded up, continued as at present or slowed down?*
(By country¹)

(in %)

	Speeded up	Continued as at present	Slowed down	Don't know	Total
<i>Italy</i>					
September 1973	55	18	2	25	100
October/November 1975	61	17	4	18	100
May 1976	58	16	4	22	100
November 1976	65	14	5	16	100
<i>Luxembourg</i>					
September 1973	56	29	1	14	100
October/November 1975	52	33	4	11	100
May 1976	55	20	9	16	100
November 1976	55	26	6	13	100
<i>France</i>					
September 1973	36	40	3	21	100
October/November 1975	45	36	6	13	100
May 1976	43	37	7	13	100
November 1976	42	35	10	13	100
<i>Netherlands</i>					
September 1973	32	47	6	15	100
October/November 1975	33	38	4	25	100
May 1976	43	37	7	13	100
November 1976	41	42	6	11	100
<i>Germany</i>					
September 1973	49	34	4	13	100
October/November 1975	47	36	6	11	100
May 1976	39	34	10	17	100
November 1976	41	37	9	13	100
<i>Belgium</i>					
September 1973	33	43	3	21	100
October/November 1975	39	28	3	30	100
May 1976	40	32	5	23	100
November 1976	40	37	5	18	100
<i>Ireland</i>					
September 1973	25	45	12	18	100
October/November 1975	35	40	12	13	100
May 1976	31	40	14	15	100
November 1976	33	40	10	17	100
<i>United Kingdom</i>					
September 1973 ²	17	40	24	19	100
October/November 1975	24	45	17	14	100
May 1976	23	42	24	11	100
November 1976	26	46	17	11	100

¹ Countries listed by relative frequency of 'speeded up' replies in November 1976.

² Northern Ireland was not included in 1973.

Table 7 (continued)

	Speeded up	Continued as at present	Slowed down	Don't know	Total
<i>Denmark</i>					
September 1973	12	44	36	8	100
October/November 1975	13	33	37	17	100
May 1976	13	33	32	22	100
November 1976	14	38	30	18	100
<i>COMMUNITY¹</i>					
September 1973	38	34	9	19	100
October/November 1975	43	34	8	15	100
May 1976	40	33	11	16	100
November 1976	42	34	11	13	100

¹ Weighted average.

Table 8 — Should the unification of Europe be speeded up, continued as at present or slowed down?

(By leadership rating — Community as a whole)

, (in %)

		Speeded up	Continued as at present	Slowed down	Don't know
<i>October-November 1975</i>					
non-leaders	(--)	26	35	9	30
	(-)	39	39	8	14
	(+)	51	34	7	8
leaders	(++)	62	22	10	6
<i>May 1976</i>					
non-leaders	(--)	23	35	11	31
	(-)	38	35	12	15
	(+)	48	31	11	10
leaders	(++)	55	26	11	8
<i>November 1976</i>					
non-leaders	(--)	29	35	10	26
	(-)	39	39	10	12
	(+)	49	34	11	6
leaders	(++)	59	22	12	7

the Member States and their citizens, and the plan for European Union.

In fact there has been very little change since September 1973: approximately four in ten (42%) think that 'the movement towards the unification of Europe should be speeded up', more than three in ten would prefer to see it 'continued as at present' and one in ten would like it to be 'slowed down'. Only 13% of those interviewed did not reply; this very low percentage can probably be explained by the fact that some of those who might have sat on the fence opted for the least committed reply ('continued as at present').

The most committed reply ('speeded up') was given just as frequently as in September 1973 in all countries except Germany, where it was down from 49% to 41% (-8 points). It had gained significant ground in the Netherlands (+11 points), Italy (+10 points), the United Kingdom (+9 points), Ireland (+8 points), Belgium (+7 points) and France (+6 points).

The positive reply ('speeded up') was given by 65% of the Italians interviewed, 55% of the Luxembourgers, approximately 40% of the French, Dutch, Germans and Belgians, but only

Table 9 — For or against the election of the European Parliament by direct universal suffrage
(Change between 1973 and 1976 by country¹)

(in %)

	September 1973				November 1976			
	For	Against	Don't know	Total	For	Against	Don't know	Total
Luxembourg	67	12	21	100	77	9	14	100
Italy	74	12	24	100	77	8	15	100
Germany	69	12	19	100	76	10	14	100
Netherlands	62	16	22	100	74	11	15	100
Belgium	52	14	34	100	69	9	22	100
France	51	18	31	100	69	13	18	100
Ireland	45	31	24	100	63	14	23	100
United Kingdom ²	33	49	18	100	57	22	21	100
Denmark	36	43	21	100	42	37	21	100
COMMUNITY ³	54	23	23	100	69	14	17	100

¹ Countries listed by relative frequency of positive replies in 1976.

² Northern Ireland was not included in 1973.

³ Weighted average.

33 % of the Irish, 26 % of the British and 14 % of the Danes.

The negative reply ('slowed down') was given by less than 10 % of those interviewed in all countries except the United Kingdom (17 %) and Denmark (30 %). But even here the position has improved somewhat since the last poll.¹

In all countries opinion leaders are more in favour of 'speeding up' than the general public.²

3.2.20. There is a strong correlation between the replies to this question and the replies to the one on the Community. The vast majority of those who feel the Community is a 'good thing' want to see the movement towards European unification speeded up. Conversely, the majority of those who feel the Community is a 'bad thing' believe that the movement towards unification should be 'slowed down' or 'continued as at present' (though some actually wanted it 'speeded up'). This would seem to imply that

some people who are hostile to the Community, or sceptical about its current policies and achievements, are not altogether opposed to the political unification of Europe.

A cross-check between the personal opinions of those interviewed and their assessment of their government's attitude shows that *only* half of those in favour of speeding up unification (i.e. 42 % of those interviewed) believe that their government thinks as they do.

This awareness among supporters of European unification of a gulf between personal and government attitudes is particularly strong in the United Kingdom, Italy and France, but there the similarity ends:

(i) in the United Kingdom those in favour of speeding up unification are very much in the minority (26 %); of that 26 % more than a third be-

¹ Table 7.

² Table 8.

lieve that the British Government also wants to speed things up, while just under a third thinks that it would prefer to continue as at present;

(ii) in Italy 65 % of those interviewed were in favour of speeding up but of that 65 % only a little over a third felt that the Italian Government thought likewise; the high proportion of 'don't knows' is striking;

(iii) in France 42 % of those interviewed were in favour of speeding up, a figure which, incidentally, corresponds exactly to the Community average; of that 42 % a third felt that the French Government was in favour of continuing as at present.

In Germany and Luxembourg two-thirds and three-quarters respectively of those in favour of speeding up felt that their opinion was shared by their government.

Facts or feelings?

3.2.21. *'Whether you, yourself, are for or against a rapid development towards the unification of Europe, would you say that personally speaking your attitude is mainly a matter of personal feelings or based on actual facts?'*

This was an experimental question and the results are difficult to interpret at first sight. For the Community as a whole, 49 % on average said that their attitude was mainly 'a matter of personal feelings' and 37 % that it was 'based on actual facts'; 14 % did not reply.

The reply 'based on actual facts' dominated in France, Luxembourg, Belgium, Denmark, Italy and the Netherlands, while 'a matter of personal feelings' carried the day in Ireland, the United Kingdom and—only just—in Germany.

It would be premature at this stage to theorize about the results or to attempt to explain them in terms of 'national temperament'. These are after all opinions, i.e. what people say they think, and individuals can, quite unconsciously, attri-

bute their views to the wrong reasons. This said, the replies are interesting when examined firstly in relation to leadership rating and secondly in relation to overall attitude towards European unification.

Leaders and non-leaders

3.2.22. Generally speaking, opinion leaders tended to see their attitude as 'based on actual facts'. In France, strangely enough, the rational or logical answer was given by a large majority irrespective of leadership rating.

In Ireland and the United Kingdom, by contrast, 'personal feelings' dominated at all levels.

There is a middle-of-the-road situation in Germany with non-leaders tending to feel that their attitude was 'a matter of personal feelings' and leaders that it was 'based on actual facts'.

Although the results cannot be explained, they do show that, in two Community countries at least, the great European debate has connotations which are quite different from those in the other seven.

Overall attitude towards European unification and justification on rational or emotional grounds

3.2.23. It would appear that of the interviewees who answered these questions in all countries, it was primarily the supporters of speeding unification who claimed that their attitude was based on facts. Those in favour of continuing as at present or slowing down were split more or less evenly between the two camps.

However, there is a cultural pattern as well, which would appear to affect 'idealists' and 'realists' alike.

(i) the vast majority of the French, Belgians, Luxembourgers and Danes, irrespective of their views on the basic issue, claimed to be rational;

- (ii) the British and Irish, whether 'pro' or 'anti' admitted to being 'emotional';
- (iii) the Italians and Germans who favoured 'speeding up' tended to appeal to reason, while those who advocated caution appealed to sentiment;
- (iv) the Dutch were totally divided but tended if anything to appeal to reason.

Elections to the European Parliament

3.2.24. On 20 September last year¹ a decision was finally taken to implement the provisions of the EEC Treaty signed in 1957 on election of the European Parliament by direct universal suffrage.

Subject to ratification by the Nine, some 200 million European voters will be called upon to elect 410 representatives in eighteen months' time. 'A People's Europe' is taking shape and it will be for *Eurobarometer* to keep an eye on its development.

Questions have been asked on this subject in previous opinion polls but more detailed surveys will be called for as the idea becomes reality. Surveys will be conducted up to the eve of the ballot and the findings will be widely publicized.

The present *Eurobarometer*, conducted a few weeks after the Council's decision but before the ratification debate began in the nine countries, included three questions:

- the first on the principle of direct elections: for or against (this had already been asked a number of times);
- a second on the importance attached to the elections;
- a third, which was more complex and put to opinion leaders only on the election campaigns (should parties with similar views join forces at

European level or should each national party campaign for itself).

For or against — The principle of the election

3.2.25. *'The governments of the member countries of the Common Market have reached agreement to hold the first elections to the European Parliament by universal suffrage—that is by the direct vote of all citizens—in May 1978.² Are you, yourself, for or against this particular election?'*

The fact that the decision in principle had been taken a little over a month before the opinion poll seems to have had some impact on the results. *Nearly seven in ten (69%) were in favour of the elections and only 14% against.* This was the best result since September 1973. (The percentage of 'don't knows' was more or less the same as in the last three polls).

Leaders and non-leaders

3.2.26. In all nine countries opinion leaders are much more in favour of direct elections than the general public. A comparison of these results with those of the opinion poll held in late 1975 shows that there has been a more marked increase in positive attitudes among non-leaders than among leaders: *the idea of electing the European Parliament is becoming more popular as plans take shape.*

Attitude to direct elections related to opinions on the Community

3.2.27. There is a positive correlation between attitudes to the election of the European Parliament and opinions on the Community. Virtually

¹ Bull. EC 9-1976, points 2501 to 2507.

² It seemed preferable to say 'May 1978' rather than 'May/June 1978'.

Table 10 — *For or against the election of the European Parliament by direct universal suffrage*
(By country¹)

(in %)

	Completely favour	Favour on the whole	Disagree to some extent	Disagree completely	Don't know	Total
<i>Luxembourg</i>						
September 1973	40	27	8	4	21	100
May 1975	36	33	7	3	21	100
October/November 1975	31	44	6	1	18	100
May 1976	36	35	5	4	20	100
November 1976	44	33	8	1	14	100
<i>Italy</i>						
September 1973	34	30	8	4	24	100
May 1975	37	40	6	2	15	100
October/November 1975	38	40	5	3	14	100
May 1976	42	32	6	2	18	100
November 1976	40	37	5	3	15	100
<i>Germany</i>						
September 1973	29	40	9	3	19	100
May 1975	28	48	6	2	16	100
October/November 1975	23	50	9	2	16	100
May 1976	25	42	10	5	18	100
November 1976	27	49	7	3	14	100
<i>Netherlands</i>						
September 1973	32	30	11	5	22	100
May 1975	28	29	7	7	29	100
October/November 1975	27	32	6	5	30	100
May 1976	43	31	8	6	12	100
November 1976	38	36	6	5	15	100
<i>Belgium</i>						
September 1973	23	29	8	6	34	100
May 1975	23	32	6	3	36	100
October/November 1975	20	33	5	4	38	100
May 1976	31	28	7	4	30	100
November 1976	37	32	5	4	22	100
<i>France</i>						
September 1973	22	29	11	7	31	100
May 1975	33	35	9	6	17	100
October/November 1975	26	43	9	4	18	100
May 1976	28	38	10	7	17	100
November 1976	27	42	9	4	18	100
<i>Ireland</i>						
September 1973	15	30	17	14	24	100
May 1975	20	35	13	9	23	100
October/November 1975	19	37	15	8	21	100
May 1976	24	33	17	8	18	100
November 1976	29	34	9	5	23	100

¹ Countries listed by relative frequency of favourable replies ('completely favour' and 'favour on the whole') in November 1976.

Table 10 (continued)

	Completely favour	Favour on the whole	Disagree to some extent	Disagree completely	Don't know	Total
<i>United Kingdom</i>						
September 1973 ¹	11	22	19	30	18	100
May 1975	16	25	16	27	16	100
October/November 1975	13	28	18	24	17	100
May 1976	14	26	19	29	12	100
November 1976	30	27	8	14	21	100
<i>Denmark</i>						
September 1973	20	16	18	25	21	100
May 1975	15	20	12	21	32	100
October/November 1975	13	19	18	25	25	100
May 1976	18	22	17	25	18	100
November 1976	22	20	16	21	21	100
<i>COMMUNITY²</i>						
September 1973	24	30	12	11	23	100
May 1975	27	36	9	9	19	100
October/November 1975	25	39	10	8	18	100
May 1976	28	34	11	10	17	100
November 1976	31	38	8	6	17	100

¹ Northern Ireland was not included in 1973.

² Weighted average.

all those who considered the Community a 'good thing' supported the proposal for a directly-elected European Parliament, being split fifty/fifty into 'completely favour' and 'favour on the whole'. More than three-quarters of those who gave a neutral reply to the question about the Community supported direct elections and almost half of those who were most critical favoured direct elections.

Differences and developments in individual countries

3.2.28. In all Community countries, the United Kingdom and Denmark included, the advocates of direct elections now outnumber the opponents. In Luxembourg, Italy, Germany and the Nether-

lands approximately three-quarters of those interviewed were in favour. Seven in ten were in favour in Belgium and France, approximately six in ten in Ireland and the United Kingdom, and four in ten in Denmark.

Table 9 summarizes fluctuations in numbers 'for' and 'against' between 1973 and 1976. Table 10 tells us a little more about the varying degrees of enthusiasm (or lack of it) and the change in attitudes between the six-monthly polls.

Importance attached to direct elections

3.2.29. 'Which of these opinions come closest to your own on the future elections to the European Parliament?'

Table 11 — *Importance attached to direct elections*
(By country)

(in %)

	Belgium	Denmark	Germany	France	Ireland	Italy	Luxembourg	Netherlands	United Kingdom	EC
Event with important consequences	53	35	47	46	38	56	53	48	41	47
Unimportant event	19	33	35	28	27	19	25	29	31	28
Don't know	28	32	18	26	35	25	22	23	28	24
Total	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100

(1) *It is an event with important consequences which is certain to make Europe more politically unified; or*

(2) *It is an unimportant event because Heads of State will not be bound by the votes in the European Parliament.'*

Almost half of those interviewed regarded the elections as 'an event with important consequences certain to make Europe more unified' (48 %); 28 % considered it 'an unimportant event' and 24 % did not reply.

The more positive view dominated in all nine countries, particularly in Italy, Belgium and Luxembourg.¹

Leaders and non-leaders

3.2.30. In all nine countries opinion leaders viewed elections as 'an event with important consequences' more frequently than the general public.

Importance attached to direct elections by those 'for' and 'against'

3.2.31. The more enthusiastic people are about the election of the European Parliament, the

more likely they are to view it as an event having important consequences. Conversely, those opposed to the election, irrespective of whether they disagree 'to some extent' or 'completely', consider it unimportant.²

An analysis of the findings for each country³ confirms that the correlation between attitudes to the election and the importance attached to it is widespread. There are, however, a number of interesting differences:

(i) in Italy and Belgium advocates of direct elections—namely seven or eight in every ten—are more inclined to view it as an event with important consequences than their counterparts elsewhere;

(ii) in Germany and Italy, where all the major parties support direct elections, the opponents, though few and far between, are unambiguous in their views: nine in ten consider the importance of the elections to be minimal; in Germany even the supporters of direct elections claim to have no illusions on this score;

(iii) in the other member countries, approximately two-thirds of supporters consider it to be

¹ Table 11.

² Table 12.

³ Table 13.

an event with important consequences and two-thirds of opponents consider it unimportant; this indicates that, although opinion is favourable on the whole, feelings do not run high and the debate is not yet sufficiently advanced for clear lines of demarcation to emerge.¹

Table 12 — *Importance attached to the election of the European Parliament related to attitude to the elections*

(Community as a whole)

	Event with important consequences	Unimportant event	Total (excluding 'don't knows')
Completely favour	80%	20%	100% (2632)
Favour on the whole	63%	37%	100% (2942)
Total 'for'	71%	29%	100% (5574)
Disagree to some extent	24%	76%	100% (539)
Disagree completely	24%	65%	100% (404)
Total 'against'	24%	76%	100% (943)
Total (excluding 'don't knows')	64%	36%	100%
(Base)	(4194)	(2323)	(6517)

Opinion leaders and the election campaign

3.2.32. 'For these elections, do you think that parties of the same colour in different countries ought to join together so as to fight a joint campaign in different countries, or do you think that each political party should campaign for itself in its own country?'²

The vast majority of opinion leaders (55%) thought that parties of the same colour should fight a joint campaign; 35% disagreed and 10% did not reply.

Table 13 — *Importance attached to the election of the European Parliament by supporters and opponents*

(By country)

(in %)

Out of 100 people who expressed an opinion on elections to the European Parliament	An event with important consequences	An unimportant event
<i>Belgium</i>		
For	81	19
Against	30	70
<i>Denmark</i>		
For	68	32
Against	31	69
<i>Germany</i>		
For	65	35
Against	11	89
<i>France</i>		
For	71	30
Against	28	72
<i>Ireland</i>		
For	64	36
Against	37	63
<i>Italy</i>		
For	84	16
Against	12	88
<i>Luxembourg</i>		
For	72	28
Against	39	61
<i>Netherlands</i>		
For	68	32
Against	27	73
<i>United Kingdom</i>		
For	66	34
Against	34	66

¹ The change in attitudes over the months ahead will provide a useful indicator on the electorate's desire to play a meaningful part in the elections.

² This question was only put to 1 210 opinion leaders, so-called because of their tendency to discuss politics and ability to convince others of a strongly held opinion.

Table 14 — *European Parliament election campaign: on a national or European basis?*(By country¹)

(Question put to 'opinion leaders' only)

(in %)

		Parties of the same colour should get together	Each national party should campaign for itself	Don't know	Total
Italy	(No = 192)	65	25	10	100
Germany	(No = 130)	63	28	9	100
France	(No = 225)	59	29	12	100
Netherlands	(No = 143)	56	40	4	100
Belgium	(No = 111)	55	36	9	100
Luxembourg	(No = 69)	46	42	12	100
Ireland	(No = 91)	31	59	10	100
United Kingdom	(No = 163)	31	60	9	100
Denmark	(No = 145)	19	51	30	100
COMMUNITY ²	(1356)	55	35	10	100

¹ Countries listed by relative frequency of 'parties of the same colour should get together' replies. The figures in brackets indicate the number of leaders interviewed in each country.

² Weighted average.

As was to be expected, opinions varied from country to country:¹

— on one side of the fence were the six founder members of the Community, where opinion leaders were clearly in favour of parties of the same colour fighting a joint campaign; the sole exception was Luxembourg where supporters of this view had a slim majority;²

— on the other side of the fence were the three new member countries, where the European consciousness is still not sufficiently entrenched for the majority of opinion leaders to abandon the prospect of an electoral campaign fought by individual parties, worthy of note is the high percentage of 'don't knows' among Danish opinion leaders.

Conclusions

3.2.33. All in all 1976 was a mixed year for the European Community: on the debit side was the continuing economic crisis (with resultant disarray in the member countries) and the failure to reach a decision on the Tindemans Report on European Union; on the credit side was the decision on direct elections to the European Parliament. As far as public opinion is concerned the end result is *general wavering compounded of hope and disillusionment*.

3.2.34. Generally speaking public interest in Community problems is at a fairly low ebb except among opinion leaders, i.e. the well-educated, well-informed, intellectually aware section of the

¹ Table 14.

² The size of the sample (301), and hence the size of the sub-sample (69), precludes comment.

population of each country. What is more, interest among this group is relatively stable: *between 1973 and 1976 there has been very little fluctuation in the numbers of those claiming to be 'very interested', 'a little interested' or 'not at all interested' in Community problems.*

On the whole it would seem that the Community has won general acceptance and is seen in a positive light as a herald of better times: *four in ten of those interviewed—almost five in ten in the United Kingdom—see its development as being very important for their children's future.*

If they could start all over again, two-thirds of the Community's citizens would vote for membership. This attitude has a clear lead in the six original member countries, but in the three new member countries, and in Denmark in particular, support seems to have declined since the 1972 and 1975 referendums.

The general drop in approval of the Community recorded last May was followed by a slight recovery in November. The fact that 55 % of those interviewed felt that the Common Market was a 'good thing', even if this was only out of passive loyalty to something which exists, should not be underestimated, especially since two-thirds of opinion leaders share this view.

The loyalty of the majority stems from the belief that, *all things considered, the Community has had a good effect on the general economic situation in each of the nine countries.* The critics on the other hand blame the Community for having had a bad effect (or failing to have had a good effect) on consumer prices; this view is particularly prevalent in Ireland and the United Kingdom.

And the opinion of the majority of those interviewed in all countries other than Denmark and the United Kingdom is that *without the Community, things would probably be worse.*

To the general public the European Community is *synonymous with solidarity*: in the event of one of the member countries finding itself in major economic difficulties, the others should come to

its assistance. This was the view expressed by seven to eight of every ten interviewed irrespective of country. And this should not be dismissed merely as a pious wish or a vague moral aspiration; the Italians and the Irish are aware that Community solidarity has already been of benefit to their countries, while the Germans know only too well that it has been of benefit to countries other than their own.

3.2.35. Attitudes towards European unification are obviously linked to attitudes towards the Community but seem less affected by short-term considerations. In fact the reverse would seem to be true, since favourable attitudes are gradually gaining ground. In all countries except Germany *more people voted for speeding up unification in 1976 than in 1973 (42 % as against 38 %)*, and opinion leaders are again ahead of the general public with 59 % on average in favour of speeding unification.

On this issue governments would seem to be lagging behind public opinion: although 42 % of those interviewed claimed to be in favour of speeding unification, only 32 % felt that their government felt the same way. The gulf between governments and individuals is particularly wide in the United Kingdom, Italy and France.

3.2.36. The decision on elections to the European Parliament is still too recent for the full impact to have been felt. But support for the idea, which seemed rather luke-warm while the plan was still shrouded in uncertainty, is now becoming stronger: on average 69 % of all interviewees and 79 % of opinion leaders were in favour of direct elections, as compared with 62 % and 72 % respectively in May 1976. *In all countries, the United Kingdom and Denmark included, the majority is now in favour.*

Almost 50 % of all interviewees (and 56 % of opinion leaders) viewed the elections as an 'event with important consequences certain to make Europe more unified'. As might be expected, this

view was most prevalent among supporters of direct elections.

Opinion leaders, who were the only interviewees to be questioned about the election campaign, are quite clear about their preferences:

(i) in the six original member countries the majority favours a *European* campaign with all parties of the same colour joining forces;

(ii) in the new member countries by contrast the majority is in favour of each party campaigning for itself.

The answers to this question highlight the different *views*—and even more so the different *images*—current in the enlarged Community. This is true even of the well-informed and actively involved. However, the differences are of degree rather than kind and Eurobarometer, by drawing attention to their existence, may have made a useful contribution to the democratic discussion which will be part and parcel of the first direct elections to the European Parliament.

Annex

Number of people interviewed

		<i>Fieldwork</i>
Belgium	1077	5-22 November
Denmark	962	9 November- 3 December
France	1356 ¹	2-15 November
Germany	1007	4-19 November
Ireland	981	2-15 November
Italy	1052	3-19 November
Luxembourg	301	3-22 November
Netherlands	1123	4-12 November
United Kingdom	1351	2-21 November
	<i>Total</i>	9210

Institutes responsible for conducting the survey

Belgium	Dimarso/Inra
Denmark	Gallup Markedsanalyse
France	Institut français d'opinion publique ²
Germany	Ernid-Institut
Ireland	Irish Marketing Surveys
Italy	Istituto per le ricerche statistiche et l'analisi dell'opinione pubblica (Doxa)
Luxembourg	Dimarso/Inra
Netherlands	Nederlands Instituut voor de publieke opinie (NIPO)
United Kingdom	The Gallup Poll ³

¹ Including oversampling of 188 country people.

² Also responsible for international coordination and analysis of the results.

³ The Northern Ireland poll was conducted jointly by Irish Marketing Surveys and the Gallup Poll.

Leadership rating

	Convince others				Don't know
	Often	Sometimes	Rarely	Never	
Political discussion...					
often	++	++	+	+	+
sometimes	+	+	-	-	-
never	-	-	--	--	--
don't know	-	-	--	--	--

Distribution (in percentages and numbers) of the population interviewed in the member countries of the Community according to the rating value:

	Combined figures May and October-November 1975		Eurobarometer No 5, May 1976		Eurobarometer No 6, November 1976	
	%	No	%	No	%	No
Leaders						
++	13	2 427	14	1 253	14	1 261
+	29	5 446	31	2 662	28	2 566
-	31	5 892	31	2 685	31	2 899
Non-leaders						
--	27	4 995	24	2 035	27	2 484
Total	100	18 760	100	8 635	100	9 210

Technical notes

1. Readers are reminded that in survey research, one should allow a certain margin for sampling error. With a sample of 1 000 cases, percentage differences of less than 5 points would not normally be regarded as statistically significant.

2. In all tables the column EC gives the average for all people interviewed in the nine countries, weighted in terms of population aged 15 and over of each Community country:

	<i>Thousands</i>	<i>%</i>
Belgium	7 477	3.84
Denmark	3 858	1.98
France	48 111	24.28
Germany	39 789	20.24
Ireland	2 098	1.08
Italy	41 975	21.35
Luxembourg	274	0.14
Netherlands	10 040	5.11
United Kingdom	42 804	21.78

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(1977). 158 p. (F)

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 Community survey of orchard fruit trees
 Enquête communautaire sur les plantations d'arbres fruitiers
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Plantaardige produkten
(uregelmæssig . unregelmäßig . irregular . irrégulier . ir-
regolare . onregelmatig) (DK/D/E/F/I/NL)
Abonnement annuel FB 1 750,-

* *Månedlig statistik for kød*
Monatliche Statistiken über Fleischerzeugung
Monthly statistics on the production of meat
Statistiques mensuelles de la production de viande
Statistiche mensili della produzione di carne
Maandelijkse statistieken van vlees
(månedlig . monatlich . monthly . mensuel . mensile .
maandelijks) (D/E/F/I)
Abonnement annuel FB 2 000,-

* *Månedlig statistik for mælk*
Monatliche Statistik von Milch
Monthly statistics of milk
Statistiques mensuelles du lait
Statistiche mensili del latte
Maandelijkse statistieken van melk
(månedlig . monatlich . monthly . mensuel . mensile .
maandelijks) (D/E/F/I)
Abonnement annuel FB 1 400,-

* *Månedlig statistik for æg*
Monatliche Statistik von Eiern
Monthly statistics of eggs
Statistiques mensuelles des œufs
Statistiche mensili delle uova
Maandelijkse statistieken van eieren
(månedlig . monatlich . monthly . mensuel . mensile .
maandelijks) (D/F)
Abonnement annuel FB 1 400,-

* *Salgspriser for landbrugsprodukter*
Verkaufspreise landwirtschaftlicher Produkte
Selling prices of agricultural products
Prix de vente de produits agricoles
Prezzi di vendita dei prodotti agricoli
Verkoopprijzen van landbouwprodukten
(10 hæfter pr. år/10 Hefte jährlich/10 issues yearly/10
numéros par an/10 fascicoli all'anno/10 nummers per
jaar) (DK/D/E/F/I/NL)
Abonnement annuel FB 2 000,-

* *Landbrugets indkøbspriser*
Einkaufspreise der Landwirtschaft
Purchasing prices of agriculture
Prix d'achat de l'agriculture
Prezzi d'acquisto dell'agricoltura
Aankooprijzen van de landbouw
(kvartalsvis . vierteljährlich . quarterly . trimestriel .
trimestrale . driemaandelijks)
(DK/D/E/F/I/NL)
Abonnement annuel FB 700,-

* *Kvartalsbulletin for industriproduktionen*
Vierteljährliches Bulletin der industriellen Produktion
Quarterly bulletin of industrial production
Bulletin trimestriel de la production industrielle
Bollettino trimestrale della produzione industriale
Kwartaalbulletin van de industriële produktie
(kvartalsvis . vierteljährlich . quarterly . trimestriel . tri-
mestrale . driemaandelijks) (DK/D/E/F/I/NL)
Abonnement annuel FB 600,-

* *Statistisk kvartalsbulletin for jern og stål*
Vierteljährliches Bulletin über Eisen- und Stahlstatistik
Quarterly bulletin of iron and steel statistics
Bulletin trimestriel de statistiques sidérurgiques
Bollettino trimestrale di statistiche siderurgiche
Driemaandelijks statistisch bulletin ijzer en staal
(kvartalsvis . vierteljährlich . quarterly . trimestriel . tri-
mestrale . driemaandelijks) (DK/D/E/F/I/NL)
Abonnement annuel FB 1 500,-

* *Kvartalsbulletin energistatistik*
Vierteljährliches Bulletin der Energiestatistik
Quarterly bulletin of energy statistics
Bulletin trimestriel des statistiques de l'énergie
Bollettino trimestrale di statistiche dell'energia
Driemaandelijks bulletin van de energiestatistiek
 (kvartalsvis . vierteljährlich . quarterly . trimestriel . tri-
 mestrale . driemaandelijks) (DK/D/E/F/I/NL)
 Abonnement annuel FB 900,-

* *Månedlig bulletin over udenrigshandelen*
Monatsbulletin der Außenhandelsstatistik
Monthly external trade bulletin
Bulletin mensuel du commerce extérieur
Bollettino mensile del commercio estero
Maandbulletin van de buitenlandse handel
 (månedlig . monatlich . monthly . mensuel . mensile .
 maandelijks) (DK/D/E/F/I/NL)
 Abonnement annuel FB 1 350,-

* *Handelsstrømme. Folkerepublikken Kinas Udenrigs-
 handel 1969-1974.*
Handelsströme. Außenhandel der Volksrepublik China
1969-1974.
Trade flows. Foreign Trade of the People's Republic of
China 1969-1974.
*Échanges commerciaux. Commerce extérieur de la Répu-
 blique populaire de Chine 1969-1974.*
Scambi commerciali. Commercio estero della Repubblica
popolare di Cina 1969-1974.
Handelsverkeer. Buitenlandse Handel van de Volksrepubliek
China 1969-1974.
 (6 hæfter pr. år . 6 Hefte jährlich . 6 issues yearly . 6
 numéros par an . 6 fascicoli all'anno . 6 nummers per jaar)
 (DK/D/E/F/I/NL)
 Abonnement annuel FB 1 500,-

* *Eurostat-Mitteilungen.*
Eurostat news.
Informations de l'Eurostat.
 (monatlich . monthly . mensuel) (D.E.F) Gratuit

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 1972. 45 p. (Mult.) Gratuit

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 Supplement. A/73.
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 Δ Bonn (zweimal im Monat) (D) Gratis

* *ef-dokumentation.*
 Δ København (to gange om måneden) (DK) Gratis

* *ef-kalender.*
Δ København (ugentlig) (DK) Gratis

* *ef-guide.*
Δ København (uregelmæssig) (DB) Gratis

* *Oplysningsblad om dokumentation*
Dokumentationsbulletin
Bulletin on Documentation
Bulletin de renseignement documentaire
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