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9<sup>th</sup> year

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



# BULLETIN OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES

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European Economic Community  
European Atomic Energy Community

Commission of the European Communities  
General Secretariat  
Brussels

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9<sup>th</sup> year

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\* In preparation.

## Albert Borschette

Mr Albert Borschette, a former Member of the Commission, died in Brussels on 8 December at the age of 56. He had a stroke during the Parliament sitting in Strasbourg on 11 May and never regained consciousness.

At the meeting of the Commission on 8 December, Mr Ortoli spoke of Mr Borschette's significant achievements as Member of the Commission with special responsibility for competition and of the distinguished part he had played in the building of Europe.

Mr Borschette spent all his life championing the European cause. From 1955 to 1957 he represented Luxembourg at the Messina Conference and the negotiations leading to the Rome Treaties. He became Luxembourg's Permanent Representative to the European Communities in 1958 and held this post until 1970. He often acted as a mediator between the conflicting positions of Member States and played a notable part in resolving the great European crisis of 1965.

In 1970 Mr Borschette became a Member of the Commission. The fields for which he had special responsibility while in office were regional policy, information, personnel and administration and competition. In the particularly sensitive field of competition Mr Borschette set himself the task of fully discharging the responsibilities devolving on the Commission under the Treaty.

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# Composition of the new Commission

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At their meeting in Brussels on 14 December the Representatives of the Governments of the Member States appointed by common accord the following Members of the Commission of the European Communities for the period from 6 January 1977 to 5 January 1981:

Mr Guido Brunner  
Mr Richard Burke  
Mr Claude Cheysson  
Viscount Etienne Davignon  
Mr Antonio Giolitti  
Mr Finn Olav Gundelach  
Mr Wilhelm Haferkamp  
Mr Roy Harris Jenkins  
Mr Lorenzo Natali  
Mr François-Xavier Ortoli  
Mr Christopher Samuel Tugendhat  
Mr Raymond Vouel  
Mr Henk Vredeling





**1<sup>ST</sup> PART**

**EVENTS AND  
STUDIES**

# 1. Relations between the Community and Japan

1101. November saw several significant developments for the future of trade relations between the Community and Japan, relations marked by the Nine's widening trade deficit with Japan, and serious problems in certain Community industries as a result of the inroads made on the Community market by Japanese products.

Having approached Japan several times on this matter in recent years and again just lately, the Community informed the Japanese Government that it might have to impose restrictions unless Japan took effective steps to achieve a better balance in its trade with the Community and, in particular, allow Community sales to develop on the Japanese market. The Community's position—already made clear in October when Mr Doko,<sup>1</sup> President of the Japan Federation of Economic Organizations (Keidanren) came to Brussels and a Commission delegation visited Tokyo for talks<sup>2</sup>—was reiterated at a meeting of the ECSC-Japan Contact Group on 11 and 12 November<sup>3</sup> and during high-level consultations between the EEC and Japan<sup>4</sup> on 15 and 16 November.

Following these discussions, the Japanese Government informed the Commission of the steps it intended to take to 'rebalance' its trade with the Community and deal with the problems which exist in several sectors.

Meanwhile, the European Council, meeting in The Hague on 29 and 30 November,<sup>5</sup> issued a statement in which it acknowledged the Japanese Government's willingness to cooperate, but stressed that determined efforts were called for to remedy the situation and invited the responsible Community institutions to give further urgent consideration to these problems and concentrate all their efforts, during discussions with Japan, in order to establish mutually advantageous trade relations.

## *The background*

1102. The problems arising from trade relations between the Community and Japan—which, with the United States, are the three leading market-economy industrialized powers—are not new.

Negotiations in 1970 and 1971<sup>6</sup> for a trade agreement between the Community and Japan failed because the Japanese authorities objected, on principle, to the inclusion of a Community safeguard clause in the draft agreement. It was then agreed that the two parties would seek a solution to this matter within the framework of the multilateral trade relations in GATT. In June 1973,<sup>7</sup> the Community and the Japanese Government embarked on a series of regular, half-yearly, high-level consultations bearing on bilateral questions and major multilateral economic issues; nine such meetings have since taken place.

Over the last few years, however, the Community's mounting deficit in trade with Japan has grown from an economic problem into a major political one; similarly, the particularly serious difficulties affecting certain industries have political implications because of their impact on the economic situation and employment.

## **The deteriorating trade balance**

1103. Although in 1970 trade between the Community and Japan was roughly in balance, the Nine thereafter began to run up a deficit, which rose from \$1 200 million in 1973 to \$2 000 million the following year, \$3 200 million in 1975

<sup>1</sup> Bull. EC 10-1976, point 2345.

<sup>2</sup> Bull. EC 10-1976, point 2346.

<sup>3</sup> Point 1112.

<sup>4</sup> Point 1113.

<sup>5</sup> Point 1114.

<sup>6</sup> Bull. EC 9/10-1971, point 131.

<sup>7</sup> Bull. EC 6-1973, point 2324.

and, according to estimates, will reach \$4 000 million in 1976. Over the same period, the coverage of imports by exports declined from 67 % to less than 50 %.

The reactions in the public and industry sectors in Europe are all the sharper as Japanese imports are concentrated in a few sectors where they attain such a volume that they disrupt the market and cause unemployment. By contrast, for various reasons and because of administrative obstacles and various non-tariff measures, European products find it difficult to penetrate the Japanese market.

### The industries hardest hit

1104. The sectors hit by Japanese exports are, principally, steel, motor vehicles, shipbuilding, electronics and ball-bearings.

#### *Steel*

1105. Imports of steel products from Japan have generally tended to move in the opposite direction to the business cycle. They reached peaks during the recessions of 1966, 1972, 1975 and 1976, while the lowest points were recorded during the booms of 1964, 1970 and 1974. In the recessions, these imports added to the difficulties on the steel market in regard to both quantities and prices. For instance, steel consumption in the Community rose by only about 2 % in the second quarter of 1976 compared with the first quarter, while imports from Japan went up by 45 % (from 285 000 to 415 000 tonnes).

As in previous recessions, the Japanese producers are exerting downward price leadership and steel firms are often compelled to align on the very low Japanese prices. Things are made worse by the fact that exports are concentrated on certain products, which have now become very sensitive. At the same time, Community steelmakers have found that Japanese exporters, with their ex-

tremely low prices, have been launching a broad offensive on the traditional markets for European steel in the rest of the world. Despite the voluntary restraints applied by the six major Japanese producers in 1975, imports from Japan have grown steadily, the smaller producers being mainly responsible.

#### *Motor vehicles*

1106. In 1974 Japan exported 250 000 cars to the Community compared with the 25 000 which the Community sold to Japan. The imbalance was even more marked in the first half of 1976 when 243 000 cars came from Japan as against 13 000 sold there by the Community. In 1975, the Japanese held a 4.38 % share of the Community car market, with deeper penetration in the non-producing Member States—Belgium (16.7 %), the Netherlands (15.5 %) and Denmark (14.7 %)—than in those which produce cars—Germany (1.7 %), France (1.6 %) and Italy, where imports are subject to quota (0.05 %); but Japanese imports reached 9 % in the United Kingdom where the industry is going through a very difficult time.

#### *Shipbuilding*

1107. Present overcapacity in this crisis sector is in large part due to the brisk expansion of Japanese shipyards in recent years. In addition to the OECD initiatives for reducing production capacity, the Commission has requested the Japanese authorities to resume bilateral discussions on this subject.

#### *Ball-bearings*

1108. Between 1974 and 1976, Japan increased exports to the Community of ball-bearings and tapered roller bearings by 40 % and 100 % respectively. Since 1974, the numbers employed in the

Community industry have dropped by 5 000. Information available to the Commission suggests that Japanese exporters may be engaging in dumping practices. On 10 November,<sup>1</sup> the Commission therefore opened an anti-dumping procedure in respect of Japanese exports of ball-bearings to the Community.

### *The Community reaction*

1109. Towards the end of 1975 and especially since the beginning of 1976, the Commission has stepped up its representations to the Japanese authorities to alert them to the dangers of the present situation and the need to restore better balance in trade between the Community and Japan.

### *Action by the Commission*

1110. The problems arising from the deteriorating trade situation were brought up during the high-level consultations in Brussels in December 1975<sup>2</sup> and in Tokyo in June 1976,<sup>3</sup> by Sir Christopher Soames at a ministerial meeting of the OECD in June 1976, by Mr Gundelach when he went to Japan in July,<sup>4</sup> again more recently in October when Mr Doko, President of the Japan Federation of Economic Organizations (Keidanren) came to Brussels and lastly during talks held in Tokyo by a Commission delegation.<sup>5</sup> The Commission has also repeatedly approached the appropriate Japanese authorities concerning access for Community exports. This has yielded some positive results for the motor industry,<sup>6</sup> textiles,<sup>7</sup> pharmaceuticals, farm products, etc. Discussions are still going on in respect of a series of other official steps to secure the removal of various obstacles or non-tariff measures impeding the entry of Community products into Japan, including footwear, manufactured tobacco, processed farm products, etc.

### *The discussions in November*

1111. During November, the discussions between the Community and Japan moved into a new key with the meeting of the ECSC-Japan Contact Group, the high-level consultations, the European Council meeting and, on 25 November, the letter from the Deputy Foreign Minister, Mr Yoshino to Mr Gundelach, Member of the Commission. In the letter the Japanese Government agrees to open bilateral talks with the Community on shipbuilding, offers a number of concessions in agriculture and indicates that on the problem of cars the Japanese and British industries will have to meet for bilateral discussions.

### *Meeting of the ECSC-Japan Group*

1112. The ECSC-Japan Contact Group met in Brussels on 11 and 12 November. The points discussed were the general economic situation, the trend of the steel market and investment in the coal and steel industries.

The Japanese Delegation was confident that in 1977 Japan's steel exports to the Community would cause less trouble than in 1976. It also expressed concern about the alleged unfair trade practices. The Commission delegation was pleased with this response.

The group will next meet in Tokyo during the first half of 1977.

### *High-level consultations*

1113. The ninth meeting in the series of regular high-level consultations between the Community

<sup>1</sup> OJ C 268 of 12.11.1976.

<sup>2</sup> Bull. EC 12-1975, point 2344.

<sup>3</sup> Bull. EC 6-1976, point 2365.

<sup>4</sup> Bull. EC 7/8-1976, point 2355.

<sup>5</sup> Bull. EC 10-1976, points 2345 and 2346.

<sup>6</sup> Bull. EC 5-1976, points 2110 and 2345.

<sup>7</sup> Bull. EC 12-1975, point 2315.

and Japan was held in Brussels on 15 and 16 November. The Japanese Delegation, led by Mr Bunroku Yoshino, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs, had talks with Mr Gundelach (in Sir Christopher Soames's absence, the Member of the Commission responsible for external relations) and senior Commission officials.

The talks, which revealed much in the way of common interest and views, covered both multi-lateral and bilateral issues, including the GATT trade negotiations, the North-South dialogue and the world economic situation.

Most of the time was devoted to bilateral issues. Mention was made of the recent visit to Europe of an important Japanese industrial mission led by Mr Doko, the President of the Japan Federation of Economic Organizations (Keidanren).<sup>1</sup> This had clearly helped Japan to appreciate more keenly the need to try and avoid particular sectoral problems on the Community market and to redress the growing imbalance in bilateral trade by allowing Community exports to expand.

The Commission stressed that it was still very concerned about a number of specific trade problems for which solutions still need to be found. These included shipbuilding, where the Community industry is in a very serious situation; discussion on this subject will continue.

On the matter of Community exports to Japan, the delegation and the Commission reviewed areas where an expansion in Japan's imports could help to rectify the present imbalance in trade.

The Japanese Delegation showed that it clearly appreciated the social and political as well as the economic aspects of the issues raised by the Community and indicated that it would urgently consider what else could be done to improve bilateral trade relations.

#### *Statement by the European Council*

1114. After the meeting of the European Council on 29 and 30 November the President issued

the following statement setting out the conclusions on relations with Japan:

The European Council stresses the importance it attaches to maintaining good relations between the Community and Japan and its strong desire that these relations should develop to the advantage of both the Community and Japan.

The European Council notes with concern the effects of import and export practices followed hitherto in Japan as well as the rapid deterioration in the trade situation between the Community and Japan and the problems which have arisen in certain important industrial sectors. Determined efforts are called for to remedy this situation, paying particular attention to the need for rapid expansion of Japanese imports from the Community, with a view to the development of mutually advantageous trade relations.

The European Council accordingly invites the responsible Community institutions to give further urgent consideration to these problems and to pursue vigorously this important aspect of the common commercial policy in discussions with Japan. It expects that substantial progress will have been achieved before its next meeting on the solutions which are urgently needed to realize the Community's objectives.

The European Council notes with satisfaction that the Japanese Government is willing to cooperate with the European Community, on the basis of mutual understanding, in solving the problems which arise.'

<sup>1</sup> Bull. EC 10-1976, point 2345.

## 2. Meeting of Education Ministers

*1201.* The Council and Ministers of Education meeting within the Council in Brussels on 29 November under the chairmanship of Mr J.A. van Kemenade, the Netherlands Education Minister, reached agreement on action to be taken on education matters in the individual Member States and at Community level.

The Council and Ministers considered a report on the problems of preparing young people for working life and for the transition from education to work, which the Education Committee had been asked to prepare as a matter of priority under the terms of the Resolution formally adopted by the Education Ministers on 9 February 1976<sup>1</sup> following their meeting on 10 December 1975.<sup>2</sup>

In the discussions all the delegations stressed the prime importance of action in this field; the Council and Ministers agreed, in a Resolution, to a series of measures to be undertaken both by Member States and at Community level.

### National measures

*1202.* The Member States will take into account, in developing their national policies, the conclusions and measures suggested by the Education Committee in the report which it adopted after its preparatory work.<sup>3</sup>

These measures include: the development of curricula and teaching methods providing appropriate preparation for working life in general education and vocational training and promoting closer links between these two types of education; the promotion of a system of continuing education and vocational guidance; the provision of continuing education and training opportunities for all young people, particularly those without qualifications; additional educational strategies for those young people who are most vulnerable in changing employment conditions; the initial and continuing training of teachers, so that they may prepare young people more effectively for working life; the improvement of information services

on education, the employment of young people and their aspirations and motivation; and the strengthening of consultation and coordination between education and vocational guidance, training and placement services.

### Community measures

*1203.* At Community level, a four-year action programme was adopted which includes a series of pilot projects to be prepared in 1977 and implemented over the period to 31 December 1980. Agreement was reached on an overall sum of 11.4 million u.a. to finance this community programme for the years 1978 to 1980.

These projects will concentrate on a number of priority themes such as appropriate measures to meet the educational and training requirements of those leaving the educational system who encounter problems in securing and retaining employment, measures to counteract the problems of low motivation towards education and employment, the development of a continuous process of guidance and counselling and the improvement of vocational preparation in the final years of compulsory schooling and the post-compulsory period.

Some pilot projects will be concerned with the design and development of specific measures to ensure equal education opportunities for girls, and to assist migrants and other target groups with special problems; others will be concerned with the promotion of measures to improve the initial and in-service training of teachers so that they may more effectively prepare young people for the world of work.

There will also be a programme of study visits for specialists in the field of vocational education and guidance and workshops on topics related to

<sup>1</sup> OJ C 38 of 19.2.1976.

<sup>2</sup> Bull. EC 12-1975, points 1101 and 1102.

<sup>3</sup> Point 2264.

### 3. Relations with State-trading countries and the CMEA

#### Education

the transition from education to working life for teachers and trainers of teachers. A report analysing the experience of Member States in linking education and other sectoral policies in the less-favoured regions and other provisions and measures to enable young people to return to further study after leaving the educational system is to be prepared. Further and more intensive activities in the area of information-gathering and distribution, particularly with relation to statistics, is also provided for.

#### Report of the Education Committee

1204. The meeting also considered a progress report by the Education Committee on the implementation of other parts of the action programme adopted in the Resolution of 9 February 1976. The report drew particular attention to the establishment of six pilot projects in five Member States relating to the education of the children of migrant workers, the launching of a scheme of grants for the promotion of joint study programmes between institutions of higher education in different Member States and the proposed setting-up in 1977 of a scheme for the support of short study visits by teaching and administrative staff and researchers to higher education institutions in other Community countries.

1301. At the end of its meeting on 15 and 16 November the Council issued the following communiqué on relations between the Community on the one hand, and State-trading countries and the CMEA<sup>1</sup> on the other:

‘The Council discussed the Community’s relations with the member countries of the CMEA and in particular the problem of relations with that organization.

It recalled the steps taken by both parties towards the establishment of appropriate relations, the latest ones being the talks held between the Commission’s delegation and a delegation from the CMEA Secretariat in Moscow in February 1975 and the message sent to the President of the Council in February 1976 by President Weiss on behalf of the CMEA.

It stressed the importance which it attached to the development of the Community’s relations not only with the CMEA but also with each of its member countries.

With this in mind, the Council drew up a draft agreement defining the forms of and procedures for the relations to be established between the Community and the CMEA. In a letter accompanying the draft agreement sent to the President in office of the CMEA Executive Committee, the Community stated its readiness to open negotiations on this basis forthwith. In addition, the Council recalled that as regards trade relations the Community affirmed its willingness in its offer made in November 1974—which still holds good—to enter into trade negotiations with each of the member countries of the CMEA.’

The letter and draft agreement were delivered to Mr K. Olszewski, presiding Chairman of the Executive Committee of the Council for Mutual Economic Assistance, on 17 November in Warsaw by the Ambassador of the Netherlands, the Member State occupying the chair at the Council.

<sup>1</sup> Bull. EC 5-1974, point 2330, 11-1974, point 1301, 1-1975, point 1301 and 2-1976, points 1201 to 1205.

# 4. Formulation of Community steel policy

1401. On 24 November 1976 the Commission formally adopted a document on the 'Common Steel Policy', designed to tackle the difficulties which have beset the Community steel industry for some time. Attached to it is a Technical Annex which sets out the methods by which the new policy will be implemented.

1402. Here is the text of the document (not including the Technical Annex):

'The common steel policy the Commission is to set up will consist of an assortment of permanent measures and a set of special measures to be activated only in a crisis situation. The policy will also cover relations between the Community and third countries, and it will take account of social and regional considerations.

## A. Permanent measures

### *Analysis and monitoring of the market*

The permanent statistical monitoring of the steel market must be improved. This will be done on the basis of faster analysis of the statistical data supplied periodically to the SOEC, supplemented by breaking down data on the volume of orders by consumer sector, on the volume of orders by third country and on receipts and costs.

This analysis of statistical data will supply an up-to-date picture of the supply and demand position on the steel market.

Improved forecasting methods will make it easier to detect, on the basis of the fundamental structure of the Community steel market, the first signs of a cyclical imbalance, and will thus provide the Commission with an instrument giving a faster and clearer picture of the real market situation.

### *Investments*

No Commission action on steel investment would attempt to supersede the undertakings'

own investment initiatives. But insofar as a predicted imbalance between steel supply and demand will certainly affect the magnitude of a crisis, the Commission will be making better use of the information already available under current Treaty provisions.

Such Opinions and Decisions as the Commission may adopt on projected investments and loans, based as they will be on both the facts revealed by its enquiries and its General Objectives for Steel,<sup>1</sup> and bearing in mind social and regional implications, will be one of the measures for correcting this imbalance.

(a) The Commission can increase its influence if required, by adopting more openly negative positions on investment projects (particular projects or the field of investment in general) where excess capacity can be foreseen. The Commission's opinions on investments must be published more widely to interested parties. This will increase their impact.

Further, the annual survey on investments could provide an opportunity for closer contacts with the steel industry, and for discussions on foreseeable capacity development, with a view to coordinating investment intentions better.

As part of the before-the-event discussions between the steel industry and the Commission, the latter can try to prevent investments liable to provoke imbalances from becoming settled plans.

This information would be of a great deal more use if the length of notice to be given for investment projects were extended,

(b) In order to encourage a better balance between steel supply and demand, the Commission ought to make use of its loan policy to facilitate joint investments in heavy production plant,

<sup>1</sup> The current survey on investments indicates that companies have recently revised their investment projects so that their plans now coincide better with the forecasts in the General Objectives for Steel 1980-85; there is currently, therefore, less risk of surplus capacity in the future.



although of course the Treaty competition rules would have to be borne in mind. The Commission should also encourage such moves towards rationalization as would achieve a better balance of supply and demand.

## B. Crisis measures

Making use of the direct means provided for in the Treaty to cope with a crisis, notably production quotas (Article 58) and minimum prices (Article 61), is necessarily a slow business as these procedures are so cumbersome.

Accordingly, we need to find means to cope with this inevitable delay, so that when a crisis arises steps can be taken immediately to contain a worsening situation.

In every case the measures required will have to be taken by means of a Commission Decision. Any such Decision will be based on a special examination of the situation triggered off by certain indicators reaching thresholds settled in advance, in the fields covered by the system for analysing and supervising the market. If the Commission considers it advisable to bring into force the crisis measures, the Commission will, before taking a formal decision, hold discussions with the Governments of the Member States, and consult the Consultative Committee.

The indicators will, in the main, be found in order books and new orders, in production forecasts and in unemployment forecasts; but the rate of capacity utilization, patterns of stocking, or an abnormal and longlasting reduction in company receipts from sales inside the Community critically impairing the normal correlation with costs, would also be considered.

A prolonged drop in prices on the international market could be taken to show the need for contacts with producers in non-member countries.

## *Production*

During the last crisis the new format Forward Programme helped to adjust supply to real demand and to check the deterioration of the market. Accordingly it is important to gain the maximum possible benefit from the forward Programmes, which are prepared with the regular help of producers, unions, consumers, merchants and government representatives. For this purpose, more finely-tuned forecasting methods are being prepared.

When the Commission has so decided, basing its Decision on the above-mentioned indicators, the indicative production and delivery tonnages published by market in the forward Programmes ought to be made more efficacious.

These indicative tonnages will be broken down by the Commission either by each group of undertakings run as an economic unit, or by each association of undertakings within the meaning of Article 65 of the Treaty, or by undertaking.

In any such crisis situation, the Commission expects that undertakings will display solidarity, and tailor their production or deliveries to these indicative tonnages, and that they will enter into individual undertakings with the Commission to this effect.

When planning and implementing the measures outlined above, the Commission will consult the trade associations, and workers', consumers' and stockholders' organizations. The Commission will make certain that any role given to these trade associations and organizations while these measures are in force is compatible with the ECSC Treaty in general and the competition rules in particular.

Any measures taken will be subject to strict time limits and will be ended by a Commission Decision. This latter Decision will be taken once the Commission can see that certain thresholds, settled in advance, have been reached in the

fields covered by the system for analysing and supervising the market.

These measures will be without prejudice to any possible later use made of Article 58.

### *Prices*

When production drops, it does not necessarily follow that firms' receipts also drop. However, when receipts drop below the level described in Article 3(c) of the ECSC Treaty, this implies a worsening market.

The Commission must be in a position to receive the information on company receipts needed to give the guidance thought most appropriate to contain any such deterioration.

If the fall in prices inside the common market were due essentially to low price imports from third countries, the Commission ought to give consideration to employing the measures required by such a situation and ought, in particular, to make contacts at international level as it did in 1975.

If the Commission finds that its quantitative policy is not yielding the results hoped for, and if, bearing in mind the basic Treaty objectives, the Commission can see that it is necessary to bring in further measures, the Commission could publish minimum reference prices before any later recourse to minimum prices as referred to in Article 61 of the Treaty.

### **C. Relations between the Community and third countries on the steel market**

Since the 1975 crisis there have been signs of moves by some third country governments towards either some kind of worldwide orderly marketing agreement or an international steel charter.

There can be no question of the Community joining in endeavours to limit world free trade in

steel products. Within this constraint, however, the Community ought to take part in joint efforts by the main producing countries to find solutions to problems which arise at world level, to take account of the growing interdependence of the major steel industries in the world economy. In doing so, the Community, without prejudice to any use made of Article 74, should bear in mind both any internal Community measures and the particular relations of the Community with third countries.

Such consultations could be useful in ensuring better exchange of information on investment and production forecasts. Information of this kind, at international level, on the various companies' plans, would help to prevent duplication of effort and over-capacity and would thereby contribute towards a better balance between world supply and demand.

### **D. Social and regional problems**

When there is a crisis, an overriding concern is the maintenance of employment levels. The Commission intends to examine, with Member States and the various interested parties, in particular both sides of industry, the best means of making it possible to resolve this problem.

Although the social effects of the recent crisis were felt throughout the whole of the Community steel industry, some regions with structural weaknesses suffered more than others. The Commission is ready to contribute towards a detailed study of the economic and social conditions under which the reconversion of such regions should be carried out.

Aware of these problems, the Commission is preparing new guidelines on reconversion policy and recently consulted the ECSC Consultative Committee on this subject. It will also inform the Joint Committee on Steel of its proposals.

The expansion of Community aid for industrial reconversion could give further impetus to the necessary modernization of the steel industry.



**2<sup>ND</sup> PART**

**ACTIVITIES  
IN NOVEMBER 1976**

# 1. Functioning of the common market

## Customs union

### Common Customs Tariff

*Tariff applicable as from 1 January 1977*

2101. On 8 November the Council adopted a Regulation<sup>1</sup> updating the Common Customs Tariff; this amended version will be applicable as from 1 January 1977.

The few amendments in this new tariff compared with the one in force in 1976 are due to:

- (i) the application of the results of the negotiations on Kraft paper under Article XXIV(6) of GATT;
- (ii) certain regulations relating to common market organizations in force during 1976; these affected in particular the chapters on dairy produce, animal and vegetable fats and oils, preparations of vegetables, fruit or other parts of plants and alcoholic beverages;
- (iii) the need to clarify the text and to ensure closer alignment between the various versions of the Common Customs Tariff.

### *Maintenance of Community preference*

2102. On 22 November<sup>2</sup> the Council adopted a Regulation providing for an increased reduction of certain residual customs duties applied by the six original Member States to the three new members. Under the timetable for tariff dismantling written into the Act of Accession, the reciprocal tariff reductions between the original and the new members have already reached the level of 80 %, the remaining 20 % being due for removal on 1 July 1977. However, the EEC is now applying to non-member countries customs reductions negotiated under Article XXIV(6) of GATT. As a result, the Community preference enjoyed by the three new Member States in these

cases is diminished. The United Kingdom requested on 9 June that the necessary measures be taken for the maintenance of full Community preference, as was done in previous years.

### Tariff measures

#### *Suspensions*

2103. On 4 November<sup>3</sup> the Council adopted a Regulation totally suspending the autonomous CCT duty on mushrooms, excluding cultivated mushrooms, dried, dehydrated or evaporated, presented whole or in identifiable slices or pieces. This measure, which was adopted because of supply difficulties, concerns only products intended for the processing industry and will apply during the first half of 1977.

2104. In accordance with the commitments entered into by the Community in the multilateral trade negotiations under GATT, the Council decided on 23 November<sup>4</sup> to suspend partially, from 1 January 1977, the autonomous CCT duties on a number of tropical products.

2105. The Council also adopted on the same day, on proposals from the Commission, Regulations concerning:

- (i) the partial suspension from 1 January to 30 June 1977 of the autonomous CCT duties on a number of industrial products, in particular basic substances used in the chemical industry;<sup>2</sup>
- (ii) the total suspension for 1977 of the autonomous CCT duty for mechanically propelled aircraft of an unladen weight exceeding 15 000 kg.<sup>4</sup>

2106. On 23 November,<sup>5</sup> the Council adopted a regulation totally suspending the autonomous

<sup>1</sup> OJ L 314 of 15.1.1976.

<sup>2</sup> OJ L 329 of 27.11.1976.

<sup>3</sup> OJ L 304 of 6.11.1976.

<sup>4</sup> OJ L 332 of 1.12.1976.

CCT duties on potatoes (subheadings 07.01 A I, II(a) and III(b)) in order to remedy the present shortage of supplies. This suspension will apply until 28 February next year.

*Tariff quotas*

2107. On 23 November<sup>1</sup> the Council adopted, on proposals from the Commission, a number of Regulations on the opening, allocation and administration of autonomous Community tariff quotas for 1976 for:

- (i) ferro-silicon: 2 000 tonnes at a duty of 7 %,
- (ii) ferro-silico-manganese: 1 000 tonnes at a duty of 4 %,
- (iii) super-refined ferro-chromium: 1 000 tonnes at a duty of 5.5 %.

2108. On the same date the Council also adopted Regulations autonomously increasing for 1976 the volume of the duty-free quotas for:

- (i) newsprint<sup>1</sup>—this quota was opened by the Regulation of 29 October 1975<sup>2</sup> and is now increased from 2 250 000 tonnes to 2 400 000 tonnes;
- (ii) raw silk (not thrown)<sup>1</sup>—this quota was originally fixed by the Regulation of 29 October 1975<sup>2</sup> and is now increased from 2 500 tonnes to 3 050 tonnes.

These increases of 150 000 tonnes and 550 tonnes respectively are justified as a result of the new import requirements, and have been allocated to the corresponding Community reserves.

2109. The quota for unwrought magnesium<sup>3</sup> fixed in the Regulations of 20 January and 29 June 1976<sup>4</sup> was increased by the Council on 29 November from 9 350 tonnes to 13 100 tonnes, an increase of 3 750 tonnes made up as follows: 50 tonnes of extra-pure unwrought magnesium, 1 000 tonnes of unwrought magnesium not in alloy and 2 700 tonnes of unwrought magnesium in alloy.

2110. Lastly, the Council adopted on the same day, on proposals from the Commission, a number of Regulations opening, allocating and providing for the administration of contractual or autonomous Community tariff quotas for 1977 for the products listed in Table 1:

Table 1

| (tonnes)   |                        |                    |         |
|--|------------------------|--------------------|---------|
| Description of goods   | Quota volume           | Initial allocation | Reserve |
| <i>Contractual</i>   |                        |                    |         |
| Newsprint and other types of paper complying with the definition of newsprint contained in the Additional Note to Chapter 48, except as regards the criteria governing watermarks <sup>1</sup> | 2 311 000 <sup>2</sup> | 2 187 000          | 124 000 |
| Unwrought magnesium <sup>1</sup> of which:   |                        |                    |         |
| ● extra pure magnesium (containing 99.95 % by weight of pure magnesium)  | 600                    | —                  | 600     |
| ● unwrought magnesium not in alloy (containing not less than 99.8 % but less than 99.95 % by weight of pure magnesium)   | 1 325                  | 1 195              | 130     |
| ● unwrought magnesium in alloy (containing less than 99.8 % by weight of pure magnesium)   | 3 575                  | 3 150              | 425     |

<sup>1</sup> JO L 334 of 3.12.1976.

<sup>2</sup> Including an autonomous volume of 811 000 t.

<sup>1</sup> OJ L 329 of 27.11.1976.

<sup>2</sup> OJ L 292 of 12.11.1975.

<sup>3</sup> OJ L 334 of 3.12.1976.

<sup>4</sup> OJ L 14 of 23.11.1976 and L 181 of 7.7.1976.

## Harmonization of customs legislation

2111. On 29 November the Commission decided to recommend that the Council accept, on behalf of the Community, two annexes to the International Convention on the Simplification and Harmonization of Customs Procedures (Kyoto Convention). One annex is concerned with transit, the other with temporary exportation for outward processing.

2112. On 26 November<sup>1</sup> the Commission adopted a Regulation laying down provisions for the implementation of the Council Regulation of 25 March 1976<sup>2</sup> on the customs treatment applicable to goods returned to the customs territory of the Community.

## Internal common market

### Free movement of goods

#### Removal of technical barriers to trade

2113. On 11 November the Commission sent to the Council three proposals for Directives concerning motor vehicles. They cover *window-wiper* and window-washer systems, *defrosting* and demisting systems and *interior fittings* (identification of controls, tell-tales and indicators) respectively.

The first two replace and supplement a proposal presented by the Commission in 1968 and take account of the technical progress made since then. The third one, designed to achieve standardization, should help to lower production costs.

2114. The Commission decided on 30 November to amend the Council Directive of 20 March 1970<sup>3</sup> on the approximation of Member States' laws relating to measures to be taken against *pollution of the air by gases from positive ignition engines*

installed in motor vehicles (i.e. exhaust gases) to bring it into line with technical progress. This decision is part of the general programme for removal of technical barriers to trade in industrial products. It is designed to limit emissions of carbon monoxide, a measure not included in the 1970 Council Directive.

#### Protective measures

##### *Ireland*

2115. At its own request, Ireland was authorized by the Commission on 17 November (in accordance with Article 135 of the Act of Accession) to extend until 31 December 1977 the protective measures sanctioned by the Commission on 22 December 1975<sup>4</sup> which had been extended for six months on 25 June.<sup>5</sup> Ireland will thus be able to impose higher duties on footwear with leather uppers than specified in the tariff dismantling provisions of the Act of Accession.

The Commission felt that this measure was needed both because of the serious and persistent difficulties encountered by the Irish footwear industry and to enable a reorganization plan to be drawn up and implemented.

It should also be recalled that in addition to the Commission Decision of 22 December, which has just been extended, Ireland has also been authorized to apply a system of import licences for shoes coming from any country until the end of the transitional period on 31 December 1977. Under a Decision taken by the Commission on 12

<sup>1</sup> OJ L 335 of 4.12.1976.

<sup>2</sup> OJ L 89 of 2.4.1976.

<sup>3</sup> OJ L 76 of 6.4.1970.

<sup>4</sup> Bull. EC 12-1975, point 2115.

<sup>5</sup> Bull. EC 6-1976, point 2120.

November,<sup>1</sup> quantitative restrictions will be applied to Irish Imports of footwear (CCT headings 64.01 and 64.02) originating in Czechoslovakia. For 1977, the Commission has proposed to the Council the opening of three quotas for Irish shoe imports from Czechoslovakia. This is one of the proposals to the Council concerning unilateral import arrangements in respect of state-trading countries.

In addition, under Council Regulation of 19 December 1972,<sup>2</sup> on 16 November Ireland introduced quantitative restrictions on imports of footwear falling under CCT headings 64.01 and 64.02B originating in Taiwan.

### Pharmaceuticals

2116. The Committee for Proprietary Medicinal Products met again in November and, as it had done at its previous meetings, discussed its working methods in preparation for the effective implementation of the Council Directives of 20 May 1975 on the free movement of pharmaceutical products and the standards and protocols applicable to the testing of medicinal products.

The Committee was set up in May 1975 to ensure that the relevant authorities cooperate to obviate, where possible, inconsistent decisions relating to marketing authorizations, which for the time being are still issued at national level.

## Economic and commercial law

### Community trade mark

2117. The Working Party on the Community Trade Mark held its first meeting in Brussels from 3 to 5 November; senior officials from the Member States took part.

The purpose was to hear these experts' opinions on the alternatives outlined in the Memorandum

on the creation of an EEC trade mark<sup>4</sup> adopted by the Commission on 6 July. A large measure of agreement was reached on most of the topics dealt with. All participants felt that a Community trade mark system should be created as soon as possible and stressed the value of bringing the relevant national laws even closer together.

The discussions on the Memorandum will continue and should be concluded in January 1977.

### Convention on jurisdiction and the enforcement of civil and commercial judgments

2118. After four years, work has been completed by an *ad hoc* working party on the amendments to be introduced—after the accession of the three new Member States<sup>5</sup>—to the Convention of 27 September 1968 on jurisdiction and the enforcement of civil and commercial judgments<sup>6</sup> and to the Protocol of 3 June 1971 concerning its interpretation.<sup>7</sup>

The text of the Convention on the accession of the Kingdom of Denmark, Ireland and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland to the Convention on jurisdiction and the enforcement of civil and commercial judgments and to the Protocol concerning its interpretation by the Court of Justice together with an explanatory report will be transmitted to the Permanent Representatives Committee by 1 February 1977. The Committee will pass on the relevant documents to the Governments of the Member States and then collect their comments and examine them in the autumn of 1977. The Convention could then be signed early in 1978. It will contain

<sup>1</sup> OJ C 288 of 7.12.1976.

<sup>2</sup> OJ L 1 of 1.1.1973.

<sup>3</sup> OJ L 147 of 9.6.1976; Bull. EC 2-1975, points 1205 to 1207 and 5-1975, point 2110.

<sup>4</sup> Supplement 8/76 — Bull. EC.

<sup>5</sup> Bull. EC 11-1972, point 14.

<sup>6</sup> Supplement to Bull. EC 2-1969.

<sup>7</sup> Supplement 4/71 — Annex to Bull. EC 7-1971.

the necessary technical adaptations and several amendments of substance mainly concerning the jurisdiction of the courts in respect of trusts, maritime and insurance law.

At the level of the *ad hoc* working party no agreement could be reached on three matters relating to jurisdiction in respect of insurance. The first one concerns acceptability of clauses concerning jurisdiction in respect of aviation insurance where the assured is not habitually resident in a Contracting State. The second one concerns acceptability of clauses concerning jurisdiction in respect of insurance contracts covering the risk of damages caused to goods other than passengers' luggage during transport, either wholly by ship or aircraft or in combination with other forms of transport. The third one concerns the advisability of extending clauses conferring jurisdiction to insurance against third party claims relating to damage caused to goods transported by air.

## Competition policy

### **Restrictive practices, mergers and dominant positions: specific cases**

#### *Market-sharing agreement abandoned*

2119. As a result of representations made by the Commission, two important producers of sand and operators of sand quarries in the Community, British Industrial Sand Ltd (BIS) and Sablères et Carrières Réunies SA of Belgium (SCR) have abandoned a long-term agreement which had been notified to the Commission, containing a number of provisions which were incompatible with the rules on competition in Article 85(1) of the EEC Treaty.

The object of the agreement was to give each of the two firms an exclusive operating area within the Community market: BIS was accorded exclusive rights in the United Kingdom and SCR in

the remainder of Europe for sales of certain kinds of sand, the supply of machinery for the production of such sand and the operation of quarries.

In addition, BIS was committed, for a period of at least thirty-three years from the date of the agreement, to purchase from SCR minimum quantities of glass-making sand of which BIS is itself a producer. The minimum quantities were set annually at not less than one-third of BIS's total annual sales in the United Kingdom. The Commission regarded this commitment as a restraint upon BIS in respect of its own production and its use of alternative sources of supply.

The agreement also made provision for the maintenance of interlocking directorships between the parties. This had the effect that, through the reciprocal availability of confidential business information, the times be monitored and provided continuing opportunities and inducements to the parties to concert their trading practices.

#### *Changes made to an exclusive patent licensing agreement*

2120. The Commission has closed a proceeding concerning a licensing agreement entered into in 1963 by Société Automobile Peugeot, Paris, and two French inventors, *Fernand and Bernard Zimmern*, in respect of patents for single-screw rotary compressors. The agreement was notified in 1974.

The original version of the agreement contained, among other things, the following restrictions of competition which were caught by Article 85(1) of the EEC Treaty:

- (i) indefinite extension of the agreement through the lodging of improvement patents;
- (ii) exclusive manufacturing rights in the EEC countries where the inventors currently hold patents (France, Germany, Italy and the Netherlands);



(iii) exclusive sales rights in those countries and also Belgium, Denmark, and Luxembourg, with a prohibition for the licensors, their other licensees and the American firm Marc Wood International Inc., assignee of the British patent, to export to Peugeot's exclusive territory;

(iv) prohibition for Peugeot to export to the United Kingdom, the territory covered by the assigned patent.

The Commission has already stated that an exclusive manufacturing licence for a specified territory within the EEC may in certain circumstances qualify for exemption under Article 85(3).<sup>1</sup> The export ban may be exempted where there are good grounds for giving the firms concerned some measure of temporary protection.<sup>2</sup>

But in the present case the indefinite duration and territorial scope of the exclusive rights and export ban constituted a substantial barrier to entry on Community markets which other technologically competent firms might have wished to penetrate.

In response to Commission objections the agreement has been replaced by a non-exclusive licence for manufacturing in France and for sales throughout the Community, including the United Kingdom. The parties have also the right to withdraw from the agreement; the licensee may give a short period of notice and the licensors may invoke the inadequate exploitation of the licence.

The Commission has accordingly concluded that there is no need for a formal Decision in this case. It is nevertheless worth stressing the importance of cases like this, where the Commission fills in the gaps left by its cease-and-desist Decisions in confirming the role of competition in the common market. Specific importance attaches to the present case by virtue of the fact that, apart from piston and blade compressors, the licensed technique is the only one which can compete with the double-screw compressor technique of the Swedish group Svenska Rotor Mas-

chinen, so widespread both in the Community and elsewhere.

### *Steel mergers*

2121. The Commission has authorized a group of companies, engaged in production or distribution in the private sector of the steel industry in the United Kingdom, jointly to establish a company called the *North Sea Iron Company, Ltd.* The object of this joint venture will be the construction and operation of an iron ore direct reduction plant on the North-East coast of England.

The companies concerned are: Sheerness Steel company, Ltd, Sheerness, Kent; Consolidated Gold Fields, London, with its subsidiary Tennant Trading Ltd, a company engaged in the distribution of ferro-alloys; Tube Investments Ltd, Birmingham; and Manchester Steel Ltd, Manchester, a subsidiary of Elkem-Spingerverket (UK) Ltd.

As the transaction in question results in the establishment of group control over North Sea Iron Company, it required authorization under Article 66(1) of the ECSC Treaty. The Commission concluded that the tests for authorization in Article 66(2) were satisfied.

The North Sea Iron Company plant will produce 'directly reduced iron' or 'sponge iron', which is a high quality substitute for scrap, especially for charging into electric steel furnaces. The processes for the direct reduction of iron are relatively new and the only plant already producing sponge iron on a commercial scale in the Community is located in the Federal Republic of Germany.

<sup>1</sup> Bull. EC 7/8-1975, point 2123 and OJ L 222 of 22.8.1975 (*Kabelmetal-Luchair*).

<sup>2</sup> Bull. EC 11-1975, point 2120 and OJ L 6 of 13.1.1976 (*AIOP-Beyrard*).

## State aids

### *General schemes of aid*

#### Denmark

2122. On 8 November the Commission decided not to oppose the implementation of a Danish law providing assistance for property investments designed to save energy. Basically the law extends a scheme of aid set up as part of a set of transitional measures taken by the Danish Government in September 1975 to reduce unemployment; the Commission did not object to these measures when they were first introduced.<sup>1</sup>

Half the 13.2 million EUA earmarked for the scheme will be used for investments for improving residential property and the other half for investments in industrial, commercial and agricultural buildings commissioned before 1965 (originally before 1963). All that qualifies is heating insulation, improvement and replacement of heating installations and any other measures designed to save energy. Assistance will be given in the form of non-reimbursable cash grants.

These measures are in accordance with the guidelines laid down by the Commission in its Communication to the Council on a new energy policy strategy for the Community<sup>2</sup> and in the Community action programme on the rational utilization of energy.<sup>3</sup> Under this programme, investments of the type envisaged by the Danish law are to be given priority treatment as a means of reducing demand for energy, and it is recognized that assistance may be needed for such investments.

In any case the scheme of aid is purely transitional, since the funds available will mainly be used in 1977 and 1978, and will be exhausted by 1979/80. Finally, since the aid cannot exceed 13 200 EUA in any individual case, it will chiefly benefit small firms, an area where, in many cases, there is plenty of scope for improvement in energy utilization.

## *Industry aids*

### Steel industry

#### *France*

2123. On 19 November the Commission decided not to oppose the implementation of an aid measure planned by the French Government in favour of the steel industry under the economic development programme. The aids are to promote investment and will take the form of loans from the Economic and Social Development Fund (FDES).

The Commission had concluded that the aids were not within the prohibition in Article 4(c) of the ECSC Treaty and that the conditions justifying Commission action under Article 67 were not met.

### Cotton, rayon and flax industries

#### *Netherlands*

2124. On 18 November the Commission decided<sup>4</sup> to initiate the procedure of Article 93(2) of the EEC Treaty against the Dutch plan to grant aid to the cotton, rayon and flax industries.

It considered that, in view of the form of the aid and the situation of the Community industry, competition in the common market was likely to be adversely affected and that the derogations of Article 92 could therefore not be allowed.

The decision allows for the fact that the recently notified aid would be in addition to the scheme already operating in favour of these industries in the Netherlands. The Commission has given no-

<sup>1</sup> Bull. EC 10-1975, point 2107.

<sup>2</sup> Supplement 4/74 — Bull. EC.

<sup>3</sup> OJ C 153 of 1.7.1975.

<sup>4</sup> OJ C 289 of 8.12.1976.

tice to the Member States and other interested parties to present any observations they may wish to make.

It has also asked the Netherlands Government to submit plans for reorganizing both the scheme of aid set up in 1975 and the scheme recently notified to the Commission.

### Waste paper retrieval

#### *Netherlands*

2125. On 29 November the Commission decided to raise no objections to the implementation of a Dutch plan to grant aid to promote the re-use of waste paper. The aid will be given in the form of non-reimbursable grants representing 25 % of the investment entailed in setting up de-inking, dispersion and other advanced technology plant and other related facilities.

The Commission recalled the importance it attached to the increased use of waste paper as a raw material in the Community paper industry, which is largely dependent on imports of pulp from non-Community countries. The recycling of waste paper is also environmentally desirable in that systematic collection of waste paper reduces pollution risks.

### Shipbuilding

#### *United Kingdom*

2126. On 16 November the Council amended<sup>1</sup> its Directive of 10 July 1975<sup>2</sup> concerning aids to shipbuilding. The purpose of the amendment was to incorporate in the 1975 Directive the British cost escalation insurance scheme. Authorization of this scheme is, however, conditional on the terms for its operation becoming progressively more restrictive.

## Taxation policy and financial institutions

### Taxation

#### *Direct taxes*

#### *Elimination of double taxation in connection with the adjustment of transfers of profits between associated enterprises*

2127. In accordance with the undertakings given in its Action Programme for Taxation<sup>3</sup> and in its proposal for a Directive on mutual assistance between Member States in the field of direct taxation,<sup>4</sup> the Commission laid before the Council, on 29 November, a proposal for a Directive on the elimination of double taxation in connection with the adjustment of transfers of profits between associated enterprises based in different Member States.

The proposed Directive covers situations where a Member State's revenue authorities—taking the view that the operations carried out by an enterprise with another associated enterprise have been completed on terms different from those which would have been agreed between independent enterprises—increase the figure for the declared profits of one enterprise without there having been a corresponding reduction in the declared profits of the other. Such cases will become more frequent owing to the increased exchange of information between revenue authorities provided for in the proposed Directive mentioned above.

<sup>1</sup> OJ L 320 of 20.11.1976.

<sup>2</sup> OJ L 192 of 24.7.1975 and Bull. EC 7/8-1975, point 2133.

<sup>3</sup> Bull. EC 7/8-1975, points 1401 to 1404.

<sup>4</sup> Bull. EC 4-1976, point 2116 and OJ C 94 of 27.4.1976.

Double taxation of this kind is liable to distort conditions of competition within the Community.

Such distortions are all the more serious where the declared profits require adjustment not as a result of fraudulent intent, but of objective difficulties in fixing the 'right' price for a given operation.

The double taxation is eliminated by first submitting the case to the two tax authorities concerned; failing agreement, the case is then referred for a decision to a board composed of representatives of the tax authorities and of independent persons—an innovation in international tax practice.

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2128. On 17 November,<sup>1</sup> *Parliament* delivered its Opinion on the Commission's proposal concerning mutual assistance between the competent authorities of the Member States in the field of direct taxation

## Financial institutions

### *Banks and other financial institutions*

#### *Admission of securities to the stock exchange*

2129. On 4 November, the Commission laid before the Council an amended proposal for a Directive coordinating the conditions for the admission of securities to official stock exchange quotation.

The amendments made to the original proposal<sup>2</sup> are based mainly on opinions given by Parliament and the Economic and Social Committee and on certain proposals put forward by European professional federations or associations.

However, the amendments do not alter in any fundamental way the scope of the 1975 proposal, the main aim of which was to facilitate the ad-

mission of securities to stock exchanges situated in different Member States and to provide equivalent guarantees for savers wishing to invest in securities negotiable on official markets.

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2130. On 16 November, *Parliament* adopted a Resolution on civil liability insurance in respect of motor vehicles.

<sup>1</sup> Point 2410.

<sup>2</sup> Bull. EC 1-1976, point 2113.

## 2. Economic and monetary union

### Economic, monetary and financial policy

#### Economic situation in the Community

2201. At its meeting on 29 and 30 November in The Hague,<sup>1</sup> the European Council decided to issue the Communication on the economic situation in the Community presented to it by the Commission. The text of the Communication is as follows:

'1. There has been no further improvement in the economic situation in most of the Member States during the last few months:

— With the weakening of special factors (such as stockbuilding), the rather slack increase in private consumer demand, as well as the continuing weakness of investment demand, industrial production has—with a few exceptions—levelled off.

— Since the summer the balance of payments situation of the deficit countries has deteriorated appreciably as a result of seasonal factors and the depreciation of certain currencies.

— As a result of the levelling-off of production, there has been little significant fall in cyclical unemployment. Indeed, in some member countries the number of unemployed has actually risen again.

— Inflation rates have accelerated again in many member countries.

2. The slowdown in recovery has affected almost all the industrial countries. This has been accompanied by a considerable deceleration in the growth of the volume of world trade. An increase in oil prices could cause a further deterioration in the world economic situation and seriously endanger the economic upswing in the industrial countries.

3. Faced with these developments, there is a growing belief, in all the Member States of the

Community, that only a greater and more uniform degree of price stability can in the long run ensure sustained economic growth, a reduction in unemployment and greater stability in international monetary relations.

4. There is still, however, a threat to the Community's cohesion. Divergences in prices, costs and balances of payments persist. Changes in exchange rate relationships are once again making it more difficult for some Member States than for others to contain cost and price inflation. The dangers for the Community raised by the persistence of these disparities can only be countered by greater solidarity between the Member States.

5. The realization of the objectives for 1977, approved by the Council of Ministers on 22 November 1976,<sup>2</sup> will be possible only if:

— the positive factors predominate and, especially, the expansion of world trade continues, without the introduction of protectionist measures;

— further efforts are made to coordinate economic and stability policies at Community and international level;

— in collaboration with the two sides of industry at national and Community level, future wage agreements take account of what is economically possible. The dialogue with the two sides of industry, called for by the last European Council, should be continued;

— there is no increase or only a moderate increase in oil prices.

6. The data available at present do not justify a general change of the short-term economic policy being pursued at the moment. A careful watch must, however, be kept over the evolution in the weeks and months ahead, so as to prevent, through prompt action, any weakening of domestic and foreign expansionary forces.

<sup>1</sup> Point 2427.

<sup>2</sup> Point 2204.

Short-term economic policies must continue to be differentiated according to the situation of the individual Member States:

— The deficit countries must follow a vigorous policy in the monetary, fiscal and incomes field, so as to reduce the high level of balance of payments deficits and inflation rates, cut the spiral of exchange rate deteriorations and price rises, and thus restore confidence as quickly as possible.

— Those countries which are not subject to external constraints and which can anticipate a further reduction in price increases, must ensure that domestic demand expands. Thus they will support the efforts of the deficit countries which, unless there is a recovery in external demand, could achieve success only at the price of a distinct downturn in activity and growing unemployment.'

### Strengthening of internal cohesion

2202. The meeting of the Council (Economic and Financial Affairs), held in Brussels on 8 November, with Mr Duisenberg, Netherlands Finance Minister, in the chair, was devoted mainly to discussion of the reports prepared by the Monetary Committee and by the Economic Policy Committee concerning the proposals put forward by Mr Duisenberg at the Council meeting on 26 July.<sup>1</sup>

These proposals, which are aimed at achieving a greater convergence of the Member States' economic and monetary policies, are on the same lines as those presented to the European Council in April by the Commission in its Communication 'Economic and Monetary Action'.<sup>2</sup>

After discussing the proposals, the Council adopted the following Resolution on the 'Strengthening of the internal economic and financial coherence of the Community'.

'The Council noted the Opinions submitted by the Economic Policy Committee and the Mone-

tary Committee on the Commission memorandum to the European Council of 1 and 2 April 1976 and the suggestions put forward by Minister Duisenberg.

The Council is convinced that both the development of the Community and the greater stability of intra-Community exchange relations require that the economic policies of the Member States should converge and their economic situations be brought into closer alignment.

It considers that the efforts currently being made in the Community to combat inflation and to ensure continued and balanced growth are to a great extent dictated by this need and should thus continue with all due resolve.

In order to provide a medium-term Community framework for the Member States' conjunctural and structural policies, the Council undertakes to adopt with the minimum possible delay the draft IVth Medium-Term Economic Policy Programme submitted by the Commission on 5 October 1976. It notes the Commission's intention of supplementing this general programme with detailed proposals.

The Member States and the Community Institutions will have to ensure that, as far as possible, medium- and short-term economic policies are framed in conformity with this programme.

The Council considers that it would be appropriate to make pragmatic use of the various opportunities for aligning monetary policy objectives without, however, encroaching upon national powers and areas of responsibility.

The Council agreed that internally established national monetary objectives which vary from one Member State to another should be discussed from time to time by the Monetary Committee, which should compare the outturn with the objectives, examine and account for any devia-

<sup>1</sup> Bull. EC 7/8-1976, point 2201.

<sup>2</sup> Bull. EC 4-1976, point 2204.

tions and discuss possible remedies. The Committee should also continue the study of ways and means of gradually aligning intermediate objectives.

As to intra-Community exchange rate relationship, the Council considers that a greater degree of stability is highly desirable and that the Dutch proposals could make an important contribution to that end. The Council requested the Monetary Committee and the Committee of the Governors of the Central Banks to look at these ideas in greater detail, see how and under what circumstances they could be realized, and report back before the end of the year.<sup>7</sup>

### Annual Report on the economic situation in the Community

#### *Statement by Mr Haferkamp*

2203. On 18 November, on the occasion of a debate in Parliament<sup>1</sup> on the draft Annual Report presented by the Commission,<sup>2</sup> Mr Haferkamp, Commission Vice-President, made a statement on the economic situation in the Community.

Mr Haferkamp began by pointing out that, in view of the present economic situation, the Commission had, in its Annual Report on the economic situation in the Community, set quite ambitious targets for growth, employment and price trends in 1977. Real growth of about 4%, a reduction in the average unemployment rate to something under 4%, and a reduction to 7-8% in the rate of increase in consumer prices could be achieved for the Community only if positive factors in the economy prevail and if all those concerned were prepared to spare no effort to achieve the goals set. In recent days and weeks fears had grown that the upswing could well prove less vigorous and shorter than had still been assumed in the summer. However, the information on the economy so far available in no way justified, as yet, an expansion of any economic policy.

The set of targets put forward fell a long way short of the ideal. 4-5%, or 4-5 million unemployed represented a situation going beyond anything that could be acceptable for any length of time in the Community's free democratic system. On the other hand, there were no easy solutions to the problem, nor could there be any hope of escaping, through sleight-of-hand with money wage-rates, the sacrifices that were unavoidable and the adjustments that were also indispensable. The truth was that there was by no means enough information available on the central problem which was of the greatest concern, namely the hard core of unemployment. Apart from a few general tendencies, for example concerning the low increase in unemployment among women and the level of unemployment among young people since the beginning of the seventies, little was available in the way of systematic information in most of the member countries on the structure and development of the unemployment phenomenon. Mr Haferkamp most strongly urged the Member States to improve their labour market statistics and undertake structural studies of unemployment.

A sufficient number of jobs could be created only if investment activity was maintained on a lasting basis. Since only good sales and profits expectations could encourage firms to step up investments, the attitudes adopted by unions and managements in future wage negotiations were of key importance. In the present situation, what mattered was not improving the share of the 'cake' allocated to one or other party. The main task must be to achieve more growth and to create more jobs. This did not mean a wages policy entailing no increments at all, which would not be desirable in terms of economic policy at the present time. But the object must be to shift the main emphasis of utilization of gross national product from consumption to production. That was why the present time was ripe for implemen-

<sup>1</sup> Point 2407.

<sup>2</sup> Bull. EC 10-1976, point 2201.

tation of a personal asset ownership policy. This was exactly the right moment for new initiatives and ideas in this field, coming both from the governments and from the unions and employers. The problem of indexation arrangements, which in some countries had become a major instrument for promoting inflation, must also be further discussed. Such arrangements obviously could not be phased out altogether overnight; but the danger they represented for stability should, as far as possible, be tempered by adjustment.

In view of the unusually high degree of uncertainty as to future economic trends, the need for international concertation of economic policy had become even greater. There were no alternatives to the stabilization programmes introduced in the individual Member States, although they tended to curtail demand and economic activity. The efforts being made should be acknowledged and supported by the whole Community. In these countries, the problem was not one of one per cent more or less on GNP growth in value in the coming year, but that of the urgent overall reorganization of the economies. The surplus countries should refrain from curbing the expansion of their domestic demand and should aim for a slower reduction in their budget deficits, a major concern being to avoid any unduly sharp fall in public investment.

The Commission believed that monetary and credit policy had a key role to play in the fight against inflation. Here, no miracles would be wrought by the setting of quantitative monetary-policy goals. But they would serve to show all concerned what scope was available for overall economic expansion in the coming year, i.e. to make it clear what claims on the national product could in fact be met.

In the present situation of unstable economic expectations, risks and uncertainties in international economic and monetary relations must be cut to a minimum. A further increase in oil prices would destroy confidence, which was not yet firm, in the recovery. The Community, given

its heavy dependence on outside sources of energy and its high degree of involvement in world trade, would be particularly hard hit by an increase in oil prices. The targets set in the Annual Report would then definitely not be achieved. There would be a further upsurge of inflation, a further aggravation of what were already precarious payments situations in some Member States, and, in particular, a further deterioration of the outlook for growth, and therefore the outlook for employment. Oil-producing countries and consumer countries were dependent upon one another. None would be spared if the world economy collapsed.

The behaviour of the OPEC countries would have a decisive influence on economic trends in the industrialized countries, on the opportunities available to the developing countries, on the development of world trade, and on the very foundations of the world economic order.

#### *Adoption of the Annual Report by the Council*

2204. At its meeting held in Brussels on 22 November, with Mr Duisenberg, Netherlands Finance Minister, in the chair, the Council, acting on a proposal from the Commission and on the basis of the Opinions delivered by Parliament and the Economic and Social Committee, adopted, by decision, the Annual Report on the economic situation in the Community and the economic policy guidelines to be followed by each Member State in 1977. In accordance with the Council Decision of 18 February 1974,<sup>1</sup> the governments will bring the Report to the attention of their national parliaments so that it can be taken into account during the debate on the budget. The Report will be published shortly in the Official Journal of the European Communities.

In its draft Annual Report, the Commission proposed, on a trial basis, the setting of quantitative

<sup>1</sup> OJ L 63 of 5.3.1974.



monetary policy targets for all Member States for 1977. Although the Council felt that it would be preferable if only guidelines were fixed for the monetary policy to be pursued by the Member States in 1977, there was broad support for continuing the work on quantitative monetary targets, as had been urged in the Council Resolution of 8 November 1976 on the strengthening of *the internal economic and financial coherence of the Community*.<sup>1</sup>

2205. Parliament gave its Opinion on the Commission proposal concerning a Decision adopting the Annual Report on the economic situation in the Community on 18 November.

### Medium-term economic policy

2206. At its meeting on 22 November, the Council discussed its general approach to the draft Fourth Medium-Term Economic Policy Programme,<sup>3</sup> submitted by the Commission in early October. The definitive version of the Fourth Programme will be adopted by the Council shortly, once Parliament has delivered its Opinion, the Economic and Social Committee having already done so at its plenary session held on 24 and 25 November.<sup>4</sup>

### Community loan

2207. On 22 November, the Council, acting on a proposal from the Commission and after consulting the Monetary Committee, authorized the Commission, pursuant to the Regulation of 17 February 1975,<sup>5</sup> to open negotiations to float a Community loan. The funds raised would be on-lent to Italy to offset the withdrawal by the United Kingdom of its short-term contribution to the medium-term financial assistance granted to Italy.

When the medium-term financial assistance<sup>6</sup> to refinance the short-term monetary support ac-

corded to it in July 1973 had been granted to Italy in December 1974, the United Kingdom had invoked the Decision of 22 March 1971<sup>7</sup> and had not contributed to the operation. It had not, however, withdrawn the loan facility it had already made available to Italy under the short-term monetary support arrangements. Since the United Kingdom recently decided not to renew upon expiry the loan facility in question, Italy has applied for a Community loan.

The Community loan issue at present envisaged would, therefore, be for an amount matching the amount of the loan intended for Italy, namely US \$500 million. The loan would take the form of a variable-rate bank credit to be consolidated subsequently in one or more fixed-rate loans; the granting of the loan to Italy will be subject to economic policy conditions, as was the Community loan granted to Italy in March 1976.<sup>8</sup>

### Monetary Committee

2208. The Monetary Committee held its 223rd and 224th meetings in Brussels on 2 and 22 November respectively. Mr Pöhl took the chair on both occasions.

On 2 November, the Committee adopted a report to the Council and to the Commission summarizing the conclusions reached during its earlier discussions on the Community exchange rate scheme, the setting of quantitative monetary targets, and the monitoring of Eurocurrency markets, the three monetary policy issues dealt with in the proposals put forward by the Commission and the President of the Council, Mr Duisenberg.<sup>9</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Point 2202.

<sup>2</sup> Point 2407.

<sup>3</sup> Bull. EC 9-1976, points 1101 to 1103.

<sup>4</sup> Point 2457.

<sup>5</sup> OJ L 46 of 20.2.1975.

<sup>6</sup> Bull. EC 12-1974, point 2205 and 11-1974, point 2202.

<sup>7</sup> OJ L 73 of 27.3.1971.

<sup>8</sup> Bull. EC 3-1976, point 2201.

<sup>9</sup> Point 2202.

On 22 November, the Committee examined the problem raised by the non-renewal by the United Kingdom of its contributions to the medium-term financial assistance granted to Italy in 1974, and agreed to recommend to the Council that it should authorize the floating of a Community loan.<sup>1</sup> At the Council's request, the Committee also discussed the proposal for a regulation on the fixing of representative conversion rates in agriculture.

The Working Party on Securities Markets met in Brussels on 22 and 23 November to carry out its regular examination of developments on the international bond markets and on the national capital markets in the relevant quarter (in this case, the third quarter) of the year.

### **Economic Policy Committee**

2209. The Economic Policy Committee held its 38th meeting in Brussels on 11 November, in its reduced 'short-term' composition. Mr Cortesse took the chair. The meeting was devoted to discussion of the short-term economic situation in the countries of the Community and, in particular, of the implications of the loss of momentum in business activity which had occurred during the summer.

### **Working Party on the Comparison of Budgets**

2210. The Working Party on the Comparison of Budgets met in Brussels on 23 November for a wide-ranging discussion on the preparation at international level of comparable statistics on public finance. The experts also tackled theoretical aspects of the valuation at constant prices of the transactions of general government and adopted a programme of work for the use of the statistical information on public finance gathered under the system of presentation devised by the Working Party.

### **Study Group on Medium-Term Economic Assessments**

2211. A working party of the Study Group on Medium-Term Economic Assessments has begun examination of the economic implications of present demographic trends in the Community. With birth rates declining and mortality rates unchanged, the population of the Community is at present tending to stabilize or even to contract.

The economic implications of these developments will be studied by the Working Party in terms of how they would affect the structure of private consumer demand, the size and composition of the supply of labour and public finance (social security and public infrastructures). Three time-horizons have been chosen: 1985; 1995; beyond the year 2000. The Working Party is to report to the Commission in the course of next year.

## **Regional policy**

### **Financing operations**

#### **European Regional Development Fund**

##### *Community solidarity benefits Friuli*

2212. On 16 November, the Commission decided to grant 15 million u.a. as a special contribution from the European Regional Development Fund for the reconstruction and improvement of economic and social infrastructure facilities in the Friuli-Venezia Giulia region of Italy destroyed or damaged by the earthquake last May. The decision concerns the following projects:

1. Rebuilding and improvement of pipelines and water-collecting installations of the central Friuli aqueduct: 7.7 million u.a. (Lit 4 800 million);

<sup>1</sup> Point 2207.

2. Rebuilding and expansion of industrial estates in Medio-Tagliamento, Upper Friuli, Eastern Friuli, Central Friuli, Spilimberghese and Pordenone: 4 million u.a. (Lit 2 500 million);

3. Rebuilding and improvement of the Cedar-chis-Salino section of the 'di Paularo' provincial road in the province of Udine: 2.4 million u.a. (Lit 1 500 million);

4. Rebuilding of the 'Val d'Arzino' and 'Val Colvera' provincial roads in the province of Pordenone: 0.9 million u.a. (Lit 575 million).

The ERDF's total contribution is 15 million u.a. (Lit 9 375 million) for eleven projects involving investments totalling 56 million u.a. (Lit 35 000 million).

The assistance is granted pursuant to the Community decision of last May<sup>1</sup> to make available 60 million u.a. (15 million u.a. from the ERDF and 45 million u.a. from the EAGGF Guidance Section) as a gesture of solidarity with Friuli.

In October, the Commission had already approved loans of 5 million u.a. (Lit 4 500 million) for rebuilding steelworks destroyed by the earthquake<sup>2</sup> and of 6 million u.a. (Lit 5 400 million) for repairing and rebuilding housing occupied by steelworkers.<sup>2</sup>

#### *Symposium on the future of the Community regional policy*

2213. The future development of the Community regional policy was the subject of a Commission-sponsored symposium held in Brussels on 15 and 16 November and attended by Mr Thomson, senior Commission staff and experts from Member States.

The general view of the meeting was that worldwide structural economic changes coinciding with the economic crisis were making it difficult for the Community to achieve and develop its regional development aims. Regional policy could no longer concern itself simply with the interests

of a few less-favoured regions, but must be related to the needs of the economy as a whole. It had to be seen as the regional dimension of all the sectoral and 'overall' policies. Such an overall concept of regional policy was justified by the fact that resource transfers to the regions with structural problems did not benefit only these regions, but also helped other areas, induced faster growth in the overall economy, and contributed to reducing inflation and in some instances to improving the balance of payments.

The symposium therefore went on to consider measures and policies which the Community might implement in the future: mechanisms for the transfer of investment resources and of advanced technology from the stronger to the weaker regions (both within Member States and across frontiers), a Community system of information on investment opportunities, Community help for developing regional infrastructure and the role of regional development programmes.

#### *Projects receiving assistance from the ERDF*

2214. The first list of projects receiving assistance from the European Regional Development Fund (1975 and the first two allocations in 1976) has been published in the Official Journal of the European Communities.<sup>3</sup> The Council Regulation of 18 March 1975,<sup>4</sup> which established the Fund, provides for such lists to be published at regular intervals.

### **Regional Policy Committee**

2215. On 23 November, the Regional Policy Committee held its seventh meeting in Brussels. Mr McCutcheon, Vice-Chairman, presided.

<sup>1</sup> Bull. EC 5-1976, points 1506 and 1507.

<sup>2</sup> Bull. EC 10-1976, points 2250 and 2212.

<sup>3</sup> OJ C 267 of 12.11.1976.

<sup>4</sup> OJ L 73 of 21.3.1975.

The Committee examined a report from its Working Party on a Programme of Studies and invited the Working Party to consider how a long-term programme of studies in the regional field could be drawn up, due allowance being made for the respective responsibilities of Member States and the Commission in financing these studies.

The Committee also gave its opinion on seventeen draft decisions relating to infrastructure investment of not less than 10 million u.a.

2216. At its part-session from 15 to 19 November, Parliament<sup>1</sup> adopted a Resolution on Community regional policy as regards the border regions along the Community's internal frontiers. The *Economic and Social Committee*<sup>2</sup> met on 24 and 25 November and adopted an opinion on the first Annual Report (1975) of the European Regional Development Fund.<sup>3</sup>

## Social policy

### Employment

2217. Problems connected with the employment of women are to be studied in depth by the Commission, which decided on 17 November to set up a department with special responsibility for these matters.

This department will be a Community forum on women's employment problems and will have the task of choosing among possible schemes, setting priorities and drafting proposals to be submitted to the appropriate bodies. It will also monitor the development of the position and role of women in the Member States and the implementation of Community legal instruments adopted for the benefit of women. Lastly, it will gather national and international data for the use of all organizations and bodies concerned with the employment of women, with the aim of facilitating

the exchange of information and discussion on this problem.

2218. The Council decided on 22 November<sup>4</sup> to organize a *sample survey* of manpower. This survey which will be carried out by the Commission in 1977 is to produce comparable statistics on employment and unemployment in the Community. The last survey of this kind was in 1975.

### Free movement and social security For migrant workers

#### *The fight against illegal immigration*

2219. On November<sup>5</sup> the Commission sent to the Council a proposal for a Directive on the harmonization of laws in the Member States to combat illegal immigration and illegal employment. The exploitation of illegally employed non-Community workers constitutes an obstacle to the achievement of the social aims of the Community and, in particular, the improvement of living and working conditions.

The proposal drawn up by the Commission covers measures to:

- (i) inform intending immigrants of national laws and regulations applicable to them;
- (ii) ensure adequate immigration controls at the frontiers of Member States or at places of employment;
- (iii) punish any person who organizes or knowingly participates in activities intended to bring about illegal immigration or employment;
- (iv) mitigate the wrong suffered by illegal immigrants who acted in good faith, by ensuring a right of appeal against deportation;

<sup>1</sup> Point 2403.

<sup>2</sup> Point 2460.

<sup>3</sup> Supplement 7/76 — Bull. EC.

<sup>4</sup> OJ L 331 of 30.11.1976.

<sup>5</sup> OJ C 277 of 23.11.1976.

(v) strengthen collaboration between Member States.

This proposal is a direct result of the Council Resolutions of 21 January 1974 on a social action programme<sup>1</sup> and of 9 February 1976 on an action programme for migrant workers and members of their families.<sup>2</sup>

## Social Fund, re-employment and retraining

### *Social Fund*

2220. The Advisory Committee of the European Social Fund, which met in plenary session on 5 November, examined some hundred *applications for assistance from the Fund* submitted by the Member States. These applications concerned retraining operations for young agricultural and textile workers, migrant workers and young persons aged under 25 (Article 4 of the Council Decision of 1 February 1971<sup>3</sup> on the 'new' Social Fund), or for unemployed or underemployed workers in the less-developed areas of the Community or in groups of undertakings experiencing structural difficulties (Article 5), and also the training of workers to meet the requirements of technical and industrial progress or retraining operations for handicapped persons.

### *Retraining measures*

2221. In November the Commission decided, under Article 56(2) (b) of the ECSC Treaty, to contribute towards the cost of retraining workers affected by the partial or total closure of coal and steel undertakings covered by the Paris Treaty.

In *Germany* five sums were allocated, three of which, totalling 2 046 750 EUA, for 1 682 workers affected by the closure of two coking plants and one colliery, two others, totalling 125 000 EUA, for 1 128 workers affected by the closure of two steelworks. In the *United Kingdom* two sums,

totalling 47 750 EUA, were allocated for 18 workers affected by a cut-back in employment in two steelworks.

## Living and working conditions

### *Housing*

2222. As part of the first instalment of the eighth programme of financial aid to low-cost housing for industrial workers covered by the ECSC Treaty, the Commission approved the following projects: *Belgium*, coal: 68 dwellings (FB 14 620 000); iron and steel: 88 dwellings (FB 18 920 000); *France*, iron and steel: 431 dwellings (FF 4 028 000); iron-ore mines: 75 dwellings (FF 366 000); coal: 30 dwellings (FF 240 000); the *Netherlands*, iron and steel: 28 dwellings (Fl 140 000); *Germany*, coal: 502 dwellings (DM 1 714 962); iron and steel: 1 dwelling (DM 9 000).

As part of the same instalment the Commission decided to grant a loan of £ 958 236 for the construction and modernization of low-cost housing for workers in the iron and steel industry in the United Kingdom.

### Industrial relations

2223. Representatives of both sides of the *sugar industry* met on 18 and 19 November at Obrigheim in Germany. They stressed the need to establish regular contacts and agreed to examine comparative tables drawn up by employers' organizations on working hours, together with a number of questions concerning employment.

<sup>1</sup> OJ C 13 of 12.2.1974, Bull. EC 12-1973, point 2212 and Supplement 2/74 — Bull. EC.

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

<sup>3</sup> OJ L 28 of 4.2.1971.

## Health protection

2224. On 22 November<sup>1</sup> the Commission forwarded to the Council a proposal for a Council Directive on the harmonization of laws, regulations and administrative provisions on the *protection* of workers in the plastics industry exposed to *vinyl chloride monomer*. The aim is to increase protection, above and beyond technical measures already in force, by defining the preventive measures essential in places of employment.

2225. From 28 September to 10 November the Commission organized, in collaboration with the relevant departments in the Member States, seven joint training courses for *factory inspectors*, dealing with a number of problems involving safety or health (laser beams, reform of factory inspection, abattoirs, pesticides, employee participation, type approval of material).

2226. On 16 and 17 November the Commission organized in Brussels an information and training seminar on *radiation protection* for representatives of the trade unions in the Member States. The aim of this seminar was to study the new problems arising from certain provisions of the Directive of 1 June 1976 laying down 'basic standards' as regards the protection of the population and of workers against dangers arising from ionizing radiation,<sup>2</sup> and to take stock of the present situation as regards radiation protection. Those attending this seminar considered that it was essential to be kept constantly informed about developments in this area. The Commission was therefore asked to step up efforts to implement schemes to provide workers exposed to ionizing radiation and the population as a whole with better information concerning the principles of radiation protection.

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2227. During its part-session from 15 to 19 November *Parliament*<sup>3</sup> adopted Resolutions on the

abuse of the principle of the free movement of labour and on the first revised European 'social budget' (1970-75) and gave its Opinion on a draft Commission Recommendation to the Member States on the vocational training of unemployed young persons or young persons threatened with unemployment. The *Economic and Social Committee*,<sup>4</sup> which met on 24 and 25 November, gave an Opinion on the Commission Recommendation to extend social protection gradually to categories of persons not covered by the existing systems or those inadequately protected, and on specific measures to be taken for young persons, elderly workers and women returning to work.

## Environment and protection of consumers

### Environment

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

2228. The Administrative Board of the European Foundation for the Improvement of Living and Working Conditions held its second meeting on 9 and 10 November in Dublin. Its work centred on the Foundation's programme, which is to be finally adopted at the beginning of 1977. The constituent meeting of the Administrative Board took place on 6 and 7 May.<sup>5</sup>

<sup>1</sup> OJ C 291 of 10.12.1971.

<sup>2</sup> Bull. EC 6-1976, point 2222.

<sup>3</sup> Points 2412 to 2414.

<sup>4</sup> Points 2459 and 2462.

<sup>5</sup> Bull. EC 5-1976, point 2230.

*Atmospheric pollution from exhaust gases*

2229. On 30 November the Commission approved a Directive on the measures to be taken against air pollution from motor vehicle exhaust gases.<sup>1</sup> This concerns the adaptation to technical progress of the Directive of 20 March 1970,<sup>2</sup> in order to limit nitrogen oxide emissions, since the original Directive referred only to carbon monoxide and unburnt hydrocarbons. This Directive falls among the anti-pollution measures envisaged by the European Communities' action programme on the environment.<sup>3</sup>

*Protection against the hazards of vinyl chloride*

2230. On 22 November, the Commission sent to the Council a proposal for a Directive<sup>4</sup> aimed at reinforcing the protection of workers from the risks arising from the use of vinyl chloride monomer in the plastics industry. This proposal comes under both the health protection programme,<sup>5</sup> and the action programme on the environment.

2231. On 19 November,<sup>6</sup> Parliament gave its Opinion on the conclusion of a Convention on the Protection of the Rhine against chemical pollution and on the Commission's proposal concerning the dumping of wastes at sea.

**Protection of consumers***Substances in contact with foodstuffs*

2232. As part of the action being carried out within the Community to ensure consumer protection and information,<sup>7</sup> the Council adopted a Directive on 23 November concerning materials and articles intended to come into contact with foodstuffs and to so affect their purity or quality as to make them detrimental to health.<sup>8</sup>

*Protection against pesticides*

2233. The Council took a new consumer protection measure on 23 November with the adoption of a Directive setting the maximum levels of pesticide residues permissible in and on foodstuffs, particularly fruit and vegetables.<sup>9</sup>

**Agricultural policy**

2234. In addition to the day-to-day management of agricultural matters, November saw the adoption by the Council of a series of measures which constitute definite progress towards alignment of legislation on agriculture and food.

Taking note of a Communication from the Commission on action taken to simplify agricultural regulations—the Council also adopted a resolution<sup>10</sup> in which it stresses the need to ensure that these regulations may be implemented without excessive difficulty by both the national administrations and the interested parties.

**Harmonization of laws: substantial progress**

2235. *As regards foodstuffs*, the Council on 23 November,<sup>11</sup> on a proposal from the Commission, adopted a Directive on materials and articles intended to come into contact with foodstuffs. This Directive, which comes within the framework of action taken by the Community on con-

<sup>1</sup> Point 2214.

<sup>2</sup> OJ L 76 of 6.4.1970.

<sup>3</sup> OJ C 112 of 20.12.1976.

<sup>4</sup> OJ C 291 of 10.12.1976.

<sup>5</sup> Point 2224.

<sup>6</sup> Point 2420.

<sup>7</sup> OJ C 92 of 25.4.1975.

<sup>8</sup> Point 2235.

<sup>9</sup> Point 2236.

<sup>10</sup> OJ C 287 of 4.12.1976.

<sup>11</sup> OJ L 340 of 9.12.1976.

sumer protection and information, has three main objectives. The first is purity of food. It must be ensured that materials and articles coming into contact with foodstuffs do not affect them in a way which could constitute a danger to public health or lead to an alteration of their quality.

A second aim is to inform the consumer (with explicit instructions) that a material or article offered for sale may be used without danger, or that certain precautions should be taken when using it (e.g. that a certain temperature should not be exceeded).

Thirdly, the Directive sets out the procedures and general principles which should subsequently provide answers to the problems connected with certain given materials (plastics, paper, cellulose, metals, etc.).

2236. Regarding *plant health legislation* another Directive adopted by the Council lays down maximum permitted levels for pesticide residues in fruit and vegetables.<sup>1</sup>

The measures to be taken in the event of these maximum levels proving dangerous to health are covered by procedures introducing close cooperation between the Member States and the Commission within a Standing Committee on Plant Health set up at the same time.<sup>1</sup>

Following the adoption of this initial Directive, the Commission will shortly present to the Council three other proposals for Directives on pesticide residues in animal feedingstuffs, products of livestock origin (milk, meat, etc.) and cereals.

2237. The Council has continued its action on *legislation on feedingstuffs* with the adoption of an important Directive on the marketing of straight feedingstuffs. Its aims are:

(i) to promote livestock production by the use of appropriate, good quality feedingstuffs and thus to improve productivity in agriculture;

(ii) to lay down common rules for the denomination, description and labelling of the main straight feedingstuffs, and for the indication of the content of substances liable to have a substantial effect on the quality of these feedingstuffs;

(iii) to give the Member States the possibility of extending the principles of the Directive to other straight feedingstuffs and to products and substances used in the manufacture of compound feedingstuffs.

Common provisions on compound feedingstuffs will be introduced in future proposals.

2238. The Council adopted four measures in the field of *veterinary legislation*.

The first concerns a solution to the problems encountered in connection with the accession of Denmark, Ireland and the United Kingdom. Because of the diversity of situations as regards diseases and the differences between the animal health policies of these three Member States and those of the original Member States, a number of exceptions had been allowed at the time of enlargement.<sup>2</sup> Under the measures now adopted, most of those exceptions are replaced by common provisions ensuring free movement, particularly of fresh meat. On account of its special situation, Ireland has been authorized to maintain certain national rules on imports for a period of five years.

Furthermore, after two years of discussion, the Council agreed on a list of non-member countries from which Member States will be authorized to import fresh meat and live animals. The adoption of this list is an important step in the establishment of a common import scheme in the Community. Any common policy for combating ani-

<sup>1</sup> OJ L 340 of 9.12.1976.

<sup>2</sup> Bull. EC 6-1976, point 2247.



mal diseases and any action in general for improving livestock health in the Community requires that common rules should be applied to imports from non-member countries so as to prevent contamination of livestock.

The third measure concerns the establishment of an emergency fund by the Council. This fund, which in principle will have resources of 2.5 million u.a. for 1977, is designed to enable the Community to act swiftly in the event of an epizootic disease, accompanied by the appearance of an exotic disease, developing as a result of imports from a non-member country.

The Council also considered a proposal put forward by the Commission on a Community financial contribution for the eradication of certain contagious diseases occurring in cattle: brucellosis, tuberculosis and leucosis. The principle of this action was accepted, but as it constitutes part of the Commission's action programme for the period 1977-80 for the restoration of balance on the milk market,<sup>1</sup> it will not be formally adopted until the Council has taken a decision on this programme.

In agreeing in principle, the Council has thus decided to proceed to a second phase of Community action in the veterinary field. The decisions taken up to now have, in the main, concerned free movement of products. A vast campaign is now under way to harmonize national policies for combating animal diseases. In addition to the great benefit to producers as regards the profitability of their farming, this scheme is also playing an important part in improving consumer health protection. This is, in fact, the only real way of achieving freedom of movement in the long run for livestock products in the Community.

### Measures concerning the monetary situation

2239. In November, the compensatory amounts were adjusted for all the currencies not belonging

to the 'snake', and in particular each week for sterling and the Irish pound, which were subject to considerable fluctuations.

For all these Member States, the level of monetary compensatory amounts increased considerably at the beginning of the month, reaching a record level for sterling (a 45-point difference). However, in the second half of the month, there was a certain improvement in the rates of the currencies in question, and as from 29 November the monetary compensatory amount for sterling was calculated on the basis of a rate of 38.5.

The ideas developed by the Commission for adjusting the monetary compensatory amounts system, presented to the Council on 21 October 1976,<sup>2</sup> were set out in the form of a proposal for a Regulation on 5 November 1976.<sup>3</sup>

### Common organizations of markets

2240. In November, the Council discussed the wine market, the proposal on the organization of the market in potatoes, the arrangements for trade with non-member countries in beef and veal and the Community arrangements for fishery products. It also discussed measures designed to achieve balance on the milk market.<sup>4</sup> Decisions were taken concerning olive oil, wine, beef and veal and poultrymeat.

2241. In the *sugar* sector, the Commission has had to apply the provisions regarding the non-delivery of preferential sugar contained in Protocol No 3 on ACP sugar, annexed to the ACP-EEC Lomé Convention, or the Council Decision of 29 June 1976.<sup>5</sup> At the end of the delivery period of 1 July 1975 to 30 June 1976 six of the

<sup>1</sup> Bull. EC 10-1976, point 2229.

<sup>2</sup> Bull. EC 10-1976, points 1101 to 1107.

<sup>3</sup> OJ C 274 of 19.11.1976.

<sup>4</sup> Bull. EC 10-1976, points 2229 and 2230.

<sup>5</sup> OJ L 176 of 1.7.1976.

seventeen exporting countries had delivered only part or none of the agreed quantity for the period. Accordingly, after a close examination of the applications from the countries concerned, the Commission decided for the delivery period after 30 June 1976 to reduce the agreed quantities (expressed as white sugar) to zero for sugar from Kenya and the Congo, to 96.2 tonnes from Surinam and to 2 959 tonnes from Uganda; on the other hand, the agreed quantity of 163 600 tonnes of sugar from Fiji was maintained. The Commission allowed Mauritius an extra three months for delivery of the 65 464.9 tonnes outstanding.

2242. On 23 November the Council extended<sup>1</sup> until 31 October 1977 the special measures for the determination of offers of *olive oil* on the world market and on the Greek market, that is the fixing of the import levy by the tendering procedure. However, as it has been found that fixing the levy twice a month is sometimes insufficient, the Commission has introduced arrangements for it to be fixed each week.<sup>2</sup>

2243. In the *processed fruit and vegetables* sector, as Community production is insufficient to meet the needs of the processing industry, the Council has temporarily suspended<sup>3</sup> (from 1 January to 30 June 1977) the autonomous Common Customs Tariff duty on mushrooms intended for the processing industry (subheading ex 07.04B) excluding cultivated, dried, dehydrated or evaporated mushrooms.

2244. Several measures were adopted in November in the *wine* sector, mainly on account of the weather this year.

The rate of wine deliveries for quality white wines produced in 1976 in specified regions has been reduced<sup>4</sup> from 10% to 7%. A Regulation<sup>5</sup> has also been adopted to allow concentrated grape musts produced from table grapes to be used for the preparation of wines in the 1976/77 wine-growing year in certain areas (southern Italy).

Another Regulation<sup>2</sup> provides for the distillation of wines suitable for producing certain potable spirits obtained from wine with a registered designation of origin for the 1976/77 wine-growing year; aid of 0.62 u.a. per degree per hectolitre may be granted if the wine is processed into a product with an alcohol content of at least 92°. On 4 November<sup>4</sup> the Council agreed to limit distillation to products with an alcoholic strength 86° or more. This measure will allow the preventive distillation of wine usually used for the manufacture of cognac in France in order to ease a congested market.

Further, as a result of the exceptionally abundant harvest in the region, intervention has become necessary in certain departments of the Midi in France. Until 15 December 1976, short-term (three months) storage contracts may be concluded<sup>5</sup> for table wines produced in the departments of Aude, Bouches-du-Rhône, Gard and Hérault.

2245. In view of the shortage of *potatoes* in the Community, the Council has extended<sup>6</sup> until 28 February 1977 the suspension of the autonomous Common Customs Tariff duty for ware potatoes, seed potatoes and new potatoes (07.01 AI, IIa and IIIe).

In the *milk and milk products* sector, measures were taken in November to encourage the sale of skimmed-milk powder. Aid for skimmed-milk powder that has been denatured or processed into compound feed in another Member State will continue to be paid by the dispatching Member State instead of the importing Member State, the Council having extended this measure beyond 31 December 1976, the date on which was due to have been discontinued.<sup>7</sup>

<sup>1</sup> OJ L 327 of 26.11.1976 and Bull. EC 10-1976, point 2237.

<sup>2</sup> OJ L 320 of 20.11.1976.

<sup>3</sup> OJ L 304 of 6.11.1976.

<sup>4</sup> OJ L 304 of 6.11.1976 and L 319 of 19.11.1976.

<sup>5</sup> OJ L 319 of 19.11.1976.

<sup>6</sup> OJ L 332 of 1.12.1976.

<sup>7</sup> OJ L 331 of 30.11.1976.

In order to increase the effectiveness—in the present world-market situation—of the measure whereby intervention agencies sell for export to non-member countries, skimmed-milk powder for use as feed, the purchase price has had to be reduced<sup>1</sup> and the storage period shortened from twenty to sixteen months.

In deciding not to extend beyond 30 October 1976 the system for the compulsory purchase of skimmed-milk powder,<sup>2</sup> the Council as of that date terminated the requirement to pay a deposit in respect of proteins for import and for proteins of Community origin. However, deposits lodged will continue to be released until 1 March 1977, on production of proof of the purchase and denaturing of a quantity of skimmed-milk powder. To avoid cutting off the Community supply of proteins at the end of the period of application of the scheme, the Commission decided that deposits would be released automatically on production of proof that they were lodged after 25 October 1976. It is almost certain that the target set (disposal of 400 000 tonnes of skimmed-milk powder) will be achieved in full, since at 30 October the value of deposits lodged in respect of purchases of proteins corresponded to 403 000 tonnes of skimmed-milk powder. On 12 November, contracts for 355 000 tonnes had been concluded with the intervention agencies.

2246. The Council discussed the Communication from the Commission on the arrangements for trade with non-member countries in beef and veal, in particular as regards the level of protection to be applied in the case of a fall in prices and the autonomous special arrangements for calves intended for fattening and corned beef.

In this context, the Council extended<sup>4</sup> until 31 December 1977 the autonomous exceptional arrangement applicable to *beef and veal* originating in certain signatory states of the ACP-EEC Lomé Convention,<sup>5</sup> under the safeguard clause in force since July 1974 with respect to non-member countries.

2247. In the *poultrymeat* sector, the Council on 23 November<sup>6</sup> laid down common standards for the water content in frozen and deep-frozen cocks, hens and chickens.

The trade in frozen and deep-frozen poultry in the Community represents about 50% of total production. The purpose of this measure is to prevent excessive incorporation of water. Inspection methods are also laid down; from 1 December 1978 frozen or deep-frozen cocks, hens and chickens must comply with certain standards; there is also to be a gradual reduction in present limits to take account of the development of freezing techniques. This Regulation will substantially reduce distortions in competition between slaughterhouses and as a result provide consumers with a guarantee as to the nature of the products they purchase.

## European Agricultural Guidance and Guarantee Fund

### Guarantee Section

2248. On 23 November,<sup>7</sup> the Council amended the Regulation of 28 December 1972<sup>8</sup> on the general rules on financing expenditure on intervention by the EAGGF Guarantee Section. In view of the new measures adopted and the many amendments introduced since 1972 it had become necessary to make a single list of measures that can be considered as intervention to stabilize agricultural markets.

<sup>1</sup> OJ L 323 of 22.11.1976.

<sup>2</sup> Bull. EC 10-1976, point 2239.

<sup>3</sup> OJ L 297 of 28.10.1976.

<sup>4</sup> OJ L 327 of 26.11.1976.

<sup>5</sup> Bull. EC 6-1976, point 2242.

<sup>6</sup> OJ L 339 of 8.12.1976.

<sup>7</sup> OJ L 333 of 2.12.1976.

<sup>8</sup> OJ L 295 of 31.12.1972.

*Guidance Section*

2249. Under the Council Regulation of 21 June 1976<sup>1</sup> on the Community contribution of 45 million u.a. towards repairing the damage caused to agriculture by the earthquake in May 1976 in the Friuli-Venezia Giulia region, on 23 November the Commission granted assistance<sup>2</sup> of 14 887 058 u.a. to finance a first series of projects, twelve of which related to the Province of Pordenone for work on irrigation, water supply, agriculture and forestry. Nineteen other projects concern the Province of Udine and are for work on correcting hydro-geological imbalances, improving the farm road network, irrigation and consolidating faults affected by the land movements.

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2250. At the part-session from 15 to 19 November *Parliament*<sup>3</sup> approved a Resolution on the application of the 1972 Directives on the reform of agriculture and delivered its opinion on several proposals from the Commission to the Council. The *Economic and Social Committee*<sup>4</sup> met on 24 and 25 November and delivered its opinion on several other proposals from the Commission, mainly concerning measures to restore equilibrium to the milk products market, adapt the wine-growing potential to the market and amend the common organization of the market in hops.

## Industrial and technological policy

### Industry

#### Iron and steel

##### *Community steel policy*

2251. On 24 November,<sup>5</sup> the Commission formally adopted the final text of the paper outlining the Community steel policy.

##### *ECSC-Japan consultations on steel*

2252. The ECSC-Japan Contact Group, which met in Brussels on 11 and 12 November,<sup>6</sup> mainly concerned itself with the difficulties encountered by the Community steel industry and the development of Japanese exports of low-priced steels to markets traditionally supplied by European producers.

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

### Research problems under discussion in the Council

2253. At its meeting of 18 November, devoted to research, the Council re-examined the proposal for a *multiannual research programme for the Joint Research Centre (JRC)* for the period 1977-80<sup>7</sup> and also the problems raised in connection with the choice of the JET site.

On the first point the Council reaffirmed its desire to give a new impetus to the JRC through the allocation, as regards both the 1977-80 programme and subsequent programmes, of the funds necessary to enable it to play an essential role in Community research. Accordingly, the Council has evolved guidelines regarding content, financial appropriations and staff in respect of the forthcoming JRC research programme for 1977-80.

<sup>1</sup> OJ L 168 of 28.6.1976 and Bull. EC 6-1976, point 2243.

<sup>2</sup> Point 2421.

<sup>3</sup> Point 2458.

<sup>4</sup> Points 1401 and 1402.

<sup>5</sup> Points 1101 to 1114.

<sup>6</sup> Bull. EC 10-1975, points 1501 to 1503.

According to these guidelines, the programme appropriation for the period under consideration would be 346 million u.a. instead of the 375 million u.a. proposed by the Commission. Out of this total, 196 million u.a. would represent staff costs 'at constant value', i.e., where the figure could be reassessed in the light of decisions to increase the salaries of Community staff. However, investments in respect of infrastructures and scientific objectives will be covered by some 150 million u.a. at current prices.

On the other hand, these guidelines do provide, by and large, for the retention of JRC staff at present levels. Numbers would be gradually reduced by 80 over the next four years and the posts thus vacated would not be filled.

However, this programme cannot be formally adopted until a solution has been found to the JET project question, in view of the close connection which exists between the two programmes as far as certain delegations are concerned.

As regards the questions arising out of the choice of a *site for JET*, the delegations all expressed a desire to arrive at a final decision before 1 January 1977. Accordingly, the Council has instructed its President and the Commission to take the necessary soundings prior to formulating a decision.

At the same meeting the Council agreed to withdraw the reservation which it had entered on 24 February 1976<sup>1</sup> when it adopted the five-year research programme (1976-80) on controlled thermonuclear fusion and plasma physics. This reservation referred to the use of the necessary appropriations after 1976 for the implementation of this five-year programme within a financial ceiling of 124 million u.a.

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2254. On 16 November *Parliament* passed a Resolution on the results of the meeting of

the Council of Research Ministers held on 21 October.<sup>2</sup>

## Science, research and development

### *Scientific and Technical Research Committee*

2255. The Scientific and Technical Research Committee (CREST) met on 5 November to examine problems arising out of cooperation with non-member countries. The Committee also met on 25 and 26 November to discuss common policy in the field of science and technology and also national energy research policies and programmes.

At its first meeting—where it began by discussing COST problems—the Committee felt that it should continue along the course pursued since September 1974 and that, as far as possible, it should remain pragmatic and flexible, particularly as regards the interpretation of the concept of Community interest. Above all, R & D projects currently under way as part of Community programmes or projects in the preparatory stage should be open to cooperation involving non-member countries within the COST framework whenever this is deemed necessary or advisable.

The Committee also came out in favour of a number of concerted action projects (oceanographic buoy networks, sludge processing, major urban concentrations) which will shortly be the subject of proposals from the Commission to the Council, once answers have been found for the legal problems still outstanding.

Lastly, as regards prior consultation among Member States in the context of large international meetings, the Committee agreed to call on the representatives of the Member States to ensure that

<sup>1</sup> Bull. EC 2-1976, point 1401.

<sup>2</sup> Bull. EC 10-1976, point 2253.

tactical questions were settled on the spot as and when necessary, so that the CREST discussions would have to concentrate solely on the strategy to be adopted.

On 25 November, the Committee turned its attention to a Commission working paper on the broad lines of a common policy in the field of science and technology for the period 1977-80.

On the basis of observations from the various delegations and in the light of comments which they will be submitting to the Secretariat, the competent Commission department will draw up a new version of this document which could be forwarded to the Council early in 1977.

The Committee also examined the report by the R & D Statistics Subcommittee on the subject of public financing of R & D in the Community Member States (1974-76).

The meeting on 26 November was attended by members of CREST and its Subcommittee on Energy R & D, which had prepared a report on the comparison and coordination of national policies and programmes in the energy sector. At the end of the discussions on the subject, CREST issued a number of recommendations to the effect that the institutions of the Community should, in particular, set up appropriate structures for the purpose of coordinating certain Community R & D activities in this sector, with special reference to energy-saving.

### *Senior officials discuss scientific and technical research*

2256. At its meeting in Ispra on 11 and 12 November, the COST Committee of Senior Officials had a broad exchange of views on the problems of cooperation between the Community and European non-member countries, and in particular on the view expressed by CREST on the subject at its meeting on 5 November.<sup>1</sup> On this occasion the European non-member countries outlined

their ideas on the administrative procedures involved in this type of cooperation. They expressed their general satisfaction with the cooperation initiated under COST, numerous aspects of which they still regard as positive and necessary. Such cooperation would assume a very special significance if, in accordance with the CREST view and on the basis of procedures to be laid down in each individual instance, the Community could in the near future give effect to the possibility of European non-member countries cooperating in a number of Community research programmes.

The Committee also noted the fact that several memoranda of understanding relating to COST projects<sup>2</sup> might be concluded shortly.

### *Scientific and technical cooperation with the developing countries*

2257. On 8 November, the *ad hoc* Working Party on Scientific and Technical Cooperation with the Developing Countries, set up by CREST on 10 June 1976,<sup>3</sup> held its first meeting. The delegations exchanged information on national activities in the field of scientific and technical cooperation with the developing countries. The Working Party drew up a work programme for the coming months and a list of current activities for the various sectors will be compiled and finalized by the delegations at the beginning of 1977.

### **Multiannual programmes**

#### *Advisory Committee on Fusion*

2258. The Advisory Committee on Fusion, meeting on 10 November 1976, adopted an opin-

<sup>1</sup> Point 2255.

<sup>2</sup> Bull. EC 6-1976, point 2257.

<sup>3</sup> Bull. EC 6-1976, point 2255.

ion on the appropriation for the construction of JET (estimated at 123 million u.a. for the period 1977-80), the staff regulations, the staff complement for the project team and the decommissioning of the device when it ceased to be operative.

### *Advisory Committees on Programme Management (ACPM)*

2259. At its meeting on 4 and 5 November, the ACPM responsible for the *radiation protection* programme examined 50 research proposals under the multiannual programme for 1976-80. The Committee recommended acceptance of 23 projects, nine of which are concerned with dosimetry, five with the hereditary effects of radiation, seven with the short and long-term effects, one with radionuclide behaviour and exposure levels and one with health and safety.

The amount which the Commission is being asked to contribute is more than 1.5 million u.a. Thus with the contracts already accepted, the Commission would be contributing some 23.7 million u.a. to the 224 research projects on radiation protection in the Member States.

2260. The Advisory Committee on Programme Management for Environmental Research, meeting at Ispra on 8 and 9 November, examined the results of the work currently under way as part of the direct action programme (1973-76). As regards the indirect action programme for the period 1976-80,<sup>1</sup> other proposals were adopted in respect of participation in the initial phase. This means that approval has been given to a total of 178 research projects, for which Community financial backing of some 7.6 million u.a. has been earmarked.

2261. On 24 November, the ACPM responsible for direct action on *standards and reference substances* and indirect action on *reference materials and methods (Community Bureau of References)* met in Brussels. After examining the status of

the work being performed under these projects, the Committee approved the inclusion of seven new projects in various technical sectors of the indirect action programme. Altogether, 19 research projects were approved in 1976, for which Community financing totalling about 500 000 u.a. has been scheduled.

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2262. The Commission proposal to the Council on changes in the energy research and development programme was the subject of Opinions delivered by *Parliament*<sup>2</sup> on 16 November and the *Economic and Social Committee*<sup>3</sup> at its meeting on 24 and 25 November 1976. Parliament also delivered its Opinion on the Commission proposal concerning a scientific and technical education and training programme for 1977-80.<sup>2</sup>

## **Education**

### **Meeting of the Ministers of Education**

2263. The Council and Ministers of Education, meeting within the Council in Brussels on 29 November,<sup>4</sup> approved a resolution providing for a series of measures to be undertaken both by Member States, and at Community level with a view to preparing young people for the transition from education to work.

### **Education Committee**

2264. The Education Committee, meeting on 4 November to complete preparation for the min-

<sup>1</sup> Bull. EC 7/8-1975, point 2273.

<sup>2</sup> Points 2404 and 2405.

<sup>3</sup> Point 2463.

<sup>4</sup> Points 1201 to 1204.

isterial meeting on 29 November,<sup>1</sup> concentrated in particular on the implementation of the Resolution of 9 February 1976<sup>2</sup> concerning a programme of measures to prepare young people for the transition from education to working life. The Committee also approved a progress report, to be submitted to the ministerial meeting, on the implementation of other items in the action programme.

A consultative meeting has also taken place with representatives of establishments of higher education, the subjects being, on the one hand, the development of links with and between organizations representing these establishments in the Community and, on the other hand, a draft scheme relating to grants for the encouragement of short study visits by teaching and administrative staff and higher education research workers.

#### **Colloquium for school and university education administrators**

2265. A colloquium organized by the Commission in cooperation with the Danish Ministry of Education took place at Aarhus, Denmark, from 9 to 12 November, and was attended by some 60 local and regional administrators of education drawn from all the Member States. The subject of the colloquium was the improvement in the schools of the preparation of young people for working life.

The Colloquium stemmed from the Resolution in the field of education adopted by the Council and Ministers of Education on 9 February 1976<sup>2</sup> which stressed the need to organize regular meetings between education policy-makers as one of the essential means of promoting closer relations between educational systems in Europe. The Education Committee recognized the importance not only of organizing meetings for education policy-makers at national level, but also of providing opportunities for administrators of education who work at local and regional levels to meet their counterparts from other Community

countries, so as to develop an understanding of the different systems of education in the Member States and to exchange experience and opinions on an important topic of common concern.

#### **Cooperation in business studies**

2266. A partnership agreement between the Ecole supérieure de commerce et d'administration des entreprises de Bourgogne et Franche-Comté, Dijon, and the Fachhochschule für Wirtschaft, Pforzheim, was formally signed on 12 November in Brussels by the Directors of the institutions. It formalizes the close cooperation between the institutions extending over the past 10 years, which was encouraged by the Commission. It provides for the development of a joint one-year postgraduate course in European business administration.

#### **Inauguration of the European Institute in Florence**

2267. The European Institute in Florence<sup>3</sup> was formally opened on 15 November in the presence of Mr Leone, President of the Italian Republic. The ceremony was attended by representatives of the Governments of all the Member States and the Commission. Speeches were delivered by the President of the High Council of the Institute, the President of the Council of the European Communities and the President of the Institute, as well as by Mr Leone.

In the first academic year some 70 students have been admitted to prepare for a doctor's degree or to do advanced research in the fields of history and civilization, economics, law and political science and sociology.

<sup>1</sup> Points 1201 to 1204.

<sup>2</sup> OJ C 38 of 19.2.1976.

<sup>3</sup> Bull. EC 3-1975, points 1401 to 1403.



### Committee of Senior Officials in the field of Public Health

2268. The Committee of Senior Officials in the field of Public Health met in Brussels on 4 and 5 November. It surveyed the progress of work in the individual Member States on transposing into national law the 'Doctors' Directives.<sup>1</sup> This work should be completed by 19 December.

The Committee also discussed various measures adopted to facilitate the effective exercise of the right of establishment and the freedom to provide services. It approved a standard form which will be used by the national authorities for the declaration required under the Directives.

The Committee heard a report from the panel of experts it set up in June 1976<sup>2</sup> to compile statistics on medical demography.

### Scientific and technical information and information management

2269. On 8 November, the Commission staged a 'live' demonstration in Luxembourg using terminals to show the comparative possibilities offered by a number of data banks in the fields of pharmacology and toxicology.

Given the risks not only of duplication but also of omissions arising out of the profusion of data banks, there is every reason why both the Commission and the Member States should strive to achieve a degree of coordination designed to ensure more effective cooperation in the medical field.

2270. The Committee for Scientific and Technical Information and Documentation (CIDST) held a special meeting in Luxembourg on 22 and 23 November to make a preliminary examination of the broad lines of the second plan of action on scientific and technical information which the Commission is due to forward to the Council.

The aim of this second plan is to consolidate the measures already embarked on under the first plan, in particular by placing stress on the services which should be provided to users of STID.

### Energy policy

#### Formulation and implementation of a Community Energy Policy

2271. The Energy Committee met on 26 November. It examined a report on the Community's refining capacity and its structure and the possibility of determining a Community policy in this sphere. It also discussed the question of safeguarding and promoting Community investment in the energy sector.

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2272. On 16 November,<sup>3</sup> following the Council decision of 19 October,<sup>4</sup> *Parliament* passed a 'Resolution on the situation as regards the Community's energy policy'.

### Sectoral problems

#### Hydrocarbons

2273. The Commission has published in the Official Journal<sup>5</sup> a communication on the *support of Community projects* in the hydrocarbon sector in 1977. The Commission invited interested parties to submit applications before 28 February 1977.

<sup>1</sup> OJ L 167 of 30.6.1975.

<sup>2</sup> Bull. EC 6-1976, point 2263.

<sup>3</sup> Point 2404.

<sup>4</sup> Bull. EC 10-1976, point 2265.

<sup>5</sup> OJ C 226 of 12.11.1976.

This support is granted under a Council Regulation of 9 November 1973.<sup>1</sup>

## Coal

### *Industrial loans*

2274. On 26 November, the Commission decided, under Article 54 of the ECSC Treaty, to grant a loan of DM 36 Million (about 13.4 million EUA) to the 'Eschweiler Bergwerks-Verein AG, Herzogenrath-Kohlscheid'. The loan will be used to rationalize and modernize the mines and to expand coking capacity (Westfalen mine, Ahlen; Anna mine Alsdorf/Aachen; Erin coking plant, Castrop-Rauxel).

### *Technical research*

2275. With view to obtaining financial aid under Article 55 of the ECSC Treaty, the Commission sent two memoranda on coal research projects to the ECSC consultative Committee and the Council in November. The financial aid requested for 1977 totals 18 million u.a. and is for two research programmes, one on mining engineering, the other on coal processing and preparation.

## Nuclear energy

### *Aid to uranium prospecting*

2276. On 23 November the Commission granted a total of one million u.a. in aid to support exploration for uranium in the territory of Member States. A regulation providing for aid to uranium prospecting was adopted by the Commission on 23 July 1976.<sup>2</sup>

## Transport policy

### Transport problems under discussion in the Council

2277. A Council meeting on transport was held in Brussels on 4 November under the presidency of Mr Westerterp, the Netherlands Minister of Transport.

The Council decided:

- (i) to approve a Directive laying down the minimum level of training for drivers engaged in road transport;
- (ii) to make the present Community quota system permanent and keep the size of quota and its apportionment between Member States as at present;
- (iii) to devise an institutionalized consultation procedure for the sea transport<sup>3</sup> sector to cover relations between the Member States and non-Community countries and discussions of this subject within international organizations. The consultations will be conducted under the auspice of the Permanent Representatives Committee which has been instructed to draft a document setting out the details of this procedure.

The Council also agreed to extend the present tariff system for road transport for a further year and to act on the proposal for a directive on the approximation of the laws of the Member States relating to roadworthiness tests for motor vehicles and their trailers at its next meeting scheduled for 16 December.

## Organization of markets

2278. After being consulted by the German Government on a draft law to implement the Council Directive of 12 November 1974, on

<sup>1</sup> OJ L 312 of 13.11.1973.

<sup>2</sup> OJ L 221 of 14.8.1976 and Bull. EC 7/8-1976, point 2281.

<sup>3</sup> Point 2284.

*admission to the occupation of road passenger transport operator* in national and international transport operations, the Commission, in its Opinion of 23 November,<sup>1</sup> found that the draft law met the requirements of the Directive as regards the principle of professional competence. With regard to the administrative provisions and regulations for implementing this requirement, and the other implementing measures to be taken by the German Government, the latter's attention was drawn to the fact that under the Directive all provisions should be adopted by 1 January 1977, after consultation with the Commission.

2279. The Commission has sent to the Council and the Member States the sixth *report* of the Committee of Experts set up under the Regulation of 30 July 1968 on the introduction of a system of bracket tariffs for the carriage of goods by road between Member States.<sup>2</sup> The report contains only statistics for the first half of 1974 and for 1975; the seventh, more detailed, report will include a comparison of, and trends in, these statistics for the entire two-year period.

2280. After agreeing to continue the *bracket tariff* system as currently applicable to the carriage of goods by road between Member States<sup>3</sup> for a further year, the Council instructed the Permanent Representatives Committee to continue with its examination of the Commission's proposals on reference tariffs so that the Council would be in a position to adopt a decision in 1977.

2281. The Transport Committees established under the *ECSC-Austria* and *ECSC-Switzerland* Agreements concerning through international rail tariffs for the carriage of coal and steel in transit through Austrian and Swiss territory held ordinary meetings on 4 and 5 November in Vienna.

They noted that the economic crisis which has seriously affected the steel industry has had substantial effects on the transport of iron and steel products and scrap to Italy. Total traffic, which

was highly dependent on these types of goods, was 8 % down on the previous year. Consequently the difficulties in handling rail traffic prevalent for much of 1974 had virtually ceased.

The Committees examined developments in the tariff measures adopted in 1975 by the railways of the Member States, Austria and Switzerland. The ECSC-Switzerland Transport Committee accepted the method for the future adjustment of Swiss transit charges which had been proposed by a working party.

The Committees were informed of proposals now before the Council, or being drafted by the Commission, concerning future measures in respect of the operation of markets for carriage of goods. The Committees were pleased to note that the application of the agreements had not given rise to any difficulties during the year under review.

2282. Following the Council's instruction of 4 November for a detailed examination of certain problems (chiefly statistical) arising out of the implementation of the system for monitoring transport markets, the Commission held the first consultative meeting with representatives of the Member States on 29 November. The meeting addressed methodological problems with indicators and forecasting as well as the method to which the Commission is to work in order to draw up the report to the Council within six months.

### Alignment of structures

2283. On 23 November the Commission delivered an *opinion* concerning the measures contemplated by *France* in order to implement the Council Decision of 20 May 1975<sup>4</sup> on the

<sup>1</sup> OJ L 341 of 10.12.1976.

<sup>2</sup> OJ L 194 of 6.8.1968.

<sup>3</sup> Point 2277.

<sup>4</sup> OJ L 152 of 12.6.1975.

improvement of the financial situation of the railways. While finding that the measures would ensure correct application of the Decision, the Commission nevertheless made certain comments and invited the French Government to amend the intended measures.

in the international carriage of goods by rail, a system for monitoring transport markets, and transport infrastructures.

### Shipping, air transport and port economy

2284. At its meeting on 4 November, the Council discussed a number of problems concerning *shipping*. This was the first time the Council had systematically examined this sector.

The Council agreed that a common position should be worked out as soon as possible on the united nations Convention on a Code of Conduct for Liner Conferences and instructed the Permanent Representatives Committee to report to it on the matter in the near future.

The Council also considered the development in the Community of joint projects in the field of shipping. It hoped that in the near future it would be possible to work out a common point of view and called on the Commission to prepare a report on seamen's diplomas and certificates, the qualifications required to obtain them and the mutual recognition of these diplomas and certificates. The report should also show how progress could be achieved in this field.

It was decided to devise a new institutionalized consultation procedure in shipping to cover relations between the Member States and non-Community countries.<sup>1</sup>

2285. On 18 November *Parliament*<sup>2</sup> delivered its Opinion on four proposals from the Commission to the Council concerning the establishing of common rules on the carriage of certain goods by road between Member States, the setting of rates

<sup>1</sup> Point 2277.

<sup>2</sup> Points 2416 and 2417.

### 3. External relations

#### Multilateral negotiations

##### *Trade Negotiations Committee*

2301. The Trade Negotiations Committee (TNC), which met on 5 November, decided, on a proposal from Brazil, to set up a new group—the seventh—which, in accordance with the Tokyo Declaration,<sup>1</sup> would be concerned with negotiating improvements in the international framework for the conduct of world trade, particularly with regard to trade between developed and developing countries and the differential and more favourable treatment to be applied to such trade. The Community supported the setting-up of this group, pointing out that its work, which is quite specific, should not interfere in any way with that of the six other groups already set up.

The group still has to adopt its programme of work. The following five points were proposed but were not approved by all the delegations:

- (a) a legal framework to provide differential and more favourable treatment for developing countries than provided for in the General Agreement, and in the most-favoured-nation clause in particular;
- (b) safeguard measures for balance of payments and economic development purposes;
- (c) procedures for consultation, the settlement of disputes and for surveillance under Articles XXII (consultations) and XXIII (Nullification or impairment) of the GATT;
- (d) in anticipation of future trade negotiations: applicable of the principle of reciprocity in trade relations between developed and developing countries, and greater participation by developing countries in an improved structure of rights and obligations (within the GATT framework), account being taken of their development needs;
- (e) examination of the existing rules of the General Agreement regarding the application of restrictions at frontiers which affect exports, in the

light of the developing countries' development needs.

##### *Non-tariff measures*

###### *Quantitative restrictions*

2302. The Sub-Group on Quantitative Restrictions met on 2 and 3 November. A number of delegations reported verbally on the consultations in which they had taken part in accordance with the procedure adopted by the Sub-Group at its meeting in April 1975. The Sub-Group continued its discussions on the possibility of working out additional procedures for bilateral and/or multilateral negotiations on quantitative restrictions and of finalizing one or more general formulas for automatic application; it also discussed the question of differential treatment for the developing countries. The United States and Japanese Delegations suggested procedures for examining quantitative restrictions on imports in order to try and define a useful and realistic general framework embracing the bilateral and multilateral aspects of this problem. Other delegations simply repeated the proposals which they had submitted previously.

The Sub-Group decided to centre the discussions of its next meeting on the proposals and suggestions which had been made and to resume the overall examination of the provisions of the General Agreement on quantitative restrictions, particularly from the point of view of the developing countries' interests.

On the subject of import licence systems, it asked the Gatt Secretariat to draw up a single working paper taking account of the specific observations and proposals so far made by the delegations. Its Chairman will consult the delegations as regards arranging a technical meeting in order to draft an improved text.

<sup>1</sup> Bull. EC 9-1973, point 1106.

*Technical barriers to trade*

2303. The Sub-Group on Technical Barriers to Trade met again from 8 to 12 November. Its discussions were mainly concerned with the proposals regarding the basic provisions of the draft code which were still to be examined.

**Agriculture**

2304. In accordance with the procedure adopted by the Agriculture Group on 16 December 1975 consultations took place with a number of countries regarding all tariff and non-tariff measures applicable to agricultural products other than those dealt with by the three sub-groups on meat, grains and dairy products. These consultations were concerned with the Community's notifications to the countries concerned and *vice-versa*.

**Commercial policy****Preparing and implementing the common commercial policy****Autonomous import arrangements**

2305. Under the decision of 27 March 1975 on unilateral import arrangements in respect of State-trading countries,<sup>1</sup> the Commission decided in November to open, on an exceptional basis, the following quotas:

France – German Democratic Republic: electric motors;<sup>2</sup>

Italy – Poland: unwrought zinc;<sup>2</sup>

Italy – Poland: edible potatoes.<sup>2</sup>

Free entry for imports was suspended in two cases:

United Kingdom – Romania: shirts;

Ireland – Czechoslovakia: footwear.<sup>2</sup>

Lastly, the Commission decided to abolish the quantitative restrictions on the following products:

Germany – State-trading countries: building panels of rushes;<sup>3</sup>

Germany – State-trading countries: basketwork and wickerwork.

2306. Under the Council Decision of 27 March 1975<sup>4</sup> relating to unilateral import arrangements in respect of State-trading countries, the Commission, on 19 November, put a proposal to the Council concerning import quotas to be applied in respect of those countries.

**Trade protection***Anti-dumping measures*

2307. In November the Commission decided to open an anti-dumping/anti-subsidy procedure in respect of imports of *ball-bearings* and tapered roller bearings from *Japan*.<sup>5</sup> This decision was taken following a complaint lodged by the European Association of ball-bearing manufacturers that Japanese products were being exported to the EEC at prices appreciably lower than prices on the Japanese domestic market.

2308. On 12 November<sup>6</sup> the Commission also introduced a provisional *anti-dumping* duty on imports of *cycle chains* originating in *Taiwan*. The decision was taken following the determination of a dumping margin of at least 15 % and because

<sup>1</sup> OJ L 99 of 21.4.1975.

<sup>2</sup> OJ C 288 of 7.12.1976.

<sup>3</sup> OJ C 290 of 9.12.1976.

<sup>4</sup> OJ L 99 of 21.4.1975 and Bull. EC 3-1975, point 2306.

<sup>5</sup> OJ C 268 of 13.11.1976.

<sup>6</sup> OJ L 312 of 13.11.1976.

of the material injury caused to European producers by the rapid growth of exports from Taiwan, the depressive effect that Taiwanese export prices exercise on the prices of European producers and the rapid increase in the Taiwanese exporters' share of the market.

### Specific measures of commercial policy

#### Textiles

##### Romania

2309. The negotiations between Romania and the Community<sup>1</sup> on trade in textile products—under the Multifibre Arrangement (MFA)—were pursued in Brussels from 29 October to 9 November and culminated in an agreement which was initialled on 10 November.

Like the other textile agreements concluded by the Community, it includes specific consultation procedures, voluntary restraint by Romania of its exports of certain products regarded as sensitive, suspension by the Community of the current restrictions on those products and an undertaking not to apply the safeguard measures provided for in the MFA to those products.

For textile products not covered by the agreement, the quantitative restrictions in force in the Community will be abolished step by step according to the timetable fixed by the MFA.

Pending the completion of the necessary procedures for the conclusion of the agreement, the two parties have agreed to apply it *de facto* from 18 November. The agreement will be valid until 31 December 1977.

##### Japan

2310. The annual *consultation* provided for in the Agreement on Trade in Textiles between the EEC and Japan was held in Brussels on 22 No-

vember. Views were exchanged on the application of the Agreement and on how trade in textiles was developing. The Commission delegation said it firmly hoped that Community exports to Japan would increase in 1977.

##### India

2311. Talks were held on 19 November between representatives of the European industry and trade in *jute* and *coir* products and representatives of *India* in preparation for the next meeting of the Joint Cooperation Committee set up under the agreements in force on these products between the Community and India. The meeting of the Joint Committee on *jute* is scheduled for February, that of the Joint Committee on *coir* products for 21 January 1977.

##### Steel

2312. On 29 November, the representatives of the Member States' Governments decided to renew for 1977 the arrangements for importing steel products from State-trading countries.

As last year, the three new Member States and France will be allowed to import these products (except for pig iron in the case of France), plus a scheme of selective quotas, depending on 'sensitivity', will apply for products for Germany, Benelux and Italy.

Monitoring arrangements and safeguards will, if necessary, enable imports prejudicial to the Community to be halted.

##### Non-ferrous metals

2313. On 29 November<sup>2</sup> the Commission decided to increase the Community quantitative export quotas for certain copper ash and residues and for certain copper, aluminium and lead waste and scrap.

<sup>1</sup> Bull. EC 4-1976, point 2312.

<sup>2</sup> OJ L 332 of 1.12.1976.

## Development and cooperation

### Development cooperation policy

2314. Development cooperation was dominated in November by the difficulties encountered in the North-South Dialogue—which even gave rise to a statement from the European Council—and by questions concerning the harmonization of national development cooperation policies, the principal talking point at the Council meeting of Development Ministers on 8 November.

#### Conference on International Economic Cooperation

##### *Eighth session of the Commissions*

2315. The eighth session of the Commission set up under the North-South Conference was held in Paris from 16 to 23 November. The main issue debated was the maintenance or possible postponement of the ministerial meeting planned for December.

It was agreed to postpone the meeting after consultations led by the two co-Chairmen, who said that they agreed it was better to adjourn the Conference. On behalf of the 'Group of Nineteen', the co-Chairman, Mr Manuel Perez Guerrero, made a statement blaming the group of industrialized countries for the postponement. The Commission prepared papers which indicated that no substantial alignment of positions had been achieved.

##### *Position adopted by the European Council*

2316. The following statement setting out the conclusions of the President on the North-South Dialogue was issued after the meeting of the European Council in The Hague on 29 and 30 November:

'The European Council reaffirms the importance which it attaches to the whole range of problems relating to international economic cooperation, and therefore to the CIEC.

In its view, the nature and composition of the Conference and the scope of the matters with it is concerned bestow upon it a particular significance which justifies the pursuit of the efforts already made.

The European Council considers that further progress must be made by all concerned to reach mutually satisfactory conclusions, which would permit considerable progress to be made in international economic cooperation and would enable an important contribution to be made to the economic development of the developing countries.

The Community, for its part—conscious of the growing interdependence of world economies and anxious to encourage an atmosphere conducive to international economic cooperation—is prepared to make as positive a contribution as it can to the extent that developments in its own economy permit.

At the end of its exchange of views on this question, the European Council confirmed the importance which it attaches to the success of the North-South dialogue and requested the competent bodies of the Community to proceed in this light with their work on all of the matters under discussion.'

#### Development questions before the Council

2317. The Council (Development Cooperation) met in Brussels on 8 November. After a general exchange of views on the prospects for Community development cooperation policies the Council examined a draft resolution on the implementation of its resolution of 16 July 1974<sup>1</sup> on the *coordination and harmonization of development cooperation policies* within the Community.

<sup>1</sup> Bull. EC 7/8-1974, points 1201 to 1222.



The decisions taken at the meeting define the objectives and methods of coordinating the co-operation policies of the Member States at general, operational and sectoral level. In particular the Council felt that the Commission should draw up an annual report on development cooperation policies within the Community. It was also agreed to try to establish, on the basis of Commission proposals, an overall view of the reciprocal implications of the Community's internal policy on the one hand and its development cooperation policy on the other.

The Council discussed allocation of the appropriation of 20 million u.a.<sup>1</sup> entered in the Community's general budget for 1976 in respect of *financial and technical assistance for non-associated developing countries*. A formal Decision adopted by the Council in early December allocates the funds as follows: Bangladesh (2.5 million u.a.), Bolivia (2 million), India (6 million), Indonesia (1 million), Pakistan (3 million), Sri Lanka (2 million), Asian Development Bank (1.5 million) and the International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics (2 million).

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2318. The *Economic and Social Committee*<sup>2</sup> met on 24 and 25 November and gave its opinion on the Commission proposal to the Council on the creation of a European Agency for Trade Cooperation with the Developing Countries.<sup>3</sup>

### United Nations Conference on Trade and Development

2319. The *ad hoc* Intergovernmental Group responsible for coordinating all the meetings on the various aspects of the integrated programme on commodities adopted by UNCTAD IV held its first meeting from 24 to 26 November. It adopted the detailed timetable of preparatory meetings for the negotiations on commodities and satisfactorily settled the questions of the participation of

international organizations (including the Community) in subsequent meetings.

An Intergovernmental Group of Experts responsible for drawing up an international code of conduct for the transfer of technology held its first meeting in Geneva from 8 to 19 November.

These two meetings were preceded by a meeting of the Trade and Development Board which had defined the procedures to be followed for implementing the decisions taken and resolutions adopted by UNCTAD IV.

### Generalized preferences

2320. At its meeting on 15 and 16 November the Council discussed the application in 1977<sup>4</sup> of the generalized preferences for developing countries.

At the end of the debate it drew up guidelines concerning

- (i) the broad outlines of the Commission proposals, particularly with regard to the improvement of the preferential tariffs applicable to manufactured and agricultural products,
- (ii) special measures relating to the administration of the GSP to assist the 28 least advanced developing countries.

Certain outstanding questions have been referred to the Permanent Representatives Committee.

The Council will take a final decision when the procedures involved in consulting and informing the associated countries and ACP States have been completed.

<sup>1</sup> Bull. EC 10-1976, point 2311.

<sup>2</sup> Point 2466.

<sup>3</sup> Bull. EC 10-1976, points 1401 to 1405.

<sup>4</sup> Bull. EC 6-1976, points 1501 to 1508.

## Food aid and emergency aid

2321. On 30 November the Commission presented to the Council a Communication concerning the implementing procedures for skimmed milk powder food aid to certain non-governmental organizations (NGOs) under its 1976 programme.

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2322. On 19 November,<sup>1</sup> *Parliament* delivered its opinion on the proposal from the Commission to the Council for a three-year food aid programme.<sup>2</sup>

## Commodities and world agreements

### UNCTAD commodity meetings

2323. The *Ad hoc Intergovernmental Committee* which is to supervise all meetings on the different aspects of the *Integrated Programme* on Commodities held its first meeting from 24 to 26 November in Geneva.<sup>3</sup>

### Sugar

2324. The Community participated as an observer in the meetings in London of the *Consultative Committee* from 10 to 12 November and of the *International Sugar Council* on 18 and 19 November.

The Conference to negotiate a new international sugar agreement, incorporating economic provisions, will be held from 18 April to 27 May 1977. Prior to this, from 31 January to 4 February, a Preparatory Committee will meet to finalize the draft of the negotiating document. The Interna-

tional Sugar Council confirmed that the line to be followed in this draft should be the negotiation of an agreement of the 1968 type (i.e. based on export quotas), although the possibility of some strengthening of the stock provisions should not be ruled out.

Since the Community's approach to a new sugar agreement makes no provision for export quotas, the Community will now have to decide whether and on what bases to continue to participate in the programme of negotiation adopted by the Sugar Council.

### Olive oil

2325. The *International Olive Oil Council* held its 35th meeting in Madrid from 16 to 18 November. The Community attended as an observer; Belgium (on behalf of Benelux), France, the United Kingdom—which are parties to the international agreement—and Denmark (observer status) were also represented.

Many of the representatives—in particular those of Spain, Tunisia and Algeria—emphasized the threat to olive oil of the drop in consumption in the Community and of the levies imposed by the Community in the past crop year.

In view of its concern about the future of olive-growing, the International Council, in one of its resolutions, addressed a number of requests and recommendations both to the producers/exports and to the Community—which is a particularly important importer and consumer. The countries exporting to the Community were urged to take all necessary steps to ensure supplies to this market at normal prices, in view of the fact that their current stocks were amply sufficient and that this would help to some extent to normalize prices in the Community. The resolution also called on

<sup>1</sup> Point 2415.

<sup>2</sup> Bull. EC 9-1976, points 1401 to 1406.

<sup>3</sup> Point 2319.

the Community to take measures to restimulate consumption, to adjust minimum levies to the real market situation and to introduce a new system to alleviate the difficulties facing the olive-oil market.

Regarding follow-up measures to the resolution on commodities (including olive-oil), adopted at the fourth session of UNCTAD, the International Olive Oil Council considered it preferable to wait for the outcome of the current negotiations on the creation of a Common Fund before committing itself.

## International organizations

### Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development

#### *Trade Committee*

2326. The OECD Trade Committee met in Paris on 29 and 30 November. Various subjects were dealt with and in particular there was a preliminary discussion on the question of renewing the Ministerial Declaration of May 1974 (the Trade Pledge). The Committee encouraged the Group on Export Credits and Credit Guarantees to press on with its efforts to improve the convergence of member countries' policies. It directed its own working party to continue discussion and study of the following points: government procurement, export control measures and possibilities for differential treatment to promote developing countries' trade.

#### *Committee for Agriculture*

2327. The Working Party on Agricultural Policies of the OECD Committee for Agriculture met in Paris from 15 to 17 November. It examined in particular the recent trends in the agricultural policies of the member countries. Its main preoc-

cupation was to update the general survey on this matter published by the Organization early in 1975 to cover the period 1974-76. The aim is to place the measures taken since 1974 in the context of the important economic changes that have come about over the last few years.

#### *Working Party on Shipbuilding*

2328. The OECD Working Party on Shipbuilding arranged an informal meeting in Tokyo on 25 and 26 November. Taking part were representatives of the Commission, Sweden, Japan, the OECD Secretariat and experts. This meeting was the follow-up to the discussions held in Paris at the end of October<sup>1</sup> and served to prepare for the 'enlarged' meeting due to be held in Paris on 6 and 7 December.

### General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade

2329. The thirty-second session of the Contracting Parties to the Gatt (General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade) was held in Geneva on 22 and 23 November. During this session, the following questions were examined: the Council report on the decisions it has taken during the past twelve months and on the main events in the field of international trade since the November 1975 session, and the present problems of international trade relations (GATT activities).

In his speech, the Community spokesman expressed the opinion that, given the present general economic climate where the world is facing the worst ever economic crisis, GATT has successfully maintained the essence of its system without suffering any major damage. He drew attention in particular to the role of the multilateral trade negotiations in this general economic con-

<sup>1</sup> Bull. EC 10-1976, points 2251 and 2322.

text, stressing the advantages for the Community of conserving the principles and the rules of the General Agreement and of continuing to move towards a system of world trade that is more liberal, more open and more secure. The Community is particularly aware of the responsibilities of the developed countries towards the developing countries—especially the least advanced. It is, therefore, increasing the number of avenues of cooperation and dialogue with the developing countries, notably with the improvements to the generalized system of preferences, the ACP-EEC Convention of Lomé, agreements negotiated as part of its overall Mediterranean approach and commercial cooperation agreements with the developing countries of Asia and Latin America. Finally, the Community spokesman pointed to the importance that the EEC attaches to the current discussions in the North-South Dialogue (CIEC) where it is preparing for the final phase in a positive and constructive spirit.

#### *GATT Council*

2330. The agenda of the GATT Council meeting on 12 November included reports from the Panels on DISC and Income Tax Practices in certain Member States. The Community representative emphasized that the Council should examine these reports separately and should not link claims to counter claims when they relate to different matters having no bearing on the initial claims.

The Council agreed to establish a panel to examine the matter, referred to the Contracting Parties by the Community in accordance with Article XXIII(2), of the withdrawal by Canada of tariff concessions by virtue of Article XXVIII(3) and to hold such consultations as will help the Contracting Parties to make recommendations or to give a ruling on the matter, in accordance with Article XXIII(2).

### **United Nations Industrial Development Organization**

2331. A cooperation agreement aimed at establishing closer relations between the Commission and UNIDO was concluded by an exchange of letters on 25 November.

The working relations to be established under this agreement will involve regular exchanges of documents and information and exchanges of views on matters of common interest. Initially the following fields will be covered:

- (i) Industrial studies;
- (ii) Technical assistance;
- (iii) Promotion and financing of industrial investment;
- (iv) Industrial training;
- (v) Industrial technology, in particular the problem of suitable technologies;
- (vi) Contribution towards industrial cooperation between developing countries;
- (vii) Activities in areas covered by UNIDO;
- (viii) Contacts between representatives of the two institutions in countries where industrial cooperation schemes are in progress.

### **EFTA countries**

#### **Joint Committees**

##### *Switzerland and Austria*

2332. The Joint Committees set up under the *EEC-Switzerland* and *EEC-Austria* Agreements met in Brussels on 29 and 30 November respectively.

At these meetings the delegations examined the functioning of the two agreements, had a wide-

ranging discussion on the general economic situation and considered various technical matters.

The *ECSC-Switzerland* and the *ECSC-Austria* Joint Committees met on the same dates and heard statements about developments in the steel market and Community policy in that sector.

## Mediterranean countries

### Overall Mediterranean approach

2333. During a meeting held on 15 and 16 November, the Council gave the Commission the final directives enabling negotiations with Egypt, Jordan and Syria and with Israel to be closed and the Agreements negotiated to be signed by the end of the year in each of these countries, following completion of the requisite procedures.

The Council welcomed the fact that, save only for Lebanon, with which negotiations will be undertaken as soon as the situation permits, it would now be possible to terminate the work begun in 1972 with the aim of concluding a series of Agreements, reflecting the Community's impartial and balanced policy, with all the countries covered by the overall Mediterranean approach, and in particular with the Middle East countries.

### Greece

2334. The *EEC-Greece Joint Parliamentary Committee* held its twelfth meeting in Berlin from 22 to 24 November, under the joint chairmanship of Mr Paul De Clercq, Chairman of the European Parliament Delegation, and Mr Jean Pesmazoglou, Chairman of the Greek Parliament Delegation. The meeting was also attended by Mr P.H. Kooijmans, President of the Council of the Communities and Mr Raymond Vouel, Member of the Commission.

Following the discussions, the Joint Parliamentary Committee adopted recommendations on Greece's accession to the Community, the EEC-Greece Association and the situation in the Eastern Mediterranean.

### Turkey

2335. The *EEC-Turkey Joint Parliamentary Committee* met in Ankara from 6 to 9 November under the chairmanship of Mr Frankie Hansen, Chairman of the European Parliament Delegation, and Mr Kâmrân Inan, Chairman of the Delegation of the Turkish Grand National Assembly. This meeting was also attended by Mr Brinkhorst, President of the Council of the European Communities, Mr Caglayangil, Turkish Foreign Minister, and Mr Brunner, Member of the Commission.

The members of the Joint Parliamentary Committee appealed to the governments concerned to conclude the negotiations on the various questions pending within the Association Council as soon as possible. Amongst other topics discussed was the possible future enlargement of the Community and its probable effects on the EEC-Turkey Association, and the situation in the Eastern Mediterranean and the Aegean.

2336. On 1 December the Commission decided to propose to the Council that exceptional aid be granted to the population hit by the earthquake in Turkey in November. On the basis of this proposal the Council agreed to allocate 500 000 u.a. for the purchase of relief supplies.

### Israel

2337. The *negotiations* with Israel which began on 29 October with a view to concluding an additional protocol and a financial protocol to the

Agreement signed on 11 May 1975<sup>1</sup> between the EEC and the State of Israel were completed on 9 November.

The two delegations expressed their agreement on the content of the two protocols, although the Israeli Delegation asked that the duration of the financial protocol be fixed at three years from the date it is signed. The two delegations undertook to forward the results of their work and the texts of the protocols to their respective authorities for final approval.

The additional protocol aims at widening and strengthening the cooperation established under the Agreement of 11 May 1975; to this end it defines the fields to which this cooperation will be extended. These include the industrialization of Israel, sales promotion of the products exported by Israel, cooperation within the agriculture and fisheries sector, the encouragement of private investment and scientific and technological cooperation. The financial protocol specifies that an amount of 30 million u.a. will be made available to Israel by the European Investment Bank.

#### Lebanon

2338. As part of an initial mission in Europe, and at the request of his government, Mr Ghas-sam Tueni, Lebanese Minister of Social Affairs visited the Commission on 19 November, where he was received by Mr Cheysson.

Mr Tueni described the dramatic situation in his country. He told Mr Cheysson of his government's desire to begin negotiations as soon as possible with the Community in order to conclude an overall cooperation agreement, and to benefit from immediate measures from the Community, which are urgently needed to meet the essential needs of the Lebanese people.

Mr Tueni also said that his government would very soon be making concrete proposals as to how the Community could make a special contribution towards rebuilding Lebanon.

After stressing that the Community would certainly be most sympathetic in considering the present situation in Lebanon, Mr Cheysson confirmed that it was ready to begin negotiations for an overall cooperation agreement.

2339. Following a proposal adopted by the Commission on 1 December, the Council decided to grant *emergency aid* of 400 000 u.a. to alleviate the hardship of Lebanese people in the wake of recent developments. These funds are to buy medicines, blankets and other means of relief.

#### Yugoslavia

2340. After a Decision taken by the Council on 15 November, the President, Mr Max van der Stoel and Mr Finn Olav Gundelach, Member of the Commission, visited Belgrade on 1 and 2 December where they had talks with Mr Dzermal Bijedić, President of the Federal Executive Council, Mr Milos Minić, Vice-President of the Federal Executive Council and Federal Secretary for Foreign Affairs and Mr Janko Smole, Member of the Federal Executive Council and Chairman of the Federal Executive Council Committee for coordinating cooperation with the EEC.

On 2 December, the leaders of the Community delegation were formally received by President Tito.

At the end of the talks, Mr Bijedić and the Community representatives issued the following statement expressing the desire of both sides to strengthen cooperation:

I — 'The European Economic Community and the Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia,

Desiring to strengthen economic cooperation between the Community and its Member States on the one hand, and the Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, a non-aligned, Med-

<sup>1</sup> Bull. EC 5-1975, point 2334 and OJ L136 of 28.5.1975.

iterranean, European State and a member of the Group of seventy-seven developing countries, on the other;

Determined to make the necessary efforts to promote an increasingly harmonious development of their economic and trade links, and thus to improve the structure of their trade;

Animated by a common will to contribute to the economic development of the Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia in the various sectors which could reflect their mutual interest, taking account of the respective levels of development of their economies;

Convinced that in view of the growing interdependence and complementarity of their economies, progress in trade between them and in other forms of cooperation will make an effective contribution to their economic growth and to the improvement of the welfare of their populations;

Bearing in mind the Final Act of the Conference on European Security and Cooperation;

Have stated their intention of strengthening, deepening and diversifying cooperation between the Community and Yugoslavia, in the common interest of both Parties, by developing their relations and extending them to new areas.

II — In this connection, the two Parties spoke of the major role in trade policy towards the developing countries played by the instruments and measures adopted under the Community's autonomous system of generalized preferences.

They also stressed the importance, as a factor in developing economic and financial cooperation of the Community's decisions with a view to enabling Yugoslavia to obtain certain EIB loans, on terms to be agreed, for carrying out projects of common interest.

While respecting the non-preferential nature of the existing Agreement, and in the spirit of Article VII of that Agreement, the two Parties will endeavour to cooperate more effectively in their own mutual interest, particularly in trade, industry, agriculture and economic matters.

With this in mind, everything possible will be done to step up market surveys and sales promotion for the two Parties' goods on their respective markets, particularly for Yugoslavian goods on Community and third country markets.

Exchanges of technology between the Parties will be made easier, in particular so as to help Yugoslavia's industry develop in those sectors which the Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia regards as most important for the growth of its economy.

Cooperation between Yugoslav industry and Community industries will be strengthened, in particular by increasing and broadening contacts between the two Parties' commercial operators, with a view to introducing long-term cooperation between them.

Cooperation in agriculture could be intensified so as to develop the complementarity between the two Parties' economies. This would permit diversification of the Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia's exports to the Community market and third countries.

With a view to the harmonious development of trade, commercial operators of the two Parties could seek forms of cooperation in agricultural investment for areas where a mutual interest is identified.

The two Parties will seek to promote better information about each other's markets; this will help to improve the pattern of trade between them by enabling operators in the Community and in Yugoslavia to identify more precisely the sectors where their exports could be increased.

The growth in economic relations between the Community and its Member States, and the SFR of Yugoslavia should also be sustained by stimulating investment, particularly in joint ventures.

Lastly, the two Parties consider that studies should be made to identify specific sectors where cooperation should be continued and strengthened, such as transport, fisheries, iron and steel, energy, telecommunications, informatics, the environment, tourism, scientific and technical cooperation, and any other sector of mutual interest.

III — In conclusion, the Community and the SFR of Yugoslavia are determined to explore every opportunity of implementing this cooperation, the first fruits of which are already to be seen in the work done under the auspices of the EEC-Yugoslavia Joint Committee set up under the Agreement. They have therefore agreed to call a meeting of this Committee as soon as possible, in order, in accordance with Article VI of the Agreement, to start examining the developments envisaged in this statement, and to seek ways of implementing the principles also set out above. The necessary procedures will be adopted as soon as this examination has been completed.'

## African, Caribbean and Pacific countries

### ACP-EEC Convention of Lomé

#### Applications for accession to the Convention

2341. On 29 November the Commission forwarded to the Council a Communication on the results of the negotiations between the Community and Papua New Guinea for that country's accession to the Lomé Convention. The negotiations had been completed at the end of October.

#### ACP-EEC Council of Ministers

2342. The second meeting of the ACP-EEC Council of Ministers will take place in Fiji in April next year, the Community having agreed this time to the proposed venue.

#### Trade arrangements

2343. On 23 November,<sup>1</sup> on a proposal from the Commission, the Council adopted a Regulation extending, until 31 December 1977, the autonomous and exceptional import arrangements applicable to beef and veal originating in certain ACP States. The European Parliament had given its Opinion on the Commission's proposal on 19 November.

## Other countries

#### Negotiations on fisheries

2344. Following the agreement between the Nine on the Community's fisheries policy, for-

mally approved by the Council on 3 November,<sup>2</sup> exploratory talks and negotiations were initiated with a number of non-member countries directly concerned.

Negotiations with a view to the conclusion of fisheries agreements were held from 8 to 10 November with the United States, on 15 November with Sweden and from 18 to 20 and 25 to 29 November with Norway. In addition, exploratory talks were held on 11 November with Iceland, on 16 November with Spain and on 17 November with Norway. On 25 and 26 November, Mr Gundelach, Member of the Commission, had talks with the Icelandic Government; the communiqué published at the end of these talks states that the Community and Iceland have agreed to continue their talks and to negotiate a long-term fisheries agreement.

### *Industrialized countries*

#### United States

2345. The United States Government decided to increase the customs duties on imports of brandy from the Community. The United States appears to have decided that the adjustment proposed by the Community to the import arrangements for turkeys from the United States was insufficient. Following the United States Government's decision, the following communiqué was released by the Commission:

'The Commission regrets the United States Government's decision to raise the duty on imports of brandy from the Community.

The Commission does not consider this decision justified...

The Commission, for its part, has done all it can to promote a more positive and liberal outcome

<sup>1</sup> OJ L 327 of 26.11.1976.

<sup>2</sup> Bull. EC 10-1976, points 1501 to 1505.



and to avoid the present situation where both the Community exporters of brandy and United States exporters of turkeys are worse off than they would otherwise have been.'

### Japan

2346. The ninth meeting in the series of regular High-Level Consultations took place in Brussels on 15 and 16 November. This meeting was preceded on 11 and 12 November by a meeting of the ECSC-Japan Contact Group.<sup>1</sup>

### Australia

2347. Following the restrictions applied by Australia to imports of freezers, consultations were held at the Commission's request in Geneva on 5 November between an Australian and a Commission delegation.

In the course of this initial meeting, the Australian Delegation maintained that the restrictions were justified under Article XIX of GATT.

The Commission delegation, having voiced the Community's concern at these new restrictions, which come on top of those already in force for shoes and motor cars, requested that the quotas relating to freezers should be re-examined by the Australian authorities with a view to an increase in the quantities allocated.

### *Developing countries in Asia and Latin America*

#### Iran

2348. At its meeting on 15 and 16 November the Council agreed to authorize the Commission to invite Iran to open negotiations with a view to the conclusion of an outline trade and economic cooperation agreement. The Commission and the

Iranian Government have agreed to open negotiations on 20 December.

The agreement, if successfully concluded, will be of major significance for both the Community and Iran. It will provide a framework to encourage the development of trade and to create a climate in which the Community will be able to play an increased part in Iran's economic development.

The Council decision authorizing the Commission to open negotiations brings to an end a sixteen-month period of exploratory contacts between the Commission and the Iranian Government, during which the main lines of a possible agreement were sketched out, notably in a series of meetings between Mr Hushang Ansary, Iranian Minister of Economic Affairs and Finance, and Mr Finn Olav Gundelach, Member of the Commission.

#### Bangladesh

2349. The Commercial Cooperation Agreement between the Community and Bangladesh,<sup>2</sup> which was signed on 19 October,<sup>3</sup> entered into force on 1 December,<sup>4</sup> the Contracting Parties having notified one another in Brussels on 25 November of the completion of the necessary procedures.

#### Mexico

2350. The Joint Committee established by the Agreement between the Community and Mexico signed on 15 July 1975 held its second meeting in Mexico from 3 to 5 November. It examined the problems relating to trade policy and to trade and economic cooperation. On the first point, the

<sup>1</sup> Points 1101 to 1114.

<sup>2</sup> OJ L 319 of 19.11.1976.

<sup>3</sup> Bull. EC 10-1976, point 2350.

<sup>4</sup> OJ L 329 of 27.11.1976.

Committee considered practical examples of the use of the GSP in the light of the Mexican request for an improvement in the situation for a number of products. In this context, the Community delegation stressed the appreciable improvement in the scheme envisaged for 1977.

On trade and economic cooperation, it was decided to implement, with Community help, a series of operations to promote Mexican exports to the markets of the Nine. The following will be organized next year—a mission of European buyers to Mexico, a mission of Mexican exporters to the Member States, Mexico's participation in trade events in Europe, etc. The Joint Committee also agreed to implement a promotion project to facilitate cooperation between Mexican and European industries, in particular via the implementation of joint investment projects for the production of certain industrial products of priority importance to Mexican industry.

In the field of technical cooperation, a shortlist was drawn up of concrete projects considered to be of priority importance, particularly in the energy and scientific and technological information and documentation fields.

### *Stade-trading countries*

2351. On 15 November the Council discussed the Community's relations with the member countries of the CMEA, and in particular the problems of relations with that organization.<sup>1</sup>

## Diplomatic relations

2352. The President of the Council and the President of the Commission have received Their Excellencies Mr Thabo E. Ntlhakana (*Lesotho*), Mr Daniel Narcis Mtonga Mloka (*Tanzania*) and Mr Arturo Fajardo Maldonado (*Guatemala*), who presented their letters of credence as heads of their countries' missions to the European Com-

munities (EEC, ECSC, EURATOM) with effect on 19 November.<sup>2</sup>

H.E. Mr Satya N. Nandan, the new Head of the Mission of *Fiji* to the European Communities (EEC, ECSC, EURATOM), and H.E. Mr Donald B. Rainford, Head of the Mission of *Jamaica* to the European Communities (EEC), presented their credentials to the two Presidents with effect on 23 November.<sup>2</sup>

The new ambassadors take over from Mr Philip Makalo 'Mabathoana (*Lesotho*), Mr José Antonio Palacios Garcia (*Guatemala*), Mr Josua R. Rabukawaqa MVO, MBE (*Fiji*) and Mr E. Frank Francis (*Jamaica*) who have been appointed to other duties.

The new Tanzanian ambassador is the first Tanzanian head of mission accredited to the three European Communities. He succeeds Mr Daniel Owino who represented Tanzania, and the two other East African countries, at the EEC from 1968 to 1970.

<sup>1</sup> Point 1301.

<sup>2</sup> OJ C 290 of 9.12.1976.

# 4. Institutions and organs of the Communities

European Parliament

## European Parliament

### *Part-session in Luxembourg from 15 to 19 November*

2401. The focal points of the November part-session were political cooperation, the question of regional cooperation at internal frontiers, the economic situation specifically in connection with unemployment among the young, and the European energy and research policies.

Other items on the agenda included the European social budget, transport policy, public health and the environment, agricultural reform, taxation policy, competition and fisheries.<sup>1</sup>

On 17 November, Parliament's President, Mr Spénale, paid tribute to the work of Patrick Hillery, Vice-President of the Commission who, with effect from 3 December, was to become President of Ireland.

### **Annual report on political cooperation** (17 November)

2402. The statement of Mr Max van der Stoel, the Netherlands Foreign Minister, President of the Council and at the same time Chairman of political cooperation among the Nine, centred on the Euro-Arab dialogue, Africa and the position of the Community in East-West relations. Mr van der Stoel was presenting the annual report on political cooperation.<sup>2</sup>

The debate was heavily spiced with criticism. Mr Radoux (S/B) urged the Foreign Ministers to shift from 'political reaction' to political action. It was not enough for the Nine simply to offer their 'good offices' in areas of conflict; they had the means of doing more. Mr Radoux put the basic question of whether common foreign policy could go any further without a strategy and with no plans for the future. In view of our own lack of

ideas, we had no call to criticize the aloofness of other major countries. Mr Radoux called for an improvement in political cooperation inside the Community.

Mr Bertrand (C-D/B) also complained that political cooperation was mere after-the-event reaction. He stressed the need for a foreign-policy decision centre and criticized the Council President for not being able to indicate whether things were moving in that direction. In particular, he expressed fears that in the Euro-Arab dialogue there was a tendency to overlook Israel's claims on account of possible economic advantages. Mr Bertrand called for an unequivocal position to be adopted on Angola, and in connection with South Africa pointed out that a solution to the problems in that region could not be found unless the rights of the white community were protected. On the matter of East-West relations, Mr Bertrand warned against any misinterpretation of the concept of détente. Looking ahead to the forthcoming Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe (Belgrade) he warned against continuing the multinational dialogue without at the same time pressing on with bilateral negotiations.

Mr Durieux (L/F) endorsed the criticism of the inadequacy of the political cooperation programme. He contended that it was better to acknowledge the setbacks and interpret the successes realistically, rather than persistently assess the performance of political cooperation against the minimum requirements. Sir Peter Kirk (C/UK) cited

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

The complete texts of the Resolutions passed by Parliament are reproduced in OJ C 293 of 13.12.1976 and the report of proceedings is contained in OJ Annex No 209.

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

<sup>2</sup> For the full text see point 2503.

examples of linking political cooperation and Community matters. Despite the positive overall development, as described by Mr van der Stoel, these should not be overlooked.

Mr Sandri (COM/D) said that Mr van der Stoel's report was more a look into the future than a picture of reality. He violently attacked the comments of the Christian Democrat spokesman, Mr Bertrand, and referred to the situation of the black population in South Africa and those who died in Soweto.

### Regional policy (18 November)

*The Community is to develop its border areas more closely*

2403. New transfrontier legal instruments of cooperation were required to counter the increasingly unfavourable situation of the border regions. On the strength of this conviction, the Committee on Regional Policy, Regional Planning and Transport had prepared a new concept for cooperation between regions straddling the Community's internal borders. The rapporteur was Mr Gerlach (S/D) who comes from the German-Dutch border region. A complete draft Regulation was attached to the report.

The centrepiece of the draft Regulation is the new Community legal instrument of the European Joint Authority. The rapporteur pointed out that the border regions had not been lacking in good intentions for the further development of mutual cooperation, but many plans had come to nought for want of an appropriate legal instrument for cooperation. The Joint Authority was to bridge this gap, and offered the best possible Community framework for voluntary bilateral or trilateral cooperation between the Member States without causing them any appreciable loss of sovereignty. The Joint Authorities would not take on specifically national tasks but would attend only to those new special responsibilities

which arose in the border regions as a result of European integration and which could not be discharged by the national authorities.

Joint Authorities could be established for definite or indefinite periods by two or more regional or local authorities or legal persons under public law, which belonged to at least two Member States. The task of the Authorities would be to 'create an area with balanced economic, social and cultural structures' by drawing up its own plans and coordinating and advising on national measures.

It would assume independent responsibility for regional administrative matters delegated to it and would participate in local or regional projects which were transferred or referred to the member authorities for implementation. The Joint Authority would consist of:

- (i) a Regional Council, made up of representatives of member authorities, representatives of national supervisory institutions and if deemed necessary, by a Commission representative;
- (ii) a Regional Committee, composed of senior administrative officials of the member authorities or administrative specialists.

The border-region question is not new. For various reasons, economic and social development there has not kept pace with the overall development of the Community. Though, in European terms, these regions are mostly central, in relation to the economy of their own country, they are outlying areas. This fringe position has led to an unbalanced relationship between the central regions and the border areas, which is reflected in inadequate infrastructures, poor freight and passenger transport facilities and frequently net decline in population. The Community has so far been unable to improve the steadily deteriorating economic conditions in the border areas by appropriate action. Already in 1971, the Council recognized that action was needed to help these regions and when the Regional Fund was set up, explicitly indicated that its resources could be

used for the benefit of the border regions. Nevertheless, the Fund could contribute in the border areas only in respect of cross-frontier development programmes; bodies with clear-cut organizational structures and their own legal personalities were required to implement such programmes. For the rest, the report contended that subsidies were not enough to remove the turn-pikes which impeded both men and materials. Besides solidarity in the form of financial support, a qualitative advance was needed, and this was where the Joint Authorities came in.

The report was generally welcomed and endorsed in the debate, when many speakers from border regions took the floor. Mr *Jahn (C-D/D)* said that, with European elections coming up, it was a good start to begin by limiting sovereignty where this was most needed. As Deputy Chairman of the Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Consumer Protection he made special reference to the value of transfrontier, regional cooperation in protecting the environment, since pollution did not stop at borders.

A member from the Alto Adige region, Mr *Brugger (C-D/I)* urged the Council to show that it was determined to take Parliament's initiative seriously, by adopting the regulation. Mr *Herbert (EPD/IRL)* was drawn into the debate by the problems of the border area in Northern Ireland.

Mr *Thomson*, Member of the Commission, was in general agreement with what had been said but had misgivings as to whether it would win acceptance from the Governments and Parliaments of the Member States, since they belonged to the most conservative forces in the Community. Nevertheless, we must try to persuade them to do what was required.

## Energy and research (16 November)

*Parliament no longer prepared to tolerate the Council's indecision*

2404. In tabling two motions under urgent procedure, the Committee on Energy and Research asked that the Council be told quite plainly that Parliament was no longer prepared to put up with its manifest failure to take decisions. The motions referred to the state of the common energy and research policy between Council meetings on 19 October and 18 November.

In its Resolution, the House described the Council's attitude as irresponsible in the face of the serious threat that hung over the Community's energy supply and consequently over its economic and political independence. For over three years the Council had not shown itself capable of introducing the Community mechanisms needed to overcome a crisis, although, under the immediate pressure of the energy crisis, it had advocated a common energy policy. The House had no illusions about achieving the objectives for 1985, which were now far out of reach. Despite all declarations of intention, it was now common knowledge that the Community's energy dependence remained undiminished.

The House emphasized that the Council alone bore full responsibility for the serious consequences of its inactivity for the Community's future. The Resolution and the debate served to pillory the Council before public opinion. In particular, the House expressed its alarm over the latest plans for price increases on the part of the oil-producing countries, the failure of the various energy-saving programmes, the inadequate development of alternative energy sources and the Community's position in the North-South Dialogue.

In the face of the latest public reactions to developing nuclear supply, a majority in the House called on the Council and Commission to take a

clear stand on the problem of using nuclear energy and to offer the public fuller and more appropriate information. (A motion by the Socialist Group to delete this passage did not secure the necessary majority.)

The Committee Chairman, Mr *Springorum* (C-D/D) felt that the so far fruitless discussion on where to locate the JET project attested to the Council's lack of interest in the Community. An objective and logical decision was being blocked in the Council by the desire to gain advantages for the country in which the project might eventually be sited.

In its second Resolution, which dealt specifically with the questions of research policy, Parliament called on the Council for an immediate decision in favour of the most objectively suitable site for the JET project. Since several members of the Council were apparently screening themselves behind the staff requirements, the House urged the Council to adopt, on 18 November, the JRC's multiannual research programme for 1977-80 in the form approved by Parliament in regard to its financing and staff complement, since the continuation of direct Community research would otherwise be jeopardized.

For the Commission, Mr *Brunner* said quite frankly that the Commission had not managed to get the Council to take a decision. In the European energy sector, 'non-policy' was the order of the day; the Commission's proposals were languishing unheeded. He accused members of the Council who merely from ulterior motives concerning possible advantages could not agree on where the JET project should be located; all technical problems had been eliminated. Mr *Brunner* felt that the Community could not permit such things. In conclusion he urged the House to do justice to its assigned role as one of the budget authorities in regard to the standstill in the energy and research sector.

Many speakers had earlier endorsed the argument of the Chairman of the Committee on Energy and Research, Mr *Springorum*. He said that

it would be hoodwinking the people of Europe, if a common policy was continually called for and even announced, and yet nothing was actually done. The Council was apparently incapable of concrete decisions, but was good only for political opportunism.

The Group spokesmen then dealt with various specific aspects of the problem. Mrs *Walz* (C-D/D) deplored that where the needs of the energy sector were concerned, the Community was just as helpless as it had been in 1973 at the height of the crisis.

Mr *Dalyell* (S/UK) referred to the problem of nuclear waste disposal and the combined German, British and Dutch centrifuge project. Mr *Hougar- dy* (L/B), Mr *Liogier* (EPD/F), Lord *Bessborough* (C/UK) and Mr *Leonardi* (COM/I) all said they agreed with the resolution motion.

#### *Scientific and technical education: multiannual programme*

2405. Parliament approved the 1977-80 multi-annual programme for scientific and technical education.<sup>1</sup>

The Commission estimated its cost at 5 million u.a. Parliament proposed an increase of 400 000 u.a. The House wanted grants to be awarded to scientists and engineers in industry too.

#### *Revised energy research and development programme*

2406. Parliament approved changes in the research and development programme for energy which was established by the Council Decision of 22 August 1975.<sup>2</sup> They concern the expansion of certain projects in the energy sector. The four-year programme covers energy economy, produc-

<sup>1</sup> Bull. EC 7/8-1976, point 2272.

<sup>2</sup> Bull. EC 7/8-1976, point 2266.

tion and use of hydrogen, solar energy, geothermal energy and systems analysis (preparation of models). In this connection, the House recalled that the Community could not diminish its energy dependence unless it pursued specific policies for energy saving and the development of new sources. The proposed projects were to be considered in that light.

### Economic affairs (18 November)

#### *Economic situation in 1976 and guidelines for 1977*

2407. Parliament considered that, in view of the many factors of uncertainty, it was right to make a cautious and differentiated assessment of economic developments in 1977. This line had to be taken because, although there were a number of pointers to the recovery continuing, there were undeniably still some dangerous corners, such as the lack of Community and international solidarity and the differences persisting in 1977 between price and cost increases in the Member States.

With regard to the proposed measures, Parliament endorsed the Commission's view that Member States with high underlying rates of inflation should take a restrictive approach to consumption. In those countries with no balance of payments problems, the increasing expansion in domestic demand should not be restrained. The House called for a substantial increase in productive investment in order to reduce cyclical unemployment. It was emphasized that the two sides of industry could be expected to show a sense of responsibility only when a solution was found to the problems of distribution of wealth and its acquisition by the workers. The House noted that despite the favourable short-term economic prospects, no substantial fall in unemployment could be expected, since it also had structural causes.

In the debate, Vice-President *Haferkamp* elucidated the Commission's objectives, which he said were decidedly ambitious. But real growth of

about 4%, a fall in unemployment to something under 4% and a reduction to 7-8% in the rate of increase of consumer prices could not be achieved unless all concerned were prepared to make every effort.

Differences of opinion between the Groups were clearly revealed in the course of the debate. While Mr *van der Hek* (S/NL) wanted to see the public authorities given more responsibility for channelling investments into those sectors where they would best serve, Mr *Schwörer* (C-D/D) doubted whether public investment could strengthen confidence for private investment. He could see a number of danger points, concerning for instance energy costs and the practical results of negotiations between the two sides of industry.

Mr *Spinelli* (COM/I), present as a member for the first time, said Parliament's opinion did not go far enough. The dangers were not sufficiently clearly outlined and the measures suggested were of little use.

### Consumer protection in the Community (19 November)

2408. Mr *Boothroyd* (S/UK), Mr *Adams* (S/D), Mr *Evans* (S/UK), Mr *Carpentier* (S/F) and Mr *Kavanagh* (S/IRL) all called for more democracy via better information and greater consideration of the consumer's interests. They asked the Commission what it intended to do to remedy the lack of information for the European consumer. In the first consumer survey following the Community consumer protection and information programme only four out of every ten people questioned had been able to name a consumer association.

The five questioners said it was a fundamental right of the European consumer to have direct access to the European Parliament and then asked for changes to be made in the Consumers' Consultative Committee within the Commission. On the question of the consumer and the envi-

ronment, they wanted to see the role of the European Environmental Bureau expanded. Once the new Commission had been appointed, they suggested that one of its Members should be assigned to attend predominantly to consumer affairs.

### Community raw material requirements in the next decade (19 November)

2409. On behalf of the Conservative Group, Lord *Bessborough* (UK) asked the Commission whether it had made any assessment of Member States' raw material requirements for the next decade. He pointed anxiously to the Community's dependence in this field, asking whether we would learn the lessons before our factories ground to a halt.

Vice-President *Simonet* referred to a Commission Communication of February 1975 on the Community's raw material supplies. In that paper, the Commission had highlighted the problems looming up for the next decade. The Commission's assessments, however, indicated that no serious shortages were to be feared for the next ten years. A Council subcommittee was working on matters of research and development with the aim of improving the Community's self-supply.

### Taxation policy (17 November)

#### *Mutual assistance between national authorities on direct taxation*

2410. By a Directive on mutual assistance between the authorities of the Member States in respect of direct taxation, the Community intended to help in combating tax evasion and avoidance. Parliament approved the proposal which was primarily concerned with the information required to determine income tax and wealth tax. Such in-

formation could be given on request, automatically or voluntarily.

The House expressed reservations concerning the planned bilateral procedures, which could lead to disparities and distortion of competition and had misgivings about the envisaged limitations on the exchange of information, which would hamper effective official assistance.

### Internal market (16 November)

#### *Protection of copyright*

2411. In a Question to the Commission, Mr *Geurtsen* (L/NL) said he was surprised that the Commission was not taking a leading part in the efforts to reach wider agreement between the nine legal copyright authorities. He pointed out that in the field of photomechanical reproduction, of special interest to him, no such thing as international copyright existed. Mr *Brunner*, Member of the Commission, assured him that the Commission was thinking in particular of the competition aspect. It had arranged for a study to be made.

### Social policy

#### *European social budget* (18 November)

2412. The first European social budget was now before Parliament. Before being presented, it had already had to be revised, since the energy crisis with its impact on costs had made the Commission's 1974 forecasts unrealistic. The social budget which the Council had ordered on 26 November 1970 covered the years 1970-75 and, as criticized in Parliament's Resolution, owing to the energy problems had become more of a recapitulation than a forecast. The House contended that the Commission's conclusions were of question-



able value, and pointed to differences of interpretation and the limited range of application of the budget. It noted, with approval, that in all the Member States social expenditure had increased as a percentage of national income.

The recorded expenditure covered benefits for sickness, old age, death, survivors, disablement, industrial accidents and occupational disease, unemployment, family needs including maternity, and miscellaneous expenditure on physical and mental infirmity, and resulting from political events and natural disasters. Information is provided on financing by the following systems: social insurance, social welfare or social security (80-98 %), voluntary employers' contributions and assistance for victims of political incidents or natural disasters.

The finds were that in all countries old age benefits were the biggest items and in most countries represented 40 % of all benefits, but rising to almost 50 % for the United Kingdom and 55 % for Luxembourg. Sickness benefits come in second place, accounting for just under 30 % in most countries. Lastly, it was found that disability benefits in the Netherlands and Italy occupy a high position while family allowances, especially in France and Ireland, also account for a relatively large share.

#### *The young unemployed* (18 November)

2413. In its Resolution, Parliament expressed the fear that unemployment among young people was a long-term problem which would not be solved automatically by increased demand for labour. The House called for state undertakings to provide more training places and jobs for young people. The Community countries should set up intercompany training centres, if those offered by companies did not suffice.

These were some of the ideas expressed by Parliament concerning a draft Commission Recom-

mendation to the Member States for measures to provide vocational training for young people out of work or threatened with unemployment. Although the House agreed with its objectives, it had misgivings about the Commission's design; the recommended measures were 'incomplete and unrealistic'. The House attempted to rectify and extend the list of proposed measures with practical suggestions put forward by the rapporteur, Mr *Walkhoff* (S/D). He pointed out that unemployment among young people was only partly due to specific causes and had to be considered as part of the whole unemployment problem. Despite his criticisms of the 'limited nature' of its proposals, he acknowledged that the Commission had recognized the possible consequences and burdens for society as a whole.

#### *The principle of freedom of movement must not be used to the disadvantage of workers* (16 November)

2414. A strike by the staff of the Danish branch of the Hertz Rent-a-Car Corporation prompted a parliamentary resolution on the abuse of the principle of the free movement of labour embodied in the EEC Treaty.

To deal with the strike, Hertz had called in staff from its branches in other EEC countries. Drawing attention to the consequences of such practices for social peace in the Community, Parliament called on the Commission to take the necessary steps to prevent this and similar abuses of the principle of the free movement of labour. The resolution motion was tabled by a Danish member, Mr *Ole Espersen*, on behalf of the Socialist Group.

During a brief debate, Mr Brunner, Member of the Commission, referred to the need for cross-frontier trade union organization and for more thorough-going discussion of the multinational companies.

### Food aid (19 November)

2415. Parliament approved the Commission's proposals for food aid in 1977 as contained in the 1977-79 three-year indicative food aid programme. However, the House called on the Commission to set increased minimum targets for skimmed milk powder and butteroil for 1978 and 1979. It said that in view of the chronic and growing shortage of foodstuffs in the developing world, particularly of cereals, deliveries should under no circumstances be allowed to fall below the 1976 levels.

Parliament endorsed the idea of a medium-term indicative programme for food aid as an integral part of the common agricultural policy. While the Member States would still be able to select the size of their national contributions in cereals, an opportunity was provided to increase the role of Community aid. At the same time it regretted that the European Community alone among the major donors had not responded to the appeal made at the World Food Conference for an increase in food aid in cereals. In the final paragraph of its resolution, Parliament pointed out that in a world of growing interdependence, food aid was of mutual benefit to donor and recipient, stressing at the same time that it was necessary to reorganize and control the distribution of aid to ensure that it had maximum effect.

### Transport

#### *Transport policy: a step in the right direction* (18 November)

2416. The rapporteur of the Committee on Regional Policy, Regional Planning and Transport, Mr Mursch (C-D/D), described the 'package' of market regulation proposals for goods transport forwarded to Parliament for an opinion as a step towards an overall European concept for the transport sector.

At the same time, he warned that, in the absence of an overall concept, there was a danger that though the obstacles to international transport at frontiers might be removed, equally grave discrepancies might arise between international and national transport arrangements. Parliament's opinion was accompanied by numerous proposals for amendments; it pointed to the hazards in the proposals and called for parallel progress on all aspects of the transport question. Parliament approved the Commission's proposals regarding the fixing of rates for international goods transport by rail.

The other two proposals up for an opinion at the same time were concerned with the establishment of common rules for certain types of carriage of goods by road, such as short-distance haulage, transport on own account and transit carriage, and a system for monitoring the markets for the carriage of goods by rail, road and inland waterway. They too, were approved with a number of suggestions and proposals for improvements.

#### *Transport infrastructure* (18 November)

2417. As regards two further Commission proposals on instituting a consultation procedure and creating a Committee in the field of transport infrastructure and on aid to projects of Community interest in the field of transport infrastructure, Parliament reserved its right to give a more detailed opinion. It was prepared only to welcome the Commission's initiative in principle.

#### *Third party motor vehicle insurance*

2418. Parliament called for immediate harmonization of legislation on third party motor vehicle insurance. This should start with civil liability and transfrontier settlement of claims. The House took as its basis the resolution motion

tabled by the Christian Democrats; Mr *Schwörer* (D), Mr *Mitterdorfer* (I), Mr *Mursch* (D), Mr *Brugger* (I), Mr *de Keersmacker* (B), Mr *Vandewiele* (B), Mr *Artzinger* (D), the Socialists Mr *Willi Müller* (D), Mr *Suck* (D), Mr *Schmidt* (D), Mr *Schwabe* (D) and the Liberal, Mr *Bangemann* (D).

### Environment

(19 November)

#### *Disposal of waste at sea*

2419. The rules proposed by the Commission for the disposal of waste at sea (In Parliament's opinion) must be made to coincide with existing international agreements. All the Member States had signed the London Convention on the discharge of waste at sea, which dealt with the problem globally and some had also signed other bilateral agreements (the Oslo, Barcelona and Baltic Conventions).

With this in mind, Parliament urged the Commission to amend its proposal for a Directive in such a way as to eliminate any overlapping. The House also expressed the hope that the Community would ratify in its own name the Oslo, Barcelona and Baltic Conventions.

#### *Protection of the Rhine against pollution*

2420. Parliament approved the conclusion of a Convention for the Protection of the Rhine against Chemical Pollution in the form proposed by the Commission. The Convention and an Additional Agreement to the Agreement signed in Berne on 29 April 1963 concerning the International Commission for the Protection of the Rhine against Pollution, in which Germany, France, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Switzerland and the EEC are involved, are the result of negotiations which the Commission has been conducting since the beginning of the year on instructions from the Council.

Parliament called for the immediate application of the latest scientific findings in efforts to clean up the Rhine.

### Agriculture

#### *Structural policy*

(16 November)

2421. Following a report by Mr *Laban* (S/NL), Parliament took a critical view of the Commission's first report on the structural policy Directives of 17 April 1972.

It regretted the delay in implementing these Directives, pointing out that, as a result, the Commission had only a few initial data at its disposal. It urged that a study group be set up to look into the difficulties which had caused the delays. In Parliament's view, structural improvements in the Community combined with an effective social and regional policy were extremely urgent; the market and price policy, which was costing more and more, was not sufficient in itself to solve the problems of European agriculture, particularly the problem of surpluses.

During the debate, a number of speakers called for a thorough examination of the factors responsible for the delay in implementing effective structural measures. They said that the economic situation, and also the inadequate funding of the European Regional Development Fund, were undoubtedly among the contributing factors. The problems of European agriculture could be solved only if it became an integral part of today's industrial society. This was the only way to achieve the aims of the common agricultural policy, which were secure food supplies at reasonable prices, with decent incomes for farmers and a balanced and stable market.

*Fishing policy*  
(17 November)

2422. Following the agreement in principle reached by the Community Foreign Ministers at The Hague on 30 October on setting up a 200-mile Community economic zone, the problem of a joint fishing policy came up again for discussion in Parliament. In three questions, Conservatives (Mr *Fletcher*, UK) and Socialists (Mr *Prescott*, UK) urged the Council to take a stand on the controversial question of fishing policy within the Community, a question which the Foreign Ministers had put aside at The Hague. At its first October part-session, Parliament had rejected by a very small majority the 50-mile zone demanded by the United Kingdom and Ireland and approved the 12-mile zone proposed by the Commission. A motion for a resolution tabled by Mr *Scott-Hopkins* (C/UK) was sent to the Committee on Agriculture for further examination.

*Beef and veal import arrangements for ACP countries approved*

2423. On 19 November Parliament approved the extension of the special arrangement for beef and veal imports from ACP countries. The aim is to provide a greater degree of stability, taking account of developments in the market situation, and facilitate the production of beef and veal in countries which are very dependent on it.

*Hygiene in the poultry trade*  
(19 November)

2424. The proposal for a Directive approved by Parliament aims at redrafting some articles of the basic Directive on health problems affecting trade in fresh poultrymeat. These are concerned with the use of hygienically unexceptionable processes for chilling freshly slaughtered poultry, as objections had been raised to the 'Spinchiller' process. Conscious of its responsibility for the health of

Europeans, Parliament demanded that the application date of this Directive be brought forward to 1 July 1977 so as to eliminate as soon as possible the hazards of the chilling process now in use.

**Question Time**  
(17 November)

*European elections*

*Eligibility of candidates*

2425. The President of the Council, Mr van der Stoel, said in reply to a question by Mr *Dondelinger* (S/L) as to whether industrialists should not be allowed to stand as candidates in direct elections to the European Parliament, that Parliament would have to give thought after the direct elections to the question of incompatibilities not covered by the agreement on direct elections. A discussion on incompatibility at the present time risked delaying the direct elections.

*More information demanded*

2426. Angered by what he termed stereotyped answers to questions by the President of the Council, the Chairman of the Socialist Group, Mr *Fellermaier* (S/D), called for improved public access to the proceedings of the Council. He said that the parliamentary representatives of the European public would not put up with being fobbed off with meagre and inadequate answers. They would not drop this matter until the Council gave in and provided more information. The subject had been brought up in a question by Mr *Fletcher* (C/UK). Mr *Ellis* (S/UK) called for a minimum power of veto for the directly-elected Parliament.

The President of Parliament, Mr Spénale, regarded Mr van der Stoel's replies as so unsatisfactory that he took a hand in the debate himself.

He said that Parliament could not accept Mr van der Stoel's statement that Members of the European Parliament could get answers to their questions in their national Parliaments.

## Council

November saw the European Council's third meeting of 1976. The Council also held nine meetings dealing with transport, economy and finance, development cooperation, general matters, research, agriculture, the budget and education.

### European Council

(The Hague, 29 and 30 November)

2427. *President: Mr Den Uyl*, Prime Minister of the Netherlands

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

*Economic situation:* The European Council carried out a detailed examination of the Community's economic situation both from the internal and external points of view and agreed to issue as a statement only the Commission's reflections on this matter in its communication of 26 November.<sup>1</sup>

The European Council noted that the Commission had already taken measures to improve coordination between the various funds (social, regional and agricultural) and that it would be presenting proposals to the Council early in 1977 with the aim of improving the consistency of these funds' activities.

The European Council requested the Councils of Finance and Agriculture Ministers to continue their work on monetary compensatory amounts in order to reach, as soon as possible, conclusions based on the Commission proposal and taking account of the comments made at the European Council.

*North-South Dialogue/CIEC:* A statement on this matter was issued after the meeting.<sup>2</sup>

*Relations with Japan:* After the meeting, the European Council issued a statement on this matter.<sup>3</sup>

*Tindemans Report:* The European Council examined the report by Mr Tindemans, the Belgian Prime Minister, on European Union. A statement was issued after the meeting.<sup>4</sup>

*Commission organization:* The European Council requested a statement from the Commission on its intentions regarding the organization and working of its departments at its meeting on 21 and 22 February.

*International terrorism:* The European Council instructed the Foreign Ministers to continue their political cooperation in implementing the conclusions it adopted at its meeting on 12 and 13 July.<sup>5</sup>

### 415th meeting — Transport (Brussels, 4 November)

2428. *President: Mr Westerterp*, Netherlands Minister of Transport

*From the Commission: Mr Scarascia Mugnozza*, Vice-President

*Development of the common transport policy:* The Council took note of a Commission statement concerning the development of the common transport policy which takes stock of work done from 1974 to 1976.

*Road transport tariffs:* The Council discussed the proposal for a Council Regulation concerning a system of reference tariffs for the carriage of

<sup>1</sup> Point 2201.

<sup>2</sup> Point 2316.

<sup>3</sup> Point 1114.

<sup>4</sup> Point 2501.

<sup>5</sup> Bull. EC 7/8-1976, point 2504.

goods by road between Member States. It agreed to continue unchanged the compulsory bracket tariff system for 1977.<sup>1</sup>

*Minimum level of training for road transport drivers:* The Council recorded its agreement in principle on the Directive laying down the minimum level of training for certain inexperienced drivers engaged in the carriage of goods and passengers by road.<sup>2</sup>

*Shipping:* For the first time, the Council systematically examined certain items relating to shipping.<sup>2</sup>

*Community quota:* The Council gave its agreement in principle to the amended proposal for a Regulation on the Community quota for the carriage of goods by road between Member States.<sup>2</sup>

The Council also discussed market monitoring,<sup>3</sup> roadworthiness tests for motor vehicles, national taxation systems for commercial road vehicles, cooperation between Community railway companies and social regulations.

#### **416th meeting — Economic and Financial Affairs (Brussels, 8 November)**

*2429. President:* Mr Duisenberg, Netherlands Minister of Finance

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

*Strengthening of the internal economic and financial coherence of the Community:* After discussion, the Council adopted resolutions concerning the strengthening of the Community's internal economic and financial coherence.<sup>4</sup>

*Application of the EUA to the Community budget:* The Council examined the draft resolution on the application of the European unit of account to the budget of the Communities.

*Application of the EUA in areas covered by the ECSC Treaty:* The Council gave its assent as requested on the revised draft Commission Decision on the

use of the European unit of account in Decision No 73/287/ECSC concerning coking coal and coke for the Community iron and steel industry. This draft is intended to modify the nominal values of maximum sales aids for coking coal and coke and the contribution towards Community financing of these aids. To prevent a decline in the value of these aids and contributions in terms of national currencies, the Commission is proposing to increase the amounts expressed in units of account by 5.5% from 1 January 1976 so that their value in terms of national currencies will remain broadly unchanged.

#### **417th meeting — Development cooperation (Brussels, 8 November)**

*2430. President:* Mr Pronk, Netherlands Minister for Development Cooperation

*From the Commission:* Mr Cheysson, Member

*Coordination and harmonization of development cooperation policies:* The Council held a wide-ranging discussion on the various aspects of the implementation of the resolution on cooperation and the harmonization of development cooperation policies within the Community.<sup>5</sup>

*Food aid:* The Council held a general discussion on the Community's food aid policy. It also examined certain practical problems with a view to taking a decision on food aid and increasing the volume.

*Non-associated developing countries:* Following the agreement it reached in principle at its 410th meeting on 18 and 19 October regarding the commitment in 1976 of the 20 million u.a. appropriation entered in the Community's 1976 budget under financial and technical aid from the

<sup>1</sup> Points 2277 and 2280.

<sup>2</sup> Point 2277.

<sup>3</sup> Point 2282.

<sup>4</sup> Point 2317.

<sup>5</sup> Point 2202.

Community,<sup>1</sup> the Council took a favourable attitude towards the allocation of this appropriation along the lines suggested by the Commission.<sup>2</sup>

**418th meeting — Foreign affairs**  
(Brussels, 15 and 16 November)

*2431. President: Mr van der Stoep, Netherlands Foreign Minister*

*From the Commission: Mr Ortolí, President, Mr Cheysson, Mr Gundelach, Mr Brunner, Members*

*Relations with the CMEA:* The Council discussed the Community's relations with the CMEA member countries and in particular the problems of relations with the organization. It drew up a draft agreement defining the forms of and procedures for the relations to be established between the Community and the CMEA. In addition, it recalled that as regards trade relations, the Community, by its offer made in November 1974 which still holds good, had affirmed its willingness to enter into trade negotiations with each of the CMEA member countries.<sup>3</sup>

*Overall Mediterranean approach:* The Council gave the Commission the final directives enabling negotiations with the Mashreq countries and Israel to be concluded and the Agreements thus negotiated to be signed by the end of the year.<sup>4</sup>

*Yugoslavia:* The Council took the necessary steps to enable its spokesmen to obtain the agreement of the Yugoslav authorities in expressing the great importance the Community and Yugoslavia attach to their mutual relations and their common desire to foster such relations.<sup>5</sup>

*Iran:* The Council agreed to authorize the Commission to invite Iran to open negotiations with a view to the conclusion of a general agreement on commercial and economic cooperation.<sup>6</sup>

*Generalized preferences:* The Council held a policy debate on the application in 1977 of the generalized preferences for developing countries.<sup>7</sup>

*ACP:* The Council took note of a statement by the President of the Council on relations with the

ACP countries in the context of his recent meeting with the President of the Council of ACP Ministers.

*CIEC:* The Council defined the Community position in preparation for the November session of the Paris dialogue.<sup>8</sup>

*Council progress report:* On presentation on the customary report on progress in the work of the Council (Ministers with portfolios other than Foreign Affairs) a number of important issues were reviewed, having particular regard to their general implication for Community activities. These included harmonization of the basis for assessment of VAT, the application of the European unit of account to the budget, the problem of monetary compensatory amounts and the prospects for the next Council meeting on energy research, etc.

The Council also discussed fishing, particularly negotiations with certain non-member countries, the second EEC-Greece financial protocol, the Community's external commitments and the draft joint declaration on human rights by Parliament, the Council and the Commission.

**419th meeting — Research**  
(Brussels, 18 November)

*2432. President: Mr Brinkhorst, Netherlands State Secretary for Foreign Affairs*

*From the Commission: Mr Brunner, Member*

*Multiannual research programme for 1977-80:* The Council worked out guidelines as to the content, financial appropriations and staff requirements for the forthcoming JRC Research Programme.<sup>9</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Bull. EC 10-1976, points 2311 and 2431.

<sup>2</sup> Point 2317.

<sup>3</sup> Point 1301.

<sup>4</sup> Point 2333.

<sup>5</sup> Point 2340.

<sup>6</sup> Point 2348.

<sup>7</sup> Point 2320.

<sup>8</sup> Point 2315.

<sup>9</sup> Point 2253.

*JET Programme:* All the delegations expressed their desire to reach a final decision on the matter before 1 January 1977.<sup>1</sup>

**420th meeting — Economic and financial affairs**  
(Brussels, 22 November)

2433. *President:* Mr *Duisenberg*, Netherlands Minister of Finance

*From the Commission:* Mr *Haferkamp*, Member

*Annual report on the economic situation:* The Council adopted the annual report on the economic situation in the Community laying down economic policy guidelines for 1977.<sup>2</sup>

*Medium-term economic policy programme:* The Council held a policy debate on the draft fourth medium-term economic policy programme.<sup>3</sup>

*Community loan to Italy:* The Council authorized the Commission to open negotiations with a view to organizing a Community loan for the Italian Republic in order to balance the withdrawal by the United Kingdom of its short-term contribution to the medium-term financial assistance granted by the Community to Italy.<sup>4</sup>

**421st meeting — Agriculture**  
(Brussels, 22 and 23 November)

2434. *President:* Mr *van der Stee*, Netherlands Minister of Agriculture

*From the Commission:* Mr *Lardinois*, Member

*Milk products:* After a discussion on a series of measures proposed by the Commission in connection with the 1977-80 action programme for the gradual stabilization of the milk market, the Council only worked out guidelines for some of the proposed measures.<sup>5</sup>

*Beef and veal:* The Council discussed the Commission Communication on the arrangements for

trade with non-member countries in beef and veal.<sup>6</sup>

*Harmonization of agricultural and food legislation:* The Council examined a batch of proposals concerned with the harmonization of veterinary legislation. After discussion, it agreed in principle to a series of Decisions and Directives.<sup>7</sup>

*Potatoes:* The Council decided to suspend customs duties on potato imports until 28 February 1977.<sup>8</sup>

*Wine sector:* The Council agreed to a Regulation amending the Regulation laying down the target yield per hectare of quality wines produced in specified areas.<sup>9</sup>

*Fisheries:* The Council agreed to hold a special meeting on fisheries on 14 December.

**422nd meeting — Budget**  
(Brussels, 23 November)

2435. *President:* Mr *Brinkhorst*, Netherlands State Secretary for Foreign Affairs

*From the Commission:* Mr *Cheysson*, Mr *Brunner*, Members

*Meeting with a delegation from Parliament:* Before commencing its discussions on the draft general budget of the European Communities for 1977, together with Parliament's amendments and proposed modifications, the Council had its usual meeting with a delegation from Parliament. It was led by Mr *Spénale*, President, and comprised Mr *Lange*, Chairman of the Committee on Bud-

1 Point 2253.

2 Point 2204.

3 Point 2206.

4 Point 2207.

5 Point 2238.

6 Point 2246.

7 Points 2235 to 2238.

8 Point 2245.

9 Point 2244.



gets, Mr Aigner, Mr Durand, Mr Maigaard, Vice-Chairmen of the Committee, Lord Bruce of Donington, rapporteur for the 1977 budget, Mr Shaw, rapporteur on the amendments to the Financial Regulation and Mr Cointat, Chairman of the Working Party on the tripartite discussions on certain budgetary questions.

The meeting enabled members of Parliament's delegation to explain its views on a number of basic procedural and budgetary policy problems affecting the Community and to give the reasons behind the amendments and proposed modifications made by Parliament to the Council's draft budget.

It was apparent from the views expressed by the members of the delegation that there was particular concern to bring about greater clarity in the Community budget and to establish it fully as the instrument for dealing with all contingencies and medium for overall financial management, so as to reduce as far as possible the need for supplementary budgets.

Following statements by members of the delegation, a far-reaching and constructive discussion was held on the questions raised in the statement. The views expressed were taken into account in the discussions in the Council which followed.

*Draft general budget for 1977:* After discussion, the Council gave a second reading to the draft general budget for 1977.<sup>1</sup>

#### 423rd meeting — Education (Brussels, 29 November)

2436. *President:* Mr van Kemenade, Netherlands Minister of Education

*Commission:* Mr Brunner, Member

*Preparation of young people for working life and the transition from education to work:* The Council and the Ministers of Education, meeting within the Council, held a general discussion on this matter

and recorded their agreement, in the form of a Resolution, to a series of measures to be undertaken.<sup>2</sup>

*Education Committee:* The Council and the Ministers of Education meeting within the Council held a wide-ranging discussion on the progress of the Education Committee's work as regards all the measures envisaged in the Resolution of 9 February 1976 and gave guidance to the Committee as to the direction its work should take and the aspects on which emphasis should be placed in 1977.

## Commission

### Composition

*Dr Hillery elected President of Ireland*

2437. Dr Patrick Hillery, Vice-President of the Commission, was elected President of Ireland on 9 November and takes up his new duties on 4 December.

Mr François-Xavier Ortoli, President of the Commission, sent Dr Hillery the following telegram:

'On behalf of the Commission I wish to convey our warmest congratulations and best wishes on the occasion of the declaration today of your becoming President-elect of Ireland.

This is a great honour to you personally and a recognition of your achievements as the Minister directly responsible for negotiating successfully Ireland's accession to the European Communities and subsequently serving with such distinction as Vice-President of the Commission.

It is, moreover, a great tribute to all your colleagues in the Commission and to the European ideal to which you are so personally committed.'

<sup>1</sup> Point 2275.

<sup>2</sup> Points 1201 to 1204.

### *The new Commission*

2438. At the meeting of the European Council in The Hague on 29 and 30 November, agreement was reached on the composition of the Commission for the period 6 January 1977 to 5 January 1981.<sup>1</sup>

### **Activities**

2439. The Commission held four meetings in November, devoting the major part of its discussions to preparing for the meeting of the European Council held on 29 and 30 November in The Hague.<sup>2</sup> Other matters which featured prominently in its work were the budget, the Community's economic situation, trade between the Community and Japan<sup>3</sup> and negotiations with certain non-member countries on fisheries.

*Illegal immigration:* The Commission adopted a proposal for a Directive on action to combat illegal immigration and illegal employment. The proposal is designed to strengthen cooperation between Member States in this field, increase sanctions against illegal employment and the organization of illegal immigration and to alleviate the situation of illegal immigrant workers.<sup>4</sup>

*Aid for coking coal:* The Commission adopted at first reading a Decision to extend until 1985 Community aid for the sale of coking coal. The present scheme expires in 1978. The extension requested by the Commission will help to stabilize production and sales of Community coking coal. This Decision complies with the energy policy guidelines worked out by the Commission, which are designed to promote and support the production of primary energy in the Community.

*Steel:* The Commission has again considered its memorandum on steel policy following consultations in recent weeks by Mr Simonet and Mr Vouel, the two Members responsible.

*Staff policy:* As part of its overall staff policy programme, the Commission adopted:

- (i) general guidelines and implementing provisions (to be submitted to the Staff Regulations Committee) for a system of further training for Community officials;
- (ii) general provisions for launching a systematic plan in 1977 to ensure staff mobility, initially within Directorates-General and departments;
- (iii) provisions to ensure the rotation of staff employed in the Information Offices in the Member States;
- (iv) new rules for promotion to a new career bracket in Categories B, C and D.

### **Relations with workers' and employers' organizations**

2440. The trade unions and employers' associations were consulted by the Commission concerning the forward steel programme and the Community's steel policy.

In addition, preliminary consultations were arranged with trade union associations on the following matters:

- (i) The European Trade Union Confederation discussed multinational firms (action programme), the annual accounts of firms, agricultural policy, radiation protection and the employment of women.
- (ii) The Trade Union Committee on Foodstuffs discussed the humanization of work and the milk markets.
- (iii) The Trade Union Committee on Chemicals discussed the supply of raw materials and the harmonization of laws on pharmaceutical products.
- (iv) The European Metalworkers' Federation (EMF) discussed multinational firms (action programme) and dumping in the metal industry.

<sup>1</sup> Introductory Chapter.

<sup>2</sup> Point 2427.

<sup>3</sup> Points 1101 to 1114.

<sup>4</sup> Point 2219.

## Court of Justice

### New Cases

*Case 106/76* — Commission official v Commission

2441. On 5 November a Commission official commenced an action before the Court of Justice concerning the deduction of the holiday family allowance and special family allowance paid in Belgium from the dependent child allowance paid by the Commission under the Staff Regulations.

*Case 107/76* — Hoffman-La Roche AG, Grenzach-Wyhlen, v Centrafarm Vertriebsgesellschaft pharmazeutischer Erzeugnisse mBH, Bentheim

2442. On 17 November the Karlsruhe Oberlandesgericht asked the Court of Justice for preliminary rulings on a number of questions arising in a case concerning an alleged infringement of trademark rights in connection with parallel sales of pharmaceutical products.

Apart from asking for an interpretation of Article 177 EEC as regards the obligation for a national court to refer a matter to the Court of Justice in the course of an interlocutory proceeding, the German court asked whether it was incompatible with Article 36 of the EEC Treaty for the proprietor of a trademark right in two Member States to rely on that right in order to prevent a parallel importer from buying his products in one State, altering the volume contained in individual packagings, and selling them in another Member State under the same trademark, or whether a dominant position was being abused, contrary to Article 86 EEC, in that the proprietor of the trademark objected to the change in packaging in order to preserve the price differential between the two countries.

*Case 108/76* — Klöckner-Ferromatik GmbH, Castrop-Rauxel, v Oberfinanzdirektion München

2443. On 22 November the Bundesfinanzhof asked the Court of Justice for an interpretation of headings 73.21 and 84.23 of the Common Customs Tariff in connection with a case concerning a dispute as to duties payable on a machine used for pit support.

*Case 109/76* — Mrs M. Blottner, née Krolczyk, Berlin, v Bestuur der Nieuwe Algemene Bedrijfsvereniging, Amsterdam

2444. On 22 November the Raad van Beroep, Amsterdam, asked the Court of Justice for a preliminary ruling interpreting certain provisions relating to entitlement to invalidity benefit in Regulation 1408/71 on the application of social security schemes to employed persons and their families moving within the Community.<sup>1</sup>

*Case 110/76* — Criminal proceedings against a person or persons unknown

2445. On 23 November, in the course of a criminal proceeding against a person or persons unknown for customs fraud in connection with the import of frozen meat into Italy, the Pretura di Cento asked the Court of Justice for a preliminary ruling on the question whether, in the light of Council Decision 70/243 on the replacement of financial contributions from the Member States by the Communities' own resources,<sup>2</sup> the person to be regarded as having sustained loss by reason of the offence was the Community alone, or the Community jointly with the Member State which was responsible for collecting customs duties for the Community, and whether the national judge had to inform the Community that proceedings were being commenced so that it could proceed for recovery of unpaid customs duties.

<sup>1</sup> OJ L 149 of 5.7.1971.

<sup>2</sup> OJ L 94 of 28.4.1970.

*Case 111/76* — *Officier van Justitie in het Arrondissement Haarlem v Mr Beert van den Hazel, Putten*

2446. On 24 November the Amsterdam *Gerechtshof* asked the Court of Justice whether regulations issued by the Dutch authorities in 1974 for the purpose, among other things, of establishing quotas of poultry for slaughter conflicted with Regulation 123/67 on the common organization of the market in poultrymeat<sup>1</sup> and with Articles 30 to 37 EEC.

*Case 112/76* — *Mr Renato Manzoni, Chatelineau, v Fonds national de retraite des ouvriers mineurs (FNROM), Brussels*

2447. The Charleroi Labour Court, hearing a case concerning the reduction, under Belgian law and under Article 46(3) of Regulation 1408/71 on the application of social security schemes to employed persons and their families moving within the Community,<sup>2</sup> of an invalidity pension, on the grounds that another pension was being paid in another Member State, put a request to the Court of Justice on 25 November for a ruling on the conformity of that deduction with Article 51 EEC.

It will be interesting to see whether in this case on invalidity pensions the Court confirms the line taken in an earlier case, where it annulled the relevant provision of Regulation 1408/71 in relation to retirement pensions.<sup>3</sup>

## Judgments

*Case 110/75* — *Official of the European Investment Bank v European Investment Bank*

2448. The application for annulment of a decision to dismiss the plaintiff was rejected by judgment given on 17 November.

*Cases 122 and 123/75 and 30/76* — *Official of the European Parliament v European Parliament*

2449. A Parliament official filed three applications with the Court of Justice. The first sought annulment of his staff report, the second sought annulment of a decision by the President of the Parliament relating to an appointment following an internal competition, and the third sought annulment of another appointment made by the European Parliament.

Giving judgment on 25 November, the Court dismissed all three applications as unfounded.

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

2450. This application for annulment of an appointment made following a competition was removed from the Court's register by order made on 25 November.

*Case 21/76* — (1) *Handelskwekerij G.J. Bier BV, Nieuwerkerk a/d IJssel*, and (2) *Stichting Reinwater, Amsterdam, v Mines de Potasse d'Alsace SA Mulhouse*

2451. In a case in which damages were sought by a Dutch horticultural firm against a French plant which dumped large quantities of chloride into the Rhine, the *Gerechtshof* at The Hague put a request to the Court on 2 March, pursuant to the Protocol conferring on the Court of Justice jurisdiction to interpret the Convention on jurisdiction and the enforcement of judgments on civil and commercial matters,<sup>4</sup> for a ruling on whether the expression 'the place where the harmful event occurred' in Article 5(3) of the Convention was to be interpreted as meaning the place where the loss was actually sustained or the

<sup>1</sup> OJ 117 of 19.6.1967.

<sup>2</sup> OJ L 149 of 5.7.1971.

<sup>3</sup> Case 24/75, Bull. EC 10-1975, point 2444.

<sup>4</sup> OJ L 204 of 2.8.1975.

place where the act which caused the damage was committed.

Giving judgment on 30 November the Court held that where the place where the tortious act was committed and the place where the actual loss was suffered are not the same; Article 5(3) refers to both places. Accordingly, proceedings may be brought against a defendant in the courts for the place where the loss has been suffered, or in the courts for the place where the act was committed, at the plaintiff's choice.

*Case 28/76 — Milac GmbH, Gross- und Aussenhandel, Darmstadt, v Hauptzollamt Freiburg*

2452. On 15 March, in a case concerning the calculation of monetary compensatory amounts on imports into Germany of whole milk powder coming from France, the Baden-Württemberg Finanzgericht referred to the Court of Justice an application for a preliminary ruling on the question whether the corrective factor applicable to skimmed milk should be applied to such imports; this raised the subsidiary question of whether Regulation 725/74 altering the monetary compensatory amounts<sup>1</sup> was compatible with the basic Council regulations.

On 23 November the Court held that Community regulations governing milk powder did not enable the monetary compensatory amounts to be reduced by 2 u.a. or less when the fat content was in excess of 3%, and concluded that Regulation 725/74 was indeed valid.

*Case 40/76 — Mrs S. Kermaschek, Bottrop, v Bundesanstalt für Arbeit, Nürnberg*

2453. On 12 May the Gelsenkirchen Sozialgericht asked the Court of Justice for a preliminary ruling on the question whether a national of a non-Community country who has worked in the Netherlands but left her employment in order to marry a German national may, under Article 67 *et seq* of Regulation 1408/71 on the application of social security schemes to employed persons and

their families moving within the Community,<sup>2</sup> qualify in Germany for unemployment benefits to which potential rights were acquired before the marriage.

In connection with this case, the German judge raised a question concerning fundamental rights. He asked whether the above provisions, which only in exceptional cases create entitlement to unemployment benefits in a Member State other than that in which the person was last employed, were compatible with the legal notion of protection of the marriage and the family as expressed in the German basic law (Constitution).

Giving judgment on 23 November the Court held that Articles 67 to 70 of the Regulation had as their main object no more than coordination of entitlement to employment benefit paid under the national legislation of Member States to employed persons who were nationals of a Member State, and that members of such persons' families were entitled to benefit payable under such legislation to the members of families of unemployed persons, since the nationality of family members was immaterial for this purpose.

*Case 42/76 — Mr J. De Wolf, Turnhout, v BV Harry Cox, Boxmeer*

2454. On 14 May the Hoge Raad der Nederlanden asked the Court of Justice to interpret Article 31 of the Convention of 27 September 1968 on jurisdiction and the enforcement of judgments in civil and commercial matters. The question was whether Article 31 meant that a person who had had judgment given for him in one contracting State, the judgment having then been made enforceable in another contracting State, could no longer apply to the Courts in that other State for the remedy given against the other party in the first State.

<sup>1</sup> OJ L 89 of 1.4.1974.

<sup>2</sup> OJ L 149 of 5.7.1971.

Giving judgment on 30 November the Court replied that this was indeed the meaning of Article 31.

*Case 81/76 — Douwe Egberts GmbH, Kleve v Hauptzollamt Kleve*

2455. On 13 August the Düsseldorf Finanzgericht had asked the Court of Justice for a preliminary ruling on the question whether objection might be taken under Article 95(1) of the EEC Treaty to the fact that the amount of the charge levied under German legislation of 1969 on powdered coffee imported from another Member State was higher than that levied on roast coffee imported for powdering in Germany (at the Commission's request the German legislation has since been amended).

With the settlement of the case before the German Court, the Court of Justice ordered the case to be struck off the register on 24 November.

## Economic and Social Committee

### 143rd Plenary Session

2456. The 143rd Plenary Session of the Economic and Social Committee was held in Brussels on 24 and 25 November. The Session was presided over by Mr Basil de Ferranti, Chairman of the Committee.

Mr Brinkhorst, President-in-Office of the Council, and Dr Hillery, Vice-President of the Commission, were among those present.

### Opinions

#### *Fourth Medium-Term Economic Policy Programme*

2457. In its Opinion, adopted by 39 votes to 26 with 3 abstentions, the Committee stresses that

the economic crisis of 1974 and 1975 cannot be attributed to any one single cause. A whole series of endogenous and exogenous factors led to the recession and shaped its development.

The Committee therefore believes that attention must be paid to structural factors since inflation cannot be tackled by traditional demand-management alone. If a lasting success is to be achieved in the fight against inflation, a monetary and credit policy aimed at stability will have to be combined with structural measures to reduce social tensions and to increase flexibility. Floating exchange rates are no substitute for a domestic economic policy which takes due account of the need for stability.

Insufficient investment coupled with under-utilization of productive capacity and high unemployment in recent years, plus the fact that the recovery is starting from a relatively high level of inflation, make it difficult if not impossible to recoup rapidly the growth lost during the recession. The major economic policy problem during the coming years will be restoring and maintaining full employment. The Committee agrees with the Commission that, bearing in mind the circumstances, the figure of 4½-5% for the annual average growth of real GDP is to be regarded as a minimum target even though a major effort will doubtless be needed to achieve it. The projected growth rate is not sufficient to make up fully for the loss of growth in the recession years. The projected trend also means that the rate of unemployment in the Community will not fall below 3% of the working population until 1980.

The rate of *inflation* should be reduced step-by-step to the 4-5% mark by 1980.

In view of the widely diverging rates at which prices are increasing in the Member States, the guidelines for the control of inflation can only be very general in nature.

In recent years there has been a marked increase in the proportion of GDP devoted to *public expenditure*. Many people consider that the tax

burden has now become too heavy in several Member States.

In view of this dilemma, public expenditure must be gradually adopted to the new situation. There is also a need for more efficient management of public revenue and expenditure, and of their effects on redistribution.

In the Committee's view it is not, however, enough just to lay down economic and financial guidelines. The political and social implications and conditions of the implementation of a medium-term economic policy must also be gone into. It is certainly true that establishment of a social consensus on the medium-term aims and the way they are to be achieved, is of crucial importance to the success of the programme. The Committee considers that this consensus must exist not only between the State and the two sides of industry but also between the State and all relevant sectors of society.

#### *Balance on the milk market*

2458. After approving the draft proposals for the Community action to eradicate brucellosis, tuberculosis and leucosis in bovines, the Committee adopted, by 69 votes to 5 with 14 abstentions, its Opinion on the temporary suspension of certain national and Community aids. The Opinion points out that the Commission's proposed stopgap measures make no distinction whatsoever between structural and market problems.

The Committee would have preferred greater selectivity in the granting of aids.

In its Opinion on the responsibility levy, adopted by 44 votes to 29 with 19 abstentions, the Committee states that the Commission proposal does not:

- (i) evaluate the impact of the drought on the milk sector;
- (ii) deal with the question of financial responsibility for the cost of disposing of existing stocks;

(iii) provide for the establishment of consultation machinery;

(iv) analyse the impact of the co-responsibility levy on the income of milk producers (as it results from the price policy).

Finally, the Committee considers that it does not possess sufficient information to take a stand on the level of the levy proposed for 1976/1980, namely 2.5 % of the target price for milk.

The Committee adopted, by 60 votes to 27 with 4 abstentions, its Opinion on a charge on certain oils and fats, and came out against the introduction of a charge in the Community on certain vegetable and marine oils and fats.

#### *Priority action to relieve unemployment*

2459. The Economic and Social Committee in this own-initiative Opinion wishes to stress that in the light of the present unemployment crisis, the figures for unemployment among young persons, women and the elderly are particularly alarming.

In the case of unemployment among young people, the Committee urges that the following programmes should be intensified:

- (a) Improvement of information about careers and employment prospects;
- (b) creation of jobs and training places through subsidies to employers and assistance to young people obliged to take a job or apprenticeship outside their own area;
- (c) other special measures, such as making young people eligible for unemployment benefits, increasing the reception services in areas which have a large influx of young migrants, and creating special courses to help young people with learning difficulties, or with physical and mental handicaps.

The Committee, in giving its view as regards unemployment among women, recommends in the

area of improvement of information about careers publicity campaigns linked to guidance and counselling to help bring women into new occupations; special women's services within Employment and Vocational Guidance Offices, and information visits to give women the opportunity to see various jobs being carried out in industries or firms.

Among the measures recommended by the Committee to combat unemployment among older workers are the provision of information services for elderly workers to keep them up-to-date with employment trends, improvement of 'continuous learning programmes' and crash-training courses for older workers. Furthermore, the Committee sees a need for more research into the problems of old age reconsideration of the maximum age limits for workers, broadening 'flexible retirement' and pension facilities, and flexible hours and holidays, part-time and intermittent work.

#### *Regional fund*

2460. The Committee welcomes the First Annual Report on the activities of the European Regional Development Fund during 1975.

It draws attention to the fact that a larger Fund is needed to match more closely the needs of the deprived regions.

The Committee advocates that utilization of European Investment Bank loans at reduced rates be encouraged in particular to promote small and medium-sized enterprises. It would also like provisions in the new Fund Regulation to facilitate consideration of this type of project, by eliminating the minimum investment threshold and, if necessary, permitting group schemes to meet the minimum employment requirement.

In view of the increasing importance of the tertiary sector in relation to job creation, the Committee urges that greater emphasis be put on this sector in the new Fund Regulation.

#### *IAEA nuclear inspections*

2461. The Committee wholeheartedly welcomes the Commission's initiative, and calls on the Council to enact as quickly as possible the Regulation to enable the International Atomic Energy Agency to carry out inspections and verifications in the territories of the Member States.

#### *Extension of social protection*

2462. In its Opinion, adopted by 71 votes to 4 with 6 abstentions, the Committee welcomes the Commission's action in seeking to fill the gaps in social security arrangements for particular groups of persons, but points out:

- (i) the limitations of the proposal particularly from the point of view of the need to press ahead vigorously with the other measures needed to extend social security, using the most appropriate legal means available;
- (ii) the financial aspects of the extension of social protection;
- (iii) the need for better information about the current organization and financing of social security schemes in each Member State.

#### *Revision of the Energy Research and Development Programme*

2463. The Committee approves the changes now proposed by the Commission. These relate to the projects on hydrogen, solar energy, and geothermal energy.

#### *Precious metals*

2464. In this Opinion, adopted by a large majority, the Committee notes that the Member States have adopted widely different approaches to legislation on precious metals. These differences are not easy to reconcile.



If certain aspects are aligned in an initial phase, this should make it easier for more extensive alignment to be carried out subsequently.

It would perhaps be expedient at a later stage to have one or more Directives on the marking of articles made of pewter, bronze, stainless steel, gilded and silvered metal, etc.

*Technological research programme  
for the footwear sector*

2465. In its Opinion the Committee agrees with the Commission's analysis of the position of the Community's footwear industry. This industry is particularly important from the points of view of employment (especially employment for women), regional equilibrium and the Community's trade balance.

It approves the various projects in the proposed research programme. It is important to ensure that small and medium-sized manufacturers are able to benefit from the results of the projects in the same way as larger manufacturers.

The Committee wishes to stress that the difficulties facing the footwear industry can largely be put down to two factors: (a) the restrictive policies in force in certain markets which have the effect of limiting Community exports; (b) the exceptionally favourable manufacturing conditions in a number of non-Member States which have an abundant supply of cheap labour. It would draw the attention of the Community authorities to the need to coordinate the implementation of specific sectoral policies more closely with the Community's overall trade policy.

*Agency for trade cooperation*

2466. The Committee adopted unanimously (with 6 abstentions) its Opinion on establishing a European Agency for trade cooperation with the developing countries.

The Committee is strongly in favour of the European Agency working as closely as possible with all national and international organizations involved in the promotion of trade on behalf of the developing countries.

The administrative organization and management of the European Agency will presumably provide a sound basis for coping with the often complicated technicalities of trade promotion.

The Committee finally urges the Council to make a decision as soon as possible so as to enable the Agency to be operative by the beginning of 1977 at the latest.

## ECSC Consultative Committee

### *180th meeting*

2467. The ECSC Consultative Committee met in plenary session in Luxembourg on 25 and 26 November. The Committee's Chairman, Mr Joe Gormley, was in the chair.

### *ECSC operational budget for 1977*

2468. The Committee first discussed the ECSC levy rate and operational budget for 1977. The Commission has proposed to maintain the levy rate at 0.29 %, which, owing to inflation, will represent less in real terms than in 1976. Total resources are estimated at 111 million EUA.

Eighteen million EUA will be used for administrative expenditure, 25 million for retraining aid, 42 million for research aid and 9 million for social aid. The other items in the budget, including steel research and coal research, remain unchanged. Interest rate subsidies amount to 15 million EUA.

It was pointed out during the discussions that the Commission was proposing a 0.29 % levy rate

even though, with the ordinary reserves and the special reserve, it had sufficient resources to balance the books if difficulties were to arise.

The question was also raised of whether with the levy, the reserves and the special reserve the present guarantee fund was really needed.

A point was made concerning the two-month time-lag for payment of the levy. The Commission had decided on it as a temporary measure in the present situation, but it ought to be made permanent.

### *Community steel policy*

2469. Mr Simonet, Commission Vice-President, and Mr Vouel, Member of the Commission, attended the debate on the Community's steel policy.

Mr Simonet said in his speech that the most sensitive area at the moment was that where effective organization of the industry impinged on the rules on competition in the Treaty. The Commission considered that if the economic indicators were to justify limiting the production of large categories of products at individual enterprise level, the best way to do so would be to discuss the matter with thirty or so groups embracing the Community's steel producers.

Mr Simonet suggested that investments might be concerted by means of a trilateral conference between the Commission, the producers and the trade unions. The main point made in the ensuing discussion was that the Commission's proposals were first and foremost a reflection of the anxieties of the producers: it was essential, however, not to lose sight of users' needs and also not to allow too much intervention to endanger the Community's traditional economic freedom.

It would also be necessary to make sure that foreign producers did not profit from the restrictions that Community producers imposed on themselves. The Commission would have to take

steps to distinguish between the market in ordinary steels and that in special steels. Lastly coal producers, while anxious to see the situation in the steel industry improve, claimed that the coal industry should benefit from equivalent measures to those being proposed for steel.

Most speakers congratulated Mr Simonet and his colleagues on their efforts to help the European steel industry emerge satisfactorily from the present crisis.

The Consultative Committee approved the Commission's plan to deal with the crisis in the steel industry.

### *Safety information at the workplace*

2470. The Committee then examined a proposal for a Commission Directive on safety information at the workplace. A resolution was adopted asking the Commission to consult the Mines Safety and Health Commission and the Steel Industry Safety and Health Commission on the advisability of bringing coal and steel industries in the Community under the Directive.

The Committee felt that for the time being it could not agree to the application of the Directive in the industries covered by the ECSC Treaty.

### *Coal and coke for the iron and steel industry*

2471. Members' opinions were divided on the question of prolonging and amending Decision 73/287/ECSC concerning coking coal and coke for the iron and steel industry. A majority approved the Commission's draft decision.

## European Investment Bank

### Loans issued

2472. The European Investment Bank has signed a contract for the issue of \$ 50 million of five-year notes.

The loan has been underwritten by a syndicate of Arab banks and will be placed with investors in Middle-East countries.

The notes carry an interest rate of 7.75 %, payable annually, and were offered to the public at 99.75 %, yielding 7.81 %.

Application has been made for the loan to be listed on the Luxembourg stock exchange.

2473. The Bank has also floated a DM 100 million bond issue on the international capital market. The issue has been underwritten by an international banking syndicate.

The bonds carry a coupon of 6.75 % payable annually. The loan is for eight years and is redeemable at par after four years in four equal annual instalments.

The bonds were offered to the public at 99.25 %, giving a yield of 6.90 %.

Application has been made for the bonds to be listed on the Frankfurt, Berlin, Düsseldorf, Hamburg and Munich stock exchanges.

### Loans granted

#### *United Kingdom*

2474. The Bank has granted a loan equivalent to £ 5 million for the enlargement of the two SRN 4 hovercraft operated by British Rail on the Seaspeed routes between Dover and Calais and Boulogne. The loan was granted to the British Railways Board for ten years at 9 %. The two ho-

vercraft are to be lengthened by fitting a new 17 m section in the middle. The passenger superstructures will also be enlarged.

These changes will increase the capacity of each hovercraft from 28 to 55 cars and from 250 to 416 passengers. The extra length will also give added comfort and will enable the craft to ride the swell better. The power of the engines will be increased by 10 % to cope with the extra capacity.

The total cost of the project, including the building of a new hoverport at Dover, will be about £ 12.5 million.

Introduced in 1968 between Dover and Boulogne, the hovercraft service, which is run in cooperation with the SNCF, was extended in 1970 to the Dover-Calais route. The two hovercraft in operation have so far carried four million passengers and some 600 000 vehicles.

The Channel crossing by hovercraft takes about 35 minutes, a third of the time required by a conventional ferry.

Offering a modern and rapid form of transport, hovercraft make an appreciable contribution towards improving communications between the United Kingdom and France and, indirectly, the rest of Europe, an estimated 30 % of all the traffic crossing the Straits of Dover being intended for countries other than France.

## Financing Community activities

### Budgets

#### General budget for 1977

2475. On the second reading of the draft budget for 1977 on 23 November the Council adopted 'compulsory' expenditure definitively and decided its position on the amendments to 'non-

compulsory' expenditure proposed by the European Parliament during the reading.

Generally speaking, this Council meeting was productive and began with a very useful meeting with a Parliamentary delegation, led by the President, Mr Spénale. The exchange of views between Council and Parliament was fairly long and lively.

The most significant Council decisions can be summarized as follows: Agreement on the extension of the distinction between appropriations for commitment and appropriations for payment to three new areas over and above those agreed on 22 July,<sup>1</sup> (i.e. pilot research studies for the fight against poverty, research in the uranium sector, and the second programme in the data-processing field).

Agreement to a budget entry 962 (Financial cooperation with certain non-member countries), which is an important step since, after long discussions, the Council has now endorsed the principle of including the Community's external commitments in the budget. In this case it means the inclusion in the budget of financial aid arising from the financial protocols between the EEC and the Maghreb countries and Malta.

It approved a number of amendments proposed by Parliament on the first reading,<sup>2</sup> accepting them either in full or in part, the total amount involved being some 57.5 million u.a.; the most important of these amendments concern the Social Fund, energy, data-processing and aid to non-governmental organizations for cooperation with the developing countries.

As far as 'compulsory expenditure' is concerned it should be stressed that the Council has, for the first time, approved a proposal for an amendment in the food-aid sector by entering an additional 14 million u.a. for the 1977 programme.

Table 2 shows the status of budgetary discussion after the second reading by the Council of the draft budget for 1977.

### Third amending budget for 1976

2476. Following the entry into force on 30 October of the new conditions of employment for staff paid from research and investment appropriations, the Commission sent to the Council on 23 November the preliminary draft of the third amending budget for 1976. The Commission's proposal is to:

- (i) delete the posts of establishment staff and replace them by posts of C and D grade temporary staff;
- (ii) create a number of posts for C and D grade temporary staff to which the present local staff can be recruited.

It should be stressed that this budget does not alter the total appropriations but simply affects the establishment plan attached to the estimate of expenditure relating to research and investment activities (Annex I to the Commission budget).

### Own resources

#### Guidelines for a Financial Regulation on VAT

2477. At its meeting on 21 October on tax questions, the Council instructed the Commission to prepare a memorandum setting out the essential features of the Financial Regulation to be adopted pursuant to the forthcoming sixth Directive concerning the collection by the Member States for the Communities of own resources accruing from VAT.

These guidelines distinguish between the establishment of own resources accruing from VAT under normal arrangements, the establishment of own resources where there are derogations from the usual arrangements and the calculation of the

<sup>1</sup> Bull. EC 7/8-1976, point 2493.

<sup>2</sup> Bull. EC 10-1976, point 2482.

Table 2 — Comparison between the 1976 Budget and the proposed Budget for 1977

| Sector   | 1976 <sup>1</sup>             |       |                            |       | 1977 (Preliminary draft) <sup>2</sup> |       |                            |       | Change %    |             | 1977 (Council draft — first reading) |       |                            |       | Change %    |             | 1977 (Parliament's draft — first reading) |       |                            |       | Change %     |              | 1977 (Council draft — first reading) |       |                            |       | Change %     |              |
|--|-------------------------------|-------|----------------------------|-------|---------------------------------------|-------|----------------------------|-------|-------------|-------------|--------------------------------------|-------|----------------------------|-------|-------------|-------------|---|-------|----------------------------|-------|--------------|--------------|--------------------------------------|-------|----------------------------|-------|--------------|--------------|
|  | Appropriations for commitment | %     | Appropriations for payment | %     | Appropriations for commitment         | %     | Appropriations for payment | %     | Col 3 Col 1 | Col 4 Col 2 | Appropriations for commitment        | %     | Appropriations for payment | %     | Col 7 Col 1 | Col 8 Col 2 | Appropriations for commitment             | %     | Appropriations for payment | %     | Col 11 Col 1 | Col 12 Col 2 | Appropriations for commitment        | %     | Appropriations for payment | %     | Col 15 Col 1 | Col 16 Col 2 |
|  | 1                             |       | 2                          |       | 3                                     |       | 4                          |       | 5           | 6           | 7                                    |       | 8                          |       | 9           | 10          | 11  |       | 12                         |       | 13           | 14           | 15                                   |       | 16                         |       | 17           | 18           |
| <b>COMMISSION</b>  |                               |       |                            |       |                                       |       |                            |       |             |             |                                      |       |                            |       |             |             |   |       |                            |       |              |              |                                      |       |                            |       |              |              |
| <i>Intervention Appropriations</i>                             |                               |       |                            |       |                                       |       |                            |       |             |             |                                      |       |                            |       |             |             |   |       |                            |       |              |              |                                      |       |                            |       |              |              |
| Agriculture  | 5 790 982 500                 | 64.97 | 5 790 982 500              | 68.37 | 6 398 673 500                         | 63.22 | 6 236 273 500              | 67.15 | + 10.49     | + 7.69      | 6 188 643 500                        | 65.55 | 6 021 443 500              | 69.09 | + 6.87      | + 3.98      | 6 442 703 500                             | 63.94 | 6 275 503 500              | 67.60 | + 11.25      | + 8.37       | 6 188 643 500                        | 64.98 | 6 021 443 500              | 68.81 | + 6.87       | + 3.98       |
| Social   | 530 600 001                   | 5.95  | 452 600 001                | 5.34  | 634 722 000                           | 6.27  | 185 032 000                | 1.99  | + 19.62     | - 59.12     | 590 345 000                          | 6.25  | 183 685 000                | 2.11  | + 11.26     | - 59.42     | 662 757 000                               | 6.58  | 214 247 000                | 2.31  | + 24.91      | - 52.66      | 632 127 000                          | 6.64  | 183 967 000                | 2.10  | + 19.13      | - 59.35      |
| Regional   | 500 000 000                   | 5.61  | 300 000 000                | 3.54  | 500 000 000                           | 4.94  | 500 000 000                | 5.38  | —           | + 66.67     | 500 000 000                          | 5.30  | 400 000 000                | 4.59  | —           | + 33.33     | 500 000 000                               | 4.96  | 500 000 000                | 5.39  | —            | + 66.67      | 500 000 000                          | 5.25  | 400 000 000                | 4.57  | —            | + 33.33      |
| Research, Energy, Industry, Transport                          | 337 043 270                   | 3.78  | 172 992 526                | 2.04  | 368 615 776                           | 3.64  | 249 894 179                | 2.69  | + 9.36      | + 44.45     | 255 393 966                          | 2.71  | 204 071 157                | 2.34  | - 24.23     | + 17.97     | 383 407 197                               | 3.80  | 286 285 188                | 3.08  | + 13.76      | + 65.49      | 283 572 197                          | 2.98  | 226 249 388                | 2.59  | - 15.87      | + 30.79      |
| Development  | 336 255 750                   | 3.77  | 336 255 750                | 3.97  | 425 027 900                           | 4.20  | 322 027 900                | 3.47  | + 26.40     | - 4.23      | 238 007 200                          | 2.52  | 238 007 200                | 2.73  | - 29.22     | - 29.22     | 394 788 200                               | 3.92  | 313 788 200                | 3.38  | + 17.41      | - 6.68       | 239 188 200                          | 2.51  | 239 188 200                | 2.73  | - 28.87      | - 28.87      |
| Repayments and Aid to Member States and Miscellaneous          | 437 000 000                   | 4.90  | 437 000 000                | 5.16  | 660 000 000                           | 6.52  | 660 000 000                | 7.11  | + 51.03     | + 51.03     | 560 000 000                          | 5.93  | 560 000 000                | 6.43  | + 28.15     | + 28.15     | 560 000 000                               | 5.55  | 560 000 000                | 6.03  | + 28.15      | + 28.15      | 560 000 000                          | 5.88  | 560 000 000                | 6.40  | + 28.15      | + 28.15      |
|  | 7 931 881 521                 | 89.—  | 7 489 830 777              | 88.42 | 8 987 039 176                         | 88.80 | 8 153 227 579              | 87.79 | + 13.30     | + 8.86      | 8 332 389 666                        | 88.26 | 7 607 206 857              | 87.28 | + 5.05      | + 1.57      | 8 943 655 897                             | 88.75 | 8 149 823 888              | 87.79 | + 12.76      | + 8.81       | 8 403 530 897                        | 88.24 | 7 630 848 088              | 87.20 | + 5.95       | + 1.88       |
| <i>Administrative Appropriations</i>                           |                               |       |                            |       |                                       |       |                            |       |             |             |                                      |       |                            |       |             |             |   |       |                            |       |              |              |                                      |       |                            |       |              |              |
| Staff  | 242 860 542                   | 2.72  | 242 860 542                | 2.87  | 274 328 900                           | 2.71  | 274 328 900                | 2.95  | + 12.96     | + 12.96     | 268 237 600                          | 2.84  | 268 237 600                | 3.08  | + 10.46     | + 10.46     | 269 455 100                               | 2.67  | 269 455 100                | 2.90  | + 10.95      | + 10.95      | 268 455 100                          | 2.82  | 268 455 100                | 3.07  | + 10.54      | + 10.54      |
| Administrative Expenditure                                     | 77 577 107                    | 0.87  | 77 577 107                 | 0.92  | 87 889 300                            | 0.87  | 87 889 300                 | 0.95  | + 13.29     | + 13.29     | 85 668 740                           | 0.91  | 85 668 740                 | 0.98  | + 10.43     | + 10.43     | 85 728 740                                | 0.85  | 85 728 740                 | 0.92  | + 10.51      | + 10.51      | 85 668 740                           | 0.90  | 85 668 740                 | 0.98  | + 10.43      | + 10.43      |
| Information  | 6 340 000                     | 0.07  | 6 340 000                  | 0.07  | 7 766 000                             | 0.08  | 7 766 000                  | 0.08  | + 22.49     | + 22.49     | 7 400 000                            | 0.08  | 7 400 000                  | 0.08  | + 16.72     | + 16.72     | 8 090 000                                 | 0.08  | 8 090 000                  | 0.09  | + 27.60      | + 27.60      | 7 430 000                            | 0.08  | 7 430 000                  | 0.08  | + 17.19      | + 17.19      |
| Aids and Subsidies   | 20 414 401                    | 0.23  | 20 414 401                 | 0.24  | 23 476 700                            | 0.23  | 23 476 700                 | 0.25  | + 15.00     | + 15.00     | 22 657 300                           | 0.24  | 22 657 300                 | 0.26  | + 10.99     | + 10.99     | 23 660 900                                | 0.24  | 23 660 900                 | 0.26  | + 15.90      | + 15.90      | 22 860 900                           | 0.24  | 22 860 900                 | 0.26  | + 11.98      | + 11.98      |
|  | 347 192 050                   | 3.90  | 347 192 050                | 4.10  | 393 460 900                           | 3.89  | 393 460 900                | 4.24  | + 13.33     | + 13.33     | 383 963 640                          | 4.07  | 383 963 640                | 4.41  | + 10.60     | + 10.60     | 386 934 740                               | 3.84  | 386 934 740                | 4.17  | + 11.45      | + 11.45      | 384 414 740                          | 4.04  | 384 414 740                | 4.39  | + 10.72      | + 10.72      |
| <i>Contingency Reserve</i>                                     | 3 000 000                     | 0.03  | 3 000 000                  | 0.03  | 6 000 000                             | 0.06  | 6 000 000                  | 0.06  | + 100.00    | + 100.00    | 4 000 000                            | 0.04  | 4 000 000                  | 0.05  | + 33.33     | + 33.33     | 4 000 000                                 | 0.04  | 4 000 000                  | 0.04  | + 33.33      | + 33.33      | 4 000 000                            | 0.04  | 4 000 000                  | 0.05  | + 33.33      | + 33.33      |
| <i>Repayment to the Member States of 10 % of own resources</i> | 502 831 534                   | 5.64  | 502 831 534                | 5.94  | 595 939 213                           | 5.89  | 595 939 213                | 6.42  | + 18.52     | + 18.52     | 582 916 348                          | 6.17  | 582 916 348                | 6.69  | + 15.93     | + 15.93     | 594 177 249                               | 5.90  | 594 177 249                | 6.40  | + 18.17      | + 18.17      | 583 416 348                          | 6.12  | 583 416 348                | 6.67  | + 16.03      | + 16.03      |
| <b>Commission Total</b>  | 8 784 905 105                 | 98.57 | 8 342 854 361              | 98.49 | 9 982 439 289                         | 98.63 | 9 148 627 692              | 98.51 | + 13.63     | + 9.66      | 9 303 269 654                        | 98.54 | 8 578 086 845              | 98.42 | + 5.90      | + 2.82      | 9 928 767 886                             | 98.53 | 9 134 935 877              | 98.40 | + 13.02      | + 9.49       | 9 375 361 985                        | 98.44 | 8 602 679 176              | 98.31 | + 6.72       | + 3.11       |
| <b>OTHER INSTITUTIONS</b>                                      | 127 755 247                   | 1.43  | 127 755 247                | 1.51  | 138 631 280                           | 1.37  | 138 631 280                | 1.50  | + 8.51      | + 8.51      | 137 611 389                          | 1.46  | 137 611 389                | 1.58  | + 7.71      | + 7.71      | 148 099 329                               | 1.47  | 148 099 329                | 1.60  | + 15.92      | + 15.92      | 148 099 329                          | 1.56  | 148 099 329                | 1.69  | + 15.92      | + 15.92      |
| <b>Grand Total</b>   | 8 912 660 352                 | 100.— | 8 470 609 608              | 100.— | 10 121 070 569                        | 100.— | 9 287 258 972              | 100.— | + 13.56     | + 9.64      | 9 440 881 043                        | 100.— | 8 715 698 234              | 100.— | + 5.93      | + 2.89      | 10 076 867 215                            | 100.— | 9 283 035 206              | 100.— | + 13.06      | + 9.59       | 9 523 461 314                        | 100.— | 8 750 778 505              | 100.— | + 6.85       | + 3.31       |

<sup>1</sup> Including the first and second Supplementary Budgets for 1976.<sup>2</sup> Including the first letter of amendment for 1976.<sup>3</sup> The difference between appropriations for commitment and appropriations for payment (725 182 809 u.a.) is the difference between appropriations for commitment and appropriations for payment in the sectors concerned (Item 3200, Chapter 33, Item 3620, Social Fund, Regional Fund and EAGGF Guidance Section).

relevant compensatory payments and the entry into the accounts and making available of these resources. Inspection measures are also planned, as is the establishment of a committee to assist the Commission in administering the financial regulation concerning own resources accruing from VAT.

### ECSC financial operations

#### Loans raised

2478. During the month the Commission raised the following loans:

— A SwF 80 million bond issue. This was underwritten by a syndicate of Swiss banks, and is for fifteen years with a 5¾% coupon. It was offered to the public at par.

Application has been made for the bonds to be quoted on the Zurich, Basle, Geneva, Lausanne and Berne stock exchanges.

— A \$ 30 million bond issue, underwritten by an international syndicate of banks. The loan is for seven years with an 8% coupon. It was offered to the public at 99.50%.

These bonds have been admitted to quotation on the Luxembourg stock exchange.

A \$ 150 million issue made up of US \$ 75 million in eight year notes and US \$ 75 million in 20-year bonds.

The notes were issued at 99.563% with an 8<sup>1</sup>/<sub>8</sub>% coupon.

The bonds were issued at 99% with an 8<sup>7</sup>/<sub>8</sub>% coupon.

Application has been made for the notes and bonds to be admitted to quotation on the New York Stock Exchange.

These operations bring the total of loans contracted by the ECSC as at 30 November to the equivalent of 4 089 million EUA.

#### Loans granted

##### Loans paid

2479. Under the General Objectives of the ECSC and pursuant to Article 54 of the Treaty of Paris the Commission granted a total of 46.4 million EUA in loans during November.

These *industrial loans* were made to three undertakings to finance the following programmes:

##### Coal industry

— Rationalization and modernization of collieries:

National Coal Board, London

North Derbyshire:

Whitwell Colliery

Bolsover Colliery

Warsop colliery

North and South Nottinghamshire:

Linby Colliery

Newstead Colliery

Creswell Colliery

Bentinck Colliery

Bevercotes Colliery

Silverhill Colliery

Yorkshire:

Grimethorpe Colliery

Bentley Colliery

Ackton Hall Colliery

Brodsworth Colliery

North-Eastern Division:

Butterwell take

Westoe Colliery

Western Division:

Silverdale Colliery

Bold Colliery

South Wales:

Oakdale Colliery

Cwm/Goedele Colliery

Abertillery and Blaenserchan Collieries

## 5. Institutional questions — European policy

Financing Community activities

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Kent:  
Snowdown Colliery

*Iron and steel industry*

— Rationalization of pig iron and steel production:

Société Métallurgique Hainaut Sambre SA, Couillet (Montignies Works),  
Sidérurgie Maritime Sidmar SA, Ghent.

*Loan decisions*

2480. In November the Commission took a decision on the granting of another industrial loan, totalling 13.4 million EUA.

### European Union

2501. The following statement on European Union was issued at the end of the European Council meeting in The Hague on 29 and 30 November:

‘1. The European Council examined the report on European Union submitted to it by Mr Tindemans at its request. It heard an account given by the Chairman of the work carried out, and approved the general lines of the comments by the Ministers for Foreign Affairs on the various Chapters of the report.

2. The European Council indicated its very great interest in the analyses and proposals put forward by Mr Tindemans. It shared the views expressed by the Belgian Prime Minister on the need to build European Union by strengthening the practical solidarity of the nine Member States and their peoples, both internally and in their relations with the outside world, and gradually to provide the Union with the instruments and institutions necessary for its operation. It considered that European Union should make itself felt effectively in the daily life of individuals by assisting in the protection of their rights and the improvement of the circumstances of their life.

3. On this occasion the European Council had a wide-ranging discussion of the principles which must underlie the construction of European Union over the coming years. European Union will be built progressively by consolidating and developing what has been achieved within the Community, with the existing Treaties forming a basis for new policies. The achievement of Economic and Monetary Union is basic to the consolidation of Community solidarity and the establishment of European Union. Priority importance must be given to combating inflation and unemployment and to drawing up common energy and research policies and a genuine regional and social policy for the Community.

4. The construction of Europe must also make the best use of possibilities for cooperation between the nine Governments in those areas where the Member States are prepared to exercise their sovereignty in a progressively convergent manner.

This form of cooperation in the field of foreign policy must lead to the search for a common external policy.

5. In the light of future developments as defined by the report on European Union, the Heads of Government, with the intention of establishing a comprehensive and coherent common political approach, reaffirm their desire to increase the authority and efficiency of the Community institutions, as well as the support of the peoples for them, and confirm the role of the European Council as a driving force.

6. On the basis of the conclusions reached by the Ministers for Foreign Affairs, the European Council invites them, and the Commission, in the sectors for which it is competent, to report to it once a year on the results obtained and the progress which can be achieved in the short term in the various sectors of the Union, thus translating into reality the common conception of European Union.'

2502. After the meeting of the European Council, Mr Leo Tindemans, the Belgian Prime Minister, making a statement to the press, had this to say: 'Before I give you my own thoughts as the rapporteur on European Union, I would like to say a few things about the conclusions we have reached at this meeting.

To appreciate what we achieved yesterday and today, we should cast our minds back to where we were before the European Council met. I tried to take stock of the situation in a letter I sent to my colleagues a few days ago. Parts of it were published by the press and misconstrued. Let me say straightaway, there was nothing in it to indicate that I was unhappy about the way in

which my report on European Union has been examined. It simply noted that the proceedings of the Foreign Ministers had revealed fairly extensive consensus on European Union as I conceived of it. It also went on to say that the Foreign Ministers had had less success when they came to define what concrete measures could be taken in the near future so that we can make progress in building that Union.

So I suggested to my colleagues:

- (i) that we agree on the conception itself;
- (ii) that we instruct the Foreign Ministers to work out a plan of advance which will turn this fundamental option taken by the Council into material reality.

Where are we today? You have read our conclusions. I find that they again endorse the general six-point conception of the Union as set out in the first chapter of my report:

- (i) the need for a common external policy,
- (ii) the key role of the economic and monetary union backed up by common policies on energy and research,
- (iii) regional policy and social policy,
- (iv) the effect of the Union on people's daily lives,
- (v) developing the authority and efficiency of the institutions,
- (vi) European Union will be built progressively and pragmatically on the foundations laid by the existing Treaties.

I am therefore satisfied on the first of the problems I raised in my letter, namely, that of agreeing on an outline plan of European Union. On the second point causing me concern—the action needed to accomplish the Union—a mandate has been given to the Foreign Ministers and the Commission. Working from the conclusions reached by the Ministers during this last year, we must give shape to this common conception. Each year the European Council will appraise the situation and take the necessary decisions on



progress that can be made in the different spheres of the Union.

The climate in which our meeting opened today was far from optimistic, to say the least, and a glance at the economic and social scene in our countries is enough to explain why. Apart from this, many people seemed to think the Council was meeting this time to bury the report on European Union. So you must evaluate these results against the background of the difficult overall situation and the threat which it constitutes for the construction of Europe.

Speaking for myself, I take heart from the fact that our countries, escaping the snare of doctrinaire wrangles, have succeeded in reaching agreement on a common conception of European Union. European Union is no longer an empty phrase; it has now been given policies, clearly defined and agreed, and these should henceforth guide us in all our current plans.

We must now go about transforming this common conception into reality. It is an enormous task and I do not underestimate the difficulties. The European Council has directed the Ministers and the Commission to see that the work is done. The fact that the European Council will review progress each year means, to my great satisfaction, that in this crucial project, it intends to assume its proper role as the driving force and so ensure the gradual achievement of European Union.

The task given me two years ago by my colleagues—of presenting proposals and combining in a report the many ideas put to me—is now finished. We have before us a common plan for future action; we must now accomplish it. For this, I have no other terms of reference than my convictions. I hope to take an active part whenever I have the opportunity and I will freely defend what have always been my own ideas.

One last thought concerning the job assigned to me two years ago. I realise that the hopes set on swift achievement of European Union have now

been somewhat dashed. But for me, the whole experience was worth the effort. Sometimes it was exciting, sometimes hard going; at times very rewarding and now and again frustrating. But finally, in the task of building Europe, to which so many have devoted so much energy and enthusiasm, every brick counts and the one we have laid in place today weighs something too.'

## Political cooperation

### Annual report to the European Parliament

2503. On 17 November Mr Max van der Stoep, President of the Council of the European Communities and of the Conference of Foreign Ministers, gave the following report to the European Parliament on political cooperation:

'In my introduction to the discussion on political cooperation I should like to stress that European political cooperation is playing an increasingly important role in cooperation in general among the Nine. Perhaps it would be useful on this occasion to remind you once more of the history of European political cooperation. Originally our sole aim was to arrive at common positions, where these were necessary for the support of Community policy, but gradually the consultation was extended to cover all possible subjects with which the Nine had to deal at international level, and it is remarkable that the Nine now appear to be becoming more and more successful in reaching common positions. This form of consultation has also become much more intensive. Developments of this kind are to be welcomed since European political cooperation is also an element in progress towards a European Union.

I should now like to mention a number of issues which are important in the context of political cooperation. These are the Middle East, the Euro-Arab Dialogue, the serious problems in Southern Africa, the Cyprus conflict and the

strengthening of East-West relations. Before going into these matters individually, I would like to stress that in preparation for and during the General Assembly of the United Nations, the Nine always consult together on the international issues on the agenda.

First of all, the Middle East. In recent months, the nine countries of the European Community have together devoted considerable attention to the tragic events in the Lebanon. In particular, they have examined the possibility of cooperating with others in offering aid to the victims of the conflict in that country wherever possible. In my capacity as President of the Council of the European Communities, I also sent a message to President Sarkis of the Lebanon, on the occasion of his taking up office, expressing my hope on behalf of the nine countries of the Community that his entry into office would represent the beginning of a new period in the history of the Lebanon which would see an end to the conflict in his country and the restoration of peace, and that the country's independence and territorial integrity would be respected. In addition, in my speech at the 31st session of the General Assembly of the United Nations on 28 September, I described once more, on behalf of the Member States, the united attitude of the countries of the Community regarding a possible solution to the conflict in the Middle East. I said that the members of the European Community were convinced that the negotiations must be conducted on the basis of a minimum consensus of all the parties involved in the conflict—which is essential if just and lasting peace is to be established in the Middle East. I reaffirmed the fact that the nine countries of the Community stand by Resolutions Nos 242 and 338 of the Security Council, and also drew attention to the statement of 6 November 1973 which described the principles underlying the common position of the Nine regarding the Middle East question.

I also stressed that it would only be possible to solve the conflict in the Middle East if the legal right of the Palestinian people to express its na-

tional identity in concrete terms was respected. This will be the guiding principle for the nine countries of the European Community during the debate on the Middle East at today's sitting of the General Assembly of the United Nations.

Speaking of the Middle East, I must just mention briefly the situation as regards the Euro-Arab Dialogue. The General Committee met for the first time in May of this year. In their opening statements, the European and Arab Delegations gave their general views on the significance of the Dialogue. The meeting provided an opportunity to examine those areas in which the existing cooperation between the countries of the Community and the Arab countries could be extended. Since the meeting in Luxembourg, the various working parties and sub-groups have met to examine further the possibilities for cooperation in fields such as industry, trade, agriculture, finance, infrastructure, technology, culture and social affairs. A clearer picture of what the Dialogue can achieve is gradually emerging. The possibility of a number of joint agricultural projects is under consideration. The question of the protection of investments was naturally discussed in the context of financial cooperation. In the field of technology, the possibilities for translating into reality the principles agreed upon and publicly stated in other international forums were examined. In the social sphere, questions of living and working conditions for migrant workers were considered. In the cultural field, plans were made for the organization of symposia and the production of a catalogue of cultural institutions. It was originally thought that it would be possible to hold the next meeting of the General Committee in Tunis this December. Contacts between the European and Arab chairmen, however, indicate that this meeting will probably be held at the beginning of next year. This possible postponement does not arise from any political motives, but is a purely technical matter in connection with the as yet uncompleted preparatory and coordinating work.

And now to Africa. During the last six months, there have been various developments in south-

ern Africa which have called for the particular and active attention of the Nine and provided a stimulus to European political cooperation. The joint consultations and the frank exchange of information and views have increased further. The growing acuteness of the situation in southern Africa is a source of very great concern to the nine Member States. I will now try to summarize briefly the attitude of the Member States with regard to southern Africa. Firstly, I should like to remind you that at the Summit Conference of the Organization of African Unity, at which the problems of southern Africa were a major issue, the Nine took steps to ensure that the member states of this organization were better informed of the Community's views. Secondly, the developments in connection with Transkei and the announcement that in October this was to be the first of a series of homelands to be granted sovereignty, led us to discuss what attitude we should adopt on this matter. The Nine have always been of the opinion that a joint position carries more weight than individual statements. In the section relating to the Community of the speech I made to the General Assembly on 28 September last, I announced the intention of the Nine not to recognize Transkei in October. This decision was based on the view that the granting of independence to Transkei stemmed from South Africa's apartheid policy of which the Nine reject.

Thirdly, with a view to contributing towards a breakthrough in the Zimbabwe question, the Nine decided to issue a forceful Community statement declaring their full support for the British proposals for a conference in Geneva which might pave the way towards a majority government within two years. As regards Namibia, the Nine asked Pretoria what measures the South African Government was taking with a view to finding a swift and acceptable solution to this problem. I should like to remind you in connection with the apartheid regime in South Africa itself that the critical dialogue between the countries of the Community and South Africa is continuing.

Finally, I can inform you that the question of the recognition of the Republic of the Comoros will also be discussed within the context of political cooperation.

I now come to the Cyprus question, which is a regular topic of discussion among the Nine. We have examined the possibilities of finding a swift solution to the conflicts on and around the island. Our basic premise has always been that a solution must be reached by means of negotiations and must aim at maintaining and guaranteeing the independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Republic of Cyprus. Following the fifth round of talks under the auspices of the Secretary-General of the United Nations in February of this year, it emerged that the representatives of the Greek and Turkish communities in Cyprus were not prepared to meet around the conference table again in May under Mr Waldheim's chairmanship, as had been agreed at the end of the fifth round. Since then, the Member States have again both jointly and severally taken every opportunity to urge a resumption of the inter-community discussions in accordance with the offer of good offices made by the nine Ministers of Foreign Affairs on 13 February 1975 in Dublin, when they also assured the Secretary-General of the United Nations once more of their support in the implementation of the task assigned to him by the Security Council, i.e. to endeavour to achieve a lasting solution which would be acceptable to all parties involved in the conflict. These activities, including the contacts with both negotiating parties in Cyprus, both by and on behalf of the Presidency, were among the factors which led Mr Waldheim to take the initiative of inviting Mr Papadopoulos and Mr Onan to New York on 3 September last to discuss with him the possibility of resuming the negotiations under his leadership. After these talks both sides said that they were willing to resume the talks in Nicosia under the chairmanship of the special representative of the Secretary-General in Cyprus, although no date was yet decided on.

In my capacity as President of the Council of Foreign Ministers of the Community, I too discussed the Cyprus question with the heads of the Greek and Turkish Governments and with my colleagues, the Ministers of Foreign Affairs, during my visits to Athens and Ankara in August and September respectively. On these occasions and during my later meetings with my Turkish and Greek colleagues I explained the position of the Nine, and urged them to use their influence to bring about a rapid resumption of inter-community consultation regarding the major issues in Cyprus, which so far has not been possible, mainly owing to procedural problems. The Nine are maintaining close contact with the Government of the United States on this matter, again via the Netherlands Government, which currently occupies the Presidency of the Council.

I should now like to speak about European political cooperation and East-West relations. As the 'follow-up' meeting to the Helsinki security conference draws nearer, by which I mean the coming conference in Belgrade, interest in this subject is increasing. This interest is reflected not only in the many meetings of the Working Party on the Conference for Security and Cooperation in Europe within the framework of European political cooperation, but also in the fact that the follow-up to Helsinki has figured regularly on the agenda of the Political Affairs Committee during the last few months. The Working Party I have just mentioned was able to complete its analysis of the text of the Final Act this summer—an extremely time-consuming but useful undertaking which resulted in a number of documents together totalling several hundred pages. The Nine will be able to use this analysis as a basis for their work in Belgrade, particularly in connection with the assessment of how the agreements reached in Helsinki have been implemented. The exchange of information and opinions on this question has been pursued, and its results include a series of parallel representations by the Nine in Moscow aimed at improving economic information. The preparation for the Belgrade conference got under

way with a study of a number of practical and theoretical aspects. Clearly, it will only be possible to make final choices for Belgrade at a fairly late stage, in the light of the East-West situation as a whole. Nevertheless, it is useful even at this early juncture to reflect on the various options open to us. Thus the questions currently under consideration include the areas in which it might be possible for us too to submit new proposals, with a view to both maintaining the multilateral dialogue and to achieving some progress in certain matters of interest to the Nine. In addition, we must bear in mind that some neutral countries which are still extremely interested in the follow-up to Helsinki may also make proposals, and the Nine would be well-advised to ensure efficient cooperation is possible with this group.

Another point deserving of our attention is the question of how we can best assess the extent to which the Final Act of Helsinki has been translated into reality; this is, in our view, the main task of the Belgrade Conference. The basic requirement here is frank, unambiguous debate, but we must also avoid unnecessary polemics. Nor should we forget that all those participating in these talks do so on an equal footing. If, in effect, only the activities of the Soviet Union are subjected to intense scrutiny, this will not be in keeping with the methods used so far in the discussions concerning Helsinki. The Nine are therefore thinking in terms of an assessment for each country. The most suitable form for this to take, however, must be further investigated.

Finally, and likewise in preparation for Belgrade, the Working Party is currently working on a detailed definition of the concept '*détente*', since this will be an important topic—certainly in the introductory speeches—and it would be useful if the Nine could adopt a common definition of the term so that the same yardstick could be used in assessing how much progress has been made in the process of *détente*. The Working Party has been considering this problem since last July and it looks as if its activities may be successfully completed within a few months.

I should like to round off my *résumé* of the various activities undertaken jointly by the Nine in recent months by stressing once more that our exchange of views is becoming more and more intensive and that it is this extremely intensive exchange of views on practically all current international political problems facing the Nine, together with the resulting increased understanding of each other's points of view and intentions, which have contributed to the fact that the Nine are now more able to adopt common positions than in the past.

This is not always the case, as we see from the way the Nine sometimes vote in the United Nations. However, it remains true that the subjects of which we agree and decide to adopt a common position are becoming more and more numerous.'





**3<sub>RD</sub> PART**

**DOCUMENTATION**





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*Forhandlinger i Europa Parlamentet*. Sessionen 1976-1977.  
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*Discussioni del Parlamento europeo*. Sessione 1976-1977.  
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Gazzetta ufficiale. Allegato n. 206. Settembre 1976.

1976. 222 p. (DK.D.E.F.I.NL)

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7324 (6)

*Handelingen van het Europese Parlement*. Zitting. 1976-1977.  
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 Brüssel. 1976.  
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 1976. diff. pag. (D.E.F.) FB 1 320,-

*Draft guidelines for examination in the European Patent Office.* (P. 1) (Loose-leaf edition)  
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*Samling af Domstolens Afgørelser.* 1976-2.  
 1976. p. 91 - 358 (DK.D.E.F.I.NL)  
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*Samling af Domstolens Afgørelser.* 1976-3.  
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*Sammlung der Rechtsprechung des Gerichtshofes.* 1976-4.  
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7133/4 (2)  
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11. *Ortaklik Konseyinin Ortaklik Parlamento Komisyonuna*  
*sundugu oubirinci yillik faaliyet raporu.*  
- 1.1.1975 - 31.12.1975. 134 p.  
1976. 134 p. hizmete özel

*Samling af Retsakter-Associering mellem Det europæiske økonomiske Fællesskab og Grækenland.*  
Bind II. (Udgivelse på løbsblade).  
1976. pag. diff. (DK.D.E.F.I.NL) Begrænset oplag

*Sammlung von Rechtsakten-Assoziation zwischen der Europäischen Wirtschaftsgemeinschaft und Griechenland.*  
Band II. (Loseblattsammlung)  
1976. pag. diff. (DK.D.E.F.I.NL) Beschränkt verfügbar

*Collected acts-Association between the European Economic Community and Greece.*  
Vol. II. (Loose-leaf edition)  
1976. pag. diff. (DK.D.E.F.I.NL) Limited distribution

*Recueil d'actes-Association entre la Communauté économique européenne et la Grèce.*  
Vol. II. (Édition à feuillets mobiles).  
1976. pag. diff. (DK.D.E.F.I.NL) Diffusion restreinte

*Raccolta di atti-Associazione tra la Comunità economica europea e la Grecia.*  
Vol. II. (Edizione a fogli mobili)  
1976. pag. diff. (DK.D.E.F.I.NL) Diffusione limitata

*Verzameling van besluiten-Associatie tussen de Europese Economische Gemeenschap en Griekenland.*  
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*Untersuchung zur Konzentrationsentwicklung in verschiedenen Untersektoren der elektrotechnischen Industrie in Deutschland. I-Rundfunk-, Fernseh- und Phonogeräte (NICE 375). II-Elektrohaushaltsgeräte (NICE 376).* Von Hans Schedl, Institut für Wirtschaftsforschung München, November 1975.  
 1976. 54 p. (D) FB 150,-

**Økonomiske, monetære og finansielle spørgsmål**  
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 (1976). 87 p. (D.E.F.I.NL) FB 200,-

8860 (3)

*Study on the possible part played by certain primary non-employment incomes in the inflationary process in the Federal Republic of Germany.* By Professor Dr. Hans-Jürgen Krupp in collaboration with Heinz-Peter Galler and Frank Klanberg. Seminar on social policy Johann Wolfgang Goethe. Universität, Frankfurt am Main, Frankfurt, December 1974.  
 (1976). 101 p. (D.E.F.I.NL) FB 200,-

8860 (4)

*Étude sur le rôle éventuel de certains revenus primaires non salariaux dans le développement de l'inflation en Allemagne.* Par le professeur Dr. Hans-Jürgen Krupp avec la collaboration de Heinz-Peter Galler et Frank Klanberg. Séminaire de politique sociale Johann Wolfgang Goethe. Université Francfort-sur-le-Main. Francfort, décembre 1974.  
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