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BULLETIN OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES

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European Economic Community
European Atomic Energy Community

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PART ONE

SPECIAL FEATURES

Standardized abbreviations for the designation of certain monetary units in the different languages of the Community:

BFR = Belgische frank / Franc belge

LFR = Franc luxembourgeois

DKR = Dansk krone

FF = Franc français

DM = Deutsche Mark

LIT = Lira italiana

HFL = Nederlandse gulden (Hollandse florijn)

UKL = Pound sterling

IRL = Irish pound

USD = United States Dollar

The European Council in Brussels — Outcome and follow-up

1.1.1 By the end of the year of European Council in Brussels had settled the details of a European Monetary System intended to create a zone of monetary stability in Europe. But this decision, which developed from Commission initiatives of recent years and from the European Council meeting in Bremen last July, immediately ran into difficulties.

The entry into force of the EMS, at first with only six countries, later eight (Italy and Ireland having finally agreed to join), foundered at the end of December over the adoption of the implementing regulations, following a reservation entered by France pending agreement on how monetary compensatory amounts were to be treated within the common agricultural policy. The European Monetary System (EMS) did not therefore start operating on 1 January 1979 as planned.

From the European Council in Bremen to the setbacks in December

1.1.2. Following informal preliminary talks on 6 and 7 July last the Bremen European Council discussed a scheme put forward by several delegations aimed at—to quote the Presidency's statement—'the creation of closer monetary cooperation (European Monetary System) leading to a zone of monetary stability in Europe'.¹

1.1.3. Five months later, the European Council in Brussels on 4 and 5 December took a further step in this direction by formally adopting a Resolution 'on the establishment of the European Monetary System

(EMS) and related matters'.² Three Members States however adopted a 'wait and see' attitude—'time for reflection' in the case of Ireland and Italy, and a more definite reservation in the case of the United Kingdom—before committing themselves to full participation in the system.

The next day the Commission confirmed that the EMS had been set up as a Community instrument, and that it would be fully involved in operating the new scheme. The Commission expressed a keen desire to see Ireland and Italy becoming members, and also hoped that the United Kingdom would join as soon as possible. Close contact was maintained with all three countries and a series of implementing measures were drafted in preparation for the Council meeting on Economic and Financial Affairs scheduled for 18 December in Brussels.

1.1.4. The auspices were favourable for the Council's discussions, since both Italy (on 12 December) and Ireland (on 15 December) had by then decided to join the EMS. These decisions were formally announced at the Council meeting. The United Kingdom Delegation stated that it was ready to play its part in all aspects of the EMS and that it would follow Community policies on exchange rates in a spirit of sympathetic co-operation, so as to be able to modify its position should the fears of the British Government prove unfounded.

The Council proceeded to discuss a number of matters relating to the introduction and operation of the European Monetary System. It reached a decision in principle on two Regulations: the first would introduce the ECU in the operations of the European Monetary Cooperation Fund (EMCF) with effect from 1 January; the second would permit the

¹ Bull. EC 6-1978, point 1.5.2.

² Point 1.1.11.

EMCF to receive monetary reserves from the Member States and to issue ECUs in exchange for these reserves.

However the Council was unable to adopt these Regulations formally at the end of the meeting, since the French Delegation had entered a provisional reservation pending the outcome of the Agriculture Ministers' discussions on the impact of the EMS on the common agricultural policy (the problem of monetary compensatory amounts).

1.1.5. The final setback occurred on 29 December when an official communiqué was released in Paris stating that the French Government considered that the necessary conditions for introducing the EMS had not been met in full and would therefore maintain its reservation, until the Council had found a solution for both problems—the EMS and the monetary compensatory amounts.

For this reason it was not possible to launch the EMS on 1 January 1979 as originally planned.

The creation of the European Monetary System

The idea of a European monetary system

1.1.6. The idea of a European monetary system is not new. An initial attempt to organize European monetary relations was made as early as 1970 following the Summit in The Hague in December 1969, at which a decision had been taken in favour of the establishment by stages of economic and monetary union. With this aim in mind, various measures were agreed in 1971 and 1972. In the monetary field, a system of joint floating was set up that subsequently underwent a number of changes in form and membership. In the end, this system (the 'snake') em-

braced only a reduced number of countries (Federal Republic of Germany, Netherlands, Belgium, Luxembourg, Denmark).

The EMS is being created for reasons of both international monetary policy and Community economic policy. Prominent among these is the need to tackle exchange rate instability, with its unmistakable adverse impact on both the fight against inflation and growth. A greater measure of exchange rate stability, notably within the EEC, would be an important factor in any policy to overcome the present crisis since it would have a favourable effect on the production and investment decisions of firms whose views were increasingly influenced by the unforeseeable nature of exchange rate relationships.

The EMS: mechanisms and operation

1.1.7. The EMS was designed to be established with eight Member States as full members, viz. the countries belonging to the 'snake' plus France, Italy and Ireland, the United Kingdom having decided to delay joining the system.

The EMS is based on a new European monetary unit, the ECU, the composition of which—to be reviewed periodically—will be identical at the outset with that of the European unit of account (EUA), namely: DM 0.828 + UKL 0.0885 + FF 1.15 + LIT 109.0 + HFL 0.286 + BFR 3.66 + LFR 0.140 + DKR 0.217 + IRL 0.00759.

This new instrument, the pillar of the system, will be used as: a denominator (*numéraire*) in the exchange rate mechanism; a basis for establishing a divergence indicator; a denominator for transactions under the intervention and credit mechanisms; a means of settlement between monetary authorities in the European Community.

As part of the EMS, it is planned to set up various mechanisms governing intervention, credit and settlement operations.

Intervention mechanism — Like the snake, the new system is to feature an intervention mechanism which is based on a parity grid (adjustable by joint agreement)

and which permits a maximum margin of fluctuation at any one time of 2.25%; when this margin is reached, there will be automatic intervention with no limit as to amount, normally in the currencies of the participating countries. Wider margins (6%) have been envisaged for Member States whose currencies are at present floating independently and who might opt for such margins, Italy being a case in point. In addition, a 'divergence indicator' based on the ECU would be introduced. The purpose of the indicator will be to identify any currency that reaches a threshold equal to 75% of its maximum margin of fluctuation against the ECU. Once this threshold has been crossed, there is a presumption that the authorities responsible for the currency in question will take steps to alleviate or indeed eliminate the strain within the system and, where possible, to prevent the emergence of a situation in which the maximum margin of fluctuation is reached, thereby making intervention compulsory. These steps might take the form of diversified intervention, monetary policy measures or, where appropriate, changes in central rates or any other economic policy measures.

Credit mechanism — Existing intra-Community credit mechanisms would be strengthened in order to provide the EMS with sufficient financial means. The period for which very short-term monetary support is available will be extended from 30 to 45 days after the end of the month of intervention, and the total amount of short-term and medium-term credits will be increased substantially. At present, the amount 'effectively available' under the two mechanisms is about 10 000 million ECU. The Resolution of the European Council provided for it to be increased to 25 000 million ECU. The periods for repayment of short-term credits would also be extended.

Settlement — As soon as the EMS is launched, ECU will be created against the deposit, in the form of resolving swap arrangements, of 20% of the gold and dollar reserves held by the Central Banks. They will be used for settling transactions carried out under the system. A European Monetary Fund embracing the new arrangements and the existing institutions will be set up by 1 January 1981 at the latest, according to the terms of the Resolution of the European Council in December.

1.1.8. The EMS, which is to replace the existing 'Community exchange rate scheme' (the snake), would involve a number of important innovations. For instance the divergence indicator should make for improved symmetry between participants' rights and obligations;

and the scale and duration of credits would enable participants to withstand speculative pressure and to cope with temporary balance of payments difficulties. Measures are envisaged to strengthen the economies of the less prosperous member countries participating in the EMS with a view to achieving closer convergence between the different Member States in the Community. The key role played by the ECU and the establishment of an initial fund bear witness to the Community nature of the undertaking. Lastly, the EMS shows a balanced mix between the elements of flexibility (wider margins, changes in central rates, credits) and rigidity (defence of margins, policy coordination) in addition to consistency between the strictly monetary aspects and the economic aspects of the system.

Documents and statements

1.1.9. Following several months of preparatory discussions it was the European Council, meeting in Brussels on 4 and 5 December, which gave the go-ahead to the European Monetary System. The 'conclusions of the Presidency' give the decision and stress its political significance, while the 'Resolution' adopted by the European Council describes the mechanisms of the new system.

Conclusions of the Presidency

1.1.10. The 'Conclusions of the Presidency' released at the end of the meeting of the European Council included the following passage on the EMS:

'The European Council agreed, on the basis of the preparatory work of the Council (Economics and Finance Ministers) and of the Monetary Committee and the Committee of the Governors of the Central Banks to set up a European Monetary System as from 1 January 1979. This agreement is enclosed as an Annex.

The purpose of the European Monetary System is to establish a greater measure of monetary stability in the Community. It should be seen as a fundamental component of a more comprehensive strategy aimed at lasting growth with stability, a progressive return to full

employment, the harmonization of living standards and the lessening of regional disparities in the Community. The Monetary System will facilitate the convergence of economic development and give fresh impetus to the process of European Union. The Council expects the European Monetary System to have a stabilizing effect on international economic and monetary relations. It will therefore certainly be in the interests of the industrial and the developing countries alike.'

Text of the Resolution

1.1.11. The text adopted by the European Council on 5 December is set out below:

'Resolution of the European Council of 5 December 1978

on the establishment of the European Monetary System (EMS) and related matters

A

The European Monetary System

1. Introduction

1.1 In Bremen we discussed a "scheme for the creation of closer monetary cooperation leading to a zone of monetary stability in Europe". We regarded such a zone "as a highly desirable objective" and envisaged "a durable and effective scheme".

1.2 Today, after careful examination of the preparatory work done by the Council and other Community bodies, we are agreed as follows:

A European Monetary System (EMS) will be set up on 1 January 1979

1.3 We are firmly resolved to ensure the lasting success of the EMS by policies conducive to greater stability at home and abroad for both deficit and surplus countries.

1.4 The following chapters deal primarily with the initial phase of the EMS.

We remain firmly resolved to consolidate, not later than two years after the start of the scheme, into a final system the provisions and procedures thus created. This system will entail the creation of the European Monetary Fund as announced in the conclusions of the European Council meeting at Bremen on 6 and 7 July 1978, as well as the full utilization of the ECU as a reserve asset and a means of settlement. It will be based on adequate legislation at the Community as well as the national level.

2. The ECU and its functions

2.1 A European Currency Unit (ECU) will be at the centre of the EMS. The value and the composition of the ECU will be identical with the value of the EUA at the outset of the system.

2. The ECU will be used

- (a) as the denominator (*numéraire*) for the exchange rate mechanism
- (b) as the basis for a divergence indicator
- (c) as the denominator for operations in both the intervention and the credit mechanism
- (d) as a means of settlement between monetary authorities of the EC.

2.3 The weights of currencies in the ECU will be re-examined and if necessary revised within six months of the entry into force of the system and thereafter every five years or, on request, if the weight of any currency has changed by 25%.

Revisions have to be mutually accepted; they will, by themselves, not modify the external value of the ECU. They will be made in line with underlying economic criteria.

3. The exchange rate and the intervention mechanism

3.1 Each currency will have an ECU-related central rate. These central rates will be used to establish a grid of bilateral exchange rates.

Around these exchange rates fluctuation margins of $\pm 2.25\%$ will be established. EC countries with presently floating currencies may opt for wider margins up to $\pm 6\%$ at the outset of EMS; these margins should be

gradually reduced as soon as economic conditions permit to do so.

A Member State which does not participate in the exchange rate mechanism at the outset may participate at a later date.

3.2 Adjustments of central rates will be subject to mutual agreement by a common procedure which will comprise all countries participating in the exchange rate mechanism and the Commission. There will be reciprocal consultation in the Community framework about important decisions concerning exchange rate policy between countries participating and any country not participating in the system.

3.3 In principle, interventions will be made in participating currencies.

3.4 Intervention in participating currencies is compulsory when the intervention points defined by the fluctuation margins are reached.

3.5 An ECU basket formula will be used as an indicator to detect divergences between Community currencies. A "threshold of divergence" will be fixed at 75% of the maximum spread of divergence for each currency. It will be calculated in such a way as to eliminate the influence of weight on the probability to reach the threshold.

3.6 When a currency crosses its "threshold of divergence", this results in a presumption that the authorities concerned will correct this situation by adequate measures, namely:

- (a) Diversified intervention;
- (b) Measures of domestic monetary policy;
- (c) Changes in central rates;
- (d) Other measures of economic policy.

In case such measures, on account of special circumstances, are not taken, the reasons for this shall be given to the other authorities, especially in the "concertation between Central Banks".

Consultations will, if necessary, then take place in the appropriate Community bodies, including the Council of Ministers.

After six months these provisions shall be reviewed in the light of experience. At that date the questions re-

garding imbalances accumulated by divergent creditor or debtor countries will be studied as well.

3.7 A Very Short-Term Facility of an unlimited amount will be established. Settlements will be made 45 days after the end of the month of intervention with the possibility of prolongation for another 3 months for amounts limited to the size of debtor quotas in the Short-Term Monetary Support.

3.8 To serve as a means of settlement, an initial supply of ECU will be provided by Fecom against the deposit of 20% of gold and 20% of dollar reserves currently held by Central Banks.

This operation will take the form of specified, revolving swap arrangements. By periodical review and by an appropriate procedure it will be ensured that each Central Bank will maintain a deposit of at least 20% of these reserves with Fecom. A Member State not participating in the exchange rate mechanism may participate in this initial operation on the basis described above.

4. The credit mechanisms

4.1 The existing credit mechanisms with their present rules of application will be maintained for the initial phase of the EMS. They will be consolidated into a single fund in the final phase of the EMS.

4.2 The credit mechanisms will be extended to an amount of 25 000 million ECU of effectively available credit. The distribution of this amount will be as follows:

Short-term monetary support = 14 000 million ECU
Medium-term financial assistance = 11 000 million ECU

4.3 The duration of the Short-Term Monetary Support will be extended for another 3 months on the same conditions as the first extension.

4.4 The increase of the Medium-Term Financial Assistance will be completed by 30 June 1979. In the meantime, countries which still need national legislation are expected to make their extended medium-term quotas available by an interim financing agreement of the Central Banks concerned.

5. Third countries and international organizations

5.1 The durability of EMS and its international implications require cooperation of exchange rate policies *vis-à-vis* third countries and, as far as possible, a concertation with the monetary authorities of those countries.

5.2 European countries with particularly close economic and financial ties with the European Communities may participate in the exchange rate and intervention mechanism.

Participation will be based upon agreements between Central Banks; these agreements will be communicated to the Council and the Commission of the EC.

5.3 EMS is and will remain fully compatible with the relevant articles of the IMF agreement.

6. Further procedure

6.1 To implement the decisions taken under A, the European Council requests the Council to consider and to take a decision on 18 December 1978 on the following proposals of the Commission:

(a) Council Regulation modifying the unit of account used by the European Fund of Monetary Cooperation, which introduces the ECU in the operations of the EMCF and defines its composition;

(b) Council Regulation permitting the EMCF to receive monetary reserves and to issue ECUs to the monetary authorities of the Member States which may use them as a means of settlement;

(c) Council Regulation on the impact of the European Monetary System on the common agricultural policy. The European Council considers that the introduction of the EMS should not of itself result in any change in the situation obtaining prior to 1 January 1979 regarding the expression in national currencies of agricultural prices, monetary compensatory amounts and all other amounts fixed for the purposes of the common agricultural policy.

The European Council stresses the importance of henceforth avoiding the creation of permanent MCAs and progressively reducing present MCAs in order to re-establish the unity of prices of the common agricultural policy, giving also due consideration to price policy.

6.2 It requests the Commission to submit in good time a proposal to amend the Council Decision of 22 March 1971 on the introduction of a mechanism for the medium term financial support to enable the Council of Economics and Finance Ministers to take a decision on such proposal at their session of 18 December 1978.

6.3 It requests the Central Banks of Member States — to modify their Agreement of 10 April 1972 on the reduction of margins of fluctuation between the currencies of Member States in accordance with the rules set forth above (see paragraph 3).

6.4 It requests the Central Banks of Member States to modify as follows the rules on short-term monetary support by 1 January 1979 at the latest:

(a) The total of debtor quotas available for drawings by the Central Banks of Member States shall be increased to an aggregate amount of 7.9 billion ECU.

(b) The total of creditor quotas made available by the Central Banks of Member States for financing the debtor quotas shall be increased to an aggregate amount of 15.8 billion ECU.

(c) The total of the additional creditor amount as well as the total of the additional debtor amount may not exceed 8.8 billion ECU.

(d) The duration of credit under the extended Short-Term Monetary Support may be prolonged *twice* for a period of 3 months.

B

Measures designed to strengthen the economies of the less prosperous Member States of the European Monetary System

1. We stress that, within the context of a broadly-based strategy aimed at improving the prospects of economic development and based on symmetrical rights and obligations of all participants, the most important concern should be to enhance the convergence of economic policies towards greater stability. We request the Council (Economic and Finance Ministers) to strengthen its procedures for coordination in order to improve that convergence.

2. We are aware that the convergence of economic policies and of economic performance will not be easy to achieve. Therefore, steps must be taken to strengthen the economic potential of the less prosperous countries of the Community. This is primarily the responsibility of the Member States concerned. Community measures can and should serve a supporting role.

3. The European Council agrees that in the context of the European Monetary System, the following measures in favour of the less prosperous Member States effectively and fully participating in the Exchange Rate and Intervention Mechanisms will be taken.

3.1 The European Council requests the Community institutions by the utilization of the new financial instrument and the European Investment Bank to make available for a period of 5 years loans of up to 1 000 million EUA per year to these countries on special conditions.

3.2 The European Council requests the Commission to submit a proposal to provide interest rate subsidies of 3% for these loans, with the following elements:

The total cost of this measure, divided into annual tranches of 200 million EUA each over a period of 5 years shall not exceed 1 000 million EUA.

3.3 Any less prosperous member country which subsequently effectively and fully participates in the mechanisms would have the right of access to this facility within the financial limits mentioned above. Member States not participating effectively and fully in the mechanisms will not contribute to the financing of the scheme.

3.4 The funds thus provided are to be concentrated on the financing of selected infrastructure projects and programmes, with the understanding that any direct or indirect distortion of the competitive position of specific industries within Member States will have to be avoided.

3.5 The European Council requests the Council (Economics and Finance Ministers) to take a decision on the abovementioned proposals in time so that the relevant measures can become effective on 1 April 1979 at the latest. There should be a review at the end of the initial phase of the EMS.

4. The European Council requests the Commission to study the relationship between greater convergence in

economic performance of the Member States and the utilization of Community instruments, in particular the funds which aim at reducing structural imbalances. The results of these studies will be discussed at the next European Council.'

Statements by Heads of State or Government and by the President of the Commission

1.1.12. After the meeting of the European Council on 4 and 5 December, a number of Heads of State or Government—Mr Valéry Giscard d'Estaing, President of the French Republic, Mr Helmut Schmidt, Chancellor of the Federal Republic of Germany, and the British Prime Minister, Mr James Callaghan—and Mr Roy Jenkins, President of the Commission, commented on the results obtained with regard to the establishment of a European Monetary System. They analysed the mechanisms of the new system and emphasized its importance for the future of the building of Europe.

President Giscard d'Estaing recalled that the idea of the EMS sprang from a Franco-German initiative which had taken shape at the European Councils in Copenhagen and Bremen. He stressed that the system was not simply a continuation or revival of the European 'snake', since it provided for measures and machinery covering a much wider field. The French President also emphasized the importance of a progressive return to a system of uniform pricing on agricultural markets, since the divergencies which existed at present were anomalous.

Chancellor Helmut Schmidt felt that the EMS would bring considerable benefits to all Community Members by paving the way for European unity and by stimulating economic growth, thus helping to reduce unemployment and also ensuring greater monetary stability. He felt none the less that the system

2. Greece: Major breakthrough in the accession negotiations

might have been taken further and that the current achievements should be seen as a limited success.

The British Prime Minister, Mr James Callaghan, took the view that the EMS should serve as a prelude to a new move towards greater stability of exchange rates with the dollar and perhaps other currencies. Mr Callaghan spoke not in terms of failure, but referred to a temporary set-back for Europe, and dwelt at length on the difficulties and cost of the common agricultural policy.

Mr Roy Jenkins, President of the Commission, echoed Mr Schmidt's view that the European Council was a limited success. But he stressed that although the EMS could not be regarded as a truly Community enterprise without the participation of all nine Members, it was still a great achievement that it had been started on a Community basis and that the Commission had been able to play its part.

On the same theme, the joint communiqué released in Washington at the end of the talks held on 14 December between President Carter and Mr Roy Jenkins indicated that 'President Carter viewed the European Monetary System (EMS) as an important step towards the European integration that the United States had long supported'. The President of the Commission stated that the creation of such a system was designed not only to establish a zone of monetary stability in Europe but also to contribute to greater stability in the world monetary system as a whole, of which a strong dollar was an essential part. He underlined that the EMS was entirely compatible with the relevant articles of the International Monetary Fund, to which Europe gives its wholehearted confidence and support.

1.2.1. A decisive advance was made in December in the negotiations for Greece's accession, which opened officially less than two and a half years ago.¹

At the tenth ministerial session of the EEC-Greece Negotiating Conference, which was held in Brussels on 20 December and continued into the early hours of 21 December, agreements were reached on questions relating to transitional measures, agriculture and social policy. These agreements, which constitute a major breakthrough in the accession negotiations, fulfil the hope expressed by the Council in its Statement of 7 February 1978² that the substantive phase of the negotiations could be completed by the end of 1978. The negotiations are therefore continuing to proceed in accordance with the agreed timetable.

From Greece's application for membership to the substantive phase of the negotiations

1.2.2. Greece presented its application for membership of the Communities on 12 June 1975;³ after the Commission had adopted its Opinion⁴ and the Council had stated its position⁴—at the beginning of 1976—the negotiations were formally opened in Brussels on 27 July 1976. At this Ministerial Conference¹ both parties agreed that the basis of the negotiations should be acceptance by Greece of the '*acquis communautaire*', subject to the necessary transitional arrangements. The negotiations entered a new phase in February 1978,⁵ when substantive discussions took over from exploratory talks.

¹ Bull. EC 7/8-1976, points 1201 to 1205.

² Bull. EC 2-1978, point 1.4.2

³ Bull. EC 6-1975, points 1201 to 1212.

⁴ Bull. EC 1-1976, points 1101 to 1111 and Supplement 2/76 — Bull. EC

⁵ Bull. EC 2-1978, points 1.4.1 to 1.4.5.

These substantive discussions progressed rapidly since in December they resulted in the conclusion of agreements whose importance must not be underestimated. The agreements concluded on 20 and 21 December were prepared at two deputy level sessions and one ministerial session. At the twentieth session of the Conference at Deputy (Ambassador) Level on 1 December the Community made statements on economic and financial questions and institutions and the Greek side presented papers on customs union (quotas), State aids and regional policy, textile products in the external relations sector and the application of VAT in Greece.

At the ninth ministerial session of the Conference on 6 December the Community presented a first package of proposals containing statements concerning the period of application of transitional measures and temporary derogations, agriculture and social policy. At this meeting the Greek Delegation indicated its initial reactions to these statements but proposed to express its detailed views at the next session of the Conference at Deputy Level. At the twenty-first session of the Conference at Deputy Level on 15 December the Greek Delegation presented its views as promised on the three matters referred to. While there was agreement on a number of points, it was clear that the outstanding questions could be resolved only at a further ministerial session, which is in fact what happened.

The outcome of the tenth ministerial session

1.2.3. The essential points of the agreement reached at the tenth Ministerial Conference were as follows.

In the agricultural sector, the two sides agreed on a basic period of five years for transitional measures. A special duration of seven years was agreed for fresh and processed tomatoes and fresh and preserved peaches. Cotton will be considered as an agricultural product and will be the subject of a special protocol. The possibility of production aids for dried figs and raisins will be envisaged. As far as sugar is concerned Greece will be treated according to the same criteria as other Member States. A compensation mechanism was agreed for fresh fruits and vegetables.

A general and reciprocal safeguard clause will be included in the accession instruments in the spirit of Article 135 of the Act concerning the Accession of the

United Kingdom, Ireland and Denmark. A special emergency procedure is also envisaged in cases of serious economic difficulties in the industrial and agricultural sectors.

As regards the social sector, Greek workers—as national of a member country of the Community—will be granted priority treatment should there be any need to bring in labour from outside the Community. Access to employment for members of the families of Greek workers at present employed in the Community will be introduced progressively over the transitional period. The free movement of workers within the Community will not be achieved until the end of the seven-year transitional period planned in this connection.

At a press conference held at the end of the negotiating session the importance of these agreements was underlined by Mr Rallis, Head of the Greek Delegation, and Mr Genscher, Head of the Community Delegation. In particular the vital role the Commission, represented by Mr Natali, Vice-President, had played in reaching this final compromise was stressed.

During 1979 there are a number of important questions still to be settled including most notably Greek participation in the Community system of own resources. It is hoped that an accession treaty will be signed before the end of June 1979 or even earlier.

3. Steel: Renewal of the crisis plan

Steel crisis plan

1.3.1. In December it was decided to extend or renew for a further year the measures for dealing with the crisis in the Community steel industry, which had been adopted at the end of 1977¹ by the Council, acting on Commission proposals, or by the Commission itself for matters falling within its jurisdiction.

The Council agreed that the situation in the industry made it essential to extend existing measures (with some amendments) and also to increase the emphasis placed on two aspects of the problem in 1977: restructuring requirements and rules for granting aid.

It therefore approved a package relating to the internal market (including aid schemes), and to external aspects, restructuring and financial support measures.

Internal market

1.3.2. At its meeting the Council was consulted on the draft Commission Decisions laying down minimum prices for hot-rolled wide strip, merchant bars and concrete reinforcing bars and on certificates of conformity for steel firms, and took note of the Commission communication on guidance prices for certain iron and steel products.

A series of Commission measures in this field were therefore adopted before the end of the year. A Decision of 29 December² set minimum prices for hot-rolled wide strip, merchant bars and concrete reinforcing bars. In view of the market situation it was seen to be necessary to make minimum prices applicable in all cases, to limit rebates and discounts, and to abandon completely, after two months, the derogation allowed for contracts concluded before minimum prices were imposed. Otherwise prices actually applied might fall so far below the minimum prices that serious disruptions would occur. These were the considerations that guided the Commission when it set the new minimum prices.

The Commission also published in the Official Journal a notice on guidance prices for certain iron and steel products.² These are to be taken as the lowest prices which may be applied from 1 January 1979—or earlier—and are intended to boost firms revenue, which is now so low that it is jeopardizing the necessary restruc-

turing in the industry and is liable to have serious social and regional repercussions.

After consulting the ECSC Consultative Committee and after receiving the Council's assent, on 21 December³ the Commission amended for the third time its Decision of December 1977⁴ requiring steel stockholders to comply with pricing rules.

Earlier, on 5 December,⁵ the Commission had amended its Decision of 28 December 1977⁴ requiring steel firms to issue certificates of conformity in respect of certain products, the aim being to provide the Commission with more reliable information.

1.3.3. As regards rules for State aids and interventions in favour of the steel industry, the Council approved the following Resolution:

1. The Council has examined in detail the Commission proposals concerning aid for the steel industry.
2. In view of the serious difficulties being encountered in the steel industry and of the need for restructuring in that sector, the Council has noted that it may be necessary to grant specific aid to achieve this objective. Accordingly, the Council is determined to take as soon as possible and by 1 April 1979 at the latest its decision on an assent to Commission proposals concerning the granting of specific aid to the steel industry. The arrangements will be laid down in accordance with the principles of the Treaties and the following rules:
 - (i) Aid, in whatever form, must promote restructuring and conversion and take account of the resultant social consequences and effects on employment.
 - (ii) Competition must not be distorted by the aid.
 - (iii) In assessing aid, there must be no discrimination between undertakings, especially as regards their system of ownership, be it public or private.
 - (iv) There will be no discrimination in assessing aid, depending on whether it is of national, regional or local origin.

¹ Bull. EC 12-1977, points 1.1.1 to 1.1.4.

² OJ L 370 of 30.12.1978.

³ OJ L 366 of 28.12.1978.

⁴ OJ L 352 of 31.12.1977.

⁵ OJ L 341 of 6.12.1978.

(vi) It is necessary that all forms of aid be made transparent.

3. The Council notes that, in applying Articles 92 and 93 of the Treaty to general or regional aid schemes, the Commission takes account of the sectoral effects of such aid on the steel industry in order to avoid distortion.⁷

External aspects

1.3.4. The Council renewed for 1979 the negotiating brief given to the Commission a year ago for concluding bilateral arrangements with all non-member countries exporting steel to the Community which would require them to accept a certain discipline on prices so as to avoid disturbing the Community market; the arrangements hinge on the minimum prices and the guidance prices.

The Council also approved a Decision prohibiting Community firms from aligning their prices on more favourable quotations for products made by non-member countries which have concluded arrangements with the Community in respect of imports of steel into the common market.

On 29 December¹ the Commission approved a recommendation concerning the anti-dumping duties imposed on certain products, adjusting these duties in line with the amended basic prices published on 30 December.²

Restructuring of the steel industry: financial provisions

1.3.5. With reference to the general objectives for steel, the Council agreed at its meeting on 18 and 19 December on the following conclusions of the Presidency concerning the restructuring of the steel industry:

'1. The Council takes note of the Commission's analysis of prospects for the Community steel market as set out in the General Objectives 1985-90.

2. It notes in particular that these prospects show a production over capacity for crude steel and for most rolled products, which could cause the present imbalance on the steel market to persist in the long term.

3. It agrees that it is necessary, in accordance with Article 3 of the ECSC Treaty, to ensure the international competitiveness and financial equilibrium of undertakings, while contributing towards the rationalization of the world steel market in the framework of the efforts being made to achieve cooperation within the OECD. In this context, plant modernization and better matching of supply and demand are indispensable.

4. Responsibility for the restructuring programmes of undertakings and groups lies chiefly with those actually managing them. While the social and employment situation are taken into account, the matching of supply and demand in the different iron and steel product categories must be undertaken in such a way as to ensure that production is concentrated in the most efficient installations already in existence or such as may be upgraded to this end by the closure of outdated plant, by the transfer of products, by rationalization and by cooperation between Community undertakings.

5. The Council accepts that mastery of the social, regional, economic and financial consequences of restructuring may considerably exceed the powers of the firms, requires a special effort of solidarity and consequently necessitates, within the Community framework, appropriate concerted action.

6. The necessary supporting measures taken in parallel with restructuring both by Community and Member States will include:

- (a) creation of alternative employment in the steel-producing areas affected;
- (b) aid for retraining steelworkers made redundant;
- (c) use of the financial resources allocated by the ECSC to the modernization of steel-making facilities.

¹ OJ L 372 of 30.12.1978.

² OJ L 370 of 30.12.1978

4. Euro-Arab Dialogue

Steel crisis plan

7. The Council will continue to examine the process of iron and steel restructuring and its social and regional consequences in the light of periodic communications to be submitted by the Commission.

The Commission will report to the Council on the progress of the restructuring measures, their social, regional and financial consequences and the additional measures taken by the Community and the Member States, especially as regards aid.¹

1.3.6. As for the allocation of additional financial resources to the ECSC budget for 1979 in order to finance restructuring measures, the Council noted that eight delegations agreed, subject to the completion of national parliamentary procedures, to a contribution from the Member States amounting to 32 million EUA, (the individual contributions being determined according to gross national product) instead of the 60 million EUA proposed by the Commission. On 20 December the Commission therefore decided to reduce from 55 to 27 million EUA the appropriations allocated for interest relief grants on ECSC loans to the steel industry.

1.3.7. The Council finally agreed that all the measures of the crisis plan thus approved would be reviewed if the provisions concerning aid were not adopted by 1 April 1979.

Fourth meeting of the General Committee

1.4.1. The General Committee, the Euro-Arab Dialogue's principal body, held its fourth meeting from 9 to 11 December in Damascus. The meeting was chaired jointly by Syria and the League of Arab States on the Arab side and the Federal Republic of Germany and the Commission on the European side.

The main object of the meeting was to take stock of the work done by the thirty or so working committees and specialized groups since the last General Committee meeting in Brussels (26 to 28 October 1977)¹ and to lay down guidelines for their future work.

Furthermore, a discussion was held on the political situation in the Middle East—with special emphasis on the Arab demand that the Nine recognize the PLO as the sole representative of the Palestinian people, and the situation in Lebanon—and also on the economic situation in the Community and in the Arab region.

As regards economic cooperation, the two sides agreed on certain horizontal guidelines (concentration on vocational training in all the fields covered by the Dialogue, priority to be given to regional and general studies and activities, greater involvement of private promoters in the Dialogue) and took a number of practical decisions. The most important were the adoption of a declaration on the principles governing the living and working conditions of migrant workers from the two regions and the launching of ten studies and other activities involving a total financial

¹ Bull. EC 10-1977, point 2.2.59

commitment by the two sides of approximately USD 3.7 million (Table 1). Considerable progress was also made in the spheres of transfer of technology, commercial cooperation and investment promotion and protection.

The fifth meeting of the General Committee is scheduled to take place in a European capital in the first half of 1979.

In view of the importance of the subjects discussed, it has been decided to reproduce the full text of the Communiqué issued at the close of the Damascus meeting.

Final Communiqué

1.4.2. The following Communiqué was issued at the end of the fourth meeting, held in the Syrian capital from 9 to 11 December:

I

1. The General Committee of the Euro-Arab Dialogue held its Fourth Session from 9 to 11 December 1978 in Damascus. The meeting was opened by H.E. Sayed Abdul Halim Khaddam, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Vice Prime-Minister of Syria who delivered a speech.

2. The two parties expressed their profound gratitude for the warm welcome given by the Syrian Government and for its efforts which have ensured the perfect organization of the meeting.

3. The two sides pursued the exchange of views on all the aspects of Euro-Arab cooperation—political, economic, social and cultural—which had taken place during past meetings of the General Committee at Luxemburg in May 1976, at Tunis in February 1977 and at Brussels, in October 1977.

4. They reviewed the situation in the Middle East and its developments since the last meeting of the General Committee held in Brussels from 26 to 28 October 1977. Both sides agreed that the continued Arab-Israeli conflict constitutes a threat to the security and peace in the

Middle East and to international peace and security. In this context both sides reaffirmed their conviction that the security of Europe is linked to the security of the Mediterranean region and the Arab region.

5. Both sides recalled their views that the Palestinian question is central to the conflict in the area and that a peaceful, comprehensive and just settlement of the conflict including obviously a solution to the Palestinian problem was not only a matter of vital importance to the Arabs but also of great concern to the Nine in view of the close relations existing between Europe and the Middle East.

6. The European side recalled that the Nine set out on many occasions in the past, for example, in their statements of 6 November 1973, 28 September 1976 and 7 December 1976, their view that a peace settlement should be based on Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338 and on:

- the inadmissibility of the acquisition of territory by force;
- the need for Israel to end the territorial occupation which it has maintained since the conflict in 1967;
- respect for the sovereignty, territorial integrity and independence of every State in the area and their right to live in peace within secure and recognized boundaries;
- recognition that in the establishment of a just and lasting peace account must be taken of the legitimate rights of the Palestinians.

It remains their firm view that all these aspects must be taken as a whole. Such a settlement must also take into account the need for a homeland for the Palestinian people.

In this context, the European side emphasized that the representatives of the parties to the conflict, including the Palestinian people, must participate in the negotiations in an appropriate manner to be worked out in consultation between all the parties concerned.

7. The Arab side reaffirmed that the continued occupation of territories by Israel constitutes a threat to peace and security in the Middle East and to international peace and security. It set forth the Arab position as regards the solution to the Palestine question. It emphasized that such a solution must enable the people of Palestine to establish their independent State on their territory and exercise the right to return to their homeland.

The Arab side noted the necessity of not putting any constraints on the rights of the representatives of the Palestinian people to speak in their name. With respect to cooperation between the two sides in order to achieve a comprehensive settlement, the Arab side felt that it was time for the European Community to recognize the Palestine Liberation Organization as the legitimate representative of the Palestinian people, which was already recognized by all the Arab States, most of the other nations of the world, and indeed by the United Nations.

8. The Arab side expressed the hope to receive a positive response to this demand in the forthcoming meeting of the General Committee.

9. The European side took careful note of the elements put forward by the Arab side at the General Committee and undertook to bring them to the attention of their Governments.

10. The Arab side referred to and condemned measures and actions taken by Israel in the occupied territories since 1967, such as the establishment of settlements in addition to changing their legal status and demographic structure including Jerusalem, as well as the coercive and repressive acts perpetrated by Israel against the Arab inhabitants in the occupied territories in flagrant violation of the universal declaration of human rights. The two sides recalled the General Assembly Resolution under agenda item No 126 of October 27, 1977 This resolution, *inter alia*:

“— determines that measures and actions taken by Israel in the Palestinian and other Arab territories occupied since 1967 have no legal validity and constitute a serious obstruction of efforts aimed at achieving a just and lasting peace in the Middle East;

- strongly deplores the persistence of Israel in carrying out such measures, in particular the establishment of settlements in the occupied Arab territories;

- calls upon Israel to comply strictly with its international obligations in accordance with the principles of international law and the provisions of the Geneva Convention relative to the protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War, of 12 August 1949;

- calls once more upon the Government of Israel as the occupying Power to desist forthwith from taking any action which would result in changing the legal status, geographical nature or demographic composition of the Arab territories occupied since 1967, including Jerusalem.”

11. The two sides stressed the need to restore peace in Lebanon and expressed the hope that every Lebanese would grant his steadfast support to President Sarkis, the symbol of legitimacy in Lebanon and its safeguard.

The two sides considered that national unity amongst the Lebanese was a pressing need in order to secure the independence of Lebanon, its sovereignty and territorial integrity, to which the two sides pledged support.

The Arab side stressed its refusal to settle Palestinians in Lebanon, an idea rejected by the Lebanese and Palestinians and by all the Arabs. The European side confirmed that such an idea had never been advanced by the Nine.

The two sides expressed their hope that Euro-Arab Dialogue might offer a framework for future projects in Lebanon.

12. The Arab side favoured a meeting as soon as feasible of Arab Foreign Ministers with the Foreign Ministers of the Nine.

13. Both sides expressed the intention to ensure that the forthcoming General Committee should be convened within the due period in a European capital.

II

A. The General Committee reviewed the work carried out by the various Working Committees and specialized groups since its last meeting in Brussels. It expressed its thanks to the Co-chairmen of these Committees and groups for the reports they presented and which enabled the General Committee to assess the progress that has been made in a number of fields of cooperation. The General Committee adopted these Joint Reports.

The General Committee recalled the Joint Memorandum issued in Cairo on 14 June 1975, establishing the special relationship between the two groups as a product of a joint political will that emerged at the highest level. It recalled furthermore the wish stated in the abovementioned Joint Memorandum to rediscover, to renew and to invigorate the existing links between these two neighbouring regions, the intention to establish the bases for future cooperation in a wide area of activities, to the benefit of both sides.

The General Committee recalled the fact that a growing economy in both the European and the Arab region is

in the common interest of both sides and essential to a successful, dynamic and lasting cooperation which must be based on the equality of the partners, on their mutual interest, thus completing already existing cooperation links.

The General Committee recognized the mutual advantages in the increased cooperation of each side in the economy of the other. It also stressed the important role that the private sector has in the context of the Dialogue. It invited the competent Working Committees to study ways and means for a closer integration of this sector into the Euro-Arab Dialogue.

The General Committee urged the Working Committees to speed up all the work necessary to the implementation of studies and other activities decided upon. This should be done in conformity with the Code of Financial Procedures, and respecting the deadlines set out therein.

The General Committee was of the opinion that all Working Committees should in their future work, give particular emphasis to the field of vocational training, this being of the utmost importance to the development of the Arab countries.

The General Committee furthermore invited the Working Committees to concentrate their efforts on projects of a regional character or of global interest for the Arab countries.

B. The General Committee examined and approved the studies and activities listed in annex I which were proposed by the Working Committees. The Finance Group has examined the financial aspects of these studies and activities and expressed a favourable opinion. The General Committee fixed the contributions of both sides to finance these studies and activities. The execution of these studies and activities will be realized under the provisions of the Financial Code of Procedure.

The Arab side re-iterated its position expressed during the third meeting of the General Committee in Brussels that the European side should participate in the financing of studies agreed upon by not less than one third of the total costs thereof, while the European participation in the cost of seminars and other activities should be not less than 50%.

Regarding the project for the Arab Polytechnic Institute the two co-presidencies of the Dialogue are empowered to finalize this decision within the ceiling approved for the financing of the project in the light of additional in-

formation which will become available from the conclusions of the definition study.

As suggested by the Finance Group, the General Committee recommended that all Working Committees and specialized groups should in future include a contingency reserve of 15% of the total amount in their estimates of costs for studies and other activities. This reserve is considered necessary to take account of fluctuation in exchange rates, inflation and other factors which may affect costs.

C. Further, the General Committee devoted particular attention to the following subjects on which it took relevant decisions as follows:

1. *Transfer of technology*

Based on the stand recently taken by the European side, as well as the stand taken by the Arab side, the General Committee approved the establishment of a Euro-Arab Centre for the Transfer of Technology. The General Committee also approved the undertaking of a study by four experts (two experts from each side, terms of reference to be defined by the *ad hoc* Group) on the setting up of the Euro-Arab Centre for the Transfer of Technology in the light of studies carried out within the framework of the Euro-Arab Dialogue and of other studies conducted in this field.

The Committee empowered the Co-chairmen of the *ad hoc* Group, the General Secretariat of the League of Arab States and the Commission of the European Communities, to take the necessary measures in order to undertake the above mentioned study (after each side completes its own procedures). This study will be referred to the *ad hoc* Group on the Transfer of Technology, which will prepare a report thereon for submission to the General Committee at its forthcoming meeting.¹

2. *Industrialization*

The General Committee expressed its satisfaction with the work accomplished by the Working Committee on Industrialization and its five specialized groups.

¹ The Co-chairmen agreed to hold the plenary meeting of the *ad hoc* Group not later than the end of January 1979, preferably in the last week of January 1979. The venue will be fixed through the normal procedures

The General Committee expressed its hope that the studies approved in the fields of oil-refining and petrochemical industries would enable the specialized group to continue its work.

The General Committee acknowledged that the specialized group on standardization had already approached a phase of practical implementation. The adopted studies on training and information in the field of standardization and the resulting improvement in standardization facilities in interested Arab countries is a substantial step in the direction of completing the agreed programme of work set up at the beginning of the cooperation in this field.

The General Committee encouraged the specialized group on General Conditions of Contracts to finalize its work on applicable law and arbitration as well as on technical service contracts and to submit the jointly agreed General Conditions of Contracts and/or comments thereon. Thereafter it will take up the "Standard Contract for Mechanical and Electrical Engineering Construction".

3. *Basic infrastructure*

The General Committee recorded with satisfaction the progress made in the preparation of the four studies concerning port developments on the Syrian and Iraqi coasts, vocational training for port personnel and the harmonization of statistics.

It expressed the wish that the invitations to tender drawn up by the specialized groups should be issued soon.

Noting the in-depth exchanges of views between the European and Arab experts occasioned by the preparation of the symposium on new towns, the General Committee urged the Working Committee on Basic Infrastructure to bring about that meeting in the course of 1979, stressing that this project should not neglect the necessary cultural considerations.

The General Committee also invited the Working Committee to give attention to studies and operations of joint interest for the Arab countries in the other basic infrastructure fields defined at the Rome meeting in June 1975, and stressed the importance of transport to link the Arab world and Europe more closely.

4. *Agriculture and rural development*

The General Committee expressed its satisfaction with the work accomplished by the specialized group on the Applied Research Programme on Water Resources Development and Use in Rural Areas. It instructed the Working Committee on Agriculture and Rural Development to give the necessary consideration to the report elaborated by the specialized group and to decide on measures for further action. Because of the considerable importance of this programme, the General Committee expressed the hope that more progress will be achieved in this field before the next session of the General Committee.

The General Committee welcomed the initiative taken by the Working Committee to set up two sub-groups of experts for agricultural mechanization and agro-industries. It instructed the Working Committee to examine as soon as possible the proposals made by these two sub-groups and to decide how their work can be furthered.

In accordance with the policy pursued by the Arab Ministers of Agriculture, the General Committee invited the Working Committee to identify new areas of cooperation which are likely to contribute towards increasing self-sufficiency in food production and security in the Arab region, and to promote economic integration in the field of agriculture.

5. *Financial cooperation*

The General Committee welcomed the encouraging progress made by the Financial Cooperation working Committee on a multilateral investment promotion and protection convention, and adopted the principles reached by the said Working Committee as a basis for the contents of a convention. The General Committee instructed the sub-group for the protection of investment to meet at experts level in order to carry forward the drafting of treaty language and encouraged the two Co-chairmen to press forward these negotiations to a satisfactory conclusion as soon as possible.

6. *Commercial cooperation*

Having taken note of the joint report of the Co-chairmen of the Working Committee on Commercial Cooperation, the General Committee expressed the wish

that the Arab and European Delegations should intensify their efforts to translate into reality in the trade field the special relationship adopted as one of the basic objectives of the Dialogue.

Recalling the previous discussions within the Working Committee, the General Committee considered that it is appropriate and urgent to examine, from every aspect, the establishment of special institutional links between the two parties in the field of trade cooperation, particularly in the form of a convention.

The objective is to strengthen and diversify trade between the two parties taking into account their respective development levels.

The General Committee reaffirmed, moreover, the importance it attaches to the establishment of a Euro-Arab Centre for Commercial Cooperation within the framework of the Dialogue.

7. *Scientific and technological cooperation*

The General Committee confirmed the importance that it attaches to scientific and technological cooperation, the development of which will promote fruitful and enduring contacts between scientists and instructors in both regions.

It considered that the three projects adopted following proposals by the competent working committee (Arab polytechnic institute, Arab institute for water desalination and resources, survey of marine science in the Arab countries) meet this objective, particularly in respect of their regional character.

The General Committee looks forward to similar involvement and endeavours by the Working Committee on Scientific and Technological cooperation in areas of scientific activity which open promising opportunities for cooperation.

8. *Labour and social affairs*

The General Committee examined the draft Joint Declaration on the principles governing the living and working conditions of foreign workers and their families who are nationals of the States participating in the Dialogue and are resident in the territory of these States, as presented by the Working Committee on Cultural, Social and Labour questions.

The General Committee adopted the draft Declaration and stressed:

- (a) that it is important to promote the positive impact of the Declaration on the living and working conditions of these workers;
- (b) that it is also important, as stated in the final paragraph of the Declaration, to seek in the future, in the bilateral and multilateral contexts, appropriate solutions to those problems which, in the view of the States concerned, still remained to be solved.

The Arab side repeated the preoccupations which it put forward at the third meeting of the General Committee in Brussels concerning the security and stability of employment of the Arab workers in Europe in the present employment situation.

The General Committee requested the Working Committee to continue the discussion with a view to achieving as rapidly as possible results satisfactory to both sides concerning the organization of a colloquium on the problems of vocational training for Arab migrant workers.

It recommended that the Working Committee implement as soon as possible the Euro-Arab project concerning the creation and operation of the Arab Centre for Vocational Training.

The General Committee requested the Working Committee to continue its examination of a number of topics in the social sector, notably the following:

- labour statistics,
- the training of the handicapped,
- social security.

9. *Cultural cooperation*

The General Committee noted with satisfaction the results achieved in the cultural field as described in the Joint Report presented in Damascus by the two Co-chairmen and instructed the Working Committee to intensify its efforts in the following areas:

- (a) to make the Hamburg Symposium on the relations between the two civilizations (Hamburg, 17 to 21 September 1979) an event of great significance in the Euro-Arab Dialogue and to involve both sides in publicizing this initiative, which will include a large programme of cultural events proposed by the Specialized Group amongst interested circles in the two regions;

(b) to study the need for organizing in the future similar cultural events in other countries of the two regions in order to highlight different aspects of their cultural links;

(c) to carry out the pilot project of the Catalogue of cultural and scientific institutions;

(d) to publish as quickly as possible the proceedings of the Euro-Arab Seminar in Venice (March 1977) aimed at promoting the diffusion in Europe of the knowledge of Arabic language and civilization;

(e) to consider the special importance of cooperation in the youth field and to implement the Euro-Arab Sem-

inar on the role of sports and physical education in youth welfare, planned for 1979;

(f) to set up a specialized group of experts to examine the history text books used in the two regions;

(g) to continue discussions on cooperation in the field of information, on the basis of the working papers and the offers of scholarships already exchanged, with a view to achieving concrete results;

(h) to go ahead with the preparation of the meeting of Rectors/Vice-Chancellors of Universities of the two regions, of a seminar for librarians and a seminar on the problems of teaching European languages for academic and higher education purposes.'

Table 1

Studies or other activities	Estimated total costs	Contributions in USD	
		Arab	European
<i>Industrialization</i>			
1. Setting up of Euro-Arab documentation and information centres for standardization	450 000	360 000	90 000
2. Study on petrochemical industries	165 000	132 000	33 000
3. Study on oil-refining industries	165 000	132 000	33 000
4. Study on policy and programmes for education and training in the fields of standardization, metrology and quality control	135 000	108 000	27 000
<i>Culture and social questions</i>			
5. Publication of the proceedings of the Venice Seminar on 'Means and forms of cooperation for the dissemination in Europe of knowledge of the Arabic language and culture'	20 000	10 000	10 000
6. Draft Catalogue of Cultural and Scientific Institutions	6 000	3 000	3 000
7. Technical assistance for the establishment of an Arab vocational and instructor training centre	880 000	704 000	176 000
<i>Scientific and Technological Cooperation</i>			
8. Study for the establishment of an 'Arab Institute for Water Desalination and Resources'	600 000	480 000	120 000
9. Feasibility study for the creation of an Arab Polytechnic Institute	1 000 000	800 000	200 000
10. Survey of scientific infrastructure on marine science in the Arab countries	160 000	128 000	32 000
<i>Additional amount for the Hamburg symposium on the relationship between the two civilizations</i>	115 000	57 500	57 500
	3 696 000	2 914 500	781 500

5. 1978 Agricultural Report

1.5.1. In 1978 the common agricultural policy was confronted by further difficulties as a result of economic and monetary divergences in the Community, market imbalances and continuing regional disparities in incomes. On the other hand, 1978 was a year of bumper crops and higher earnings for agricultural producers.

This is the substance of the report approved by the Commission on the agricultural situation in the Community in 1978,¹ which is being used as a basis for the agricultural price proposals for 1979-80.

General situation

1.5.2. In 1978 the general environment of Community agriculture continued to be one of slow recovery from economic recession. But although the pace of recovery was slow and levels of unemployment were still high, inflation slowed slightly and price rises for agricultural inputs were considerably lower than a year earlier. Efforts to move back towards a common agricultural market using market exchange rates were thwarted by central rate changes in the Snake and fluctuations of freely-floating currencies.

Commodity stocks remained high and many world prices dropped. In its external relations, the Community took various initiatives in 1978, some of which directly affect Community agriculture. It also continued to develop the common agricultural policy notably with its programme for less-developed regions in the Mediterranean area and the west of Ireland.

Thus, 1978 was characterized by slow growth, high unemployment and unused industrial capacity. But the year saw some reduction in inflation rates—especially where they had been highest. This, coupled with a slow-down in price increases for agricultural

inputs, brought beneficial effects to the sector as a whole.

But monetary instability continued and the exchange rates of Community currencies diverged. This movement hampered efforts to reduce differences between the seven monetary zones of the common agricultural market. National expressions of the common price level were further apart in October than before the green rate adjustments in the 1978/79 price package.

The weakness of the US dollar combined with ample supplies on world markets to hold down commodity prices. The record Community cereals harvest, and the good harvest in other countries, will also hold down prices.

Community agriculture is still marked by persistent surpluses in some sectors, milk and sugar being examples. Measures taken to bring more balance to the milk market were having to work in the face of rapid increases in production.

The year saw a major advance in the effort to help the economic development of the Mediterranean regions of Italy and France. The package of measures agreed as part of the 1978/79 agricultural price fixing will stimulate agriculture by transferring know-how and resources.

Agricultural structures

1.5.3. The evolution of agricultural structures in the Community is continuing. Structural imbalance is reflected by the fact that some 77% of holdings are still less than

¹ 'The Agricultural Situation in the Community' 1978 Report' (published in conjunction with the Twelfth General Report on the Activities of the European Communities).

20 ha and occupy no more than 29% of the total utilized agricultural area (UAA). But small farms are becoming less numerous and average farm size is increasing. Similar to this progressive concentration of land in a smaller number of units is the decline in the number of herds of cattle (including dairy cows), pigs and so on.

Furthermore, modern farms, which account for a substantial proportion of the 71% of UAA taken up by farms over 20 ha in area, are having a significant impact on the trend of farming methods in the Community. Many of the long-term changes in land-use in all the Member States may be attributed to increasing specialization in one or, at most, a few lines of production on already modern farms.

Young people continue to leave farming while the older farmers remain. But the current recession has significantly reduced the availability of non-farm employment and thus the possibilities of absorbing the surplus farm population. Structural problems are thereby aggravated, at least in the short term, as many young people who would otherwise have left farming are still on the land.

New and improved technology continues to be applied at farm level, calling for steadily increasing capital investment. Farm productivity is constantly improving.

Between 1968 and 1977 the annual decline in the total UAA of the Community was 0.5%. This figure is significantly higher than for 1973-1977 (0.2%), possibly because of the adverse effects of the economic recession on the development of the non-agricultural sectors during this latter period. In 1977 the annual rate of decline in total UAA increased again slightly (0.4%).

Consumers and producers

Consumers

1.5.4. During 1978 consumers were affected by a number of factors:

- (i) the general economic situation remained one of slow recovery from sustained recession, with worsening unemployment and serious inflation;
- (ii) per capital consumption of food products was influenced by harvest results, price trends and the slow but steady changes in consumer habits;
- (iii) the Community continued to ensure the security of supply of most key food products;
- (iv) prices within the Community were relatively stable, but the gap between Community and world market prices widened despite a cautious price policy;
- (v) a number of specific measures in favour of consumers or certain categories of consumers were taken under the common agricultural policy.

As the total population of the Community has increased only very slightly in recent years, trends in consumption are affected above all by consumer habits. Trends observed in the past have continued: there has been a slight increase in *per capita* consumption of citrus fruit, cheese, sugar, eggs and all categories of meat. Conversely, there has been a drop in the consumption of fresh milk products, bread grains, potatoes, all fruit and vegetables, vegetable oils and fats, and wine.

For meat in particular, changes in consumption patterns have become apparent in recent years. Consumption of beef and veal has increased more slowly than that of pigmeat and poultrymeat, largely because price rises for the latter have been less pronounced. Fat

consumption is generally falling, the main reason being the consumer's greater care for his health. Low prices encourage the consumption of edible oils other than olive oil.

Producers

1.5.5. The agricultural situation in 1978, according to the latest estimates, was fairly favourable as far as the trend of production of some major products is concerned. The main event was the record cereals crop (111 million t), which raised the self-supply rate to exceed 100% for the first time in the history of the common market. In the milk sector, deliveries to dairies were up by 4.3% on 1977, which represents twice the previous annual rate. Sugar production will be slightly below last year's, beef and veal production was about the same as in 1977 and pigmeat production increased by around 3%. The value of final production by volume (constant prices and exchange rates) increased by 3.8% in 1977 compared with 1976 and will probably rise again in 1978.

In 1978 the Community saw for the second successive year a smaller rise in the prices of agricultural products and of inputs. Agricultural incomes, according to the provisional and incomplete figures available when the report was being prepared, may show a slight increase in 1978 for the Community as a whole compared with last year, with different trends in the various Member States. Agricultural incomes experienced large yearly fluctuations from 1973 to 1977. Regional disparities in agricultural incomes showed no significant change. The situation of producers in the Community is influenced by a set of factors dependent on the trend of agricultural markets and on special measures taken to assist producers under the common agricultural policy and other common and national policies.

Regional disparities in the Community are still flagrant. It was therefore decided to take special steps to stimulate agricultural development in the Mediterranean regions of France and Italy and in western Ireland. Some of these measures concern typically Mediterranean products (olive oil, fresh or processed fruit and vegetables, wine, peas, broad beans and field beans), while others are designed to improve production (irrigation in the Mezzogiorno, drainage in western Ireland, specific measures to help wine-growers in Languedoc-Roussillon). The Commission intends to continue its efforts to develop and consolidate its structure policy.

Financial aspects of Community and national farm policies

1.5.6. In 1977, expenditure by the Community and the Member States to finance Community and national agricultural policies amounted to about 20 300 million European units of account (EUA). Of this total amount the EAGGF bore almost 7 200 million EUA, of which 6 900 million EUA went on the operation of the common market organizations. EAGGF expenditure was 35% of total expenditure on agricultural policies, the same proportion as in the past few years.

National contributions to social security for the agricultural population amounting to 6 000 million EUA were the most important element of national expenditure (46%). National financing of measures concerning the production, marketing and processing of agricultural products accounted for about 36% of total national expenditure. A relatively large proportion of this 4 700 million EUA—about 3 400 million EUA (72%)—was absorbed by the Member States' contributions to the financing of measures to improve structures in pursuance of Community provisions.

The provision made for agriculture in national budgets suggests that there will be no increase in aid in 1978, except for expenditure on social security which is in constant increase in most Member States. The total figure will probably not exceed 13 500 million EUA. The 3.5% annual rate of change is less than that for expenditure in the Guarantee Section of the EAGGF which is 25.7%.

Total national expenditure and EAGGF Guarantee Section expenditure (less agricultural receipts), that is 20 000 million EUA, represented in 1978 about 1.3% of the Communities' Gross Domestic Product (GDP) and about 8.3% of expenditure on food in the EEC. During recent years these proportions have increased slightly.



PART TWO

**ACTIVITIES
IN DECEMBER 1978**

1. Building the Community

Economic and monetary policy

European Monetary System

2.1.1. On 4 and 5 December the European Council in Brussels adopted a Resolution on the establishment of a European Monetary System.¹

At its meeting on 18 December the Council (Economic and Financial Affairs) examined a number of questions concerning the introduction of the EMS. In particular it discussed two proposals for implementing Regulations.

The first introduces the ECU for the transactions of the European Monetary Cooperation Fund and lays down rules for future amendments to the composition of the ECU. The second empowers the EMCF to receive monetary reserves from the Member States and to issue ECU against such assets and stipulates that the Fund and the monetary authorities may use ECU as a means of settlement and for transactions between them. These Regulations were not adopted, however, since France entered a provisional reservation; the EMS could not, therefore, begin operating on 1 January 1979 as originally planned.¹

The Council also took note of a report by the Chairman of the Committee of Governors of the Central Banks on the Committee's discussions concerning the features of the EMS which the Central Banks are responsible for introducing. The Council noted with satisfaction that this work was on the point of successful completion.

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2.1.2. On 13 December Parliament² passed a Resolution on the introduction of a European Monetary System and, on 15 December, delivered its Opinion on the Commission's proposal to the Council on the impact

of the European Monetary System on the common agricultural policy. The Economic and Social Committee,³ meeting on 19 and 20 December, also gave an Opinion on this proposal.

Economic situation

2.1.3. At its meeting on 18 December⁴ the Council (Economic and Financial Affairs) formally adopted the annual report on the economic situation in the Community and the economic policy guidelines for each Member State for 1979,⁵ on the basis of the text transmitted by the Commission on 23 October.⁶

Monetary Committee

2.1.4. The Monetary Committee held its 246th meeting in Brussels on 14 December, with Mr van Ypersele in the chair. In accordance with the Resolution of the European Council of 4 and 5 December, it examined the Commission's various proposals to the Council for establishing the European Monetary System.

¹ Points 1.1.1 to 1.1.12.

² Points 2.3.9 and 2.3.10 and OJ C 6 of 8.1.1979.

³ Point 2.3.50.

⁴ OJ L 8 of 12.1.1979.

⁵ The report on the 'Economic Situation in the Community' and the 'Graphs and Notes on the Economic Situation in the Community', which have been published by the Commission for a number of years, will now be replaced by a single publication entitled 'European Economy', which will appear three times a year. The new periodical will be available with three series of supplements dealing with economic trends, business survey results and consumer survey results.

⁶ Bull. EC 10-1978, points 2.1.5 to 2.1.7.

Economic Policy Committee

2.1.5. The 72nd meeting of the Economic Policy Committee, in its reduced 'medium-term' composition, was held on 19 December with Mr Leonard in the chair. It was devoted to an examination of medium-term economic policy problems in the Federal Republic of Germany.

The Working Party on Public Finance met in Brussels on 13 December, with Mr Davies in the chair. It adopted a report on the financing of budget deficits and forwarded the report to the Economic Policy Committee.

Internal market and industrial affairs

Free movement of goods

Removal of technical barriers to trade

Directives adopted

2.1.6. In December the Council adopted two Directives relating to the removal of technical barriers to trade. They concern:

- (i) automatic checkweighing and weight grading machines;¹
- (ii) determination of the noise emission of construction plant and equipment.

2.1.7. The Commission also adopted two Directives: one supplements and amends an existing Directive on methods of sampling and analysing fertilizers, and the other adapts to technical progress a 1972 Directive relating to certain methods for quantitative analysis of binary mixtures of textile fibres.²

Commission proposals

2.1.8. In December the Commission presented five proposals for directives on industrial products.

Two proposals concern wheeled agricultural and forestry tractors: one covers operating space, access to the driving position and the doors and windows, the aim being to enable the driver to operate the vehicle in greater safety and with less fatigue and the other³ is concerned with approval of tractors, adapting the 'approval' Directive of 4 March 1974 in the light of experience. The third proposal concerns safety requirements for tower cranes for building work. Addressed to the Council on 8 December, it follows on the outline Directive on lifting and handling appliances and would harmonize design and safety specifications. The fourth proposal, submitted on 18 December, is for the approximation of the laws of the Member States relating to certain types of simple pressure vessels; its aim is to harmonize technical specifications and inspection methods to ensure an adequate level of safety for pressure vessels of simple geometry (compressed-air containers, compressors etc.).

Lastly, on the same day the Commission addressed a proposal to the Council on the noise emitted by lawnmowers. The aim is to remove technical barriers to the free movement of lawnmowers within the internal market of the Community and at the same time improve protection against noise pollution by lowering the admissible limits for noise emitted by lawnmowers.

Work on 'technical barriers'

2.1.9. At the end of 1978, 113 directives on industrial products had been adopted by the Council (including 11 in 1978); the Commission had adopted 14 (including 5 in 1978). The Council is still examining 43 proposals, 13 of which were presented by the Commission last year.

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¹ OJ L 364 of 27.12.1978.

² OJ C 17 of 24.1.1979.

³ OJ C 306 of 22.12.1978.

2.1.10. The Economic and Social Committee, meeting on 19 and 20 December, delivered Opinions on a series of Commission proposals to the Council for the removal of technical barriers to trade¹ in respect of wheeled agricultural and forestry tractors. These cover roll-over protection structures, towing hooks, the reverse, lamps, reflectors and lights for the rear registration plate.

Public contracts

Failure to apply a Directive concerning public supply contracts

2.1.11. On 19 December the Commission decided to initiate the infringement procedure under Article 169 of the EEC Treaty against four countries—Germany, Belgium, France and the Netherlands—for failure to apply the Council Directive of 21 December 1976² on the coordination of procedures for the award of public supply contracts. The Directive came into force on 23 June 1978.

Approximation of laws

Company law

Community powers in negotiations on company law

2.1.12. On 19 December the Council reached agreement on the procedure for stating the position of the Nine in international organizations (and specifically in the OECD's discussions of measures to harmonize international accounting standards); the Council has agreed that the Commission should act as spokesman on matters already covered by Community rules, i.e. by company law Directives already adopted.

Following the adoption by the Council on 25 July 1978³ of the fourth Directive on the annual accounts of limit-

ed companies, and in view of the Community rules already existing on company law, the Member States no longer have the power to conduct international negotiations where common rules exist. The Community is represented as such in the OECD working party set up to examine the possibility of harmonizing accounting standards, and the Commission acts as spokesman, expressing the Community position when the matter under discussion is covered by common rules. The Council's decision of 19 December confirmed this arrangement.

Another consequence of the decision is that the Member States and the Commission must coordinate their positions on matters not yet subject to common rules but for which the Commission has made proposals for directives to the Council. The aim is that a joint position should be worked out and expressed in the negotiations with the OECD.

Group accounts

2.1.13. On 11 December the Commission decided to amend the proposal for the seventh Directive on group accounts, which it had laid before the Council on 4 May 1976.⁴ The amended proposal, addressed to the Council on 14 December,⁵ takes account of amendments suggested by Parliament and the Economic and Social Committee and makes technical adjustments in order to align the original text on the terminology of the fourth Directive, which has now been adopted.

¹ Point 2.3.54.

² OJ L 13 of 15.1.1977 and Bull. EC 12-1976, points 1401 to 1405.

³ OJ L 222 of 14.8.1978; Bull. EC 6-1978, point 2.1.12 and 7/8-1978, point 2.1.13.

⁴ Supplement 9/76 — Bull. EC.

⁵ OJ L 14 of 17.1.1979

Free movement of persons, right of establishment

Professions

Veterinary surgeons

2.1.14. On 18 December¹ the Council formally adopted a series of instruments (two Directives, a Decision and a Recommendation) to ensure the effective exercise of the right of establishment and the freedom to provide services for veterinary surgeons throughout the Community.

One of the Directives,¹ which deals with the coordination of provisions laid down by law, regulation or administrative action in respect of the activities of veterinary surgeons, establishes the quantitative and qualitative criteria (five years studies, degree level, etc.) with which the veterinary training given in the Member States must comply, if it does not already do so; it also lists a number of subjects which must be covered.

The other Directive concerns the mutual recognition of diplomas, certificates and other evidence of formal qualifications in veterinary medicine, including measures to facilitate the effective exercise of the right of establishment and freedom to provide services. It lists the degrees and diplomas awarded by the Member States which satisfy the criteria laid down by the coordination Directive and stipulates that these qualifications are to be mutually recognized at Community level. This recognition covers all activities which come under the profession of veterinary surgeon in each host Member State even if this involves work in preventive medicine or inspection and control of animal foodstuffs or foodstuffs of animal origin which may be done in the exercise of official authority or be carried out on a part-time basis in employment in the public service. On this score the Member States wished to go further than they are required by the first paragraph of Article 55 and by Article 48 (4) of the Treaty by subscribing to a commitment which they also published in the Official Journal of the Communities.¹

The Member States have two years in which to transpose the provisions of these Directives into their respective national laws.

The Decision taken by the Council¹ sets up an Advisory Committee on Veterinary Training, whose chief task will be to ensure a comparable high standard of veterinary training.

Architects

2.1.15. At its meeting on foreign affairs on 18 and 19 December, the Council examined the last remaining questions concerning the Directives on the mutual recognition of diplomas, certificates and other evidence of formal qualifications in architecture, including measures to facilitate the effective exercise of the right of establishment and freedom to provide services.

The Council noted that there was a general consensus on the compromise proposals submitted by the Commission with a view to solving these problems. However, several delegations stated that they would state their final position within two months; if they are in favour the Council will then be able to adopt the Directive.

Industry: sectoral measures and restructuring

Iron and steel

Extension of crisis plan

2.1.16. At its meeting of 18 and 19 December the Council agreed to the Commission's request that the steel crisis plan be renewed for 1979.²

This involves the following measures:

- (i) ban on alignment on offers for iron and steel products coming from certain non-member countries which

¹ OJ L 362 of 23.12.1978.

² Points 1.3.1 to 1.3.7.

have entered into arrangements with the Community on imports of steel into the common market;

(ii) decisions to extend the system of minimum prices and guide prices;

(iii) amendment of the Decision on certificates of conformity concerning dealers.

With regard to the general objectives for steel, the Council recorded its agreement on the restructuring of the steel industry based on the conclusions of the Presidency.

The Council also renewed for 1979 the negotiating brief given to the Commission concerning bilateral arrangements with non-member countries exporting steel to the Community, which entail price discipline designed to avoid disruption of the Community market.

Forward programme for steel for the first quarter of 1979

2.1.17. On 6 December, having received the Opinion of the ECSC Consultative Committee, the Commission adopted the forward programme for steel for the first quarter of 1979,¹ which it had approved at the first reading on 22 November.

The programme states that although economic and industrial activity has picked up somewhat in one or two Member States, the situation has scarcely changed since the previous programme was worked out. For the first quarter of 1979, the Commission forecasts an actual consumption of crude steel of 29.2 million tonnes (as against 29 million for the fourth quarter of 1978). Allowing for foreign trade, Community production of crude steel is expected to reach 34.1 million tonnes, 3.5% up on the first quarter of 1978.

Though steel prices have hardened, demand is still disappointing for Community producers, who are working at less than 65% of capacity. The Commission therefore emphasizes that the pricing objectives of the anti-crisis plan mean strict adherence to the forward programme and delivery quotas for individual companies. The Commission points out that production and deliveries will remain subject to regular checks.

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2.1.18. The Economic and Social Committee, meeting on 19 and 20 December, delivered its Opinion² on the Commission's proposal to the Council relating to Community aid for industrial restructuring and conversion operations.³

Ores and metals

Industrial cooperation

2.1.19. Under industrial cooperation arrangements between the Community and Canada the recently formed *ad hoc* group on ores and minerals met in Brussels on 4 and 5 December.

The discussions bore mainly on asbestos; the two objectives were (a) to exchange information on the latest ideas in Canada and the Community for overcoming the problems which asbestos is liable to create for the environment and the health of those who handle, carry and use it, and (b) to establish what scope there was for cooperation on various lines of action.

Assisted by representatives of the Canadian and Community industries, the Commission and the Canadian delegation agreed on and drew up an exhaustive list of matters on which cooperation is clearly both possible and useful. The list will be used in deciding what should be done first, as soon as an assessment of resources has been made.

Foodstuffs

Labelling and presentation

2.1.20. At its meeting of 18 and 19 December the Council adopted a Directive on the labelling, presentation and advertizing of foodstuffs for sale to the ultimate consumer.

¹ OJ C 305 of 21.12.1978.

² Point 2.3 52

³ Bull. EC 11-1978, point 2.1.11.

Trade, small businesses and tourism

Distributive trades

Committee for Commerce and Distribution

2.1.21. The first meeting of the Committee for Commerce and Distribution (CCD), which the Commission decided to set up on 28 June 1978,¹ was held on 1 December, with Mr Davignon in the chair.

The thirty-six members representing fifteen European organizations and thirty national bodies in the distributive trade of the nine Community countries had an opportunity of expressing their opinions and the views of their trade on matters concerning the functioning of the Community.

The second meeting is scheduled for 8 and 9 March.

Customs union

Simplification of customs formalities

Abolition of certain postal charges for customs presentation

2.1.22. Following a Commission proposal, presented to the Council in September, the Representatives of the Governments of the Member States of the European Economic Community meeting within the Council decided on 18 December² to abolish the postal charge for customs presentation which is still levied in most Member States on small parcels and packages sent from one Member State to another (although they are not sub-

ject to import duties as they contain Community goods and are exempt from VAT and other domestic charges on account of their low value).

This measure, which had been keenly advocated by Parliament and the Economic and Social Committee, represents a further step towards free movement of goods within the Community to the direct advantage of the citizen. The decision will come into effect as soon as possible, and in any event no later than 1 July 1979.

Common Customs Tariff

Nomenclature

2.1.23. On 18 December² the Council adopted a decision accepting the Customs Cooperation Council Recommendation of 13 June. This Recommendation concerns the amendment of two articles of the Convention on Nomenclature for the Classification of Goods in Customs Tariffs to extend the period laid down for entry into force of amendments to the Convention from six months to one year so that any amendments may be applied in all Contracting States in the best practical conditions possible.

2.1.24. In order to standardize customs control at Community level of the use of certain products by extending to ECSC products the rules applicable to similar EEC products, the Representatives of the Governments of the Member States of the ECSC meeting within the Council adopted a Decision to this effect³ on 19 December. This

¹ Bull. EC 6-1978, point 2.1.20.

² OJ L 6 of 10.1.1979.

³ OJ L 10 of 16.1.1979.

Decision concerns the customs nomenclature common to the Member States and determines the conditions under which certain ECSC products are eligible upon importation for a favourable tariff treatment by reason of their 'end-use', particularly in shipbuilding.

Economic tariff matters

Suspensions

2.1.25. In accordance with the Community's undertakings within the GATT Multilateral Trade Negotiations, the Council decided on 5 December¹ to suspend partially the autonomous CCT duties on a number of tropical products.

2.1.26. The same day¹ the Council adopted a Regulation totally suspending the autonomous CCT duty for mechanically propelled aircraft of an unladen weight exceeding 15 000 kg. This duty is suspended for the first half of 1979.

2.1.27. On 21 December the Council adopted two Regulations² on the total or partial suspension of CCT duties on certain agricultural products originating in Turkey and in Malta. These products may be admitted for import into the Community at the custom duties indicated for a period ending on 31 December 1979.

Tariff quotas

2.1.28. On 5 December¹ the Council increased the volume of the Community tariff quota for newsprint opened for 1978 from 2 300 000 to 2 500 000 tonnes.³ The additional 200 000 tonnes is for the Community reserve, which is thus raised from 140 500 to 340 500 tonnes.

2.1.29. For 1979 the Council adopted in December various Regulations opening, allocating and providing for the administration of autonomous or contractual Community tariff quotas for the products listed in Table 2.

2.1.30. On 12 December,⁴ the Council adopted a Regulation opening, allocating and providing for the administration of a Community tariff quota for processing work in respect of certain textile products under Community outward processing arrangements with Switzerland.

This quota represents the second part and covers the period 1 January to 31 August 1979, supplementing the Regulation of 25 July 1978,⁵ which covered the period 1 September to 31 December 1978. A distinction is made between three categories of processing work. The first tranche of 1 093 333 EUA is allocated to the Member States of the Community as originally constituted, while the second tranche of 153 333 EUA constitutes a Community reserve. Should the need arise, Member States which have not been allocated an initial share of the quota may draw adequate amounts from the reserve.

Community import surveillance

2.1.31. On 21 December⁶ the Council adopted a Regulation opening and providing for the administration of a Community preferential ceiling for certain petroleum products refined in Turkey and establishing Com-

¹ OJ L 342 of 7.12.1978.

² OJ L 373 of 30.12.1978

³ OJ L 305 of 29.11.1977

⁴ OJ L 354 of 18.12.1978

⁵ OJ L 225 of 16.8.1978

⁶ OJ L 373 of 30.12.1978.

Table 2 — 1979 tariff quotas

Description of goods	Quota volume (tonnes) ¹	Quota duties (%)	Initial allocation	Reserve
			(tonnes) ¹	
Ferro-silicium ²	19 200	0	19 056	144
Ferro-silico-manganese ²	50 000	0	48 000	2 000
Ferro-chromium containing not more than 0.10% by weight of coal and more than 30% but not more than 90% by weight of chromium (super-refined ferro-chromium) ²	3 000	0	2 900	100
Unwrought magnesium ²				
— extra pure (containing 99.95% or more of pure magnesium)	600	0	—	600
— not in alloy (containing 99.8% or more, but less than 99.95%, by weight of pure magnesium)	1 325	0	1 195	130
— in alloy (containing less than 99.8% by weight of pure magnesium) ²	3 575	0	3 150	425
Certain hand-woven fabrics, pile and chenille ³				
— of silk or noil	2 200 000	0	1 062 600	1 137 400
— of cotton	2 000 000	0	1 480 500	519 500
Certain hand-made products ³	10 000 000	0	6 228 000	3 772 000
Raw silk (not thrown) ²	4 200	0	3 395	805
Yarn, entirely of silk, not put up for retail sale ²	60	2.5	40	20
Yarn spun entirely from silk waste other than noil, not put up for retail sale ²	200	1	163	37
Frozen beef and veal ⁴	38 500	20	38 500	—
<i>Greece</i>				
Wine of fresh grapes and grape-must with fermentation arrested by the addition of alcohol, wholly obtained in Greece ⁵	430 000 hl	various	387 000 hl	43 000 hl
<i>Turkey</i>				
Cotton yarn and fabrics falling within heading 55.05 or 55.09; machine-made carpets falling within subheading ex 58.01 A: ⁶				
— cotton yarn (55.05)	1 077	0	832	245
— cotton fabrics (55.09)	2 536	0	2 044	492
— machine-made carpets (ex 58.01 A)	194	0	159	35

¹ Unless otherwise indicated² OJ L 354 of 18 12 1978³ OJ L 358 of 21 12 1978⁴ OJ L 366 of 28 12 1978⁵ OJ L 352 of 16 12 1978⁶ OJ L 373 of 30 12 1978

Table 2 — (continued)

Description of goods	Quota volume (tonnes) ¹	Quota duties (%)	Initial allocation	Reserve
			(tonnes) ¹	
<i>Wine originating in Portugal</i>				
1.1.1979-30.6.1980 ²				
Port, in containers holding two litres or less	52 500 hl	5.4 to 6.0 u.a./hl	47 250 hl	5 250 hl
Port, in containers holding more than two litres	420 000 hl	5.4 to 6.0 u.a./hl	378 000 hl	42 000 hl
Madeira, in containers holding two litres or less	2 250 hl	5.4 to 6.0 u.a./hl	2 025 hl	225 hl
Madeira, in containers holding more than two litres	21 750 hl	5.4 to 6.0 u.a./hl	19 580 hl	2 170 hl
Setubal muscatel, in containers holding two litres or less	1 500 hl	5.4 to 6.0 u.a./hl	1 350 hl	150 hl
Setubal muscatel, in containers holding more than two litres	3 000 hl	5.4 to 6.0 u.a./hl	2 700 hl	300 hl
<i>Wine originating in Spain</i>				
1.1.1979-30.6.1980 ²				
Sherry, in containers holding two litres or less	162 000 hl	5.4 to 6.0 u.a./hl	145 800 hl	16 200 hl
Sherry, in containers holding more than two litres	1 027 000 hl	5.4 to 6.0 u.a./hl	924 300 hl	102 700 hl
Malaga	22 500 hl	8.5 to 9.5 u.a./hl	18 000 hl	4 500 hl
Jumilla, Priorato, Rioja and Valdepenas	33 000 hl	8.4 to 11.9 u.a./hl	26 400 hl	6 600 hl

¹ Unless otherwise indicated

² OJ L 368 of 28.12.1978

munity supervision of imports of these products. This ceiling (458 000 tonnes) applies from 1 January to 31 December 1979.

2.1.32. Within the framework of the EEC-EFTA Agreements, the Council adopted, on 19 December,¹ a number of Regulations establishing indicative ceilings and Community supervision for imports of certain goods originating in Austria, Finland, Iceland, Norway, Portugal, Sweden and Switzerland (1979).

Generalized tariff preferences

2.1.33. The Community will continue to apply in 1979 an improved generalized tariff preferences scheme (it first came into opera-

tion on 1 July 1971) for the developing countries and territories. On 29 December² the Council adopted thirteen Regulations or Decisions opening such tariff preferences from 1 January 1979:

(i) five Regulations opening, allocating and providing for the administration of tariff quotas for twelve categories of industrial products, cocoa butter, soluble coffee, preserved pineapple and 'flue-cured' Virginia type tobacco;

(ii) a Regulation establishing preferential ceilings for certain industrial products, combined with special arrangements for the administration of maximum amounts;

¹ OJ L 377 of 30.12.1978.

² OJ L 375 of 30.12.1978.

(iii) two Regulations establishing preferential ceilings for industrial products and raw or unmanufactured tobaccos other than the Virginia type;

(iv) a further Regulation concerning all textile products originating in developing countries and territories and covering a period initially limited to the first half of 1979;

(v) a Regulation establishing a preferential system for certain processed agricultural products (falling within Chapters 1 to 24 of the CCT);

(vi) two Decisions opening tariff quotas or preferential ceilings for certain steel products (ECSC).

Duty-free entry

2.1.34. On 19 December¹ the Council amended its Regulation of 23 July 1969² on the tariff treatment applicable to goods contained in travellers' personal luggage, in the case of passenger traffic between third countries and the Community. Goods contained in travellers' personal luggage will in future be eligible for relief from CCT duties up to a value of 25 EUA, compared with 10 u.a. previously, and 40 EUA, compared with 25 u.a. previously.

On the same day, the Council adopted a Regulation¹ allowing the duty-free importation of small postal packages having no commercial character from third countries. Such exemption applies to items normally sent by one person to another as small postal packages, up to a value of 30 EUA.

Valuation for Customs purposes

2.1.35. On 13 December the Commission adopted a Regulation laying down specific

provisions to apply when determining the value for customs purposes of goods imported in split consignments. To take account of current trade practices, under general agreements, such goods will be valued on the basis of the total quantity of goods covered by the agreement concerned. As quantity may have an influence on price, the Commission takes the view that it would be unjustified to assume that the actual sale relates solely to the goods delivered in each consignment.

Origin and methods of administrative cooperation

2.1.36. On 19 December³ the Council adopted a number of Regulations concerning the application of the Decisions (Nos 1/78) of the EEC-Austria, EEC-Finland, EEC-Iceland, EEC-Norway, EEC-Portugal, EEC-Sweden and EEC-Switzerland Joint Committees to replace the unit of account by the European unit of account in Protocol No 3 concerning the definition of the concept of 'originating products' and methods of administrative cooperation.

These Regulations were adopted in view of the expediency of using the European unit of account as the basic unit. Originating products within the meaning of the Protocol may be admitted on importation into the Community on presentation of a form EUR. 2, to replace the EUR. 1 movement certificate, provided that the value of the consignment does not exceed 2 400 European units of account. Neither form is needed for the importation into the Community of originating products within the meaning of the Protocol in the case of:

¹ OJ L 366 of 28.12.1978.

² OJ L 191 of 5.8.1969.

³ OJ L 376 of 30.12.1978.

(i) products sent as small packages to private persons, provided that the value of the goods does not exceed 165 EUA;

(ii) products contained in travellers' luggage, provided that their value does not exceed 480 EUA.

Competition

General rules applying to undertakings

Subcontracting agreements: Commission Notice

2.1.37. On 18 December¹ the Commission adopted a Notice concerning its assessment of subcontracting agreements in relation to Article 85(1) of the EEC Treaty. The purpose is to dispel certain doubts as to the compatibility of this modern form of division of labour with the Community competition rules. The Commission can thus foster the development of an industrial practice that is becoming more and more widespread in cross-frontier business relations in the Community and that tends to promote the development of small and medium-sized firms.

A subcontracting is an agreement whereby one firm—the subcontractor—supplies goods, works or services for another firm—the contractor—in accordance with the latter's specifications; this distinguishes it from an ordinary sale of goods. If the subcontract necessitates technical assistance from the contractor to enable the order to be performed, the subcontractor becomes to some extent dependent on him, and this may well limit his freedom of business action.

The purpose of the Commission Notice is to indicate in general terms the circumstances in which certain clauses commonly found in this type of subcontracting agreement escape the prohibition on practices in restraint of competition.

Restrictive practices, mergers and dominant positions: specific cases

Termination of prohibited horizontal agreements

Ban on information exchange and delivery quota agreements

2.1.38. On 12 December the Commission decided—under Article 85 of the EEC Treaty—to ban a system whereby information was exchanged and sales quotas arranged by the only three white lead manufacturers in the Community: Associated Lead Manufacturers Ltd (a British company), Hondorff, Block & Braet (a Dutch company) and Lindgens & Söhne (a German company).

White lead is used as a pigment in the manufacture of protective paints, mainly for woodwork, and as a stabilizing agent in the manufacture of certain types of cables. Sales of white lead have been declining for quite some time, mainly because fewer wooden parts are now used in the building industry and because substitute products such as titanium oxide have been developed.

The Commission found in its Decision that in order to arrest the decline in sales and profits the undertakings concerned had since 1971 coordinated their behaviour on the market by regularly informing each other of their monthly sales figures for each country. Following its usual practice in such matters, the Commission decided that this exchange of information was incompatible with the competition rules.

In this case, as in most of the others the Commission has examined so far, the parties had also entered into other cooperation agreements. This time the exchange of information was linked to a system of delivery quotas: the three manufacturers involved were supposed to share out total export deliveries equally among themselves. Although it found that the quantities actually sold by each manufacturer did not correspond to the agreed quotas and that sales in excess of the quotas were not, as is usually the case, balanced out by means

¹ OJ C 1 of 3.1.1979

of deliveries between the parties, the Commission nevertheless decided that the system was caught by Article 85 of the Treaty, arguing that even if only indicative, delivery quotas, when combined with the exchange of information, constitute an inadmissible restriction of competition.

Promotion of permitted forms of cooperation

Authorization of rules on international exhibitions

2.1.39. On 7 December the Commission adopted a Decision renewing for a ten-year period its approval of the rules governing EMOs (Machine Tool Exhibitions), first approved by the Commission under Article 85(3) of the EEC Treaty in 1969.¹

EMOs are organized by CECIMO (European Committee for Cooperation of the Machine Tool Industries) and held alternately in Hanover, Milan and Paris in odd-numbered years. CECIMO members are the national associations of machine tool manufacturers in thirteen western European countries. The EMO is the major international machine tools exhibition and attracts manufacturers and customers from all over the world.

Under EMO rules hitherto in force manufacturers wanting to exhibit their machine tools at an EMO had to agree to certain restrictions on their trade promotion activities by refraining from participation during the EMO year in any other fair or exhibition organized in any country where the national machine tool manufacturers' association is a member of CECIMO (almost all western European countries). Any manufacturer or agent failing to comply with the rules could be excluded from the EMO.

Until 1975 no exhibitor was excluded. CECIMO merely sent recommendations to exhibitors who had infringed the rules. However, on the occasion of the 1975 EMO in Paris and the 1977 EMO in Hanover a number of exhibitors were refused admission or excluded for infringement of the rules.

The Commission's attention was drawn to these cases and it accordingly requested CECIMO to amend certain rules, otherwise approval could not be granted again.

CECIMO made the amendments, giving manufacturers and their intermediaries greater freedom to exhibit machine tools at other events and introducing an independent board of arbitration to examine complaints by exhibitors refused admission to or excluded from an EMO.

Obligations were attached to the Commission's continued approval to enable it to monitor implementation of the rules in order to avoid any restrictive or discriminatory application and to guarantee the parties concerned the greatest freedom to take part in any exhibition where they might wish to display their machine tools during years when no EMO is held.

Distributions

Export ban prohibited

2.1.40. The Commission has imposed on 12 December a fine of 100 000 u.a. (approximately UKL 67 000) on Kawasaki Motors (UK), a wholly-owned subsidiary of Kawasaki Heavy Industries, for preventing the export of Kawasaki motor cycles from the United Kingdom.¹ Kawasaki is the fourth most important supplier of motor cycles in the Community.

The case was brought to the Commission's attention in March 1977 by a private consumer, resident in Belgium, who had sought to buy a Kawasaki motor cycle in the United Kingdom because the prices there were over 30% lower than in Belgium. The Commission's investigations revealed that Kawasaki Motor (UK) had imposed an export ban on Kawasaki dealers since May 1975. It has been lifted in July 1977 following the Commission's statement of objections under Article 15(6) of Regulation No 17 as an interim measure.

The considerable price differences referred to by the private consumer were confirmed by the Commission's investigations; in some cases recommended retail prices in other Member States were 50% higher than those in the United Kingdom. In particular it was found that the wholesale price charged to dealers in Germany by Kawasaki Motoren GmbH, also a wholly-owned subsidiary

¹ OJ L 11 of 17.1.1979.

² OJ L 16 of 23.1.1979.

of Kawasaki Heavy Industries, was on average 25% higher than the Kawasaki Motors (UK) recommended retail price to private customers in the United Kingdom.

The export prohibition was imposed in order to protect the high price levels in other Member States, especially the Federal Republic of Germany, from competition from dealers in the United Kingdom, thus preventing them from meeting demand from other Community countries. This conduct enabled Kawasaki Motoren GmbH in particular to charge higher prices than would otherwise have been possible. A profit was thereby made from a restriction of competition prohibited by Article 85, and in the Commission's view, a fine was justified.

The Commission welcomes the initiative shown by the private consumer in this case, and will continue to defend the right of consumers and others to buy wherever they wish in the Community.

French press distribution arrangements changed

2.1.41. In response to Commission representations, Hachette and Nouvelles Messageries de la Presse Parisienne brought their marketing system for imported and exported newspapers and periodicals into line with the competition rules in the EEC Treaty. The Commission was accordingly able to close the procedure it had initiated following its investigation into the marketing of newspapers and periodicals in France.

The investigation had revealed that Hachette and Nouvelles Messageries de la Presse Parisienne imposed exclusive distribution contracts on the majority of French publishers for exports of French newspapers and periodicals to the other EEC countries, and on the major publishing houses in the other EEC countries for imports of foreign newspapers and periodicals into France, which made it very difficult if not impossible for other newspaper distributors to penetrate the market. Hachette and Nouvelles Messageries de la Presse Parisienne were sent a statement of objections based on Article 86 of the Treaty, whereupon they amended the contracts by removing the total exclusivity clauses which had hitherto operated in their favour.

Publishers may henceforth choose the titles they wish to distribute through the two firms and also decide on those areas in France or in other countries where they wish to distribute their publications through them. Furthermore, they need no longer commit themselves as to the duration of the contract. Thus newspaper publishers are free to choose the manner in which they market their titles, be they imported or exported.

In the course of the investigation, and at the Commission's request, Hachette had already altered its method of calculating the price of books for Belgian wholesalers. This price used to include French VAT, which made exports so much more expensive. Now that they are no longer charged French VAT, Belgian wholesalers are on an equal footing with French wholesalers.

The Commission is continuing to monitor developments in the conditions of competition in the common market in newspapers and books.

Commission Decision in Liebig case becomes final

2.1.42. Brooke Bond Liebig has withdrawn its application to the Court of Justice, filed on 22 February 1978,¹ to have the Commission Decision of 21 December 1977² set aside.

In the Decision, which has thus become final, the Commission found that certain clauses in the spice distribution agreements between the main manufacturer in Belgium Brooke Bond Liebig Benelux NV, Antwerp, Benelux subsidiary of the British group Brooke Bond Liebig Ltd and the three main Belgian supermarket operators—GB-Inno-BM, Delhaize Frères et Cie Le Lion and Sarma-Penney—were incompatible with Article 85 of the EEC Treaty.

The clauses to which the Commission took objection prohibited the distributors from selling any spices other than those manufactured by Liebig or sold under the shops' own labels. In return, the distributors were given certain financial favours (fidelity rebates, other premiums and profits guarantee). Resale prices were fixed by Liebig.

¹ OJ C 83 of 7.4.1978; Bull. EC 2-1978, point 2.3.39.

² Bull. EC 12-1977, point 2.1.51.

The Commission considered that the restriction on the consumer's freedom of choice by the exclusion of other brands and the maintenance of high prices for Liebig spices could in no circumstances be allowed, as they were seriously detrimental to the consumer interest.

Banking

Amendments to terms for admission to the London foreign exchange broking market

2.1.43. Following a complaint by Sarabex Ltd, a foreign exchange and currency deposit broker dealing in non-scheduled currencies in the London foreign exchange market, who wished to trade in scheduled currencies (mainly the currencies of Western Europe, North America and Japan), the Commission investigated whether entry terms for the London foreign exchange broking market were compatible with Articles 85 and 86 of the EEC Treaty.

Following discussions with the Commission's competition department, the Bank of England, acting on behalf of HM Treasury, the appropriate regulating authority, has modified the system for admission of broking houses to both the foreign exchange and currency deposit markets and introduced a new structure for commission rates charged therein. The amendments concerning admission came into operation straight away and the new commission rates on 2 January 1979.

Under the new system the Bank of England will grant necessary approval to broking houses (recognized brokers) wishing to trade in the scheduled currencies market; approved banks, which are controlled by the Bank of England, may deal with recognized brokers only. Both the applicant firms and their staff conducting the trading must meet certain objective criteria before recognition. Recognition entails application for membership of the Foreign Exchange and Currency Deposit Brokers' Association (FECDBA), which supervises the day-to-day conduct of recognized brokers. Through the Bank of England, HM Treasury keeps the broking firms on this im-

portant market under constant review. The compatibility of the FECDBA rules with the EEC Treaty will be scrutinized separately.

Should the Bank refuse an application for recognition, the firm involved may appeal to the Chairman of the Appeal Committee of the City Panel on Mergers and Takeovers. Broking houses already members of the FECDBA are considered recognized; they have six months in which to comply with the criteria, apart from bank sponsorship, now applicable to all broking houses and their staff.

The former commission rates have generally become maximum rates. The new structure has a maximum and minimum rate for dealings in all currencies, thus providing for competition between broking firms and benefiting those carrying out currency transactions. The rates, applicable from 2 January 1979, are subject to review.

State aids

General schemes of aid

Belgium

2.1.44. On 11 December the Commission decided to raise no objection to the introduction of certain measures of assistance under the Belgian Bill on economic and budgetary reform.

A first group of measures—Industrial Redevelopment Fund (Clause 12), government acquisition of holdings and iron and steel firms (Clause 15), extension of regional aids (Clauses 73 and 74)—are enabling provisions whereby the Belgian Government is empowered by Parliament to introduce certain types of aid or intervention, the precise objectives, procedures, recipients and methods of financing remaining unspecified for the moment. The Belgian Government has undertaken to provide prior notification of these measures, when the time comes, pursuant to Article 93(3) of the EEC Treaty.

The Bill (Clause 75) also provides rescue aids for firms in difficulty and for firms carrying out restructuring projects. This assistance will take the form of recoverable loans, ordinary loans, or convertible loans, carrying rates of interest geared to the commercial market for long-

term loans; it will be granted for a maximum period of ten years. Where a restructuring project is part-financed by semi-public credit institutions or by other firms using their own resources, the loans may qualify for an interest relief grant under the conditions of the Economic Expansion Acts of 1959 and 1970.

These loans are to be granted to firms in industries that are under pressure throughout the Community and must therefore be strictly monitored by the Commission on account of possible effects on intra-Community competition. The Commission also requested and obtained from the Belgian Government an undertaking to observe the following granting procedures. In cases where a restructuring plan has not already been drawn up, aid will be given:

- (i) if the closure of the firm would cause particularly acute social or industrial problems;
- (ii) to the extent necessary to maintain the day-to-day operations of the firm concerned (payment of salaries, supplies and most pressing creditors);
- (iii) for a period not exceeding, in principle, six months;
- (iv) in the form of loans at market rates of interest.

In cases where a restructuring plan has been already drawn up, the duration and intensity of the assistance will be based on requirements for successful implementation.

The Commission also noted that the Belgian Government will notify in advance all measures under Clause 75 (loans at ordinary market rates, interest relief grants, acquisition of shareholdings) where the firms have a staff of 300 or over, this threshold being reduced to 150 for firms in sensitive sectors: textiles, clothing and footwear.

Since the Belgian Government's undertakings allayed the Commission's concern, it withdrew its objection to introduction of the measures.

United Kingdom

2.1.45. The Commission decided to raise no objection to the extension to the whole of the United Kingdom from 1 January 1979 and the continuation for one year from 1 April 1979 of the Small Firms Employment Subsidy (SFES) which it had approved in April 1978.¹ In addition, the scheme, which

initially applied only to manufacturing businesses, will also be extended to firms in the primary and tertiary sectors located in Special Development Areas and Development Areas.

The subsidy is UKL 20 per week for six months for each extra job created in small firms with less than 200 employees. Total cost of the scheme is estimated at UKL 130 million for the period from 1 January 1979 to 31 March.

In line with its general approach on job creation assistance in areas with employment difficulties, the Commission viewed the extension and expansion of the scheme in a favourable light.

However, it requested the UK Government to submit a quarterly *a posteriori* report on applications for the SFES to check that it was not being concentrated on certain industries. It also specified that firms receiving the Temporary Employment Subsidy over the preceding eighteen months would not qualify for the SFES.

State monopolies of a commercial character

Manufactured tobacco

France

2.1.46. On 1 December the Commission decided to initiate infringement proceedings under Article 169 of the EEC Treaty against the French Government.

It ascertained that no action had been taken on its request for information essential to assess compliance with Community law, notably arrangements concerning the free movement of goods in the French marketing system for manufactured tobacco. The request had been made in a letter dated 1 August 1977 giving notice of proceedings.² The Commission informed the French Government of its decision on 5 December.

¹ Bull. EC 4-1978, point 2.1.24.

² Bull. EC 7/8-1977, point 2.1.37

Financial institutions and taxation

Financial institutions

Insurance

First Council Directive on life assurance

2.1.47. On 19 December the Council approved the Directive on the coordination of laws, regulations and administrative provisions relating to the taking-up and pursuit of the business of direct life assurance. Formal adoption will take place shortly.

The Directive concerns an important services sector whose annual turnover, i.e. the revenue of insurance companies in the nine Member States, was around 20 000 million units of account in 1976.

Scope of the Directive

2.1.48. The purpose of the Directive is to achieve in each Member State equal conditions of establishment between insurers of that particular country and those from other countries in the Community. It introduces coordinated rules for the conditions governing the taking-up and pursuit of this class of business for all insurers, whether they be head offices, agencies or branches. It corresponds to the Directive on the coordination of non-life insurance, which was adopted by the Council on 24 July 1973¹ and with which it is identical in many respects.

Main provisions of the Directive

2.1.49. The Directive on the coordination of life assurance is designed to achieve identical conditions to govern the taking-up of this class of insurance in the nine Member States for all insurance undertakings with head offices within the Community

Head offices and agencies and branches too are also to operate under identical conditions. The Directive con-

tains the following rules, which already appear in the Directive on the coordination of non-life insurance: control of an essentially financial nature is exercised by the supervisory authorities of the country in which the head office is situated, with the assistance of the supervisory authorities responsible for the agencies and branches established in other countries; apart from a number of clearly defined exceptions, all insurance undertakings are subject to such control, which extends to all their activities.

The Council adopted the following solution with regard to the coexistence within the Community of systems based on specialization in either life assurance or non-life insurance and of systems authorizing undertakings to engage in both classes of insurance:

- (i) Undertakings which are set up the entry into force of the Directive will have to specialize, i.e. life assurance and non-life insurance business will have to be carried on by legally separate undertakings.
- (ii) Existing composite undertakings will be able to continue to carry on both types of insurance business, provided they adopt strict rules on separate management.

If one of these undertakings wishes to set up in another Member State in order to transact life assurance there, it may do so only by forming a subsidiary in that State.

These various provisions have the advantage of affording life-assurance policyholders extremely sound protection without disrupting the structures of existing insurance companies.

The main provisions of the Directive, however, concern the financial guarantees required of insurers. The latter must show that they possess technical and mathematical resources covering the commitments which they have entered into and, an additional reserve, called the solvency margin, made up of explicit items included in the balance sheet and implicit items providing equivalent security. The future profits of an undertaking, calculated by extrapolation of the profits achieved during the previous five years, may be taken into consideration as an implicit component of the solvency margin.

¹ OJ L 228 of 16.8.1973 and Bull. EC 7/8-1973, point 2122.

Beneficial effect on competition and the position of insured persons

2.1.50. Coordinating the conditions governing the taking-up and pursuit of the business of life assurance, and in particular the financial guarantees to be provided by the undertakings concerned, will undoubtedly have favourable repercussions on competition and should improve the position of insured persons.

This decision of the Council constitutes an important step towards achieving a common market in insurance. The proposal for a Directive designed to facilitate the provision of non-life insurance services, which is at present being discussed within the Council, is the next step.

*Banks and other financial institutions***Banks: Towards the establishment of a common market in banking**

2.1.51. On 7 December a meeting of high-ranking officials from the Member States responsible for banking legislation and for the control of banking operations was held in Brussels under the chairmanship of Mr Christopher Tugendhat, the Member of the Commission with special responsibility for financial institutions.

Against the background of the first Coordinating Directive concerning credit institutions, adopted by the Council on 12 December 1977,¹ the meeting discussed the priority tasks for the future programme of work at Community level. Discussion also centred on the role of the Advisory Committee provided for in the first Coordinating Directive. It was agreed that the members of this Committee, the task of which is to advise the Commission on the policy to be pursued in banking matters, should also be high-ranking officials.

The Committee, the secretariat of which will be provided by the Commission, will meet about twice a year

Admission of securities to official stock exchange quotation

2.1.52. At its meeting to discuss foreign affairs held on 18 and 19 December, the Council approved as to principle the Directive coordinating the conditions for the admission of securities to official stock exchange quotation.

The initial Commission proposal to the Council dates back to October 1972;² it was amended in December 1975.³ The Directive, which will be formally adopted shortly, forms part of the Commission's efforts to promote a European capital market and will facilitate admission to official stock exchange quotation of securities from other Member States and also admission of one and the same security to more than one stock exchange within the Community.

*Indirect taxes***Excise duties on manufactured tobacco**

2.1.53. On 18 December⁴ the Council adopted the Directive setting out the definitions of the products falling within each of the five major categories of manufactured tobacco: cigars and cigarillos, cigarettes, smoking tobacco, snuff and chewing tobacco.

These Community definitions do not prejudice the systems or rates of taxation applying to the different products, but they do ensure that products with the same characteristics will not be classified differently according to the country where they are taxed.

The Member States are to implement the Directive by 1 January 1980. The Directive should make it easier to press ahead with the harmonization of excise duties on manufactured tobacco.

¹ OJ L 322 of 17.12.1977; Bull. EC 11-1977, point 2149, and 12-1977, point 2164.

² OJ C 131 of 13.12.1972 and Supplement 8/1972 — Bull. EC

³ Bull. EC 12-1975, point 2137

⁴ OJ L 10 of 16.1.1979

Tax-free allowances for travellers

2.1.54. On 19 December¹ the Council adopted four directives on tax-free allowances in respect of goods contained in travellers' personal luggage and goods sent in small consignments.

The main purpose of these directives is to lay down the arrangements for applying the European unit of account to the new tax-free allowances with effect from 1 January 1979. Under these arrangements, the allowances, which are applicable in each Member State on a calendar-year basis, will be determined by taking as the counter-values of the national currencies the rates obtaining on the first working day in October.²

The Council fixed the new allowances as follows:

(i) 180 EUA for the allowance granted to travellers within the Community, previously set at 125 units of account by the Council Directive of 12 June 1972;³

(ii) 40 EUA for the allowance granted to travellers arriving from outside the Community, previously set at 25 units of account by the Council Directive of 28 May 1969;⁴

(iii) 60 EUA for the allowance in respect of small consignments sent between individuals within the Community, previously set at 40 units of account by the Council Directive of 19 December 1974;⁵

(iv) 30 EUA for the allowance in respect of small consignments sent by individuals outside the Community to individuals within the Community, which was introduced for the first time by the Council acting on a Commission proposal forwarded to it on 31 December 1974.⁶

In spite of the above increases in the amounts expressed in EUA, the amounts expressed in national currency will themselves be increased to differing degrees in the different Member States, with large increases in Member States whose currencies have depreciated in recent years and small increases or none at all in Member States whose currencies have appreciated.

Temporary derogations relating to the unit value of imported goods have been granted:

(i) to Denmark, which may, until 31 December 1981, exclude goods with unit values of more than 135 EUA from the above arrangements;

(ii) to Ireland, which may, until 31 December 1983, exclude goods with unit values of more than 77 EUA from these arrangements.

Introduction of the EUA in the field of tax-free allowances within the Community will make it possible to restore equivalence in monetary terms as between the different amounts expressed in national currency. This will put an end to cases of double taxation resulting from the previous situation in which the value of one and the same product might well be lower than the allowance granted in a Member State that did not grant remission of tax on export and higher than the allowance in the country of importation, entailing taxation in that country.

In an attempt to eliminate other cases of double taxation, the Council has made compulsory for Member States to grant remission of tax on goods carried by travellers where the value of such goods exceeds the amount of the allowance; taxes are then charged on import. The manner in which Member States applies this hitherto optional provision differed.

The wine allowance granted to travellers within the Community has been increased from 3 to 4 litres. A derogation has, however, been granted to Denmark, which may, until 31 December 1983, continue to apply the old allowance.

Employment and social policy

The European Council and social affairs

2.1.55. At its meeting in Brussels on 4 and 5 December, the European Council reviewed the economic and social situation in the Member States and discussed the fourth Tripartite Conference⁷ on 9 November.

The 'Conclusions of the Presidency' made public at the close of the meeting, contained the following comments:

¹ OJ L 366 of 28.12.1978

² For 1979, cf. OJ C 233 of 3.10.1978.

³ OJ L 139 of 17.6.1972.

⁴ OJ L 133 of 4.6.1969.

⁵ OJ L 354 of 30.12.1974.

⁶ OJ C 18 of 25.1.1975.

⁷ Bull. EC 11-1978, points 1.3.1 to 1.3.6.

Economic and social situation

'The European Council has reviewed the economic and social situation in the Member States of the Community. It notes with satisfaction that since its meeting in Bremen the conditions for strengthening the process of economic growth in Europe have improved.

The Heads of State and Government have reported on the measures they have introduced. The European Council deems it imperative, particularly in view of the disturbing employment situation, to ensure the further rapid implementation of these measures. It reaffirms its view that only a common coordinated approach by all Member States can lead to greater convergence of economic development in the European Communities. The efforts of all Member States to reduce inflation must therefore be intensified in order to ensure the durability of the European Monetary System.

The European Council asked the Commission to provide for its second meeting in 1979 a study of structural development prospects until 1990. This study should assess the consequences of structural changes for the economic and social situation in the Community.

The European Council welcomed the decision of the Labour and Social Affairs Council to extend the Social Fund to assist recruitment and job creation schemes for young people. In view of its continuing concern about youth unemployment the European Council asked the Labour and Social Affairs Ministers to keep the working of the new aid under review.'

Tripartite Conference

'The European Council has noted the results of the last Tripartite Conference and calls upon the Governments of the Member States to take them into consideration in their economic and social policy decision-making.

The European Council holds the view that the dialogue between the social partners, the Governments of the Member States and the Commission of the European Communities promotes mutual understanding for economic and social policy exigencies and is therefore important for overcoming the problems of growth, stability and employment. The European Council therefore expresses the hope that the contacts between the social partners at European level will be continued.

The President of the European Council has informed the Council that the European Trade Union Confeder-

ation is elaborating proposals with a view to improving the methods of work of the Tripartite Conference. The Council (Ministers of Economic Affairs and Finance and Ministers of Labour and Social Affairs) is requested to examine these proposals so that further action can be agreed with the social partners.'

Employment

Senior Employment Officials

2.1.56. The Senior Employment Officials met on 6 December, mainly to examine and assess the active policy measures implemented by member countries in the last two years. It was decided that in the first quarter of 1979 an expert group should set to work on establishing criteria for assessing the effectiveness of different types of measures—particularly job creation measures.

Meeting of the Directors of employment services

2.1.57. On 12 December the Directors of employment services of the Member States met for the second time. The problems of the mismatch between the supply of and demand for labour and the corrective measures applied by the Member States were reviewed. The group also worked out a preliminary plan for its future activities.

Employment of young people

2.1.58. On 18 December¹ the Council formally adopted the Regulation on the creation of two new types of aid for young people from the European Social Fund, which it had agreed at its meeting on 27 November.² At

¹ OJ L 361 of 23.12.1978 and L 374 of 30.12.1978

² Bull. EC 11-1978, point 2.1.42

list of priority regions on the basis of youth unemployment was published in the Official Journal of the European Communities.¹

European Social Fund

European Social Fund assistance: second instalment 1978

2.1.59. On 20 December the Commission approved the second batch of 1978 applications for assistance from the European Social Fund.

The applications examined by the Fund Committee on 8 November¹ represent the following amounts:

(i) under Article 4, for readaptation operations for workers leaving agriculture and operations for persons occupied in the textile and clothing industry, migrant workers, young workers experiencing employment difficulties and women:

<i>Operations</i>	<i>Amount</i> (million EUA)
Agriculture, textile and clothing	3 998
Young people	122 237
Migrants	11 189
Women	7 691

(ii) under Article 5, for retraining operations for workers who are unemployed or underemployed in less-developed regions of the Community, operations aimed at training workers to meet the requirements of technical and industrial progress, retraining operations for workers employed in groups of undertakings undergoing reorganization, and operations concerning the rehabilitation of handicapped persons:

<i>Operations</i>	<i>Amount</i> (million EUA)
Regions, technical progress and groups of undertakings	227 299
Handicapped persons	20 842

Pilot schemes

2.1.60. On 22 December the Commission decided to grant assistance from the European Social Fund for nine pilot schemes designed to give guidance to the Council and the Commission in the choice of areas for Fund intervention and enable the Member States and those responsible for the operations to choose the most effective types of aid and organize the use of the aid to the best effect.

The schemes mainly concern alternative training techniques for handicapped persons to remedy existing shortcomings; occupational rehabilitation of recovered alcoholics; training for a number of immigrant group-leaders; training of young second-generation Italian immigrants to facilitate integration into the vocational training system; training of women for skilled jobs usually reserved for men; preparation of job-seekers for new occupations (services and crafts sectors); setting-up, in Italy, of a regional structure for labour market intervention; training of social workers responsible for assisting migrants; development of special teaching method for migrant children.

ECSC readaptation measures

2.1.61. In December, acting under Article 56(2)(b) of the ECSC Treaty, the Commission decided to contribute towards the cost of retraining workers affected by the closure or reduced activity of a number of undertakings in the Community coal and steel industries.

Two sums were made available in connection with closures in Germany:

(i) 4 650 250 EUA for 3 799 workers affected by the closure of the Friedrich der Grosse coal mine operated by Bergbau AG Lippe in the name of and on behalf of Ruhrkohle AG;

¹ OJ C 2 of 4.1.1979.

² Bull. EC 11-1978, point 2.1.41.

(ii) 82 500 EUA for 276 workers affected by the closure of the Stahlwerke Südwestfalen AG Hagen Works

The 91 250 EUA already made available for workers affected by the closure of the Stahlwerke Bochum AG Ne-viges Work was increased by 11 250 EUA.

In Belgium 1 338 000 EUA was provided towards the retraining of 700 workers affected by the closure of the head office of SA Charbonnage d'Argenteau. A previously approved sum for workers affected by the closure of SA Cockerill's Colard colliery was increased by 148 500 EUA

In Italy 70 750 EUA was provided towards the vocational training of 800 workers affected by the closure of a section mill and three blast furnaces operated by the Piombino steelworks company in Tuscany

In Luxembourg, to meet a request for readaptation assistance for 541 workers affected by the closure of four blast furnaces, three basic bessemer steel plants and two rolling mills operated by ARBED 1 398 000 EUA was made available.

Four sums were made available in the United Kingdom:

(i) 34 250 EUA for 76 workers affected by the closure of the Spartan Works of Spartan Redheugh Ltd, Birmingham;

(ii) 6 913 500 EUA as a contribution to the readaptation of 3 161 workers affected by coal mine closures in 1978;

(iii) 18 000 EUA for 23 workers affected by the closure of the steel plant at the Imperial Steelworks, Sheffield, owned by Edgar Allen Balfour Steels Ltd;

(iv) 2 225 500 EUA for 2 480 British Steel Corporation workers affected by the closure of the following plant: at Ebbw Vale, south Wales—open hearth furnaces and slab mill; at the Ravenscraig Works, Glasgow, Scotland—four basic open hearth furnaces, with related equipment and slag utilization plant; at the Rotherham works, South Yorkshire, Sheffield—wire rod mill at the Toledo Works

Freedom of movement and social security for migrant workers

2.1.62. On 11 December the Technical Committee on free movement examined the report of the SEDOC (European system for

the international clearing of vacancies and applications for employment) officials represented by officials from the national employment services and the Commission. The Committee was appreciative of their work and decided to institutionalize their activity by setting up an *ad hoc* group.

Working and living conditions

Housing

2.1.63. The Commission has approved loans for the following projects under the eighth scheme (first and second instalments) of financial aid to low-cost housing for workers in the ECSC industries:

Germany — iron and steel industry: 133 dwellings at Duisburg, Krefeld, Dortmund and Siegen (DM 1 818 000);

Germany — coal industry: 31 dwellings in the Saarland (DM 465 000);

France — coal industry: 250 dwellings in the Lorraine area (FF 2 267 450);

France — iron and steel industry: 210 dwellings in the East and North (FF 2 595 000);

Luxembourg — iron and steel industry: 6 dwellings at Ehlange and surrounding area (LFR 1 800 000);

Netherlands — iron and steel industry: 112 dwellings at Alkmaar and surrounding area (FL 1 251 000);

Belgium — coal industry: 2 dwellings in the Kempenland (BFR 550 000);

Belgium — iron and steel industry: 12 dwellings in Wallonia (BFR 3 300 000);

United Kingdom — iron and steel industry: 236 dwellings in Cleveland and Cardiff (UKL 333 389)

2.1.64. Under the same scheme (second instalment) the Commission has decided to grant the following loans:

(i) BFR 17 099 897 for the iron and steel and coalmining industries in Belgium to finance about 80 dwellings in Wallonia and in the Kempenland;

(ii) FF 1 104 994 for frontier workers in the Luxembourg steel industry to finance 75 dwellings on Luxembourg territory and 44 on French territory;

(iii) UKL 1 218 184 for the iron and steel industry and UKL 1 168 184 for the coalmining industry in the United Kingdom. These are general loans to finance construction or modernization projects in various regions; each project will be submitted for approval subsequently.

Industrial relations

2.1.65. The Mixed Committee on the harmonization of working conditions in the coal industry met in Luxembourg on 8 December. After appointing the Chairman for 1979, Mr Jakob and the Vice-Chairman, Mr Gormley, the Committee exchanged views on the current work on social security (miners' scheme), workers representation in undertakings and qualifications in the coalmining industry. The Committee notified the Commission of its unanimous support for the Resolution on coal policy adopted by the ECSC Consultative Committee¹ 30 November last.

2.1.66. The Joint Committee on Social Problems of Agricultural Workers held a plenary meeting on 14 December. Mr Vredeling, Vice-President of the Commission, reported to the Committee on the measures or action with a social purpose proposed by the Commission in the agricultural sector during the past year, in particular the guidelines for the development of the Mediterranean area, forestry policy and safety and health at work. He requested the Joint Committee to issue detailed opinions on these matters as soon as possible, and on the points set out in the Committee's report on priority social problems of agricultural workers. After a general discussion, the Joint Committee drew up a programme of work for 1979 to comply with the Commission's request.

Social protection

Social security

2.1.67. On 19 December the Council formally adopted the Directive concerning the progressive implementation of the principle of equality of treatment for men and women in matters of social security.² It had approved this Directive on 27 November last.³

The programme to combat poverty

2.1.68. In the context of its programme to combat poverty, on 6 December 1978 the Commission decided to entrust a study on poverty thresholds in the Community to the Economic Research Centre of the University of Leyden (Netherlands). The study—which will be carried out by means of a questionnaire forming part of a major consumer survey—should enable the Commission to improve the effectiveness of Community poverty programmes.

The Commission has also decided to have national reports drawn up on poverty and the fight against poverty in the Member States so that a final Commission report to the Council and the European Parliament on the impact of the Commission's anti-poverty programme can be prepared.

Health and safety

2.1.69. The Advisory Committee on Safety, Hygiene and the Protection of Health at Work held its seventh plenary meeting in Luxembourg from 18 to 20 December under

¹ OJ C 304 of 20.12.1978

² OJ L 6 of 8.1.1979.

³ Bull. EC 11-1978, point 2.1 46.

the chairmanship of Mr Vredeling, Vice-President of the Commission. Mr Vredeling laid before the Committee the 1979 programme for the implementation of the Council Resolution of 29 June 1978¹ concerning action on safety and health at work; in addition to discussing this programme, the Committee examined the activities of the various working parties.

2.1.70. On 15 December the Commission authorized the granting of the following aids under the social research programmes of the ECSC: 1 366 200 EUA for the financing of eight research projects on safety in mines (relating to fires and information on accidents); 449 000 EUA for two research projects under the second and third research programmes relating to chronic respiratory disorders; 257 875 EUA for the financing of two research projects under the third programme on ergonomics and rehabilitation.

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2.1.71. The Commission proposal for a Council Directive² designed to amend the basic standards governing the protection of the health of workers and the general public against the dangers arising from ionizing radiations was the subject of an Opinion delivered by the Economic and Social Committee at its session on 19 and 20 December³

Regional policy

Financing operations

European Regional Development Fund

Third allocation for 1978: 304.19 million EUA

2.1.72. On 11 December the Commission approved the third and final allocation of

grants for 1978 from the European Regional Development Fund totalling 304.19 million EUA. The aid has been allocated to 934 investment projects costing a total of 2 612.92 million EUA. The Commission approved the first two allocations for 1978 in May⁴ and September.⁵

In accordance with the Regulation of 18 March 1975⁶ establishing the ERDF, the Fund Committee had approved these projects on 28 and 29 November 1978 and, for certain projects concerning France, on 28 and 29 June 1977, 7 December 1977 and 18 May and 19 July 1978. On 23 November 1978 and—again concerning a project in France—on 22 and 23 November 1977, the Regional Policy Committee had been consulted on the draft decisions for aid to infrastructure projects costing more than 10 million EUA.

The approval of this new allocation (the thirteenth since the Fund was set up) brings the total aid granted in 1975, 1976, 1977 and 1978 to 1 525 million EUA for 6 348 projects. However, as some grants were cancelled at the request of the Member States concerned, the amount actually committed was 1 513 million EUA, representing practically all the funds available for these four years.

Table 3 gives a breakdown of the amounts granted in this allocation.

The 304.19 million EUA breaks down as follows:

(a) 205.29 million EUA to finance 568 *infrastructure* projects required to develop industrial and tourist activities, comprising:

¹ OJ C 165 of 11.7.1978; Bull. EC 12-1977, point 2.1.81 and Bull. EC 6-1978, point 2.1.53

² OJ C 147 of 22.6.1978.

³ Point 2.3.53

⁴ Bull. EC 5-1978, point 2.1.50

⁵ Bull. EC 9-1978, point 2.1.35.

⁶ OJ L 73 of 21.3.1975.

Table 3 — Grants from the ERDF
(third 1978 allocation)

Member State	Number of grant decisions	Number of investment projects	Investments assisted (million EUA)	Assistance granted (million EUA)
Belgium	4	28	31.53	6.15
Denmark	1	1	11.53	3.46
FR of Germany	13	30	72.73	9.47
France	106	432	709.09	82.63 ¹
Ireland	3	29	482.74	11.92
Italy	30	205	558.98	98.42
Luxembourg	1	1	9.53	0.50
Netherlands	3	5	86.42	8.18
United Kingdom	41	203	650.37	83.46
Total	202	934	2 612.92	304.19

¹ The amount of aid granted to France is relatively large because decisions on projects presented by France are taken only once a year

(i) 107.41 million EUA to help finance 19 projects costing more than 10 million EUA each;

(ii) 86.41 million EUA to help finance 358 projects costing less than 10 million EUA each;

(iii) 11.57 million EUA to help finance 191 infrastructure investment projects costing less than 10 million EUA each in the areas covered by the Directive on mountain and hill-farming and farming in less-favoured areas.

The infrastructure investments assisted from the Fund involve a total of 1 049.33 million EUA. They mainly concern general equipment for industrial areas, road infrastructure, port improvements and telecommunications equipment.

(b) 98.80 million EUA to help finance 366 projects relating to *industrial, artisan and service activities*, comprising:

(i) 39.45 million EUA to help finance 24 projects costing more than 10 million EUA each;

(ii) 59.35 million EUA to help finance 342 projects costing less than 10 million EUA each.

The industrial and services investments assisted from the Fund involve a total of 1 563.59 million EUA, the main industries concerned being the extraction and preparation of metalliferous ores, motor vehicles and motor vehicle components, chemicals and the production and preliminary processing of metals.

Conversion*

ECSC conversion policy

2.1.73. On 18 December, the Commission transmitted a report and a communication on ECSC conversion policy to the ECSC Consultative Committee, whose meeting on 23 January 1979 is to be devoted mainly to industrial conversion.

In the report the Commission takes stock of the situation and of the measures taken by the Community to deal with the problems in this field. However, the Commission does not restrict itself to a historical and statistical survey. As the accelerating reorganization process, particularly in the steel industry, is bound to cause an appreciable contraction of employment in some Community regions in the next two years, it comes out in favour of adopting a number of measures and priorities. The report's recommendations include the coordinated use of all the Community's financial instruments to help steel regions undergoing conversion, the more intensive

and more flexible application of Article 56(2)(a) of the ECSC Treaty and the more systematic use of available funds for carrying out studies necessary for the preparation of conversion programmes.

Financing new activities

2.1.74. In December, the Council gave its assent¹ under Article 56(2)(a) of the ECSC Treaty to enable the Commission to grant the following conversion loans:

- (i) 3.276 million EUA (approximately UKL 2.2 million) to *Girling Midland Ross Air Actuation Ltd*, United Kingdom, for the equipment of a prefabricated factory manufacturing air actuation equipment on the Tafarnaubach Industrial Estate at Ebbw Vale in South Wales;
- (ii) 715 000 EUA (approximately FF 4 million) to the *Compagnie électro-mécanique* for the transfer and extension of an electrical repairs factory (in phases from 1978 to 1981) at Maizières-lès-Metz (Moselle, France);
- (iii) 3.6 million EUA (approximately FF 20 million) to the *Banque populaire de Lorraine* as a global loan to help with the founding and extension of small and medium-sized businesses in Lorraine;
- (iv) 2.145 million EUA (approximately FF 12 million) to the *Société mécanique lorraine* (SML) to help in setting up a heavy precision engineering plant at Hagondange (Moselle, France).

Regional Policy Committee

2.1.75. On 8 December the Regional Policy Committee, acting in accordance with the Council Decision of 18 March 1975² setting up a Regional Policy Committee, heard the opinions of the organizations representing workers and employers at Community level

concerning the Member States' regional development programmes.

Environment and consumer protection

Environment affairs before the Council

2.1.76. The Council meeting in Brussels on 18 and 19 December, chaired by Mr Gerhardt Baum, the German Minister of the Interior, was devoted to environmental affairs.

Environmental policy

2.1.77. The Council began with a wide-ranging political and general discussion on the common environment policy, using as its main point of departure the statement of 30 May 1978 by the French Minister for the Environment and the Quality of Life³ and the Commission communication concerning, *inter alia*, the place and role of a preventive policy for the environment in a balanced development of economic activities within the whole of the Community.⁴

Summing up the debate, the President drew attention to the interdependence of a healthy environment policy and industrial and employment policies. Due allowance must in fact be made at the earliest opportunity for the impact of industrial development on the environment and for the employment prospects afforded by a policy of improving the environment.

The President also stressed that it was important to:

- (i) continue to develop common principles in this central field, on the basis of procedures already existing at national level;

¹ OJ C 304 of 20 12 1978 and C 1 of 3.1 1979

² OJ L 73 of 21 3 1975.

³ Bull. EC 5-1978, point 2.1 60.

⁴ Bull. EC 11-1978, point 2.1 58

- (ii) carry out a more detailed examination of the possibilities afforded by a sectoral approach to environmental questions;
- (iii) encourage the use of clean technologies which consume the least possible amount of non-recoverable resources and the development of recycling processes;
- (iv) pay particular attention to the contribution of a common environment policy to a more comprehensive land and sea utilization policy;
- (v) promote the study of a rational policy on waste, geared to the market;
- (vi) monitor the economic effects of the various aids in this sector.

The Commission was invited to draw up a report on these various aspects, in order to facilitate further work by the Council; the President also stressed that the Ministers would like to meet more regularly for such discussions which all the participants considered very fruitful

Cost of pollution control to industry

2.1.78. On 19 December the Council adopted a Recommendation to the Member States regarding methods of evaluating the cost of pollution control to industry.¹

The aim of this Recommendation is to enable the local and national authorities of the Member States, and the Community, to obtain comparative data on the costs of pollution control in industrial sectors, through technical studies to identify the various factors or characteristics of production techniques which are in practice likely to give rise to considerable cost differences compared with other, similar processes of pollution control.

Making reference to the definitions in the European System of National Accounts (ESA) published by the Official Publications Office of the European Communities in 1970, the Recommendation provides for the collation of cost data under eleven headings divided into two sections—investment costs (new and recurring) and operating costs.

Details accompanying these cost data should include the following:

- (a) market value of materials recovered because of the pollution control plant in question, irrespective of whether such materials are sold or used internally, and,

where appropriate, a financial assessment of other factors entailing a reduction in costs;

- (b) exact levels of the values of emissions by the relevant production plant in a specified time-period both before and after introduction of the pollution control measure to which the costs refer;

- (c) annual production capacity and annual production volume of the process to which the pollution control costs refer.

Any other data may be given separately and could, if appropriate, accompany the reports on the results of the studies carried out in this field, which the Member States will endeavour, wherever possible, to forward to the Commission.

Noise

2.1.79. At the same meeting the Council formally adopted a Directive relating to the measurement of the second level for constructional plant and equipment.

Sea pollution

2.1.80. After an exchange of views on safety at sea—prompted in particular by the wreck of the Amoco Cadiz—and on the prevention and reduction of sea pollution, the Council agreed in principle to Decisions on:

- (i) the authorization to be given to the Commission to negotiate the Community's accession to the Bonn Agreement of 9 June 1969 for cooperation in dealing with pollution of the North Sea by oil;
- (ii) the conclusion of the protocol annexed to the Barcelona Convention for the protection of the Mediterranean Sea against pollution, of 16 February 1976, concerning cooperation in combating pollution by oil and other harmful substances in cases of emergency.

¹ OJ L 5 of 9.1.1979.

2.1.81. The Council also agreed in principle to the recommendation on Community accession to the Oslo Convention of 15 February 1972 for the Prevention of Marine Pollution by Dumping from Ships and Aircraft and to the authorization for the Commission to negotiate this accession.

It instructed the Permanent Representatives Committee to finalize the necessary texts so that a formal decision could be taken as soon as possible on these three matters.

Water for human consumption

2.1.82. The Council, continuing the discussions of December 1976¹ and June 1977² agreed in principle to the Directive relating to the quality of water for human consumption.

This Directive lays down 'binding' and 'guide' parameters for numerous factors contributing to the pollution of water and listed in the Annexes to the Directive concerning factors which are organoleptic, physicochemical, undesirable in excessive quantities, toxic and microbiological and concerning the minimum required concentration for softened drinking water.

The Directive also provides for models of standard analyses and an information system between the Member States and the Commission on the outcome of regular monitoring to be carried out by the Member States, which have five years within which to comply with its provisions

Bird conservation

2.1.83. Following a full exchange of views the Council finally approved the Directive on bird conservation, which had been discussed at great length by the Ministers. The purpose of the Directive is the conservation of numerous species of birds by means of special protection for certain habitats and limitation of the species which may be hunted and marketed, together with prohibition of certain means of hunting and capture.

It lists 24 species which may be hunted in all the Member States. Each Member State will also draw up a supplementary national list relating to its own territory; the total number of species which may be hunted must not exceed the 72 species listed in the Annex to the Directive

The marketing of 26 species in all is authorized, 7 of which may be marketed in all the Member States and 10 others only in those Member States whose own national legislation so permits. The Commission will make a study of certain aspects of the marketing of the 9 other species which may in principle be marketed, in order to determine, no later than 4 months before the entry into force of the Directive, whether these species should be added to the list of 10 species which may be marketed in the Member States which so wish

Protection of groundwater

2.1.84. The Council held a detailed discussion of the Directive on the protection of groundwater against pollution caused by certain dangerous substances, but finally noted that there were still so many open questions that more detailed examination and further discussion would be required.

The aim of this Directive is to improve the protection of groundwater by introducing a system of prior national authorization for all discharges of dangerous substances—appearing on 'grey' and 'black' lists—which are likely to cause pollution. Particular provisions apply to discharges affecting a transfrontier aquifer, whereby there is a consultation procedure before authorization is granted by the national authorities concerned.

The Directive also makes provision for a system of exchange of information at Community level, both on the authorizations granted by the national authorities and on hydrogeological conditions and the results of the monitoring and inspection operations carried out

¹ Bull. EC 12-1976, point 2231.

² Bull. EC 6-1977, point 2.1.68.

Wood pulp industry

2.1.85. The Council also devoted a lengthy discussion to a proposal for a Directive—submitted a long time ago by the Commission—on the reduction of water pollution caused by wood pulp mills in the Member States. The exchange of views enabled the delegations to state their concern regarding many aspects of this proposal and in particular to look into the implications of the so-called ‘parallel’ approach, namely the application of either quality objectives or emission standards.

As all the delegations recognized the value of a Directive in this field, the President was able to note the existence of the positive attitude necessary for reopening discussions and in conclusion the Council agreed to instruct the Permanent Representatives Committee to give further attention to the matter—with particular reference to the outcome of this debate—with a view to drafting a text which might meet with the approval of all delegations at the next Council meeting on the environment.

Communications by the Commission and a national delegation

2.1.86. The Council noted three communications, two from the Commission and one from the delegation of the Federal Republic of Germany. They concern:

- (i) *Persistent organo-chlorine compounds*—this communication is a sort of interim report by the Commission on its work on the objective evaluation of the risks to human health from pollution by certain persistent organo-chlorine compounds and includes the various delegations’ comments on the subject;
- (ii) *Noise*—this Commission communication concerns the determination of criteria for noise;
- (iii) *Fluorocarbons*—the German Delegation submitted a report on the International Conference on Fluorocarbons, held in Munich from 6 to 8 December

Environment*Reducing pollution and nuisances***Freshwater pollution**

2.1.87. The heads of the delegations to the International Commission for the protection of the Rhine met in Luxembourg on 12 December. The main points discussed were progress on French ratification of the ‘chloride’ convention and preparations for the Conference of Ministers scheduled for February 1979.

Air pollution

2.1.88. On 6 and 7 December the Commission organized a meeting of scientific consultants on the monitoring of the effects of air pollution on vegetation. A critical analysis of two preparatory studies was made with a view to extracting information from them on how such work should be done, particularly research, and to extending the exchange of technical information on the procedure, so that physicochemical analyses might be used to supplement air pollution monitoring.

Consumers**Consumers Consultative Committee**

2.1.89. The Consumers Consultative Committee (CCC) met on 15 December and approved its initial conclusions on the agricultural price proposals for the 1979/80 agricultural year; the Committee has to submit detailed comments on the Commission’s practical proposals, on which it will be consulted.

In the meantime the CCC endorsed the Commission's conclusions on agricultural policy which are set out in the document presented¹ to the European Council meeting on 4 and 5 December. These are:

- (a) a general price freeze for 1979/80,
- (b) selective income subsidies for small farmers,
- (c) systematic removal of monetary compensatory amounts,
- (d) less Community expenditure on agriculture as a result of the above measures.

The CCC also adopted an Opinion on the Commission's Communication to the Council on the general guidelines for a textile and clothing industry policy. While acknowledging the need for measures to help the Community's textile industry hold its own against international competition and while realizing the importance of this industry to the Community's economy, particularly as regards employment, the CCC believes the final goal should be free admission for all consumer textiles products to the Community market, to ensure that the European consumer has freedom of choice as regards quality and price

At the same meeting, the Committee's Chairman reported on the CCC's business, activities and consultations in 1978. He stressed the progress made by several Member States in promoting consumers' interests, and suggested various measures which should be included in the CCC's work programme for 1979 in the light of the two important impending events:

- (a) direct elections to the European Parliament,
- (b) adoption of a new Community Consumer Action Programme

Consumers

Foodstuffs

2.1.90. On 18 December the Council formally adopted the Directive relating to the labelling, presentation and advertising of foodstuffs for sale to the ultimate consumer, which it had already approved.

Textile fibres

2.1.91. On 21 December² the Commission approved a Directive adapting to technical progress the Council Directive of 17 July 1972 on the approximation of the laws of the Member States relating to certain methods for the quantitative analysis of binary textile fibre mixtures. The purpose of the Directive is to harmonize the control and quantitative and qualitative composition of textile products in order to remove the technical barriers to trade and ensure that the consumer is provided with essential information on textiles.

Agriculture

1978 Agricultural Report

2.1.92. Before the end of last year the Commission adopted its annual report on the agricultural situation in the Community for 1978.³ The price proposals for 1979/80 are based mainly on this report.

Common agricultural policy and European monetary system

2.1.93. On 4 and 5 December⁴ the European Council agreed on the establishment of the European monetary system. In the same month the European Parliament⁵ and the Economic and Social Committee⁶ delivered their Opinions on the proposal for a regula-

¹ Bull EC 11-1978, point 3.5.1

² OJ L 17 of 24.1.1979

³ Points 1.5.1 to 1.5.6.

⁴ Points 1.1.1 to 1.1.12.

⁵ OJ C 294 of 8.12.1978 and Bull EC 11-1978, point 2.1.73

⁶ Point 2.3.10 and OJ C 6 of 8.1.1979

tion on the impact of the European monetary system on the common agricultural policy. This proposal had been forwarded by the Commission to the Council on 22 November.¹

The Regulation was not, however, formally adopted because the French delegation entered a reservation on the agricultural monetary compensatory amounts at the Council meeting (Economic and Financial Affairs) on 18 December and subsequently confirmed it by an official communiqué issued in Paris on 29 December. The European Monetary System could not, therefore, begin operating on 1 January 1979 as originally planned.²

Measures in connection with the monetary situation

2.1.94. The monetary compensatory amounts applicable to wine were adjusted with effect from 16 December,³ the beginning of the 1978/79 marketing year, to take account of the new activating prices and representative rates.⁴

2.1.95. On 1 January 1979 the rates of the monetary compensatory amounts were as follows:

Benelux	+ 3.3%
Federal Republic of Germany	+ 10.8%
France:	- 10.6%
(1979/80 marketing year	- 6.5%)
Ireland	- 2%
Italy	- 17.7%
United Kingdom	- 27%

Common organization of markets

2.1.96. On 14 December⁵ the Commission amended the rules concerning the tendering

procedure for export refunds in the cereals sector, mainly with a view to making it more flexible.

2.1.97. On 19 December⁶ the Council, continuing its work of 20 and 21 November last,⁷ fixed the representative market prices for olive oil for the olive-oil marketing year beginning on 1 January 1979 at 148.43 u.a./100 kg from 1 January to 28 February and at 120.78 u.a./100 kg from 1 March to 31 October 1979. Accordingly the threshold price will be 145.43 u.a./100 kg and 119.44 u.a./100 kg respectively for the same periods.

It also approved the general rules on the application of the system of consumer aid with effect from 1 March 1979. The aid was fixed at 27.65 u.a./100 kg, of which 94% will be granted to olive-oil processors and 6% for special measures.

For its part the Commission adopted regulations laying down detailed rules for the application of the new market organization and in particular for the special measures relating to olive-oil producer organizations⁸ and the system of production aid for the 1978/79 marketing year.

2.1.98. On 18 December⁹ the Commission laid down the detailed rules for the application of the Council Regulation of 24 April 1978¹⁰ restricting aid for colza and rape seed to seed which yields oil with an erucic acid content not exceeding a percentage to be specified, an exception being made for colza seed rich in erucic acid the oil of which is destined for non-food uses.

¹ Point 2.3.50.

² Point 1.1.10.

³ OJ L 348 of 13.12.1978.

⁴ Bull. EC 5-1978, point 2.1.70.

⁵ OJ L 351 of 15.12.1978.

⁶ Bull. EC 11-1978, point 2.1.75.

⁷ OJ L 369 of 29.12.1978.

⁸ OJ L 359 of 22.12.1978 and L 370 of 30.12.1978.

⁹ OJ L 355 of 19.12.1978.

¹⁰ OJ L 116 of 28.4.1978.

2.1.99. By a Regulation of 22 December¹ the Commission fixed the average world market price and the target yield for soya beans, thereby enabling the aid for this crop (covering about 4 000 ha) to be fixed for the 1978/89 marketing year.

2.1.100. In the context of a package of measures or projects to be undertaken on wine, the Mediterranean regions and agricultural structures, the Council on 19 December 1978 reached agreement in principle to a series of measures to establish balance on the wine market.²

These measures include the granting of aid for must intended for the enrichment of wine under certain conditions. The Council agreed to take a decision as soon as possible on the granting of aid for rectified concentrated must. Other aid will be granted for must used to produce grape juice and British and Irish wines. Special measures are planned for the restructuring of wine-growing in the Charentes.

The Council also made provision for a system of market support in the event of a crisis. The system provides for a minimum price and supplementary compulsory distillation measures at the same price level

It also noted its agreement to a system of compulsory distillation which will be applied in the event of an over-abundant harvest. There will be a common system applying to all wine producing countries in respect of up to 10% of the harvest and a system graduated above that figure with a view to reducing the burden on Italian producers.

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2.1.101. On 15 December³ the European Parliament delivered its opinion on the Commission 1978-1985 action programme on the progressive establishment of balance on the market in wine.⁴

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2.1.102. In addition, in the absence of Community measures concerning alcohol and aromatized wines, the Council on 18 December¹ again extended the period of validity of the provisions relating to the addition of alcohol to wine products.

2.1.103. At the beginning of the 1978/79 marketing year the Commission, mainly on the basis of the forward estimate, made provision as from 16 December⁵ for the conclusion of long-term private storage contracts in respect of certain table wines, grape musts and concentrated grape musts and, under a Regulation of 20 December 1978,⁶ made it permissible to distil wine suitable for producing certain spirits of designated origin.

2.1.104. On 21 December⁷ the Commission adopted two regulations on the importation of hops from non-member countries.

The aim of the first one is to combine in one regulation the Regulations⁸ of 13 July and 13 October 1978, so that the same instrument would cover the putting into free circulation in the Community of hop cones imported without an attestation of equivalence and hop cones and hop products accompanied by these attestations. It also adds certain new provisions, such as the introduction of a procedure for the splitting-up of consignments before they are put into free circulation. The second regulation contains the conditions governing the recognition of the equivalence of attestations given by non-member countries which had already undertaken to comply with certain rules and of attestations given by Australia which has recently given this undertaking.

2.1.105. On 18 and 19 December⁹ the Council adopted the following special measures in the beef and veal sector in order to ensure Community supplies for 1979:

- (i) forward estimate for beef and veal imports for the processing industry (60 000 t, with the 'twinning' system to continue);
- (ii) forward estimate for the importation of 230 000 young male bovine animals weighing 300 kg or less in-

¹ OJ L 361 of 23.12.1978.

² Bull. EC 7/8-1978, points 1.4.1 to 1.4.6 and 9-1978, point 2.1.45.

³ Point 2.3.11 and OJ C 6 of 8.1.1979

⁴ Supplement 7/78 — Bull EC

⁵ OJ L 351 of 15.12.1978.

⁶ OJ L 357 of 21.12.1978.

⁷ OJ L 367 of 28.12.1978

⁸ Bull. EC 7/7-1978, point 2.1.85 and OJ L 289 of 14.10.1978.

⁹ OJ L 357 of 21.12.1978, L 366 of 28.12.1978 and L 7 of 11.1.1979.

tended for fattening, subject to a review of the situation, as necessary, at the end of June on a report from the Commission;

(iii) a Regulation opening, allocating and providing for the administration of a Community tariff quota for 38 500 tonnes of frozen beef and veal falling within sub-heading 02.01 A II (b) of the Common Customs Tariff (extension of the period of validity of the Regulation of 19 December 1977);

(iv) a Regulation extending until 1 March 1980 (expiry date of the Lomé Convention) arrangements for the reduction of import changes on beef and veal originating in the African, Caribbean and Pacific States provided for in the Regulation of 18 December 1975¹ and including, besides an exemption from customs duties, a reduction of 90% in the import charges (a corresponding charge being levied by the exporting country).

2.1.106. For its part, the Commission laid down on 20 and 22 December² the detailed rules for the application of the arrangements referred to above, and in particular:

(i) the period of validity of import licences for meat from the ACP countries—90 days in the case of frozen products and 45 days for chilled and refrigerated products;

(ii) the number of young male bovine animals for fattening which may be imported during the first half of 1979. The number was fixed at 75 000 animals, of which 12 000 from Yugoslavia could qualify for a reduction of 70% of the levy, while a reduction of 50% would be granted for animals from other countries.

2.1.107. In order to restore the Community preference for pigmeat, the Commission sent a proposal to the Council on 12 December for amending the standard amount of general costs used to calculate the sluicgate price for pig carcasses. It would rise from 20 u.a./100 kg to 32 u.a./100 kg to allow for inflation in non-member countries since 1972 when it was last adjusted. It is intended that the change be effective from 1 February 1979.

In the same sector, the Commission Regulation of 20 December fixing the export refunds on pigmeat for the period beginning 25 December³ increases the refunds by 33 to 66% to ease the Community market; this may be considered an exceptional measure to deal

with the market crisis, which is likely to grow worse in the coming months.

Structural policy

2.1.108. On 19 December the Council adopted the structural measures relating to Mediterranean agriculture on which it had reached agreement at its meeting on 20 and 21 November last and supplementary measures envisaged for the Benelux countries which it had approved on 31 October 1978.

The four measures relating to the Mediterranean regions are as follows:

(i) special aid for forestry measures in dry Mediterranean regions of the Community which are particularly vulnerable to erosion, soil/water imbalance and outbreaks of fire;⁴

(ii) the construction of reservoirs and dams as protection against floods in the Hérault valley in France in order to enable vineyards to be converted to other crops and farms to be modernized;⁵

(iii) a programme for the acceleration and guidance of collective irrigation works in Corsica;⁵

(iv) the implementation of an outline plan for agricultural counselling so that Italian farmers may have access to an information and guidance service on a permanent basis.⁴

With regard to the Benelux countries, the structural measures relating to production will be financed from the 1978 and 1979 budget as an exceptional measure, in view of the special needs of agriculture in that country as recognized by the Council in the compromise on the agricultural price proposals for the 1978/79 marketing year.⁶

2.1.109. In December the Commission adopted four decisions and delivered four opinions concerning the re-

¹ OJ L 329 of 23.12.1975.

² OJ L 357 of 21.12.1978.

³ OJ L 359 of 22.12.1978.

⁴ Bull. EC 5-1978, point 2.1.73.

⁵ Bull. EC 7/8-1978, point 2.1.88.

⁶ Bull. EC 5-1978, point 2.1.74 and 10-1978, point 2.1.96.

form of agricultural structures in Belgium, Ireland, Italy, the United Kingdom and the Netherlands

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2.1.110. On 15 December¹ Parliament delivered its Opinion on a proposal submitted on 6 November by the Commission to the Council concerning a programme for the promotion of drainage in catchment areas on both sides of the border between Ireland and Northern Ireland.²

European Agricultural Guidance and Guarantee Section

Guarantee Section

2.1.111. On 6 December³ the Commission adopted a Regulation fixing the prices to be used for calculating the value of agricultural products in intervention storage on 31 December 1978 to be carried over to the 1979 financial year.

These prices are generally based on the actual buying-in price paid by the intervention agencies during a reference period running from 1 January 1978 until the last month for which figures are known. But in the case of certain products (skimmed-milk powder, butter, tobacco, and beef) they also take account of the fact that intervention disposal prices are considerably lower than the buying-in price. The value of the stocks to be carried forward has thus been written down. In this way the 1978 budget will bear some of the loss which will probably be sustained when these products are eventually sold.

Guidance Section

2.1.112. Following the agreements in principle reached at its meeting in May 1978⁴ the Council on 18 and 19 December adopted a number of structural measures which will be financed by the EAGGF Guidance Section.

These new measures provide, firstly, for⁵

(i) the continued financing, under certain provisions of the Regulation of 5 February 1964, of individual projects relating to production structures within a ceiling cost of 70 million EUA in 1978 and 1979;

(ii) the power to double the slaughtering premiums in certain regions of Belgium by way of derogation from the provisions of the Directive of 17 May 1977⁶ on a Community action for the eradication of bovine diseases; and secondly, four measures for Mediterranean agriculture

(i) a common forestry measure in certain dry Mediterranean zones of the Community;

(ii) a flood protection programme in the Hérault valley;

(iii) a programme for the acceleration and guidance of collective irrigation works in Corsica;

(iv) the development of agricultural advisory services in Italy

The total cost chargeable to the EAGGF Guidance Section for the duration of the measures designed to improve Mediterranean agriculture is about 271 million EUA.

2.1.113. At the same meeting the Council adopted a Directive on a programme to accelerate the conversion of certain vineyards in the French Charentes region. The EAGGF Guidance Section will reimburse 50% of the eligible expenditure incurred by France.

2.1.114. On 22 December the Commission decided on the granting of aid for 1978 by the EAGGF Guidance Section. Under the Council Regulation of 15 February 1977⁷ on common measures to improve the conditions

¹ OJ C 6 of 8.1.1979

² OJ C 274 of 18.11.1978 and Bull. EC 11-1978, point 2.1.80

³ OJ L 342 of 7.12.1978

⁴ Bull. EC 5-1978, point 2.1.73 and 2.1.74

⁵ Bull. EC 10-1978, point 2.1.96; OJ L 357 of 21.12.1978 and L 6 of 10.1.1979.

⁶ OJ L 145 of 13.6.1977

⁷ OJ L 51 of 23.2.1977.

under which agricultural products are processed and marketed, the Commission granted aid for 190 projects forming the second part of the second instalment for 1978.

Table 4 — *EAGGF Aid*

Country	Number of projects	Aid in national currency	Aid in EUA ¹
<i>1 Second instalment — Second part — (normal appropriations)</i>			
Belgium	19	98 140 000	2 482 923
Denmark	17	21 100 000	3 038 047
France	17	42 310 693	7 327 415
FR of Germany	30	20 950 000	8 323 136
Ireland	10	1 500 000	2 203 591
Italy	18	5 920 133 470	5 285 031
Luxembourg	1	8 074 500	204 283
Netherlands	6	8 675 000	3 189 772
United Kingdom	51	3 590 000	5 273 928
Total	169		37 328 126
<i>2 Mediterranean Regions</i>			
France			
— new projects	11	29 727 672	5 148 273
— increase in aid	4	6 790 784	1 176 036
			6 324 309
Italy			
— new projects	10	13 705 136 008	12 234 872
— increase in aid	3	975 043 494	870 442
			13 105 314

¹ The value of the EUA has been calculated on the basis of the rate in force in November 1978. The amounts in EUA are indicative only

It increased aid to 50% for three Italian projects and to 35% for four French projects which had already received aid at a rate of 25% of the investment under Decisions adopted on 30 June and 3 August 1978.¹ Since these seven projects concerned Mediterranean regions they qualify for the advantageous rates provided for by the Council Regulation of 19 June 1978.² Table 4 gives the breakdown of the aid.

2.1.115. On the same day the Commission also granted aid for 19 projects under the Council Regulation of 5 February 1964.³ The appropriations for these projects, which concern only four countries, had been entered in the budget for previous years but had not been utilized. They have been recommitted in the country where they were cancelled. Table 5 gives the breakdown of the aid.

Table 5 — *EAGGF Aid*

Country	Number of projects	Aid in national currency	Aid in EUA ¹
Belgium	5	8 687 987	219 804
France	2	10 030 589	1 737 109
FR of Germany	4	2 606 264	1 035 432
Italy	8	10 011 140 470	8 937 162
Total	19		11 929 507

¹ November 1978 conversion rates, the amounts in EUA are indicative only

2.1.116. On 15 December⁴ Parliament delivered its Opinion on three Commission proposals which had been put to the Council concerning the EAGGF. One proposal relates to the aid mentioned above which had been granted in December. The two others amend a 1970 Regulation on the appropriations for the EAGGF Guarantee Section.

¹ Bull. EC 7/8-1978, point 2.1.91.

² OJ L 166 of 23.6.1978.

³ OJ L 34 of 27.2.1964

⁴ Point 2.3.6.

Conditions of competition

2.1.117. Under Articles 92 to 94 of the EEC Treaty, the Commission decided to:

- (i) initiate the procedure for Article 93(2) of the Treaty in respect of a provision in a draft law of the Sicilian Region¹ concerning extraordinary measures to support and develop the economy of the island; this provision related to a subsidy for cooperative wineries to reduce their running costs;
- (ii) close the procedure provided for in Article 93(2) of the EEC Treaty in respect of provisions in a draft law of the Tuscany Region on measures of aid for agricultural cooperatives (which subsequently became law), in particular the provisions concerning aid for cooperative installations and equipment

2.1.118. It also decided not to raise objections in respect of the following Italian draft laws:

- (i) draft law of the Tuscany Region of the development of agriculture (measures concerning refinancing and agricultural credit) and laying down provisions to assist cooperatives (equipment aids);
- (ii) draft law of the Latium Region on measures to develop agriculture, in particular aid for artificial insemination, for experimentation and dissemination of information on certain irradiation techniques in agriculture, for the setting up of centres for research into new seeds, and for nurseries and horticulture with a view to the production of propagation material;
- (iii) draft law of the Trent Region on measures to develop forest areas and reservations, in particular work relating to infrastructure, maintenance, management and improvement;
- (iv) draft law of the Friuli-Venezia Giulia Region for refinancing a number of measures, connected with natural disasters, to restimulate agricultural production;

No objections were raised to the amendment of the following existing aids:

- (i) in the United Kingdom for the poultry industry;
- (ii) in Germany (North Rhine Westphalia) for the joint use of Agricultural machinery. The Commission will, however, re-examine this aid as part of its constant review of existing aids.

Harmonization of legislation

2.1.119. In December the Commission adopted several decisions concerning veterinary legislation.

On 22 December² it decided to amend earlier decisions dating from 1973,³ 1977⁴ and 1978⁵ relating to special health guarantees concerning enzootic bovine leucosis. The purpose of this decision is to extend the period of validity of the special authorizations granted to Member States until 31 December 1979. On that date the Community rules relating to harmonized health guarantees, which had been the subject of a proposal transmitted by the Commission to the Council in November 1978,⁶ will take effect.

As part of the action undertaken by the Community with a view to the eradication of certain bovine diseases and for which Community financing is provided, the Commission, on 8 and 21 December, approved the plan for the eradication of enzootic bovine leucosis presented by Germany⁷ and the plan for the accelerated eradication of bovine brucellosis presented by Belgium⁷

With regard to the campaign against African swine fever in Sardinia, the Commission on 22 December decided, in view of the development of the situation, to continue until 31 December 1978 the Community financial contribution to cover the losses caused by this disease which it had agreed to grant until 31 July⁷

Lastly, the animal health conditions governing imports of fresh meat from Argentina, Brazil and Uruguay laid down by Commission decisions of 28 July 1978 were amended on 19 December⁸ so that products intended for animal feeding could be imported subject to health requirements being met

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2.1.120. At its plenary session on 19 and 20 December the Economic and Social Committee⁹ delivered its Opin-

¹ OJ C 305 of 21.12.1978.

² OJ L 17 of 24.1.1978.

³ OJ L 77 of 26.3.1973

⁴ OJ L 116 of 7.5.1977.

⁵ OJ L 40 of 10.2.1978.

⁶ Bull. EC 11-1978, point 2.1.83.

⁷ Bull. EC 7/8-1978, point 2.1.94.

⁸ OJ L 7 of 11.1.1979

⁹ Point 2.3.54.

ion on the proposals relating, firstly, to the national plans to accelerate the eradication of bovine brucellosis and tuberculosis in Italy and, secondly, to the continuance for a further period of the derogations granted to Denmark, Ireland and the United Kingdom with regard to the eradication of tuberculosis, brucellosis and swine fever. These proposals had been transmitted by the Commission to the Council in November 1978.¹

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2.1.121. In the context of the general programme relating to the approximation of laws in the plant health sector,² the Council formally adopted on 21 December the first of two interrelated proposals for Directives, put forward by the Commission in August 1976,³ on the marketing and use of plant protection products. These measures seek to create conditions under which plant protection products may circulate freely within the Community whilst ensuring the safety of users, consumers, animals, crops and the environment. They supplement Directive 78/631/EEC of 26 June⁴ on the classification, packaging and labelling of pesticides which was adopted by the Council in 1978 as part of its programme to eliminate technical barriers to trade in the industrial sector.

The present measure provides the means whereby national prohibitions and restrictions on plant protection products may be harmonized at Community level and represents an important contribution also to the Communities' Action Programme on the Environment.⁵ In particular, it prohibits the placing on the market and use of products containing certain active substances whose use is hazardous to human or animal health or is unduly harmful to the environment.

In a first stage, these include certain substances belonging to two compound groups—mercury and persistent organochlorine compounds. The Directive provides, moreover, for a procedure, involving the Standing Committee on Plant Health and the Scientific Committee for Pesticides, to phase out the small number of temporary use derogations authorized for certain of the compounds and to add further compounds belonging to these two groups, should evidence of their harmful effects come to light.

Farm accountancy data network

2.1.122. On 21 December⁶ the Commission adopted a Regulation with the object of applying the Community classification of farms which the Commission had adopted on 7 April 1978⁷ to the Farm Accountancy Data Network (FADN). On that occasion and pending the results of the processing by the Community of the data collected in the 1975 structures survey in accordance with this classification—results which should enable overall balance to be restored to the accounting sample—some alterations were made in the distribution of returning holdings between divisions in order to take account of certain significant developments.

Agriculture in Luxembourg

2.1.123. On 18 December⁸ the Council adopted a Regulation on agriculture in the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg concerning the application of a specific fiscal system to Luxembourg wine provided for in the Convention on the Economic Union of Belgium and Luxembourg. The purpose of this Regulation⁹ is to extend the period of validity of the Regulation of 16 December 1975 until 31 December 1979.

¹ Bull. EC 11-1978, point 2.1.83.

² OJ C 92 of 6.8.1974.

³ Bull. EC 7/8-1976, point 2256

⁴ OJ L 206 of 29.7.1978.

⁵ OJ C 139 of 13.6.1977.

⁶ OJ L 359 of 22.12.1978.

⁷ OJ L 148 of 5.6.1978 and Bull. EC 5-1978, point 2.1.88.

⁸ OJ L 361 of 23.12.1978.

⁹ Bull. EC 12-1976, point 2.2.55.

Fisheries

Conservation and management of resources

Internal resources

2.1.124. At its meeting on 18 and 19 December the Council expressed the intention of reaching agreement as early as possible in 1979 on Community measures for the conservation and management of fishery resources. In the meantime, because of the need to protect living resources and to maintain satisfactory relations with non-member countries in this matter, the Council adopted, on a Commission proposal, interim measures applicable until the end of March 1979 at the latest.

Under these interim arrangements the Member States will conduct their fisheries in such a way that the catches of their vessels in the interim period are consistent with the total annual catches (TAC) proposed to the Council by the Commission in its communication on 23 November 1978 and with the share of the TAC likely to be allocated to non-member countries under agreements with the Community. Catches in the interim period will be deducted from the allocations eventually decided by the Council for 1979.

As regards technical measures for the conservation and surveillance of fishery resources, Member States will apply the same measures as they applied on 3 November 1976, and any other measures taken in accordance with the procedures and criteria of Annex VI to the Council resolution of 3 November 1976.

2.1.125. As far as national measures are concerned, the United Kingdom notified the Commission on 20 December of its intention to extend until 31 March 1979 its unilateral

measures banning herring fishing from the Mourne stocks within the 12-mile limit along the coast of Northern Ireland.

The Commission decided that this measure was acceptable in view of the fact that the United Kingdom had withdrawn a concession in favour of certain coastal fishermen, which the Commission had earlier found to be discriminatory.

On 22 December the Commission approved a Netherlands plan to amend national arrangements relating to sole and plaice fishing inside its 12-mile limit.

External aspects

2.1.126. Pending the adoption of final arrangements for 1979, and to avoid any interruption in fishing activities after 1 January 1979, the Council adopted, on a Commission proposal, interim measures applicable until 28 February 1979 to Norwegian,¹ Faroese¹ and Swedish¹ vessels fishing in the Community zone. The quotas granted by the Community to these three non-member countries are equivalent to one sixth of the quotas offered to them during talks concerning arrangements for 1979 as a whole.

Similarly, the Council extended until 31 January 1979 the arrangements applicable to Spanish fishermen operating in the Community zone.¹

2.1.127. On 18 December, the Commission proposed that the Council should authorize it to negotiate fishing agreements with the following developing countries (not covered by the negotiating directives of 27 June and 7 December 1977)²: Mauritius, the Seychelles, São Tome and Príncipe, the Congo (Brazza-

¹ OJ L 374 of 30.12.1978.

² Bull. EC 12-1977, point 2.1.24.

ville), Gabon, Guinea (Conakry), Angola and Tunisia.

2.1.128. At its meeting on 18 and 19 December, on a Commission proposal, the Council authorized Italy to extend until 30 June 1979 its bilateral fishing arrangements with Yugoslavia; the Community will continue to be responsible for the corresponding fishing rights.

2.1.129. Under the Council's directives to the Commission for negotiating a fishing agreement with Guinea-Bissau, it was agreed that a Community delegation would go to that country to work out the conditions under which French vessels could carry on fishing pending the conclusion of a Community/Guinea agreement.

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2.1.130. On 15 December Parliament adopted two Resolutions on fisheries:¹ one concerning the postponement of a fishing agreement between Spain and the Community, and the other on Tunisian attacks against Italian trawlers.

Markets and structures

Common organization of the markets

Guide and intervention prices for the 1979 fishing year

2.1.131. On 5 December² the Council, acting on a Commission proposal, raised the 1979 guide and intervention prices for fishery products, by an average of 1.8% in relation to those of 1978.

Structures policy

2.1.132. Under the Council Regulation of 15 February 1977³ on common measures to improve the conditions under which agricultural products are processed and marketed, the Commission decided on 22 December to finance, from the second EAGGF instalment for 1978, 17 schemes for improving fishery product processing and marketing structures. These schemes, for which EAGGF aid totalling about 1 950 000 EUA has been set aside, relate mainly to investments for the marketing of molluscs and the processing of non-threatened fish species.

The breakdown of fisheries investments which received aid from the EAGGF Guidance Section is given in Table 6.

Table 6 — *EAGGF Aid*

Country	Number of projects	Contribution in national currency	Contribution in EUA ¹
Belgium	3	3 149 128	77 453
France	3	1 522 321	271 802
FR of Germany	2	448 192	173 758
Ireland	1	42 131	62 937
Italy	3	609 828 218	574 498
	1	(297 735 000) ²	(277 997)
United Kingdom	4	343 534	513 338

¹ The values in EUA have been calculated at the rates in force on 1 July 1978 and are approximate.

² This amount represents the additional aid for projects in the Mezzogiorno

¹ Points 2.3.13 and 2.3.14 and OJ C 6 of 8.1.1979.

² OJ L 347 of 12.12.1978.

³ OJ L 51 of 23.2.1977.

Transport policy

Inland transport

Operation of the market

Access to the market

2.1.133. On 12 December the Commission sent to the Council a proposal¹ amending the Council Regulation of 16 December 1976² on the Community quota for the carriage of goods by road between Member States.

This proposal seeks to allow Member States to convert at most 10% of their quota of annual Community authorizations into short-term Community authorizations, which are valid for ten days. One annual authorization may be converted into 40 short-term authorizations. Authorizations of this type will gradually enable more haulage firms to engage in multilateral transport without having to hold annual Community authorizations

2.1.134. On 19 December the Council formally adopted a Regulation amending the Regulation of 16 December 1976² on the Community quota for the carriage of goods by road between Member States; agreement was reached on this at the meeting of 23 November.³

2.1.135. The Council formally adopted the Decision on the adoption by certain Member States of the European Economic Community of an Additional Protocol to the Revised Convention for the Navigation of the Rhine⁴ of 17 October 1868 in its 20 November 1963 version.

2.1.136. On 19 December⁵ the Council also formally adopted a Directive amending the one it adopted on 17 February 1975⁶ on the establishment of common rules for certain types of combined road/rail carriage of goods

between Member States. It had approved this amendment as to principle at its meeting on 23 November.⁷

Approximation of structures

Technical aspects

2.1.137. On 21 December the Commission sent to the Council a draft Recommendation on the ratification of the International Convention for Safe Containers (CSC) of 2 December 1972. This Recommendation is intended to ensure the harmonized application of the Convention throughout the Community. So far it has been ratified by only three Member States.

2.1.138. On 30 December the Commission sent to the Council a proposal for a Directive on the weights and certain other characteristics (not including dimensions) of road vehicles used for the carriage of goods.

Sea and air transport

2.1.139. At the meetings on 19 and 21 December the Council formally adopted the Decision, the Directives and the Recommendation on which agreement had been reached at the meeting on 23 November.⁸

(i) the Decision concerning the collection of information on the activities of carriers participating in cargo liner traffic in certain areas of operation;⁵

¹ OJ C 309 of 28 12 1978

² OJ L 357 of 29 12 1976

³ Bull. EC 11-1978, point 2:1.96.

⁴ Bull. EC 11-1978, point 2:1.93.

⁵ OJ L 5 of 9.1 1979.

⁶ Bull. EC 12-1974, point 2278 and 2-1975, point 2264; OJ L 48 of 22 2 1975

⁷ Bull. EC 11-1978, point 2:1.97.

⁸ Bull. EC 11-1978, point 2:1.91

- (ii) the Directive on the piloting of vessels by deep-sea pilots in the North Sea and the English Channel;
- (iii) the Directive on the minimum conditions required of certain tankers entering and leaving Community ports;
- (iv) the Recommendation on the ratification of the 1978 International Convention on the Training, Certification and Watchkeeping of Seafarers.

Advisory Committee on Transport

2.1.140. At its plenary session held in Brussels on 7 and 8 December the Advisory Committee on Transport examined a draft Opinion on questions concerning the development of combined transport. After a general discussion the Committee decided that the draft Opinion should be restructured to bring out the various policy options more clearly. The Committee appointed a drafting group for this purpose.

Energy policy

The Council discusses energy problems

2.1.141. The Council devoted a special meeting to energy problems in Brussels on 21 December, with Otto Graf Lambsdorff, Minister for Economic Affairs of the Federal Republic of Germany, in the chair. The Commission was represented by Mr Guido Brunner.

Energy objectives for 1990

2.1.142. The Council heard a statement by Mr Brunner, on the communication from the Commission concerning energy targets for 1990 and the programmes of the Member States,¹ and requested the Commission to follow the development of the energy situa-

tion both on a Community scale and worldwide; the Council took note of the Commission's intention to submit more detailed information on the targets for 1990 in the light of consultations, with the Member States.

Saving energy by modernizing buildings

2.1.143. The Council recorded its agreement on the substance of the Recommendation to the Member States on cutting the amount of energy used in buildings in the Community.

The Council recommends that the Member States:

- (i) pursue policies designed to save energy by reducing energy consumption through the improvement of the thermal efficiency of buildings

These policies are to be decided upon in the context of a programme extending over a least four years which will take account of changes in social, economic and climatic conditions.

Member States will decide upon the categories of building to include in the programme of action, giving priority to the improvement of buildings under the direct control and management of public authorities and residential buildings.

- (ii) adopt these programmes by 31 December 1979 and inform the Commission of them.

The Council will examine the measures taken in response to this Recommendation on the basis of a report from the Commission; the first examination will take place not later than 31 August.

The Council also expressed its agreement in principle, subject to the agreement of one delegation, on the provisions for providing consumers with more information, by means of labelling, on the energy consumption of domestic appliances.

¹ Bull. EC 11-1978, point 2.1 107.

Hydrocarbons

2.1.144. The Council took note of the Commission communication¹ on developments in the refining sector of the Community oil industry; it noted that there were still numerous problems in this sector, particularly that of surplus production capacity. The Council requested the Commission to continue to monitor developments in this sector. The Council also examined a report by a group of geological experts from the Member States on support for hydrocarbon exploration in the Community. It noted the particular importance of the Greenland project and instructed the Permanent Representatives Committee to continue its study of the question.

Coal

2.1.145. The Council held a wide-ranging discussion on all the Commission proposals concerning Community measures for coal:

- (i) concerning coal and coke for the Community iron and steel industry;
- (ii) to promote intra-Community trade in power station coal;
- (iii) to promote the use of coal for electricity generation.

During the debate the Council reaffirmed the important role of coal in Community energy policy. The debate did not however lead to an agreement on the need and procedure for granting the Community aids proposed.

Community financial aid for demonstration projects

2.1.146. The Council agreed in principle on two Regulations fixing the amounts of aid to be granted as Community financial aid under

the Regulations it adopted on 12 June 1978,² concerning demonstration projects on *alternative energy resources* and demonstration projects on *energy conservation*.

The amounts for energy conservation demonstration projects total 55 million EUA, those for projects to utilize alternative energy sources, total 95 million EUA, of which 50 million EUA is for projects for the processing of solid fuels, 22.5 million EUA for solar energy projects and 22.5 million EUA for geothermal energy projects.

The Council also agreed in principle on two Regulations implementing the Regulation of 12 June 1978 on alternative energy sources. They concern geothermal energy and the liquefaction and gasification of solid fuels. A consensus was arrived at on a third implementing Regulation, on solar energy, which means that the Council will be able to take a positive decision once Parliament has delivered its Opinion.

The Council also took a decision on an initial series of demonstration projects in the energy sector and agreed in principle on: 17 energy conservation projects, to an estimated amount of about 5.7 million EUA, 13 geothermal projects, to an estimated amount of about 9 million EUA, 16 solar energy projects, to an estimated amount of about 3.2 million EUA, 4 projects on the liquefaction and gasification of solid fuels, to an estimated amount of 15.8 million EUA.

However, one delegation reserved its position both on the amount of financial support and on the implementing Regulations for alternative energy sources and energy-conservation.

Sectoral problems

Hydrocarbons

The Community's refining sector

2.1.147. In a communication sent to the Council on 8 December the Commission finds that there has been some improvement

¹ Point 2.1.147.

² OJ L 158 of 16.6.1978; Bull. EC 5-1978, points 2.1.101 and 2.1.102 and 6-1978, points 2.1.116 and 2.1.117.

in the refining sector. This has been due in part to permanent closures but also to an increased awareness on the part of the industry leading to notable self-restraint in the disposal of surplus products into the spot market. These improvements are still too precarious to allow complacency. These improvements are still too precarious to allow complacency. Consequently the Commission proposes to continue to obtain information from the refining sector and keep developments under review. Only further permanent closures will provide better stability and assistance should be given to help surmount the problems associated with these closures.

Coal

Aids to coking coal

2.1.148. On 20 December the Commission approved the rates of aid for the production of coking coal proposed for 1978 by the four coal-producing countries under the Decision of 25 July 1977¹ concerning coking coal and coke for the iron and steel industry in the Community. The rate of these aids varies from coalfield to coalfield: BFR 950 per tonne in Belgium, DM 38.40 in Germany, FF 34 and FF 153 in France and UKL 0.54, UKL 1.36 and UKL 1.71 in the United Kingdom.

Financial aid by the Member States to the coal industry

2.1.149. On 7 December² the Commission authorized the granting of aids to the coal industry by France, the United Kingdom, Belgium and the Federal Republic of Germany for 1978. The national aids announced for 1978 were found to comply with the Commission Decision of 25 February 1976³ regarding the Community system of measures

taken by the Member States to assist the coal-mining industry. The Commission took these decisions after consulting the Council.

Technical research

2.1.150. In December the Commission submitted two communications on Community programmes for technical research in the coal sector—one dealing with mining techniques and the other with the upgrading of products—to the ECSC Consultative Committee for consultation and to the Council for a favourable Opinion. They propose financial aid of 16.9 million EUA for the 37 projects adopted (including dissemination of findings and associated expenditure). The Commission will not be able to take a formal decision granting the planned financial aids until the Council and the Committee state their position.

Nuclear energy

First action programme on the transport of radioactive materials

2.1.151. On 8 December the Commission adopted its first action programme on the problems of transporting radioactive materials. The Commission has thus fulfilled a commitment undertaken in the conclusions drawn from the open discussions on nuclear energy which Mr Brunner chaired in December 1977 and January 1978.⁴

So far the problems relating to the transport of nuclear materials have been mainly dealt with at international

¹ OJ L 259 of 15.9.1973.

² OJ L 9 of 13.1.1979.

³ OJ L 63 of 11.3.1976.

⁴ Bull. EC 11-1977, point 2.1.96 and 1-1978, point 2.1.63.

level. A set of rules was adopted by the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) in 1961 and revised in 1964, 1967 and 1973.

The Commission is of the opinion that the Community has to assume a major responsibility in the field of transporting radioactive material, both to ensure the safety of the public and to guarantee free movement within the nine Member States. To this end, the departments of the Commission will be consulting the responsible authorities in the Member States. A report on progress will be made to the Commission within a year. This could include appropriate proposals which the Commission could present to the Council.

Electricity

Industrial loans

2.1.152. The Community (Euratom) has granted Italy's National Electrical Energy Agency (Ente Nazionale per l'Energia Elettrica—ENEL) a loan of USD 49 400 000 for a twelve-year period at an annual rate of interest of 9.75%. The loan was channelled through the European Investment Bank (EIB).

With this loan Euratom is contributing to the financing of the two units of the Montalto di Castro nuclear power station in Latium, which will have a total capacity of around 2 000 MW. This is the first loan granted by Euratom to an Italian undertaking on the basis of the Council Decision of 29 March 1977, which aims at encouraging investments for electricity generation from nuclear power and hence to reduce the Community's dependence on outside sources of energy.

Research and development, science and education

Science, research and development

Recombinant DNA work: protection measures proposed by the Commission to the Council

2.1.153. The recent development of methods of transferring genetic information between living organisms which are normally separated by reproductive barriers is arousing considerable excitement in scientific circles and some concern among the general public.

In order to protect man and his environment in the Community against the effects of any pathogenic properties which organisms carrying new genetic information may possess, the Commission sent a proposal to the Council on 5 December¹ for a Directive governing certain aspects of recombinant DNA work.

Mr Brunner, Member of the Commission, stressed that the proposal is liberal and flexible. It stipulates that the national authority in each Member State shall prohibit any recombinant DNA work which, in its opinion, involves an element of risk, unless this work can be carried out in conditions of safety and containment which it considers appropriate. For this purpose the national authority must, on the basis of general principles set out in the Directive, classify the different types of work according to categories of risk and mandatory measures of containment; this classification may be amended at any time, provided the basic principles of the Directive are observed.

The draft Directive also reduces to a minimum the amount of scientific information which laboratories must make available for purposes of registration and authorization, and contains very tolerant provisions in respect of work classified in a low-risk category. It should serve to narrow down very considerably the current major differences in attitude in the Community, some Member States have made certain safety measures compulsory and others have still to formulate an official pol-

¹ OJ C 301 of 15.12.1978.

icy in this field. Furthermore, it applies equally to all laboratories in each Member State, whether in the private or in the public sector

Since the Commission is also aware of the need to exploit to the full the new discoveries in the field of molecular biology and to bridge the biotechnology gap between the Community on the one hand and the USA and Japan on the other, it intends to send a proposal to the Council in 1979 for a programme of Community research concerning the applications of biomolecular engineering in the fields of agriculture, recombinant DNA work and enzymatic engineering

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2.1.154. On 12 December Parliament delivered an Opinion in favour of the following five proposals which the Commission had sent to the Council¹ concerning indirect-action research programmes: the decommissioning of nuclear power plants (July 1978-June 1983);² codes and standards for fast reactors (1979-83);³ reference materials and methods (Community Bureau of References—CBR) and applied metrology (1979-82);⁴ climatology (1979-83);⁵ and the recycling of urban, industrial and agricultural waste (1979-82).⁶ The last three of these proposals were also the subject of Opinions delivered by the Economic and Social Committee⁷ meeting in plenary session on 19 and 20 December, which also delivered an Opinion on the second (revised) multiannual programme of research and development in the environmental field.⁷

Scientific and Technical Research Committee

2.1.155. On 11 December the Scientific and Technical Research Committee (CREST) discussed in detail the proposal submitted by the Commission to the Council in September⁸ for an indirect-action research programme concerning the recycling of urban, industrial and agricultural waste. CREST will reexamine this proposal in March after the specialized subcommittee on raw materials has delivered its opinion on the parts of the programme which could be implemented in the form of Community concerted research projects.

CREST also discussed the functioning of the Advisory Committees on Programme Management (ACPM) and suggested that wherever possible the assistance of the existing Committees should be sought for new programmes adopted by the Council.

2.1.156. Most of the meeting of the CREST Subcommittee on Energy Research and Development on 20 December 1978 was devoted to a discussion of a draft inventory of energy research, development and demonstration projects undertaken by the Member States during the period 1976-78. It paid particular attention to five sectors (solar energy, geothermal energy, production and use of hydrogen, energy saving and systems analysis) which were covered by the proposal transmitted to the Council last August;⁹ this inventory will be supplemented in the next few months on the basis of the data supplied by the members of the subcommittee.

Multiannual programmes

Advisory Committees on Programme Management (ACPMs)

2.1.157. Part of the discussions held on 1 and 18 December by the Advisory Committee (ACPM) responsible for the environment and resources, and for direct- and indirect-action research activities in these sectors, con-

¹ Points 2.3.21, 2.3.22 and 2.3.23 and OJ C 6 of 8.1.1978.

² Bull. EC 4-1978, point 2.1.96.

³ Bull. EC 9-1978, point 2.1.78.

⁴ Bull. EC 7/8-1978, point 2.1.122.

⁵ Bull. EC 9-1978, points 1.5.1 to 1.5.8

⁶ Bull. EC 9-1978, point 2.1.77.

⁷ Point 2.3.54.

⁸ Bull. EC 9-1978, point 2.1.77.

⁹ Bull. EC 7/8-1978, point 2.1.121

cerned a document drawn up at CREST's request by the Committee's Chairman, Mr Yana, on 'environmental research in the European Communities'.

This document examines the results obtained during the 1973-75¹ and 1976-80² indirect-action programmes and makes several suggestions concerning the programme which is to follow on from them in 1981. After signifying its agreement to this document, the Committee proceeded to an initial examination of the specific research topics to be included in this programme so that these could be discussed in detail by a select working party, likewise chaired by Mr Yana.

The Committee then held an initial discussion concerning the contents of the future direct-action research programme relating to the environment and remote sensing which is to cover the period 1980-83. This discussion will be resumed in February 1979.

Lastly, the Committee drew up the opinion which it has to transmit to CREST concerning the proposed programme of climatology research (1979-83),³ which was sent to the Council by the Commission in September.

2.1.158. On 4 December the ACPM responsible for plutonium recycling in light-water reactors continued the discussion initiated at its preceding meeting⁴ of a draft research programme extending current research on in-pile plutonium recycling under the current 1975-79 programme to cover the entire field of plutonium utilization. The Committee delivered a favourable opinion on the broad lines of such a programme but recommended that research into the manufacture of plutonium fuel should not go beyond the laboratory.

Training and education

Education Committee

2.1.159. On 12 December the Education Committee recommended that several of the measures in the Community's education ac-

tion programme⁵ be continued for the academic year 1979-80.

These relate in particular to the subsidy systems designed to encourage the development of joint study programmes between establishments of higher education, involving the mobility of teachers and students, and short study visits for teachers, researchers and administrative staff in higher education, specialists in vocational guidance and training and the local and regional administrative staff of secondary education institutions.

Conference on the education of handicapped children

2.1.160. A conference on the special education of physically and mentally handicapped children, organized by the Italian Government and the Commission, was held in Rome from 4 to 7 December. The conference, which took place in the presence of Mr Pertini, President of the Italian Republic, was opened by Mr Pedini, Italian Minister of Education, Mr Argan, Mayor of Rome, and Mr Brunner, Member of the Commission with responsibility for education.

More than 150 specialists attended the conference, which will help the Commission to prepare concrete proposals in 1979; these will be designed to ensure that handicapped children enjoy greater integration with other children, whilst still guaranteeing them an education appropriate to their individual requirements. These proposals would also provide for the speeding-up of research into technological aids for the training and education of handicapped children. Specialists came from the various regions of Italy and the other Member States; several international organizations had sent delegates as observers, in particular the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) and the Council of Europe.

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¹ OJ L 189, of 11.7.1973.

² OJ L 74, of 20.3.1976.

³ Bull. EC 9-1978, point 1.5.1.

⁴ Bull. EC 10-1978, point 2.1.134.

⁵ OJ C 38 of 19.2.1976.

2.1.161. On 14 December Parliament adopted a Resolution concerning Community action in the field of education¹ On 19 and 20 December, the Economic and Social Committee delivered an Opinion² on the communication concerning Community action in the cultural sector which the Commission had sent to the Council on 22 November 1977.³

Scientific and technical information and information management

Second three-year plan

2.1.162. In adopting on 9 October⁴ a second three-year plan (1978-80) which is to be a follow-up to the 1975-77 plan,⁵ the Council assigned fresh responsibilities to the Advisory Committee on Programme Management (ACPM). In implementation of these responsibilities, the Committee for Scientific and Technical Information and Documentation (CIDST) issued its first opinion at a meeting held in Luxembourg on 15 December.

This opinion deals with the work to be undertaken, jointly with the Member States' PTT administrations, in order to develop and upgrade the transmission network for Euronet data and to extend Euronet to non-Community States which are members of the European Conference of Postal and Telecommunications Administrations (CEPT).

Dissemination of research results

European seminar on grey literature

2.1.163. On 13 and 14 December the Commission held a seminar in York at which some thirty European librarians and documentalists were able to discuss the problems

raised by non-conventional scientific and technical literature (also called 'grey' literature). The main feature of this grey literature is that, since it is not distributed through the normal commercial channels, it is often difficult to track down and, consequently, to obtain.

One of the recommendations to come out of the seminar was that each Member State should set up a centre. Each such centre would collect and catalogue documents (reports, theses, certain official documents and papers read at conferences) produced in the Member State concerned and thereby create a national, subject-classified data base. These data bases could then be merged at European level and made available to scientific circles through Euronet.

¹ Point 2.3.20 and OJ C 6 of 8.1.1979.

² Point 2.3.51.

³ Bull. EC 11-1977, points 1.4.1 to 1.4.4 and Supplement 6/77 — Bull. EC.

⁴ OJ L 311 of 4.11.1978.

⁵ Bull. EC 10-1978, point 2.1.140.

2. External relations

Enlargement

Enlargement

2.2.1. The importance of enlarging the Communities to include three new applicant countries was re-emphasized by the European Council, which met in Brussels on 4 and 5 December.

The Conclusions of the Presidency issued at the end of the Council meeting contained the following statement:

‘The European Council reaffirms the great political significance of enlarging the European Communities for the consolidation of democracy in Europe and the strengthening of the European Communities’ position in the world. It calls upon the Council of the European Communities to conduct the negotiations with the three countries seeking admission as speedily as possible.’

Accession negotiations: Greece

Decisive progress

2.2.2. Decisive progress was made in the negotiations for the accession of Greece to the Communities¹ at various meetings which took place in December, at both deputy and ministerial level. Two ministerial meetings of the EEC-Greece Conference were held in Brussels on 6 and 20 December; at the end of the 20 December meeting the two delegations were able to reach agreement on the essential issues in the accession negotiations, which had been their goal for the end of the year.

Portugal

First negotiating meeting at deputy level

2.2.3. The first meeting of the negotiations for the accession of Portugal to the Communities were held in Brussels at deputy (ambassador) level on 1 December.

At the ministerial meeting opening the negotiations with Portugal on 17 October in Luxembourg² it had been decided to ask the deputies to agree on the procedure for and the organization of the negotiations

The first meeting of the deputies held at the beginning of December dealt exclusively with the organization of the negotiations and rapidly produced agreement on the procedures to be followed, the frequency of meetings at ministerial and deputy level, and the main areas into which the negotiations would be divided

The Conference also agreed to hold a preliminary discussion on matters concerning the customs union and the free movement of goods at its next meeting at deputy level, and decided to start examining secondary legislation at the same time; work has already begun in these two fields

Spain

Favourable Council opinion on Spain’s membership application

2.2.4. Following the Commission’s (favourable) opinion of 29 November on Spain’s membership application³—which it had been required to deliver in accordance with the provisions of the Treaties—the Council (Foreign Affairs), meeting on 18 and 19 December, also came out in favour of the applica-

¹ Points 1.21 to 1.23.

² Bull. EC 10-1978, points 1.11 to 1.15

³ Bull. EC 11-1978, points 1.11 to 1.18, and Supplement 9/78 — Bull. EC

tion and scheduled the official opening of negotiations for February 1979.

The following statement was put out at the end of the Council meeting:

'The Council took note of the Commission opinion, in accordance with the provisions of the Treaties, on Spain's application for accession and decided in favour of this application.

It agreed that the preparatory work essential for establishing a common negotiating basis would be carried out as soon as possible and in a positive spirit.

It instructed the Permanent Representatives Committee, assisted by the Commission, to prepare its discussions on the matter.

It confirmed that negotiations would open in mid-February and would get properly under way as soon as the preparatory work within the Community had resulted in a common negotiating basis.'

Multilateral trade negotiations

2.2.5. In accordance with the conclusions drawn by the Council on 21 November, the Commission actively continued the negotiations with its partners in Geneva at the beginning of December.

On 12 December, at a special Council meeting, the Commission presented a report on the negotiations containing both an assessment of the possible results in relation to its negotiating objectives, and proposals for those areas of the negotiations where problems still remained. While welcoming the progress made, the Council noted that the results achieved were not yet balanced on all points and instructed the Commission to continue the negotiations.

Despite making further progress on certain issues, the Commission was obliged to inform the Council on 18 December, after a final round of negotiations, that a satisfactory overall balance had not yet been achieved, and that negotiations would have to continue, particularly on industrial tariffs and safeguard measures. The Council took note of the situation, expressed its conviction that the Commission would be able to achieve a

balanced outcome, and asked it to press ahead rapidly with the negotiations

2.2.6. At the end of December a number of *joint statements* were put out by the *delegation of the United States and some of its major partners*.

The US-Japanese joint statement noted that an overall understanding had been reached on the main issues covered by the negotiations. In the US-EEC joint statement it was noted with satisfaction that significant progress had been made both multilaterally and bilaterally across the full range of subjects under discussion, and that there was a broad consensus on a series of non-tariff measures codes, the major elements for a final balance in the agricultural sector, and the reform of the GATT and the trading system. It was also indicated in the statement that the basis for an understanding in the safeguards sector had been developed and that the difficult work which remained to be done to achieve a mutually acceptable balance on tariffs would be carried on in the early part of January.

North-South Dialogue: Development cooperation

Transfer of technology and developing countries

2.2.7. The second session of the Committee on Transfer of Technology was held from 4 to 15 December in Geneva under the auspices of UNCTAD.

The main topics on the agenda concerned the progress made since UNCTAD IV in strengthening the technological capacity of the developing countries, the 'brain-drain' problem, the effects of industrial property systems on the transfer of technology to the developing countries, the role which transfer of technology problems will play in UNCTAD V (Manila - May 1979) and the contribution of UNCTAD to the work of the United Nations Conference on Science and Technology for Development in Vienna in August 1979. The Commission was represented at the work of this session in the con-

text of its own preparations for these two major conferences in 1979.

UNCTAD integrated programme; commodities and world agreements

Ad hoc Intergovernmental Group on the integrated programme

2.2.8. The *ad hoc* intergovernmental Group set up to prepare negotiations on the integrated programme for commodities held its 7th meeting in Geneva from 11 to 15 December, to elect new officers for a period of one year, to examine progress made in applying the Nairobi resolution on the integrated programme and to adopt the timetable for meetings to be organized under this programme.

The officers were almost all re-elected, with Mr Huslid (Norway) retaining his position as Chairman and Mr Ong (Philippines) as Rapporteur. On the whole the meeting was fairly dull; the delegations, as well as the Secretariat, aware that the timetable of UNCTAD meetings was definitely overloaded, had agreed to attend to the most urgent things first, probably intending to present their comments at UNCTAD V in the light of the results of the multiple negotiations.

At Community level, the delegations of the Member States and the Commission representative were able to decide upon a joint stance, in preparation for the discussions within the group of industrialized countries, on the statement to be made on behalf of that group, particularly as regards an assessment of the negotiations on the common fund and the preparation of meetings on individual products.

Preparatory meetings

Iron ore

2.2.9. The *second preparatory meeting* on iron ore—under the UNCTAD integrated programme—was held from 18 to 22 Decem-

ber, in Geneva, with the participation of the Commission.

This meeting was a partial success. Certain producer countries had probably hoped for more substantial conclusions, but they all agreed to continue discussions, although they had no illusions about what results could be expected. The most practical result was the decision that an annual collection of certain official national statistics should be carried out by the UNCTAD Secretariat.

The UNCTAD Secretariat was asked to circulate a memo on a study of the situation in the mining industry. Depending on the comments and suggestions made by governments, it could be asked to prepare the outline of a study to be submitted for approval at the third preparatory meeting, planned for the second half of 1979.

The question of sea transport will appear on the agenda of UNCTAD V. If there are specific problems relating to iron ore, the next preparatory meeting may be called on to deal with them.

Questions relating to progress in the treatment of iron ore are generally considered to be important and must remain on the agenda. Governments are being asked to let the UNCTAD Secretariat know of their experiences in this field. On this basis, but bearing in mind the information from other international organizations, such as UNIDO, the Secretariat has been asked to prepare a report for the next meeting.

Lastly, the preparatory meeting expressed the hope that progress would be made in identifying certain other problems of the iron-ore industry and market so that all appropriate measures and techniques can be examined.

Hard fibres

2.2.10. A specialist working group on *sisal and Mexican sisal* met in Geneva from 18 to 20 December, under the UNCTAD integrated programme for commodities.

At the third preparatory meeting on hard fibres, held in Geneva from 30 January to 3 February,¹ it had been considered advisable, bearing in mind the different characteristics of the products grouped under the heading

¹ Bull. EC 2-1978, point 2.2.15.

'hard fibres' (sisal, Mexican sisal, coir, Manila hemp) to hold separate meetings for each of these products, at working-group level. Consequently the meeting of the group on sisal and Mexican sisal was held in Geneva; a second group (coir and Manila hemp) should be holding a meeting in February 1979.

Work at the end of December concentrated on the problems involved in making these fibres more competitive, by examining possible measures in the field of market research, development and promotion. There are already several projects, and at the last preparatory meeting it had been decided that they should be examined by a panel made up of a very small number of experts, which should lead to an assessment of the different projects, based on a number of criteria, in particular that of the 'vast geographical applicability', and enable a scale of priorities to be drawn up.

The working group took note of the report drawn up by the panel, which had met at the end of September, and observed that the experts had reached agreement on a number of projects, whereas reservations remained concerning others, particularly as regards the importance to be attached to one of the criteria (that of the 'vast geographical applicability'). The producers felt that any project, even one which had an essentially national character, was of interest to the sisal economy. The consumers, including the Community, felt that projects receiving international financial aid under the integrated programme should be of general use.

Concluding its work, the working group observed that the list of projects on which the panel had agreed formed an adequate basis for a shortlist of projects which could be subjected to detailed examination and included in a programme aimed at improving the competitiveness and increasing the consumption of sisal. The group also asked the UNCTAD Secretariat to re-examine or supplement certain other projects—in collaboration with the FAO and UNIDO—so that they might be included in the shortlist and, at the same time, to assess the cost of all the projects concerned. The UNCTAD Secretariat will be drawing up the outline of a possible arrangement, which would be designed—once agreement is reached on the programme for technically improving sisal and its products—to ensure that there is overall responsibility for that programme.

Discussions on sisal will resume at the next preparatory meeting on hard fibres, which will then also take into consideration the conclusions of the working group on

Manila hemp and coir, which will have met in the meantime.

Negotiating conferences on individual products

Rubber

2.2.11. The Negotiating Conference on Natural Rubber was held in Geneva from 13 November to 8 December; 48 Member States of the United Nations participated, including all major producers and consumers of natural rubber, among which those of the Community.

In spite of a great deal of detailed preparatory work, the Conference was not able to reach agreement about the conclusion of an international arrangement to stabilize prices. The proceedings of the Conference therefore ended with the adoption of a resolution which noted that progress had been made but that a new conference should be convened which might lead to the conclusion of such an arrangement.

The negotiations centred almost entirely on four key economic issues, which were inter-related, namely:

- (i) the size of the buffer stock, including its financing;
- (ii) the price mechanism, including means for its revision;
- (iii) inclusion of a 'floor' or 'minimum' price;
- (iv) intervention measures.

The Community, as one of the world's major consumers of natural rubber, played a central and positive role throughout the negotiations, and it was on the basis of a compromise document covering the above four areas, which was agreed between the Community and the producers, and supported by Australia, Canada, China, Japan, the Nordic countries and the small developing importers, that agreement was reached at the end of the Conference that sufficient progress had been made to warrant a reconvening of the Conference, probably in March 1979.

Commodities and world agreements

Cereals

2.2.12. The *Interim Committee* of the negotiating conference met in Geneva on 19 and 20 December and decided to reconvene the Conference for the period from 22 January 1979 to 9 February 1979 for its final phase.

Sugar

2.2.13. A meeting was held on 15 December between the Commission, representing the Community, and the *ad hoc* contact group constituted by the International Sugar Council for the purpose of examining how the concept of 'equivalent obligations' might be applied with a view to eventual Community membership of the International Sugar Agreement.

The discussion was confined to an in-depth examination of the Community's stance as presented (but not considered) in the closing stages of the 1977 negotiating conference. Both sides will now reflect on the utility, the timing and the content of further contacts.

Olive oil

2.2.14. The Special Committee of the *International Olive-Oil Council* met in Madrid on 11 and 12 December to finalize the draft negotiating text for a new agreement. The resultant text was adopted by the 100C at its 39th session on 14 and 15 December and it will be forwarded to UNCTAD, with a request to convene the negotiating conference from 20 March to 6 April 1979.

Cocoa

2.2.15. Following the preparatory work in October and December for the conclusion of

a new international cocoa agreement, the *International Cocoa Council*, which held a special session in London on 15 December, confirmed its decision taken in July 1978 to call a negotiating conference. This will take place in Geneva from 29 January to 23 February under the aegis of UNCTAD, with the participation of all the producer and consumer countries concerned, including the United States, which is not a member of the present agreement due to expire on 30 September.

Tin

2.2.16. On 18 December,¹ the Council of the European Communities formally approved the *conclusion by the EEC of the Fifth International Tin Agreement*. Negotiated by a United Nations conference which met in Geneva from 20 May to 21 June 1975,² this Agreement—signed on 29 April 1976 in New York by the Community as such³ came into force on a provisional basis on 1 July 1976, following a Council Decision taken on 21 June 1976.⁴

Generalized system of preferences

Adoption of the 1979 scheme

2.2.17. On the basis of the proposals which the Commission had transmitted to it on 5 October,⁵ the Council (Foreign Affairs) adopted on 18 December the regulations and decisions relating to the implementation of the Community's 1979 generalized scheme of tariff preferences (GSP) for 1979.⁶ The dis-

¹ OJ L 10 of 16.1.1979

² Bull. EC 6-1975, point 2321

³ Bull. EC 4-1976, point 2322

⁴ OJ L 222 of 14.8.1976.

⁵ Bull. EC 10-1978, point 2.2.22.

⁶ OJ L 375 of 30.12.1978

tinguishing features of the 1979 scheme lie in the contribution it makes to the multilateral trade negotiations—even though it is independent of the MTN—and in a marked degree of liberalization towards the least developed countries. However, while showing this open-minded attitude, the Commission did not lose sight of its responsibilities towards its own industries. The possibilities for preferential imports now represent a total value of 6 500 million EUA (5 900 million u.a. in 1978).¹

As regards *agricultural* products, the Community had little margin for improvement after the implementation, in the 1979 scheme, of the offer on tropical products submitted under the multilateral trade negotiations. Reductions in preferential duties have however been granted for certain products and five new headings have been included: concentrated grapefruit juice, whole hilsa fish preserved in brine, fillets of hilsa, raw coffee and raisins, these last two products for the exclusive benefit of the least developed countries. In its special effort for the poorest beneficiary countries, the Community also decided to grant them exemption from duty in respect of all the agricultural products covered by the GSP, including those which are subject to preferential duties under a ceiling or quotas. For the six products in question (tinned pineapples in slices and in pieces, cocoa butter, soluble coffee, Virginia-type tobacco, other raw tobacco), total exemption from duty will be granted until the ceiling or quotas are fully used.

For *manufacturers and semi-manufacturers* other than textiles, the structure of the 1979 scheme remains virtually unchanged compared with 1978, the preferential offer having increased by 12.6% from 4 600 million u.a. to 5 200 million EUA. This increase shows the Community's desire to open up its markets to the developing countries in spite of the serious difficulties which continue to affect its economy.

For the *more sensitive products*, those difficulties have made it necessary either to maintain the 1978 offer, in the case of certain important sectors particularly hard-hit, or to reduce the volume resulting from the normal calculation of the offer based on the foreign trade statistics for 1974 for the basic amount and those for 1976 for the additional amount.

Together with the possibilities opened for the least developed countries in the agricultural field, the Community

has supplemented the measures already taken with regard to them in 1977 and 1978 in the industrial sector in respect of semi-sensitive and non-sensitive products. For industrial products other than textiles (even those subject to quotas), the countries in question will henceforward be exempt from the rules for the re-establishment of duties.

Lastly, the present arrangements for *textiles* are extended for six months—with a 5% increase in quantities—to enable the Community institutions to finalize the technical points of a new scheme—in the light of the negotiations undertaken with the Community's major suppliers under the renewed Multifibre Arrangement.

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2.2.18. On 15 December *Parliament* gave its Opinion² on several proposals concerning the application in 1979 of the generalized scheme of preferences.

Transfer of resources

Entry into force of the EEC-IDA Agreement on the CIEC Special Action

2.2.19. The CIEC Special Action Programme—one of the major commitments entered into by the Community at the Paris Conference on International Economic Co-operation³ (the North-South Dialogue)—can be implemented as from 1 January 1979.

The Agreement on this special action was signed on 2 May 1978 in Brussels between the Community and its Member States and the International Development Association (IDA).⁴ The Community officially adopted the Agreement on 21 December, and the nine Member States gave notice that they had completed their notification procedures on 27 December 1978, which enabled the Agreement to come into force.

At the end of the CIEC, in June 1977, the industrialized countries had decided to make available aid amounting

¹ From 1979 the European unit of account is applicable in the tariff field.

² Point 2.3.19 and OJ C 6 of 8.1.1979.

³ Bull. EC 5-1977, points 1.2.1 to 1.2.12.

⁴ Bull. EC 5-1978, points 1.5.1 to 1.5.5.

to USD 1 000 million to meet the needs of the poorest developing countries; from the outset, the Community was the main contributor, with USD 385 million. The IDA will be the Community's executive agent as regards the management of this special action.

Commercial, industrial and technical cooperation

Industrial cooperation

2.2.20. The third *Investors' Forum* was held from 4 to 8 December as part of the Dakar International Fair in Senegal. The theme this time was the small and medium-sized industries to be set up in the fifteen countries (both English and French-speaking) of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS). The Forum was organized by the Société de la Foire Internationale de Dakar (SOFIDAK), the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) and the Commission.

In all, more than 250 European industrialists took part, of whom 60 were German, 50 Belgian, 45 French, 25 Dutch and 23 English; they had approximately 1 000 bilateral meetings with their African counterparts on 125 projects prepared with the help of UNIDO. In view of the results of this Forum, preparations for the next meeting (1980) will begin in March 1979 in Dakar, in collaboration with ECOWAS.

Food aid and emergency aid

Emergency aid

2.2.21. On 20 December the Commission decided to make a second grant of emergency aid—26 000 EUA—to the victims of the cyclone which hit *Sri Lanka* at the end of November; it had previously granted aid amounting to 25 000 EUA on 29 Novem-

ber.¹ The Community is contributing to a programme being implemented by the Catholic Relief Service, a non-governmental organization, to build temporary shelters for around 10 000 disaster victims.

On 15 December the Commission decided to grant an amount of 25 000 EUA to the FAO (Food and Agricultural Organization, based in Rome) for supplies of insecticides to protect the 1979 rice crop in *Laos*. The Community's contribution is part of an emergency programme set up by the FAO which will cost between USD 400 000 and 500 000.

Food Aid

2.2.22. On 21 December² the Council decided to officially extend the *Agreement* concluded between the Community and the *UNRWA* (United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East) to cover the last two years.

The exchanges of letters thus adopted by the Council provide for total aid for the two years of approximately 9.3 million EUA, of which 5 million EUA is a financial contribution and 4.3 million EUA is in the form of foodstuffs (12 204 t of sugar, 342 t of rice, 700 t of skimmed-milk powder and 4 900 t of flour). This aid, supplemented by other quantities made available under the annual food aid programmes, is intended for a food support programme (cereals and skimmed-milk powder) and a basic rations programme (sugar). These two programmes cover a total of 830 000 refugees in Syria, Lebanon, the West Bank, Jordan and Gaza

¹ Bull. EC 11-1978, point 2.2.22.

² OJ L 13 of 19.1.1979.

Coordination of national policies for development aid

Need for concerted action between the Community and the developing countries

2.2.23. In a Communication presented to the Council on 5 December the Commission drew the Member States' attention to certain policies being followed in the developing countries to promote industrial investment. In many sectors there was a danger that the resulting exports could cause serious problems as regards profitability and create disruption on the world or Community market.

The Commission chose as its first example cane sugar: fourteen ACP States are already large-scale producers, and, along with other developing countries, are proposing to step up their production considerably. In many cases, they will do this with financial support and technical assistance from European firms, the financial support sometimes being guaranteed or even provided by one or more of the Member States.

The Protocol to the Lomé Convention on ACP sugar guarantees that 1.22 million tonnes of cane sugar will be purchased each year from the fourteen listed ACP States at internal Community prices, even though the Community is itself currently producing a surplus (about 2.0 million tonnes *per annum*).

An examination of the investment projects in progress or planned in the ACP States up to 1981 reveals that: the volume of ACP sugar available for export will increase from the present level of 2.0 million tonnes to 2.9 million tonnes; two-thirds of these projects are receiving private- and public-sector backing from the Community. These developments are all the more alarming since the world market has a serious structural surplus, which is reflected in persistently depressed prices. At the present price level, new undertakings have no guarantee of profitability.

The Commission therefore proposes that, in the sugar sector, which is being *taken as an example*, there should be full coordination of all the schemes being implemented or planned which the Member States or indeed the Community (EDF, EIB) might support directly or indirectly. The attention of other financing bodies (World

Bank, African Development Bank, etc.) is being drawn to the Commission's conclusions.

Finally, the Commission asks itself the following question: can we go on accepting, by pretending the problem does not exist, the inconsistency between blanket export aid policies—which are in themselves perfectly understandable—and the responsibility which the Member States and the Community should exercise *vis-à-vis* their Third World partners, particularly as regards the selection of sectors for development?

Aid to non-associated developing countries

1978 Programme

Financing decisions

2.2.24. Within the framework of the Community's 1978 programme of aid to non-associated developing countries (70 million EUA), the Commission adopted on 18 December a first series of financing decisions totalling 65.5 million EUA. The agreements were signed on 22 December.

The projects in question aim to increase the production or availability of foodstuffs and to improve the living standards of rural populations, especially the least favoured. The largest amounts are earmarked for the following sectors: integrated rural development (27%), storage infrastructure (24%), irrigation (14%), studies and technical assistance in the rural sector (13%) etc.

From the geographical point of view the distribution of the funds is as follows (less the 1% set aside for administrative costs): Asia 74%, Latin America 20%, Africa 5%.

The beneficiaries themselves are very varied in so far as the programme is designed to meet the needs of thirteen countries, three regional integration organizations, two regional banks, five internationally important research organizations and one continental federation of non-governmental organizations.

The amount of the aid programmes to the non-associated developing countries increased from 20 million EUA in 1976 to 45 million in 1977 and 70 million in 1978;

the amount earmarked by the Community institutions for 1979 is 110 million EUA

Relations with non-governmental organizations

2.2.25. At the end of the year the Commission had made *cofinancing grants* amounting to 12 million EUA (the total available for 1978) for operations being cofinanced with non-governmental organizations (NGOs) specializing in development aid. These grants involve 175 projects submitted by NGOs in 62 developing countries.

International organizations

United Nations

General Assembly

Thirty-third session

2.2.26. The thirty-third session of the United Nations General Assembly, which opened in New York on 19 September, was unable to deal with all the items on its agenda by the end of the year as originally planned and had to resume in January 1979.

The Community's position had been outlined to the General Assembly on 26 September¹ by Genscher, in his capacity as President of the Council of the European Communities and Chairman for European political cooperation, and its representatives were able on a number of occasions to reaffirm Community policies and take certain initiatives.

The main economic issue before the Assembly as the year ended was the drawing up of

a *new international development strategy* for the decade 1980-90.

Two proposals had been submitted in this connection: one by the Member States of the Community and one by the Group of 77. After lengthy negotiations in committee, the Assembly was able to pass unanimously a resolution setting up a committee to draw up the new strategy (to be adopted by a special session of the General Assembly in 1980) and laying down the broad lines of this undertaking. The resolution stipulates in particular that the strategy should specify, in the context of quantitative and qualitative objectives, the financial commitments which the various countries would agree to enter into for the purpose of carrying out the operation.

The breadth of the common denominator arrived at in this way—even though they are still underlying divergencies of approach—is a measure of the determination of the industrialized countries and the countries of the third world to prepare together the framework within which the development process should be carried forward over the coming decade.

This common resolve was also reflected in the passing of several other resolutions without a vote being taken: the resolutions dealt in particular with the activities of UNIDO and the agenda for its third General Conference in 1980, the United Nations Conference on Science and Technology for Development, scheduled for August 1979, and food problems—this in the wake of the Mexico City Declaration by the World Food Council. The Assembly also decided to convene a United Nations conference in 1981 on new and renewable energy sources. On the other hand, several resolutions on such specific and concrete aspects of relations between industrialized and developing countries as the transfer of resources, the consequences of inflation and the stage reached in the GATT multilateral negotiations were adopted only by a majority vote.

Economic and Social Council

Economic Commission for Europe

2.2.27. The *Committee on the Development of Trade* of the Economic Commission for

¹ Bull. EC 9-1978, points 2.2.29 and 3.3.1.

Europe (ECE) met in Geneva from 27 November to 1 December.

Discussion centred as usual on the development of East-West trade during the period under review. It was noted that the Eastern countries' imports from the West—and notably from the Community—were not growing or were in cases even declining, a trend that has been evident for some time already. The increasing use of compensation arrangements—an ECE survey estimates that such arrangements now account for 38% of total East-West trade—was also sharply criticized. The Committee decided to instruct the ECE Secretariat to prepare for its next meeting a study of the forms of compensation arrangement.

2.2.28. The Community was represented at a meeting of the *Senior Advisers to ECE Governments on Environmental Problems* held in Geneva from 13 to 15 December. The discussions related to the holding of a high-level European East-West Conference on environmental matters.

UNCTAD

Ad hoc Intergovernmental Group on the Integrated Programme

2.2.29. The *ad hoc* Intergovernmental Group on the Integrated Programme for Commodities¹ met in Geneva from 11 to 15 December to review the progress made over the past year and decide on its work schedule for 1979.

Transfer of technology

2.2.30. The UNCTAD Committee on the Transfer of Technology² met from 4 to 15 December.

UNIDO

Industrial Development Board

2.2.31. The Community was represented with observer status at the meeting of the UNIDO Industrial Development Board's *Standing Committee*, which was held in Vienna from 11 to 15 December.

The Committee approved the 1979-80 programme for the Industrial Development Fund, which currently has at its disposal funds amounting to USD 10.4 million. It also took stock of the preparations for the third General Conference of UNIDO, scheduled to take place in New Delhi from 21 January to 8 February 1980. In this connection, the Community countries made a joint statement setting out their position with regard to the joint study on international industrial cooperation, which will be examined at the Conference in New Delhi.

The Standing Committee, on behalf of UNIDO, also agreed to the setting up of a special group of UNCTAD-UNIDO experts to study the trade aspects of the industrial cooperation arrangements. It was agreed that this group should meet in the future. Lastly, the Standing Committee examined the proposals on UNIDO's activities with regard to the textile industry.

Food and Agricultural Organization

Council meeting

2.2.32. The Community took part in the meeting of the FAO Council, which took place in Rome from 27 November to 7 December. The Council accepted the reports submitted by its committees on world food security, food programmes and policies, food and nutrition, fishing and forestry, and a report on the work of the Codex Alimentarius Commission. The Council also discussed in detail—among other topics—the present situ-

¹ Point 2.2.8.

² Point 2.2.7.

ation regarding food and agriculture throughout the world.

General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade

2.2.33. Notwithstanding the assurances given by the US Administration regarding the non-application of countervailing duties and the extension of the waiver on 7 December, the Community asked the *US authorities* to begin *consultations* under Article XXIII, paragraph 1, of the General Agreement.

Consultations took place with *Australia and Brazil* under Article XXIII, paragraph 1, of the General Agreement concerning the complaint by these two countries with regard to the *EEC's policy on export refunds for sugar*. Since neither Australia nor Brazil considered the outcome of the consultations to be satisfactory, they both made applications to the Contracting Parties to set up an *ad hoc* group to look into their complaint. The Contracting Parties decided to set up two panels in response to the requests of Australia and Brazil.

Fisheries Commission

2.2.34. The Community participated with observer status at a meeting of *ICSEAF*—International Convention on South-East Atlantic Fisheries. The Commission representative made a statement expressing the Community's intention of becoming a party to the Convention.

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2.2.35. On 15 December *Parliament* gave its Opinion¹ on the Commission's proposal to the Council on the conclusion by the Community of the convention on future multilateral cooperation in the North-West Atlantic fisheries.

Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development

Environment Committee

2.2.36. The Commission took part in the meeting of the OECD Environment Committee, which was held in Paris from 4 to 6 December. It was devoted mainly to organizing the next OECD meeting of environment ministers, scheduled to be held in Paris in May 1979.

Committee for Agriculture

2.2.37. The Working Party on Agricultural Policies of the OECD Committee for Agriculture met in Paris 4 to 6 December to review the general trend in the *agricultural policies* of the Organization's Member States during 1978.

The report adopted at the meeting seeks to identify the main problems which faced governments and makes some short-term policy forecast. As a contribution to the discussions of the Committee for Agriculture on agricultural adjustment, the Working Party also studied some examples of adjustment programmes which are currently under way in a number of OECD countries.

European Conference of Ministers of Transport

2.2.38. Mr Burke, the Member of the Commission with special responsibility for transport matters, represented the Commission at the meeting of the Council of the European Conference of Ministers of Transport (ECMT) held in Paris on 12 December. Mr Burke informed the ministers of the results of the meeting on transport of the Council of

¹ OJ C 6 of 8.1.1979

the European Communities held in Brussels on 23 November.¹

Commercial policy

Formulating and implementing the common commercial policy

Import arrangements

Instruments of commercial policy

Adjustments to basic regulations

2.2.39. In accordance with its Decision of 27 March 1975² on unilateral import arrangement *in respect of State-trading countries*, the Council adopted on 21 December the import quota arrangements to be applied in the Member States in respect of these non-member countries in 1979. This decision makes various adjustments to the quota lists in force in 1978, notably in the textile sector, where the import arrangements have been restructured in order to align them on those applicable under the textile agreements negotiated by the Community with certain non-member countries.

Easing of restrictive measures

2.2.40. Under the same Council Decision of 27 March 1975,² the Commission took the following measures to relax import restrictions:

- *Italy-German Democratic Republic, Hungary and Czechoslovakia*: Exceptional opening of additional import quotas for porcelain;³

- *Italy-Hungary*: exceptional opening of an import quota for new type cases for lorries or buses and an import quota for used tyre cases;³

- *Italy-Hungary*: exceptional opening of an additional import quota for liquid petroleum gases and an additional import quota for polyvinylchloride;⁴

- *Italy-Poland*: exceptional opening of an import quota for engines for propelling vehicles;⁵

- *Italy-Bulgaria, Czechoslovakia, Poland, Romania, Hungary and USSR*: exceptional opening of quotas for the importation of aluminium scrap, alloyed, in bars;⁶

- *Italy-Albania*: exceptional opening of additional import quotas for woven fabrics of cotton and trousers; exceptional opening of import quotas for boys' shirts and industrial and occupational clothing;⁷

- *Federal Republic of Germany—State-trading countries*: lifting of quantitative restrictions on imports of certain products from State-trading countries from 1 January 1979.⁷

Investigation, surveillance and safeguard measures

Anti-dumping/anti-subsidy procedures

2.2.41. The Commission decided in December to initiate anti-dumping/anti-subsidy procedures concerning imports of *herbicide* originating in *Romania*⁸ and *graphite spheroidal pig iron*⁹ originating in *Brazil*. It terminated the anti-dumping/anti-subsidy procedures concerning the following:

(i) *plywood, blockboard, laminboard, battenboard* and similar laminated wood products (including veneered panels and sheets) inlaid wood and wood marquetry originating in the *Republic of Korea*;¹⁰

(ii) certain chemical *wood pulp* originating in *Canada, the United States of America, Finland and Sweden*;¹⁰

(iii) viscose *rayon yarn* originating in *Greece*.¹¹

¹ Bull. EC 11-1978, points 2.1.90 to 2.1.97.

² OJ L 99 of 21.4.1975.

³ OJ C 300 of 14.12.1978.

⁴ OJ C 304 of 20.12.1978.

⁵ OJ C 305 of 21.12.1978.

⁶ OJ C 1 of 3.1.1979.

⁷ OJ C 4 of 6.1.1979.

⁸ OJ C 311 of 29.12.1978.

⁹ OJ C 11 of 13.1.1979.

¹⁰ OJ C 303 of 19.12.1978.

¹¹ OJ C 306 of 22.12.1978.

Surveillance measures

2.2.42. On 18 December¹ the Commission extended until 31 December 1979 the period of validity of Community surveillance over imports of *slide fasteners* and of *certain phosphate fertilizers*.

This surveillance—established for the former in 1975, for the latter in 1977, and extended several times—was due to expire on 31 December 1978. Because there is still considerable pressure from these imports and the threat of injury to Community producers of like products still exists, the Commission considered that the extension was necessary

Safeguard measures

2.2.43. On 12 December² the Council decided to maintain until the end of 1978 the arrangements making imports into the United Kingdom of *trousers* originating in *India* subject to prior authorization. The Commission also extended the period of validity of its Decision of 1977 establishing retrospective monitoring of imports of *bicycle tyres* and *tubes* from *South Korea* and *Taiwan*.³

*Trade agreements:
tacit renewal or extension*

2.2.44. By decision of 18 December⁴ the Council, on a proposal from the Commission, authorized the tacit renewal or continued operation of certain treaties of friendship, trade and navigation treaties and similar agreements concluded between Member States and non-member countries.

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

2.2.45. On 21 December⁵ the Council adopted a Regulation on *common rules for imports* of certain textile products originating in non-member countries.

2.2.46. On 29 December⁶ the Commission decided to extend until 31 December 1979 its Regulation of 12 June 1978⁷ making *imports* of certain textile products from certain non-member countries subject to *Community surveillance*: the countries concerned are the *Mediterranean countries* which have *preferential* arrangements with the Community—Egypt, Greece, Portugal, Spain and Turkey.

2.2.47. On 15 December⁸ the Commission made imports of textile products originating in *Hungary* subject to common rules for authorization and *quantitative limitation*.

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2.2.48. On 15 December⁹ *Parliament* delivered its Opinion on the Commission proposal (on which the Council had already acted) concerning common rules for imports of certain textile products originating in non-member countries.¹⁰

¹ OJ L 356 of 20.12.1978.

² OJ L 352 of 16.12.1978.

³ OJ L 9 of 13.1.1979.

⁴ OJ L 362 of 23.12.1978.

⁵ OJ L 365 of 27.12.1978.

⁶ OJ L 2 of 4.1.1979.

⁷ OJ L 155 of 13.6.1978.

⁸ OJ L 357 of 21.12.1978.

⁹ Point 2.3.15 and OJ C 6 of 8.1.1979.

¹⁰ Point 2.3.45.

Steel

2.2.49. The outstanding development in December concerning commercial policy for steel products was the *extension of the crisis plan*,¹ and more particularly its external aspects.

2.2.50. During the month the Commission also pursued the *exploratory talks with certain non-member countries* in preparation for negotiating arrangements on steel products covered by the ECSC Treaty.

2.2.51. On 22 December an arrangement was agreed between the Swiss Government and the Commission within the ECSC-Switzerland Joint Committee for dealing with trade in concrete reinforcing bars; the agreement was to extend the 1978 arrangement.

2.2.52. The Commission has given notice of the initiation of an anti-dumping/*anti-subsidy procedure* concerning iron or steel coils for re-rolling originating in Greece.²

Mediterranean countries

Turkey

2.2.53. Following urgent representations to the Commission by the Turkish Government, and in particular the memorandum transmitted to the representatives of the Member States giving full details of Turkey's requests for aid, the Commission contacted the Member States on this matter.

In a letter to the Heads of State, the President of the Commission, Mr Jenkins, drew attention to *Turkey's serious economic difficulties* and the need for Community action to assist this associated country, and on the sidelines of the European Council meeting

held on 4 and 5 December Mr Ortoli, Commission Vice-President informed the Foreign Ministers about Turkey's economic situation.

On 16 December, Mr Haferkamp, Commission Vice-President, met Mr Ecevit, the Turkish Prime Minister, in Brussels. They discussed ways of assisting Turkey and the steps that might be taken to give a new lease of life to the Association on the basis of the requests made by the Turkish authorities during the exploratory talks with Commission staff in October.³

Cyprus

2.2.54. The *Financial Protocol* between the Community and Cyprus,⁴ which was signed on 15 September in Brussels, *came into effect* on 1 January 1979,⁵ the acts provided for in the Protocol having been exchanged on 30 November.

Tunisia

EEC-Tunisia Cooperation Council

2.2.55. The EEC-Tunisia Cooperation Council, set up under the Cooperation Agreement signed on 25 April 1976, which came into effect on 1 November 1978, held its *first ministerial meeting* on 12 December in Brussels. The meeting was chaired by Mr K. von Dohnanyi, President of the Council of the European Communities and the Commission was represented by Mr Cheysson, Member with special responsibility for development.

¹ Points 1.3.1 to 1.3.7.

² OJ C 311 of 29.12.1978.

³ Bull. EC 10-1978, point 2.2.46.

⁴ OJ L 332 of 29.11.1978.

⁵ OJ L 340 of 6.12.1978.

The Cooperation Council considered the impact on trade of the Interim Agreement that had been in force since 1 July 1976 to allow Tunisia to benefit from the provisions of the Cooperation Agreement pending the completion of ratification procedures. It also took stock of the work done on both sides to pave the way for the implementation of financial and technical cooperation.

Looking at the future, the Tunisian Delegation expressed its concern about the effects enlargement might have on Tunisia's main exports to the Community because of the new situation that would be created on the Community market as a result of competing products from the new Member States qualifying for Community preference.

Israel

EEC-Israel Cooperation Council

2.2.56. The EEC-Israel Cooperation Council held its *first ministerial meeting* in Brussels on 22 December, following the entry into force of the EEC-Israel Financial Protocol on 1 November. The meeting was chaired by Mr Genscher, President of the Council of the European Communities. The Israeli Delegation was led by Mr Dayan, Foreign Minister, and Mr Cheysson represented the Commission.

The Council examined the results of implementation of the Cooperation Agreement between Israel and the EEC, devoting particular attention to the question of customs duties on oranges, the general trend of trade between Israel and the Community and the application of Article 22, which provides for a review of the results of the Agreement and consideration of any improvements that could be made. The Council agreed that following the exploratory talks held in Septem-

ber¹ negotiations under Article 22 could start very soon.

The Council also discussed the progress made in financial, industrial, agricultural and scientific cooperation and expressed satisfaction with certain achievements in these areas. Lastly, in the course of an exchange of views on the question of enlargement of the European Community, the Israeli Delegation took the opportunity to express its deep concern over this matter.

Euro-Arab Dialogue

Meeting of the General Committee

2.2.57. The General Committee of the Euro-Arab Dialogue held its fourth meeting at ambassador level in Damascus from 9 to 11 December.²

It had previously met in Brussels from 26 to 28 October 1977,³ in Tunis from 10 to 12 February 1977⁴ and in Luxembourg from 18 to 20 May 1976.⁵ A number of steps had led up to these meetings, the initial formal ones dating back to 1974.⁵ The importance of the fourth meeting of the General Committee was underscored by a long final communiqué, the text of which has been reproduced in full.⁶

ACP States and the OCT

Negotiations for the renewal of the ACP-EEC Convention

2.2.58. The ministers and representatives of fifty-four African, Caribbean and Pacific

¹ Bull. EC 9-1978, point 2.2.53

² Points 1.4.1 and 1.4.2

³ Bull. EC 10-1977, point 2.2.59

⁴ Bull. EC 2-1977, point 2.2.40.

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

⁶ Point 1.4.2

States and of the nine Community States, together with certain observers, met in Brussels on 21 December for the *second ministerial session in the negotiations* for the renewal of the Lomé Convention. The meeting was chaired jointly by Mr von Dohnanyi, President of the Council of the European Communities, and Dr S. Tapa, President of the Council of ACM Ministers.

The discussions were conducted in a constructive atmosphere and covered a great many items of mutual interest including:

- (i) *commercial cooperation*: free market access, safeguard clause, generalized preferences, trade promotion;
- (ii) *stabilization of export earnings*: list of products covered, thresholds of dependence and fluctuation, effects of inflation, coverage of losses, replenishment of the system's resources, unrestricted use of transfers, destination of exports covered;
- (iii) *industrial cooperation*: objectives, training, sectoral consultations, investment and energy, special fund for industrial cooperation;
- (iv) *rules of origin*;
- (v) *sea fishing*;
- (vi) *financial and technical cooperation*;
- (vii) *regional cooperation*;
- (viii) *the least developed, landlocked and island ACP States*;
- (ix) *agricultural cooperation*.

Other general matters, such as the duration of the new convention and human rights, were raised by one side or the other. The meeting provided fresh impetus for the negotiations and will give added momentum to the work on issues still outstanding.

The Conference produced useful guidelines for the second phase of the negotiations between the Commission and the ACP Ambassadors, due to begin in January 1979. It enabled positions which, because of their gen-

eral nature, were ill-suited to negotiation to be reduced to specific problems. On certain difficult subjects it was possible to bring the two sides' bases for discussion sufficiently close together to permit effective negotiation. The gap between the parties' positions on important questions was significantly narrowed and joint guidelines emerged for the second phase of the negotiations.

The ministers took note of progress made in a number of areas and of the questions still unsettled and agree to meet for a third session when the continuing discussions between the two parties gave sufficient signs that further progress might be made.

The exact date of this next session, scheduled in principle for March, will be determined in the light of progress made and with due reference to the efforts being made by both parties to complete the negotiations for the new convention by June.

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2.2.59. On 14 December the *Parliament* passed a Resolution on the negotiations for the renewal of the Lomé Convention,¹ in which it made a number of recommendations.

Lomé Convention

Trade, industrial, financial and technical cooperation

2.2.60. On 19 December² the Council decided to extend for a further year, that is until the end of 1980, the exceptional *arrangements* for the *reduction of charges on import*, into the Community of *beef and veal* originating in certain ACP States. These arrangements apply to four States that have traditionally supplied the Community (Botswana, Kenya, Madagascar and Swaziland).

2.2.61. The EDF will be financing a *programme of participation by the ACP States in*

¹ Point 2.3.18 and OJ C 6 of 8.1.1979.

² OJ L 357 of 21.12.1978.

*international trade events during 1979 and 1980.*¹

This programme forms part of the policy of trade co-operation with the ACP countries under the Lomé Convention and involves aid for the marketing and sales promotion of ACP States' products on foreign markets. To this end, the Commission departments have chosen 26 trade events (21 in the EEC Member States and 5 in Africa). Each ACP State will be able to participate with its own stand in six of the trade events which it will choose itself in the light of its own economic requirements.

2.2.62. Thirteen ACP States took part in the *Dakar International Fair* from 28 November to 12 December as part of the programme—run with technical assistance from the European Community—to promote exports of ACP products. The CEAO (West African Economic Community) was also represented at this trade event.

2.2.63. Also in Dakar, a meeting was held from 30 November to 2 December (under the aegis of the Senegalese Foreign Trade Centre and the Dakar Fair, with the aid of the Commission) to examine together with the directors of the foreign trade promotion boards or departments of the ACP States means of encouraging the *development of inter-ACP trade*. A number of recommendations were adopted, all aimed at giving backing and momentum to action by official departments and industrial and commercial firms so as gradually to improve the present unsatisfactory situation.

Training

Results in 1978

2.2.64. In December the Commission adopted a draft multiannual training programme for the Democratic Republic of São Tomé and Príncipe (involving the sum of

90 000 EUA). The approval of this programme, which includes training seminars in public administration, medical and agricultural work, the provision of technical assistance to train workers in the use of road construction equipment supplied under another EDF project, and bursaries, brings the number of multiannual training programmes adopted since the end of 1977 to 44, involving the sum of 76 million EUA, as against 60 million EUA for 29 programmes in 1977.²

Hence the Commission has provided nearly all the ACP States with a coherent training programme valid for the duration of the Lomé Convention. A breakdown of the sums granted in 1978 to the various ACP countries concerned is given in Table 7.

Table 7 — *Training appropriations for 1978*

	('000 EUA)
Fiji	100
Samoa	110
Tonga	20
Grenada	80
Bahamas	43
Swaziland	2 000
Papua New Guinea	1 200
Mauritania	370
Sudan	5 000
Central African Empire	1 170
Suriname	1 500
Jibuti	640
Netherlands Antilles	2 450
Niger	1 880
São Tomé and Príncipe	90

Export earnings

Stabex

2.2.65. On 1 December, in application of the system for the stabilization of export

¹ Point 2.2.68.

² Bull. EC 12-1977, point 2.2.58.

earnings set up under the Lomé Convention, the Commission decided to pay Mauritania an advance under the first six-monthly instalment for 1978 of 7 million EUA to offset losses on earnings from iron ore exports.

2.2.66. In a Communication sent to the Council on 20 December, the Commission proposed—in response to a request from the ACP States—that *sesame seed* be included in the list of products covered by the system for the stabilization of export earnings.

2.2.67. On 11 December, following a recommendation formulated by the two Presidents of the ACP-EEC Council, under the good offices procedure provided for in the Lomé Convention, the Commission proposed that the Council adopt a favourable position on the recommendation, which requested the Commission to appraise three late applications—from *Gabon, Kenya* and *Mali*—for Stabex transfers for 1975.

At the same time the Commission proposed that the Council approve a request from the United Kingdom asking the Commission to appraise four late applications presented by three United Kingdom OCTs for 1975. These applications were from the *Gilbert Islands, Tuvalu* and *Solomon Islands*.

European Development Fund

New financing decisions

2.2.68. The Commission took the following financing decisions in December:

(in EUA)

<i>Netherlands Antilles</i> : Trade and tourism project	800 000
<i>Trinidad and Tobago</i> : Trade promotion programme	700 000
<i>Cayman Islands</i> : Cayman Brac airport	330 000

<i>Tonga</i> : Repair of cyclone damage	200 000
<i>Central African Empire</i> : Improvement and development of a stock-farming area in Bambari (Phase II)	1 244 000
<i>Zambia</i> : Breeding ranch — Batoka	1 825 000
<i>Ethiopia</i> : Fisheries development	1 513 000
<i>Tanzania</i> : Kiltex — Arusha textile mill	6 550 000
<i>Benin</i> : Building and equipping a Crafts Promotion Centre in Cotonou	1 075 000
<i>Niger</i> : Fixing of an amount for the financing of a multiannual training programme (1976-80)	1 880 000
<i>All ACP States</i> : Financing the programme of participation in international trade events in 1979 and 1980	6 402 000
<i>All ACP States</i> : Financing of regional trade promotion activities (from the second instalment for Regional Cooperation)	3 000 000
<i>All ACP, OCT and OD</i> : Overall commitment authorization for the financing by accelerated procedure of technical cooperation and trade promotion schemes	15 000 000
<i>All ACP and OCT</i> : Financing of the Delegations and consultancy firms in the ACP States and the Overseas Countries and Territories in 1979	30 190 000
<i>São Tomé and Príncipe</i> : Fixing of an amount for the financing of a multiannual training programme (1976-80)	90 000
<i>Surinam</i> : Trade promotion	500 000
<i>Bahamas</i> : Line of credit to the Bahamas Development Bank	690 000
<i>Belize</i> : Assistance to the Development Finance Corporation—line of credit and economic infrastructure	455 000
<i>All ACP States</i> : Fixing an overall amount for 'The Courier' for the period 1.1.1979 to 31.12.1979	524 000

Other countries

Industrialized countries

United States

Talks between President Carter and Mr Jenkins

2.2.69. On 14 December, Mr Jenkins, President of the Commission, visited Washington for talks considered by both sides to be an integral part of the consultative process between the Community and the United States.

On the subject of international trade, they expressed the hope that a substantial and balanced agreement would be reached in the multilateral trade negotiations before the end of the year. Concerning the European Monetary System, President Carter indicated that he saw this as an important step towards European integration, which the United States had long supported.¹ With regard to science and technology, Mr Jenkins and President Carter agreed to explore the possibilities for cooperation between the United States and the Community in certain areas of research, such a nuclear fusion, management of radioactive waste, handling and control of fissile materials and biological and medical research.

Canada

2.2.70. The working party on ores and metals, one of the sectoral working parties set up in the context of industrial cooperation between the Community and Canada, met in Brussels on 4 and 5 December.²

EFTA countries

Meetings of joint committees

2.2.71. The joint committees set up by the agreements between the Community and the EFTA countries met in late November and early December: EEC-Finland and EEC-Norway on 28 November, EEC-Sweden on 4 December, EEC-Austria and EEC-Switzerland on 5 December and EEC-Iceland on 6 December.

With the exception of Iceland, whose ECSC Agreement does not provide for a joint committee, the above meetings were immediately followed by the meetings of the joint committees set up under the ECSC-EFTA country agreements.

At these meetings, the delegations examined the functioning of the various agreements and had a broad exchange of views on international economic problems and the situation on the steel market. Particular reference was made to the crisis measures adopted by the Community.

Japan

2.2.72. The *regular high-level consultations* between the Commission and Japan were held on 8 December following a preparatory meeting. They centred on the world economic situation, developments in the macroeconomic situation of the two parties and in their trade, an examination of the undertakings set out in the joint statement made by Mr Haferkamp and Mr Ushiba³ and bilateral sectoral matters causing concern to the Community.

¹ Point 1112

² Point 2119

³ Bull. EC 3-1978, points 114 to 119

2.2.73. Following these consultations, the Commission produced a report on EEC-Japan relations, which the Council (Foreign Ministers) considered at its meeting on 18 and 19 December.

The following statement was made after the meeting:

'The Council concurred with the conclusions of the Commission's report and expressed grave concern at the limited progress made towards the main aim, namely, a fundamental review of the situation of Japanese trade and payments balances, since the achievement of this aim called for both macroeconomic measures and genuine increased access to the Japanese market.'

The Council closed its discussion of this matter by approving a set of conclusions—which the Commission has since transmitted to the new Japanese Government—stressing the importance it attached to the Japanese Government pursuing policies aimed at stepping up domestic demand and reducing the trade surplus, and drawing attention to the need for additional efforts to be made to open up Japanese markets to imports, especially manufacturers. The Commission was asked to continue pressing for specific measures to improve access to Japan for Community goods.

Developing countries

Asia

India

2.2.74. Following a request by India that the Commercial Cooperation Agreement it had concluded with the Community in 1974 for an initial five-year period should be

renewed on a broader basis, delegations from the two parties met on 6 and 13 December to explore the possible content and *scope of a new agreement*. The Commission will be presenting its conclusions on this matter to the Council along with draft negotiating directives.

ASEAN

2.2.75. At the EEC-ASEAN Ministerial Conference in November,¹ it was agreed that consultations between the parties would be held in the very near future to consider the basis and terms on which a cooperation agreement between the Nine and the five members of ASEAN might be founded. A preliminary exchange of views took place on 14 December. A second round of *exploratory talks* is scheduled to take place in Djakarta in March, following the EEC-ASEAN Industrial Conference.

Latin America

Community and Latin American countries

2.2.76. The *second session of the ninth meeting* at ambassador level between the European Communities and the countries of the Latin American Group was held on 11 December in Brussels.

The Latin American countries took this opportunity to provide some initial information about the outcome of the recent discussions in Punta del Este, in connection with the activities of the Latin American Economic System (SELA), which had mainly focused on the progress made in strengthening relations between Latin America and Europe and ex-

¹ Bull. EC 11-1978, points 1.4.1 to 1.4.5.

ploring ways of developing them further. The Community side, in its turn, informed the countries of the Latin American Group of the results of the European Council meeting held in Brussels on 4 and 5 December, in particular the European Council's decision to establish a European Monetary System on 1 January 1979.

The two sides emphasized the importance they attached to the constructive continuation of the North-South Dialogue and to efforts to combat protectionist tendencies in international trade and bring the GATT multilateral negotiations to a successful conclusion.

In response to the concern voiced by the Latin American countries about certain commercial policy measures taken by the Community in a number of sensitive sectors in agreement with the supplier countries concerned, the Community side stressed that the measures in question were temporary and formed only one aspect of the major restructuring effort which the Community was pursuing specifically with a view to achieving a more rational international division of labour. With regard to the general trend of trade, the two sides stressed the importance of the study entrusted to the EEC-Latin America Joint Group of Experts on Trade Questions. A progress report is to be produced for the next session of the dialogue.

An analysis was made of the situation regarding implementation of a number of instruments of the Community's development policy *vis-à-vis* Latin America (financial and technical assistance, aid for regional integration, GSP).

Argentina

2.2.77. The EEC-Argentina *Trade Agreement* of November 1971, which had already

been extended several times and was due to expire on 31 December, *was extended for a further year*, following an exchange of letters on 22 December in Brussels. The extension was approved by the Council on 21 December.¹

Diplomatic relations

2.2.78. The President of the Council and the President of the Commission received their Excellencies Mr Kahono Martohadinegoro (*Republic of Indonesia*) and Mr Guillermo Lachner-Guier (*Republic of Costa Rica*), who presented their letters of credence as their countries' heads of mission to the European Communities (EEC, ECSC, EAEC), to take effect from 12 December.²

The new Ambassadors succeed Mr Atmono Suryo (Indonesia) and Mr Edgar Ugalde Alvarez (Costa Rica), who have been appointed to other duties.

¹ OJ L 13 of 19.1.1979.

² OJ C 7 of 9.1.1979.

3. Institutional and political matters

Institutional developments — European policy

Terms of reference for the 'Committee of Wise Men'

2.3.1. In accordance with the proposal made by the President of the French Republic, the European Council agreed at its meeting in Brussels on 4 and 5 December to call upon a number of eminent persons with special knowledge of European affairs to give thought to such affairs.

The members of the Committee will be: Mr Barend Biesheuvel, Mr Edmund Dell and Mr Robert Marjolin.

The European Council invited the Committee to consider the adjustments to the machinery and procedures of the institutions which are required for the proper operation of the Communities on the basis of and in compliance with the Treaties, including their institutional arrangements, and for progress towards European Union. It emphasized the interest it attaches to having available specific proposals in this connection which may be implemented swiftly and which take into account experience to date and the prospective enlargement to twelve.

The European Council requested the Committee to report back on its conclusions when the Council meets in October 1979.

Report on European Union

2.3.2. At the same meeting the European Council noted the reports by the Foreign Ministers and by the Commission on progress achieved in the past year towards European Union. The European Council confirmed the importance of the first direct elections to the European Parliament scheduled

for 7 to 10 June 1979 and reaffirmed its determination to proceed further along the road to an ever closer union among the peoples of Europe. This, too, was the purpose of its decisions with regard to the European Monetary System¹ and the setting up of a Committee of Wise Men.²

The European Council reaffirmed the usefulness of reports on European Union and decided that, as in 1977,³ they would be published in an appropriate form.⁴

Institutions and organs of the Communities

Parliament

2.3.3. The December sittings in Parliament⁵ centred on the final stage of the budgetary procedure. The House also debated other matters connected with the budget, such as the ECSC Operational Budget, the discharge on the execution of the 1976 General Budget and a number of budgetary items concerning the EAGGF Guidance Section. At the end of his term of office, the Presi-

¹ Points 1.1.1 to 1.1.12.

² Point 2.3.1.

³ Supplement 8/77 — Bull. EC.

⁴ Supplement 1/79 — Bull. EC.

⁵ This report was prepared from *Le point de la session* published by Parliament's Secretariat and from other material. The complete texts of the Resolutions passed by Parliament are reproduced in OJ C 6 of 8.1.1979 and the report of proceedings is contained in OJ Annex No 237.

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

dent of the Council, Mr Genscher reviewed progress made in the six months of Germany's Presidency. Several statements related to the European Council in Brussels on 4 and 5 December, the focus of interest being the establishment of the European Monetary System (EMS). The proposal for a Regulation relating to the impact of the EMS on the common agricultural policy also came up for debate. Two agricultural questions received careful consideration: balance on the wine market and the sale of butter to the Soviet Union. The House also passed Resolutions on the Tunisian attacks on Italian trawlers and on the delay in the conclusion of the EEC-Spain Fishing Agreement.

Parliament stressed the importance of Community action for education and pronounced on a series of proposals for nuclear R & D programmes, and on the amended proposal for a Directive concerning protection against ionizing radiation. On commercial policy, the House broached the questions of the GATT multilateral negotiations and of unfair trade practices. It also gave an Opinion on the proposal for a Regulation on common rules for imports of certain textile products originating in non-member countries. Development policy was covered in debates on the renewal of the Lomé Convention and the application in 1979 of the generalized preferences for developing countries. In one of its Resolutions the House welcomed the accession of the Solomon Islands, Tuvalu and Dominica to the Lomé Convention.

Budgetary matters

Second reading of the draft General Budget of the Communities for 1979
(12, 13 and 14 December)

2.3.4. At the second reading of the draft General Budget in the Council on 20 No-

vember 1978¹ two amendments tabled by Parliament in respect of the European Regional Development Fund were not rejected because the Council failed to produce the necessary qualified majority. The result was that the maximum rate of increase for non-compulsory expenditure which Parliament had been set was exceeded. The legal situation arising from this development was interpreted differently by the Council and by Parliament.

Presenting his general report, Mr Bangemann (*L/D*) reasserted Parliament's view: the Council's failure to reject the amendments meant acceptance and hence acceptance of the corresponding rate of increase. The Council could not now fix a new rate precluding adoption of these amendments. This was not just something involving the Regional Fund; it was a question of principle. To defer to the Council on this point would be a breach of Article 203 of the EEC Treaty, as amended by the Treaty of 22 July 1975 amending certain financial provisions of the Treaties²

Having outlined the bones of contention between the two arms of the budgetary authority involving the inclusion of loans in the budget and the budget nomenclature, Mr Bangemann concluded by stating that the Committee on Budgets was willing to seek a compromise, in particular by cutting certain appropriations at the second reading, but could never give way where the principles were concerned.

Mr Lahnstein, President of the Council, stated that the Council was willing to seek a compromise to fix, in agreement with Parliament and in accordance with the Treaty, a new maximum rate and that it was prepared to make a further effort for the Social Fund but that the premise for discussion should be a maximum rate of 11.4%. He reminded the House that altogether total expenditure in 1979 for regional policy would amount to 820 million EUA. For the rest, the Council would not change its mind on the inclusion of loans in the budget and budgetary nomen-

¹ Bull. EC 11-1978, point 2.3.92.

² Bull. EC 7/8-1975, points 2407 and 2423; OJ L 359 of 31.12.1977.

clature, since it took competence on these matters to be the corollary of its authority on compulsory expenditure.

For the Commission Mr Tugendhat appealed to Parliament not to take too rigid a position on the maximum rate and Article 203, pointing out that if the House confirmed the view expressed by Mr Bangemann for the Committee on Budgets this would consequently provoke the Council into taking a position on the various amendments made by Parliament solely by reference to the overall appropriations which it intended to fix of its own volition. Such a position was therefore contrary to Parliament's interest. Moreover, if the budget was not adopted, there could be no increase in appropriations in 1979 and no new action could be initiated because the system of *douzièmes provisoires* would operate.

Having stated that there was no question of compromising Parliament's budgetary powers, Mr Tugendhat stressed that the new instrument of regional policy decided by the Council on 5 December, which provided for interest relief grants amounting to 1 000 million EUA over five years, met Parliament's wish to give special treatment to this sector.

The ensuing debate clearly revealed that all the political groups considered the amendments concerning the Regional Fund to be secured, even if the Council had not realized the consequences for the maximum rate. At the end, the Chairman of the Committee on Budgets, Mr Lange (S/D) spoke for the House when he said that the Council, knowingly or not, was apparently reverting to the situation prior to the Luxembourg Treaty of 1975, which was 'intolerable': Parliament was not trying to extend its authority; it simply wanted to exercise the authority it was supposed to have. The target of his attack was thus the new instrument of regional policy (the new Community loan instrument) decided by the Council, which was being created outside the Regional Fund and over which the House therefore had no control. Mr Lange concluded to the effect that it was sophistry to believe that actions which escaped this control would be subject to control by the national parliaments.

In the end Parliament did not amend the draft returned by the Council after the second reading. Though the majority opinion in the House (supported by the general rapporteur) considered that Parliament still had a margin for manoeuvre amounting to half the maximum rate, i.e. 5.7% of the total of non-compulsory expenditure and consequently wanted to reinstate within these limits some of the amendments voted at the first reading, the number of votes needed (one hundred) for the proposals to be adopted was not raised. All the tabled amendments were therefore, by joint agreement, withdrawn. Since no changes had been made to the draft received from the Council, Parliament having endorsed the Council's acceptance or rejection of increases in appropriations (including the increase for the Regional Fund) and since the fifteen-day time limit within which Parliament could make any amendments to the draft had expired, the President, Mr Colombo, in accordance with Article 203 of the EEC Treaty, declared the Budget to be finally adopted.¹

During the explanations of vote, Mr Eberhard, following his colleague Mr Bordu, emphasized that the feeling of the French Communists was that they had just seen an attempt by Parliament to overstep its authority. This remark provoked mixed reactions and prompted Mr Spinelli (COM/1) to remind the House that members had both the right and a duty to defend Parliaments' powers and that in actual fact the House had not sought to increase its powers but had had to resist moves against it. The debates also revealed a conflict of opinion over the interpretation of Article 203(6) of the EEC Treaty, which establishes the qualified majority required for the vote on modifications made by the Council at the second reading to amendments made by Parliament. Some members felt that according to the Treaty at least a hundred votes in favour and three fifths of the votes cast must be obtained for an amendment to be adopted. Others held that these provisions applied only to the quorum required: 100 members voting and three fifths of the votes cast. As Mr Colombo pointed out, it will

¹ Point 2.3.76.

be for the future elected Parliament to decide one way or the other

*Discharge in respect of the
1976 financial year
(12 and 13 December)*

2.3.5. In the light of a report by Mr Cointat (EPD/F), Parliament gave a discharge on the execution of the 1976 Budget to its President and Secretary-General in respect of its own budget and to the Commission in respect of the Community Budget and of the implementation of the activities of the fourth European Development Fund (EDF).

Parliament also requested the Council to give a discharge to the Commission on the financial management of the first, second and third EDF during the 1976 financial year (prior to the Treaty of 22 July 1975).

In parallel with these decisions and resolutions on discharges, Parliament adopted a Resolution embodying a number of comments. Having noted that 'the pattern of expenditure in the 1976 Budget bears no relation to the major factors influencing economic policy during the period, such as inflation unemployment and the impact of the drought on harvest yields', the House made the following points:

- (i) it deplored the distortions affecting the decisions of the budgetary authority, caused by too many transfers, carryovers, cancellations and supplementary budgets;
- (ii) it requested the Commission to ensure that the Community character of own resources was not called into question by the national procedures;
- (iii) it urged the Member States to comply strictly with the obligations imposed on them by Community regulations;
- (iv) it called for an improvement in budgetary clarity and transparency;
- (v) it hoped that the Commission's internal implementing procedures and administrative practices would be revised in order to cut down the delays observed in the making of payments;

(vi) it invited the Commission to urge the Member States to accelerate implementation of the operations for which they are responsible

*EAGGF Guidance Section
(15 December)*

2.3.6. Parliament approved several proposals for Regulations relating to the endowment of the EAGGF Guidance Section,¹ subject to an amendment to the effect that from 1980 onwards a five-year financing plan should be drawn up by the budgetary authority for expenditure to be financed by the EAGGF Guidance Section, as part of the budgetary procedure for the first financial year of each five-year period. The plan would include tentative estimates for the average annual funding for the Section and could be adapted during the five-year period under the budgetary procedure.

*ECSC Operational Budget for 1979
(12 December)*

2.3.7. In its annual aide-mémoire to Parliament, the Commission proposed that the ECSC levy rate be fixed and the ECSC Operational Budget for 1979² be established. The proposed rate of 0.29% is the same as before and the estimated expenditure amounts to 180 million EUA.

The report presented by Mr Schreiber (S/D) was adopted with some slight amendments. The House felt that in the present economic circumstances it would be unwise to change the levy rate and endorsed the Commission's proposal to let it stand at 0.29%.

It held, however, that the deficit in the ECSC Operational Budget for 1979 must be met by transferring to the ECSC Budget all the revenue from customs duties on

¹ OJ C 244 of 24.10.1978 and C 264 of 8.11.1978; Bull. EC 10-1978, point 2.1.96.

² Bull. EC 10-1978, point 2.3.92.

coal and steel products collected by the Member States (and no longer by a special contribution taken, according to a negotiated scale, from customs duties on those products)

Parliament once again urged the Commission to coordinate ECSC measures with all other Community measures such as the Social Fund, the Regional Fund and the European Investment Bank, which were closely interdependent. The House pointed to the need for control by Parliament of all the financial activities of the ECSC including its investment budget.

Considering the economic and social situation of the coal and steel industries, Parliament felt that there was much to be said against the cuts made by the Commission in aid for research and aid granted in the form of interest rebates (cuts which were the result of the deficit in the Operational Budget, whose actual requirements in terms of expenditure were estimated by the Commission at 256 million EUA). The House urged the Commission once again to indicate to the Council and Parliament possible ways of integrating ECSC and EEC activities that were compatible with the existing Treaties.

Statement on the German Presidency

2.3.8. In a survey of significant developments during the six months of the German Presidency, Mr Genscher picked out the following highlights:

- (i) preparation for the first elections of Parliament by direct universal suffrage;
- (ii) creation of the European Monetary System. Here the decision empowering the Commission to float loans to stimulate investment was in line with the goals of the EMS;
- (iii) progress towards the enlargement of the Community: solution of the outstanding questions before Christmas in the negotiations with Greece; opening of negotiations with Portugal on 1 December; decision in principle by the Council at its meeting on 19 December on opening negotiations with Spain after the Council had received the Commission's Opinion.¹

Turning to agriculture, Mr Genscher spoke of the Council's agreement in principle on a second round of structural measures for the Mediterranean regions. On the other hand, there was still deadlock on fishery policy.

Dealing at length with political cooperation, to which he attached great importance, Mr Genscher emphasized the agreement of the Foreign Ministers on 4 December that the future Member States would participate more and more actively, and as full partners, in all fields of political cooperation. He went on to stress the new prospects opening up with the Association of South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN) and on the stronger determination to combat international terrorism by pressing on with work on the European legal space.

Introduction of the European Monetary System (13 December)

2.3.9. Mr Genscher welcomed the decision by the European Council in Brussels to introduce the European Monetary System, which was part of an overall strategy to secure monetary stability, restore full employment and reduce regional disparities. In creating the system the Community was extending its competence to monetary policy, working towards greater convergence of economic development and strengthening its international influence. Mr Genscher emphasized that all the Member States had signified their agreement in principle to the system.

Deputizing for Mr Pisani (S/F), Lord Ardwick (S/UK) tabled a motion for a Resolution on behalf of the Committee on Economic and Monetary Affairs concerning the introduction of the European Monetary System. Though pleased that the system was to be introduced, Parliament nevertheless expressed its concern that all the Member States had not given their immediate support to the whole system. The House recalled that the European monetary system demanded Community economic policies aimed at increasing the rate of growth curbing inflation, combating unemployment with a view to achieving full employment, remedying social, regional and national inequalities particularly by better use of the Community instruments for transfer of resources, especially the Funds designed to reduce structural imbalances. Lastly, it invited each Member State, the Council

¹ Supplement 9/1978 — Bull. EC; point 2.2.4.

and the Commission to adopt an attitude that encouraged full participation by all in the monetary system in order to increase its effectiveness and emphasize the fact that it was a Community system.

Impact of the European Monetary System on the common agricultural policy (14 and 15 December)

2.3.10. The Commission has proposed a Regulation on the impact of the European Monetary System on the common agricultural policy. Under the new system, the EMUA (unit of account used in the EMCF) would be superseded by the ECU. The ECU is worth the same as the EUA ('basket' unit of account) and is thus worth about 21% less than the EMUA. In the system of monetary compensatory amounts, the calculations are made on the basis of the central rates of the 'snake' currencies, which are themselves currently based on the EMUA. What will happen when the ECU comes in?

Applied as it stands the monetary system would cause what the Commission feels would be unbearable upheavals. It is therefore suggesting that a weighting corresponding to the difference between the ECU and the EMUA i.e. about 1.2 be applied to the ECU to be used for the common agricultural policy. Moreover, the present reduction of 1.5% of the difference between the representative rate and the actual rate—which serves as the basis for calculating monetary compensatory amounts—should be maintained for countries with devalued currencies which joined the States in the system.

The Commission's proposal was considered in a report by Mr Früh (C-D/D), which, while endorsing it, stressed that the introduction of the European monetary system must not be allowed to alter the amounts of agricultural prices expressed in national currencies nor the monetary compensatory amounts. Mr Früh none the less felt that the zone of monetary stability which—it was hoped—would be established through the EMS would enable pragmatic adjustments to be made, within a suitable period, to the monetary compensatory amounts, their rapid elimination still being a desirable objective for the Community. Unity on the agricultural market could thus be restored without lowering farmers' incomes.

For the Committee on Economic and Monetary Affairs, Mr Pisani (S/F), echoing Mr Tolman (CD/NL), approved the Commission's plan, pointing out that, though the EMS would enable monetary compensatory amounts to be abolished in the medium term, the short term aim must be to withstand the tremors it might cause in the common agricultural policy.

Mr Vitali (COM/I) was not sure how the EMS would affect the relationship between world prices and Community prices and was afraid that any widening of the gap between the two would favour the exporting countries. The charge to the budget would be even heavier, the applicant countries would lose and the GATT negotiations would get even more complicated.

Mr Liogier (EPD/F) felt that agriculture, which had seen nothing but trouble from the monetary disorder, would not understand if it was kept outside the EMS, since up to now the farmers were buying in national currency but were paying in green currency. Mr Liogier therefore strongly advocated the elimination of monetary compensatory amounts.

Mr Soury (COM/F) complained that the House had heard no details about the timing and methods for dismantling the monetary compensatory amounts. He hinted that for some it was a pleasure to see the continuance of monetary amounts hastening the disappearance of certain sectors in order to reduce surpluses. Where was Community solidarity?

Replying for the Commission, Mr Gundelach said that the solution proposed by the Commission was the only feasible one *vis-à-vis* the introduction of the EMS, if a sudden 21% drop in farmers' incomes was to be prevented. He emphasized, however, that the Commission regarded the monetary compensatory amounts as a millstone for the common agricultural policy, not only from the financial angle but also because they were liable to distort trade. He agreed that once the EMS was fully established they should be systematically dismantled, taking account, where necessary, of compensation to producers and consumers.

Wine—1979-85 action programme (14 and 15 December 1978)

2.3.11. The Commission's 1979-85 action programme for the progressive establishment of balance on the wine market¹ was the subject of a report presented by Mr Pisoni (C-D/I).

The motion for a Resolution annexed to the report, which Parliament adopted, pointed out that the present wine surpluses were a cyclical problem and emphasized that expenditure on the wine sector as compared with total expenditure under the EAGGF Guarantee Section was very low (1.6% in 1979). It was also regretted that the Commission's proposals 'aimed more at drastically reducing production than at stepping up consumption'.

Parliament asked the Commission to submit further proposals without delay to encourage consumption, extend refunds for exports to non-member countries and eliminate discriminatory taxation on wine which was retarding consumption of wine in certain Member States. The House called for the abolition of the monetary compensatory amounts between producer and non-producer countries, since their existence could not be justified on the grounds of competition considerations.

The Resolution then considered the proposed measures in detail:

- (i) On rectified concentrated must (pure grape sugar) it considered, as the Commission had proposed, that its use should be encouraged in order to promote the use of products derived from the vine to enrich the wine. On the other hand it was felt that aid intended to offset the present difference in cost between enrichment with saccharose and enrichment with concentrated must should not be occasional but permanent;
- (ii) On floor prices, Parliament totally rejected the proposal to introduce a statutory basis for the ban on the marketing of table wine below a specified floor price. This would be a 'dangerous precedent', contrary to the Community principle of the free movement of goods.

The Commission was therefore asked to amend its proposal with a view to providing for automatic and permanent Community intervention;

(iii) In regard to additional compulsory distillation—applied for the moment solely in France and now proposed by the Commission for Italy as well—the Resolution considered that the Commission's proposals to increase it were wholly unjustified from an economic point of view, as they would mean withdrawing a good quality product from the market and, as shown by past experience, were almost impossible to apply;

(iv) On classification of vineyards the Resolution held that it was a sound idea to subdivide Community territory into three categories, according to natural suitability, in which production should be promoted or discouraged. But it rejected the 'simplistic' criteria indicated by the Commission, holding that more importance should be attached to the minimum natural alcoholic strength;

(v) The structural measures, based on the natural suitability of the various zones, were in principle approved.

Lastly, it was urged that 'in the course of the negotiations with the applicant countries, the Community should insist on the application by them of planting and production controls similar to those which exist in the Community'.

On behalf of the Christian-Democratic Group, Mr Ligios (I) approved the Commission's proposals, maintaining that all farmers must be treated equally in regard to their incomes. He disagreed, however, on some of the mechanisms proposed. For the Communists, Mr Vitale (COM/I) took a similar line, emphasizing the discrimination which wine was suffering in the Community in comparison with other agricultural products.

For the European Progressive Democrats, Mr Liogier (F) resented the fact that whereas the French wine-growers were bound by strict rules, the Italians were altogether unrestricted and could flood the French market. Unlike the rapporteur, he therefore supported the floor price and came down in favour of establishing order by instituting a strict Community land register in the sector. Like the speaker before him, Mr Joxe (S/F) supported the principle of a guaranteed minimum price, while Mr Albertini (S/I) agreed entirely with the rapporteur. Mr Soury (COM/F), however, saw the Commission policy on wine, like its general policy, as a rein on both the agricultural and industrial production machine to the exclu-

¹ Supplement 7/78 — Bull. EC.

sive advantage of the big multinationals. He maintained that fixing a minimum price—the paramount demand for the French wine-growers—was a guarantee which must be provided.

Replying to the speakers and to Mr Soury in particular, Mr Gundelach said that 'Brussels' neither intended nor wished to cut down on the Community's economic activity, but 'to use economic resources in the most economical way'. He pointed out that encouraging the use of concentrated musts in the wine policy would expand the outlets for these vine products and stressed that the Commission's philosophy was to modernize vineyards while enabling those who had no possibility of doing this to convert to other products.

Butter exports (14 December)

2.3.12. Following the recent suspension of advance fixing of export refunds on some 20 000 tonnes of butter intended for sale to the Soviet Union, Mr Fellermaier (S/D) and Mr Hughes (S/UK) asked the Commission whether it was in a position to introduce new measures in the milk sector to ensure that butter was not sold to non-member countries at prices lower than those paid by Community consumers.

In his answer, Mr Gundelach reminded the House that advance fixing constituted a guarantee that a specific sum would be refunded if a contract was concluded within a certain time. Such refunds had to continue since exports were the lifeblood of some Community countries. But when a market was saturated, these exports had to be limited whatever their destination: 'we cannot export ourselves out of our difficulties with the taxpayers' money'. That was why aid to remove surpluses on the domestic market was five times greater in 1977 and 1978 than sup-

port for exports. The fundamental problem was still the imbalance on the dairy market which emerged as an increase in production as the common agricultural policy developed. The Commission was therefore proposing not only to keep prices at a moderate level but also to take steps to discourage any increase in production in the milk sector, either in the form of a flexible buying-in price or greater co-responsibility to be laid on the producers.

Fisheries

Tunisian attacks on Italian trawlers (14 and 15 December)

2.3.13. 'The continual attacks by Tunisian patrol boats on Italian fishing vessels sailing in international waters, resulting in deaths and injuries among the unarmed fishermen and the unjustified seizure of fishing boats' was the subject of a proposal for a Resolution tabled by Mr Ligios (C-D/I) and other members. The Resolution was adopted.

Mr Gundelach told the House that the Commission and the Council had together officially approached the Tunisian Government on 12 December, expressing the Community's serious concern over this incident. A solution should be found by the conclusion between the Community (which replaced the Member States under a common fisheries policy) and Tunisia of an agreement which would supersede the fishing agreement between Italy and Tunisia due to expire on 31 May 1979. Progress in the fishing negotiations now under way with a number of African States should enable the Commission to lay a comprehensive proposal before the Council in the near future for the conclusion of fishing agreements with those countries, including Tunisia.

EEC-Spain fishing agreement (15 December)

2.3.14. Mr Cifarelli (L/I) presented a report on the delay in the conclusion of a fishing agreement between the Community and Spain. The Resolution adopted by the House welcomed the fact that a new fishing agreement had finally been concluded between Spain and the Community. It deeply regretted, however, that the Council had not ratified the Framework Agreement with Spain; called on the Council to ratify without further delay this Agreement and the other Framework Agreements concluded with other non-member countries which were still outstanding and considered it contrary to the Community's interest and prejudicial to its credibility to establish a link between the definition of the external and internal fisheries regimes.

Parliament also urged that Greece and Portugal should not be treated less favourably than Spain in the fisheries sector, once the framework agreement with Spain had been ratified by the Council.

Commercial policy

Imports of certain textile products (15 December)

2.3.15. Parliament adopted the report presented by Mr Inchauspé (EPD/F) on the proposal for a Regulation on common rules for imports of certain textile products originating in non-member countries.¹

In the Resolution it adopted the House emphasized the temporary nature of the measures proposed and stressed the need for the Community's textile industry to adjust to the demands of international competition. It welcomed the proposal for a Regulation in that it may promote an orderly and balanced development of trade in textile products between the Community and non-member countries.

Parliament considered that there had to be some flexibility in reconciling the Community's natural desire to protect its own jobs with the justified demands of the genuine developing countries for access to the Community market as a first step towards overcoming their poverty. It recognized the need for the conversion of the textile and clothing industry in the Community but not-

ed that a large part of the Community textile industry had already undergone radical restructuring and that further restructuring would become progressively more difficult in some countries.

The House considered it imperative that the Commission should also look into the consequences that the loss of jobs in the textile industry might have on other branches of industry whose existence depended to varying degrees on the textile sector. It was convinced that a solution could be found only at Community level by bringing into play all the Community's financial instruments on a much larger scale.

Unfair trade practices

2.3.16. In reply to an oral question from Mr Rippon (UK) and Mr Setter (DK) for the Conservative Group referring to certain unfair trade practices on the part of State-trading countries, Mr Haferkamp explained that the Community was generally applying to those countries the same rules for trade that it applied to other non-member countries. The Community nevertheless had to be protected against certain disruptions inherent in such practices. Yet it was not possible to disregard the peculiarities of those countries (centralization, calculation of cost prices, etc.) which sometimes made it difficult to apply general rules. Specific rules had been adopted in 1968, 1970 (for liberalized products) and 1975 (on tariff quotas). As for export credits, the general rules were being applied (the system adopted in April 1978), while some arrangements existed concerning shipping.

The Commission was examining whether similar measures could be laid down for road transport and inland waterways. The Commission had legal instruments for the surveillance of trade with the State-trading countries and was taking action, case by case, whenever this proved necessary.

¹ Bull. EC 7/8-1978, point 2.2.48.

GATT multilateral negotiations
(15 December)

2.3.17. Prompted principally by Mr de la Malène (EPD/F) and Mr van Aerssen (C-D/D), Parliament devoted a brief debate on various matters relating to the continuing negotiations within GATT.

In reply to oral questions, Mr Haferkamp said that concerning the 'waiver' the Community had obtained assurances from the United States Government that the first sitting of the new Congress would debate a new bill with retroactive effect. The American Administration shared the Community's desire to avoid any disturbance of trade and to achieve this would take all possible steps under the General Agreement. Mr Haferkamp said that it was certain that no countervailing duty would be applied by the American authorities.

Turning to the negotiations, Mr Haferkamp stated that the Commission had been guided by the principle that the results of the negotiations must in no way harm the common policies. After the negotiations the new rules would have to be applied by all the Contracting Parties, which meant that they would all have to complete the necessary ratification procedures before the Community could actually apply the rules.

Development

Renewal of the Lomé Convention
(13 and 14 December)

2.3.18. Parliament devoted a lengthy debate to a review of the report presented by Mr Broeksz (S/NL) on the negotiations for renewal of the Lomé Convention. The main points made in the report are as follows:

(i) the negotiating parties should look favourably on the applications for accession from countries which are among the world's poorest;

(ii) the new Convention should be concluded for a period of ten to fifteen years;

(iii) the most disadvantaged sections of the population in the ACP States should be the main beneficiaries of development policy under the new Convention, which meant in particular the development of small-scale agriculture, craft trades and small and medium-sized businesses;

(iv) restructuring of certain sectors must in no way adversely affect preferences granted to the ACP countries; greater freedom of access to the Community market must be ensured for their agricultural products; any re-emergence of protectionism is to be condemned;

(v) in order to condemn certain violations against the human person, a procedure will have to be agreed which ensures respect for national sovereignty;

(vi) the possibility should be investigated of including more processed products in the STABEX system, which in general is working satisfactorily;

(vii) the endowment of the new EDF must take adequate account of the reduced effect of preferential concessions granted to the ACP States;

(viii) the Convention should specify the amount and terms of the exceptional aid to be granted to the countries of southern Africa, now facing dramatic problems.

The spokesman for the Commission, Mr Cheysson, indicated in respect of the applications for membership from countries amongst the poorest in the world that the Community could scarcely do more than it was doing at present (although the States themselves could undertake bilateral operations). As for the duration of the Convention, which Parliament wanted to extend, the ACP countries themselves would have first to make proposals, which had not yet been forthcoming.

Turning to the actual substance of the Convention, Mr Cheysson stated quite firmly that all forms of protectionism must be resisted: this was a duty, both towards the ACP countries, which must have access to the Community markets, and towards ourselves, because protectionism was ultimately self-destructive. We must also beware of slipping into disguised protectionism by overinsis-

tence on application of the ILO standards, as the rapporteur had mentioned. Where respect for the human person was concerned, the Community was endeavouring to help those peoples whose dignity as human beings was degraded when outrages were committed. It was not by depriving them of food, nor by surrendering them to dictators that we would succeed. What was important was to ensure that aid was not deflected from its purpose. Yet where the question of sanctions was concerned, Mr Cheysson felt it was not possible to think in terms of a binding legal system to ensure the respect of human dignity.

Like Mr Cheysson agreed with the rapporteur that the extension of Stabex to cover new processed products was a distinct possibility. Pursuing this line, he believed that some thought should be given to what could be done in the field of mineral ores, even though the problems here were of a different order from those in agriculture (prices varied according to demand rather than supply). In conclusion, he announced that the Commission would shortly be addressing an important paper to the House concerning EEC-ACP cooperation on energy.

On the question of investment, Mr Cheysson indicated that, paradoxically, it was the ACP countries with strictly planned economies which were the least reluctant concerning the idea of protecting certain investments by Community firms.

Winding up the debate, in which many speeches from the floor testified to the importance which the House attaches to the Lomé Convention, the President of the Council, Mr von Dohnanyi pointed out that the geographical confinement of the Convention to a specific regional outline was an exigency which could not be overlooked.

Like Mr Cheysson, Mr von Dohnanyi took issue with the view expressed by Mr Broeks

in his report to the effect that the Lomé Convention confirmed in political terms the present situation, in the sense that it consolidated the 'Balkanization' of Africa and, therefore, the consequences of the carve-up of the continent between the old colonial powers. On the contrary, within the Lomé Convention Africa was asserting itself as an entity *vis-à-vis* the European Community.

Subject to certain amendments, Parliament adopted the Resolution in Mr Broeks's report. It deplored the recent decline of private overseas investment in developing countries, particularly in the mining sector, which could have disastrous consequences for industrialized and developing countries alike. The Council and Commission were urged to seek to include in the new Convention a system of guarantees against economic and political risks for investment which is of benefit to the people themselves.

Generalized tariff preferences (15 December)

2.3.19. Parliament adopted without debate a Resolution tabled by Lord Reay (C/UK) relating to the application in 1979 of the Community's scheme of generalized preferences.

The House welcomed the overall increase in the value of generalized preferences offered in 1979 and the improvements offered in the key area of agricultural products. But the Commission was urged to seek a solution, in consultation with the ACP countries, to the problem of erosion of the advantages granted the ACP. Furthermore the Community's offer must be linked to a policy of restructuring Community industries, within the context of an industrial policy which would enable the Community and the developing countries to develop complementary and mutually beneficial industrial activities.

Community action for education (13 and 14 December)

2.3.20. In a Resolution adopted on the basis of a report by Mr Meintz (L/L), Parliament expressed its deep disappointment over the decision of the Ministers of Education not to meet in the Council on the date proposed, when the Ministers had already undertaken to consider at the meeting questions as important as:

- (i) the teaching of languages in the Community;
- (ii) the study of the Community in schools;
- (iii) the admission of students at higher education institutions in one country to institutions in another;
- (iv) the particular situation regarding the education of girls under 18.

Parliament declared that it was convinced that the economic and social objectives of the Community would be attained only if economic and social policies were accompanied by appropriate measures in the education field.

It was hoped that this decision by the Ministers of Education would not affect the fundamental issue, which was the need for Community action in the education field. The Council was requested to decide on a new date as soon as possible for the Ministers' meeting.

Energy and research

Decommissioning of nuclear power plants (11 and 12 December)

2.3.21. Parliament gave a favourable opinion on the Commission's proposal on a programme for decommissioning nuclear power plants.¹

The report presented by Mr Flämig (S/D) commended the Commission on its initiative and felt that the development of satisfactory decommissioning techniques

could help to make nuclear power more acceptable to those who are at present hesitant.

Community research programme on standards for fast breeder reactors (11 and 12 December)

2.3.22. The Commission sent to Parliament a proposal for promoting Community action to harmonize codes and standards relating to design, computation, manufacture and quality control of specific components of fast reactors,² according to a harmonized classification of components based on their contribution to safety.

The report presented by Mr Veronesi (COM/I), which the House adopted, approved the proposal, recommending that the indirect action programme should be systematically linked to action undertaken at national level.

For the Socialist Group, Mr Brown (UK) found that the two reports bore witness to the Community's ability to think far ahead, the two key actions being, to his mind, the ones concerning the long-term integrity of buildings and systems and the estimation of quantities of radioactive wastes deriving from the decommissioning of nuclear power plants in the Community. The spokesman for the Christian Democrats, Mr Müller (D) threw his Group's support behind the Flämig and Veronesi reports. Emphasizing the importance which he and his colleagues attached to the whole question of safety, he endorsed the choice of fast breeder reactors.

Speaking for the Liberal and Democratic Group, Mr De Clercq (B) said it was essential to maintain an equally high standard of safety in operating and in dismantling nuclear power plants.

The spokesman for the Conservatives, Mr Fletcher-Cooke (UK) stressed the need to build fast breeder reactors on a large scale. We must not repeat the errors of the past. Hence the crucial importance of standardization. Mr Ellis (S/UK) remarked that the aura of emotion surrounding the word 'nuclear' was beginning to fade. Everyone was trying to see more clearly what the problems were and what they involved

¹ OJ C 146 of 21.6.1978; Bull. EC 4-1978, point 2.1.98.

² OJ C 233 of 3.10.1978; Bull. EC 7/8-1978, point 2.1.122.

On behalf of the Commission Mr Brunner said that the purpose of the proposals was to establish common safety standards. He pointed to the mistakes of the past, which should not be repeated, and which lay at the root of the emotion colouring the whole nuclear question. So it was never too early to consider the technical and financial problems. In conclusion, Mr Brunner said that though we must have a common energy policy, it could not be centralized in Brussels and formulated in chapter and verse as was, for example, the common agricultural policy. It must be a halfway house between a centralized policy and a national policy. The objectives were at once clear and constraining. To attain them we would need solidarity in the financial sphere, the legislative sphere and *vis-à-vis* non-member countries.

Multiannual research programmes
(11 and 12 December)

2.3.23. The Commission presented a set of proposals for multiannual research programmes, which Parliament approved. These were:

- (i) a multiannual research programme on climatology¹ (report by Mr Holst (S/DK));
- (ii) an R & D programme for reference materials and methods and applied metrology² (report by Mr Krieg (EPD/F));
- (iii) a multiannual R & D programme for the recycling of municipal and industrial waste³ (report by Mr Ibrügger (S/D)).

Council

2.3.24. In December the European Council held its third meeting of the year in Brussels. The Council met nine times to deal with the budget (two meetings), foreign affairs and general matters (three meetings), economic

and financial affairs, agriculture, the environment and energy.

European Council
(Brussels, 4 and 5 December)

2.3.25. *President:* Mr Schmidt, Federal Chancellor.

Commission: Mr Jenkins, President, Mr Ortoli, Vice-President.

The main subjects of discussion between the Heads of State or Government, as set out in the 'Conclusions of Presidency of the European Council' were as follows:

*European Monetary System*⁴
*Economic and social situation*⁵
*Tripartite Conference*⁵
*Report on European Union*⁶
*'Committee of Wise Men'*⁶
*Enlargement of the Community*⁷

551st and 553rd meetings — Budget
(Brussels, 5, 6 and 12 December)

2.3.26. *President:* Mr Lahnstein, State Secretary, German Ministry of Finance.

Commission: Mr Tugendhat, Member.

Budgetary procedure: In liaison with parliament the Council continued the procedures laid down in Article 203 of the EEC Treaty,

¹ OJ C 247 of 18.10.1978; Bull. EC 9-1978, points 1.5.1 to 1.5.8.

² OJ C 176 of 25.7.1978; Bull. EC 7/8-1978, points 2.1.122.

³ OJ C 233 of 9.10.1978; point 2.1.77.

⁴ Points 1.1.1 to 1.1.12.

⁵ Point 2.1.55.

⁶ Point 2.3.2.

⁷ Point 2.3.1.

one object being to fix the margin of manoeuvre open to Parliament in respect of non-compulsory expenditure. At the end of the discussion at its meeting on 12 December, the Council adopted its position in regard to the General Budget of the Communities for 1979. The conclusions of its deliberations were addressed to Parliament in order to put the House fully in the picture in time for its debate. At a meeting on 18 December, the Council considered the situation in the light of the proceedings in Parliament, which had concluded with the President of Parliament declaring at the 14 December sitting that the Budget was finally adopted.¹

**552nd, 554th and 558th meetings —
General matters**
(Brussels, 6, 12, 18 and 19 December)

2.3.27-28. President: Mr Genscher, German Minister of Foreign Affairs and Mr von Dohnanyi, Minister of State, German Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Commission: Mr Jenkins, President; Mr Haferkamp, Mr Gundelach and Mr Natali, Vice-Presidents; Mr Brunner, Mr Vouel, Mr Davignon, Mr Tugendhat and Mr Cheysson, Members.

Negotiations with Greece: On 6 and 19 December the Council prepared for the ninth and tenth ministerial sessions of the negotiating conference on the accession of Greece.² The Council was pleased that it could, as planned, begin substantive negotiations on the chapter concerning the duration of transitional measures and temporary derogations, agriculture and social policy.

GATT multilateral trade negotiations: At a special meeting on 12 December and then at its meeting on 18 and 19 December, the Council examined the state of the negotiations.³ After hearing progress reports from

the Commission, the Council thanked the Commission and hoped that, in the future negotiations, it would manage to achieve a balanced result in both qualitative and quantitative terms. The Council expected the negotiations to be conducted rapidly.

CMEA: The Council took note of a Commission report on the state of negotiations between the Community and the CMEA. It expressed its appreciation of the way in which the Commission was conducting the negotiations.

Relations with Japan: The Council took stock of the development of the Community's trade and economic relations with Japan on the basis of a report from the Commission drawn up following the recent round of high-level consultations, a practice instituted by the EEC-Japan joint declaration of 24 March 1978.⁴

Relations with Yugoslavia: The Council reviewed the progress made in the preparation of new directives to be issued to the Commission for negotiating the planned new Agreement with Yugoslavia.

Accession of Spain: The Council took note of the Opinion on Spain's application for membership which the Commission had delivered as required by the Treaties, and decided in favour of the application.⁵

Tax and tariff exemptions: The Council adopted a series of Directives and Regulations on tax and tariff exemptions for goods contained in travellers' personal luggage and goods sent in small consignments.⁶

¹ Point 2.3.4.

² Points 1.2.1 to 1.2.3.

³ Point 2.2.5.

⁴ Point 2.2.72.

⁵ Point 2.2.4.

⁶ Point 2.1.54.

ACP-EEC Ministerial Conference: The Council prepared for the ACP-EEC Ministerial Conference on 21 December for renewal of the ACP-EEC Convention.¹ The Council defined the Community's position for the Conference.

Life assurance: The Council agreed on a Directive on the coordination of the laws relating to the taking up and pursuit of the business of direct life assurance.²

Admission of securities to stock exchange listing: The Council reached agreement in principle on the Directive coordinating the conditions for the admission of securities to official stock exchange listing.³

Veterinary surgeons: The Council adopted a set of provisions designed to bring about the effective exercise of the right of establishment and freedom to provide services for veterinary surgeons throughout the Community.⁴

Architects: The Council examined the last remaining questions concerning the Directive on the mutual recognition of diplomas, certificates and other evidence of formal qualifications in architecture; when adopted it should facilitate the effective exercise of the right of establishment and freedom to provide services.⁵

Steel: On the basis of Commission drafts, the Council held a very wide-ranging discussion on all the measures to be adopted in the iron and steel sector for 1979.⁶

Textiles: The Council examined the problems involved in the conclusion of textiles arrangements with the preferential countries in the Mediterranean.⁷

Generalized preferences for developing countries: The Council took the substantive decision concerning all aspects of the 1979 scheme of generalized preferences for the developing countries.⁸

Commercial policy: The Council agreed to the conclusion by the Community of the Fifth International Tin Agreement.⁹

555th meeting — Economic and Financial Affairs (Brussels, 18 December)

2.3.29. President: Mr Matthöfer, German Minister of Finance.

Commission: Mr Ortoli, Vice-President.

European Monetary System: Following the European Council on 4 and 5 December the Council examined a series of questions concerning the introduction of the European Monetary System.¹⁰

Annual report on the economic situation in the Community: The Council adopted the annual report on the economic situation in the Community and the economic policy guidelines for each Member State for 1979.¹¹

556th meeting — Environment (Brussels, 18 and 19 December)

2.3.30. President: Mr Baum, German Minister of the Interior.

Commission: Mr Natali, Vice-President.

Environment policy: Breaking with tradition, the Council opened its meeting with a gen-

¹ Point 2.2.58.

² Point 2.1.47.

³ Point 2.1.52.

⁴ Point 2.1.14.

⁵ Point 2.1.15.

⁶ Points 1.3.1 to 1.3.7.

⁷ Point 2.2.46.

⁸ Point 2.2.17.

⁹ Point 2.2.16.

¹⁰ Point 2.1.1.

¹¹ Bull. EC 10-1978, points 2.1.5 to 2.1.7.

eral discussion of political aspects of the common environment policy.¹

Fight against pollution: The Council adopted the Recommendation regarding methods of evaluating the cost of pollution control to industry.²

Wood pulp industry: The Council held a detailed exchange of views on the proposal for a Directive on the reduction of water pollution caused by wood pulp mills in the Member States.³

Prevention and reduction of sea pollution: The Council agreed in principle on two Decisions involving cooperation in dealing with pollution of the North Sea and the Mediterranean by oil and other harmful substances.⁴

Dumping of waste at sea: The Council agreed in principle on the Recommendation on Community accession to the Oslo Convention of 15 February 1972 for the prevention of marine pollution by dumping of waste at sea.⁵

Protection of groundwater: The Council held a detailed discussion of the Directive on the protection of groundwater against pollution caused by certain dangerous substances.⁶

Water for human consumption: The Council agreed in principle on the Directive relating to the quality of water for human consumption.⁷

Bird conservation: The Council approved the Directive on bird conservation.⁸

557th meeting — Agriculture (Brussels, 18 and 19 December)

2.3.31. *President:* Mr Ertl, German Minister of Agriculture.

Commission: Mr Gundelach, Vice-President.

Beef and veal: The Council approved a series of decisions on beef and veal.⁹

Fisheries policy: The Council adopted the Decision concerning fishery activities in waters under the sovereignty or jurisdiction of Member States; this is a temporary measure pending the adoption of permanent Community arrangements.¹⁰

Olive oil: The Council set the prices for the olive-oil marketing year beginning on 1 January 1979.¹¹

Wine: The Council agreed in principle on a series of measures to establish balance on the wine market.¹²

Agri-monetary questions: The Council held a detailed exchange of views on the proposal for a Regulation concerning the impact of the European Monetary System on the common agricultural policy.¹³

Foodstuffs: The Council formally adopted the Directive on the labelling, presentation and advertising of foodstuffs for sale to the ultimate consumer.¹⁴

Protection of health and the environment: The Council adopted the Directive prohibiting the marketing and use of plant health products containing certain active substances.¹⁵

¹ Point 2.1.77.

² Point 2.1.78.

³ Point 2.1.85.

⁴ Point 2.1.80.

⁵ Point 2.1.81.

⁶ Point 2.1.84.

⁷ Point 2.1.82.

⁸ Point 2.1.83.

⁹ Point 2.1.105.

¹⁰ Point 2.1.124.

¹¹ Point 2.1.97.

¹² Point 2.1.100.

¹³ Point 2.1.93.

¹⁴ OJ C 91 of 22.4.1976 (amended proposal of 11.10.1976 not published).

¹⁵ Point 2.1.121.

559th meeting — Energy
(Brussels, 21 December)

2.3.32. *President:* Otto Graf Lambsdorff, German Minister of Economic Affairs.

Commission: Mr Brunner, Member.

Energy objectives for 1990: The Council asked the Commission to continue its studies and agreed to return to this item at a subsequent meeting on energy.¹

Energy savings from modernization of buildings: The Council reached agreement on the substance of the Recommendation to the Member States on reducing energy requirements for buildings in the Community.²

Refining: The Council requested the Commission to continue its regular checks on developments in the Community refining industry, which is still beset by problems, particularly that of surplus capacity.³

Oil and natural gas exploration: The Council examined a report from a group of geologists from the Member States, noted the particular importance of the Greenland project and instructed the Permanent Representatives Committee to resume examination of the Regulations necessary to carry out projects of this kind.³

Coal: The Council held a wide-ranging discussion of all the Commission proposals concerning Community measures for coal.⁴

Community financial support: The Council agreed in principle on two Regulations fixing the amounts of aid to be granted as Community financial support for projects to utilize alternative energy sources and for demonstration projects in the field of energy saving.⁵

Information on the energy consumption of domestic appliances: Subject to the completion of current Parliamentary proceedings in the United Kingdom, the Council agreed in principle on the provisions aimed at inform-

ing consumers, by means of labelling, about the energy consumption of domestic appliances.²

Energy conservation through storage: The Council took note of the Commission Communication stating its intention of signing the Implementing Agreement negotiated within the International Energy Agency (IEA) for a programme on research and development on energy conservation through energy storage, with a view to Community participation in the Agreement.

Commission

Renewal of the terms of office of the President and Vice-Presidents

2.3.33. By Decision of 19 December⁶ the Representatives of the Governments of the Member States of the European Communities renewed for a further two years from 6 January 1979 to 5 January 1981 the terms of office of Mr Jenkins as President of the Commission and of Mr Gundelach, Mr Haferkamp, Mr Natali, Mr Ortoli and Mr Vredeling as Vice-Presidents.

Activities

2.3.34. The Commission held three meetings in December. Apart from considering the results of the Brussels European Council,⁷ it devoted several sittings to preparing

¹ Point 2.1.142.

² Point 2.1.143.

³ Point 2.1.144.

⁴ Point 2.1.145.

⁵ Point 2.1.146.

⁶ OJ L 1 of 3.1.1979.

⁷ Points 1.1.1 to 1.1.12.

for the nine Council meetings held in December, paying particular attention to developments in the budget procedure and to the GATT multilateral trade negotiations,¹ now in their final stages. The Commission also held an initial, general discussion on the state of the Community's relations with Turkey and reviewed the work in progress in the Commission's departments.² It adopted a number of communications, dealing principally with medium-term financial assistance, the ECSC Budget, steel, energy and transport.

European Council: The Commission reaffirmed its view that the European Council of 4 and 5 December had been a success in that agreement had been reached on the foundations for the new European Monetary System, which is to operate within the Community framework with the Commission playing a major role. The Commission made arrangements for the relevant proposals to be transmitted to the Council in December so that the system might begin to operate officially. Proposals for the special arrangements which the European Council decided to make for Italy and Ireland will be presented by the Commission in January. As requested by the European Council, the Commission sent to the Council, on 11 December, a proposal for amending the Council Decision of 21 March 1971 setting up machinery for medium-term financial assistance.³ The Commission also arranged for the preparation of the study on the relationship between greater convergence in economic performance of the Member States and the utilization of Community instruments, in particular the funds which aim at reducing structural imbalances.

Budget procedure: After studying the implications of the manner in which the 1979 Budget had been adopted by Parliament,³ the Commission took the view that the Budget had been adopted and that it was the Com-

mission's duty to implement it, as required by the Treaty.

ECSC Operational Budget: The Commission gave its final approval to the ECSC Operational Budget for 1979 and adopted the Decision fixing the levy rate for 1979 at 0.29%.⁴

Steel: The Commission adopted the forward programme for steel for the first quarter of 1979.⁵

Energy: The Commission approved a Communication to the Council on developments in the Community's refining industry.⁶ Following the ruling given by the Court of Justice on 14 November,⁷ the Commission adopted a Communication to the Council on physical protection in the nuclear sector.

Transport: The Commission approved the guiding principles of a new proposal for a Directive, which was sent to the Council on 30 December, on the weight and certain other characteristics of road vehicles used for the carriage of goods. It also held a preliminary discussion on forthcoming Community action on air transport. A general Communication including detailed proposals will be submitted to the Commission in the near future.

Social Fund: The Commission adopted certain arrangements concerning the interpretation and application of the measures regulating the amount of assistance to be provided by the Social Fund, as laid down in the Council Decision of 1 February 1971 concerning the reform of the Fund.⁸

¹ Point 2.2.5

² Point 2.3.53.

³ Point 2.3.76.

⁴ Point 2.3.78.

⁵ Point 2.1.17.

⁶ Point 2.1.147.

⁷ OJ C 302 of 16.12.1978

⁸ OJ L 28 of 4.2.1971.

Relations with workers' and employers' organizations

2.3.35. Two meetings were held in December in the context of the prior consultations with the trade unions. The first was devoted to the free movement of workers, and in the course of the second meeting women union leaders discussed their action programme for women.

The Regional Policy Committee invited workers' and employers' representatives to a hearing on regional development programmes.

2.3.37. A number of German firms brought an action before the Court of Justice on 15 December for damages in respect of the harm they claim to have suffered as a result of the fact that the Council and the Commission, following the judgment of the Court in Joined Cases 117/76 and 16/77² in which it had ordered those institutions to take measures to remedy the discriminatory treatment applied in respect of the production of 'Quellmehl', had taken such measure with effect only from the date of the judgment of the Court, i.e., 19 October 1977, and not from the time the discrimination had come to light.

Case 263/78 — Metallurgica L. Rumi SA, Bergamo v Commission

2.3.38. By decision of 18 November the Commission imposed a fine on Rumi for failing to observe the minimum prices fixed for certain steel products by Decisions Nos 962/77, 3000/77 and 1483/78.³ The firm in question instituted proceedings before the Court of Justice on 15 December for the annulment of this decision.

Case 264/78 — SA Feralpi, Lonato v Commission

2.3.39. By decision of 18 October the Commission imposed a fine on Feralpi for failing to observe the minimum prices fixed for certain steel products by Decisions Nos 962/77 and 3000/77.⁴ The firm in question instituted proceedings before the Court of Justice on 21 December for the annulment of this decision.

Court of Justice

New cases

Case 260/78 — Maggi GmbH, Singen v Hauptzollamt Münster

2.3.36. The Münster Finanzgericht requested the Court of Justice on 13 December to give a preliminary ruling on the compatibility with Community law of the exemption from the payment of monetary compensatory amounts, granted by a Member State in respect of products imported from another Member State in which they were in free circulation on the ground that, under inward processing arrangements, they were not put into free circulation in the importing country but were incorporated in products which were then re-exported to the country of origin or to other Member States.¹

Cases 261 and 262/78 — Firma Interquell Stärke-Chemie GmbH & Co. KG, Gros-saitingen, and Others v (1) Council and (2) Commission

¹ OJ C 21 of 24.1.1979.

² Bull. EC 10-1977, point 2.3.58.

³ OJ L 114 of 5.5.1977, L 352 of 31.12.1977 and L 176 of 30.6.1978.

⁴ OJ L 114 of 5.5.1977 and L 352 of 31.12.1977.

Case 265/78 — H. Ferweda BV, Rotterdam v Produktschap voor Vee en Vlees, Rijswijk

2.3.40. In the course of proceedings involving a claim by the Netherlands authorities for the repayment of 'third country' export refunds paid in advance in respect of consignments of meat delivered to Netherlands vessels, on the ground that such consignments were not delivered in EEC territory, the College van Beroep voor het Bedrijfsleven asked the Court of Justice on 21 December for a ruling on whether Article 6(5) of Regulation (EEC) No 1957/69¹ must be interpreted as meaning that the principle of legal certainty under national or Community law may be invoked in order to refuse repayment of such improperly paid refunds and, if not, whether that article also rules out the possibility of bringing a claim for damages against the national authorities on the same grounds.

Case 266/78 — Mr B. Brunori, Cologne v Landesversicherungsanstalt Rheinprovinz, Düsseldorf

2.3.41. In the light of the German 'Handwerkerversicherungsgesetz' which provides that self-employed craftsmen are no longer subject to compulsory social security obligations if they have contributed for at least 216 months, the Landessozialgericht, Nordrhein-Westfalen asked the Court of Justice on 22 December for a ruling on whether Article 45(1) of Regulation (EEC) No 1408/71,² which provides for account to be taken of insurance periods completed in other Member States for the acquisition, retention or recovery of pension rights, applies by analogy in respect of the completion of the 216 months of compulsory contributions.

Case 267/78 — Commission v Italian Republic

2.3.42. The Commission instituted proceedings before the Court of Justice on 22 December to establish that by refusing to associate the Commission with measures of control concerning the verification and the making available of the European Communities' own resources and to notify the Commission of the results thereof, Italy has failed to fulfil its obligations under Article 14(2) of Regulation No 2/71 implementing the Decision of 21 April 1970 on the replacement of financial contributions from Member States by the Communities' own resources.³

Case 268/78 — Mr J.L. Pennartz, Cannes-la-Bocca v Caisse primaire d'assurance maladie des Alpes Maritimes, Nice.

2.3.43. The French Cour de Cassation asked the Court of Justice on 27 December for a preliminary ruling on the procedure for calculating a pension in respect of an accident at work suffered by an employee who had worked successively in several Member States.

Judgments

Case 14/78 — (1) Denkavit Commerciale Srl, Crespatica, and (2) Denkavit Nederland BV, Voorthuizen v Commission

2.3.44. A firm specializing in the manufacture of animal feedingstuffs brought an action before the Court of Justice on 12 February for the recovery of damages for the loss which it claims to have suffered because the Commission failed to take action against

¹ OJ L 250 of 4.10.1969.

² OJ L 149 of 5.7.1971.

³ OJ L 3 of 5.1.1971.

the Italian authorities when the latter, subsequent to the adoption of Directive 74/63/EEC on the fixing of maximum permitted levels for undesirable substances and products in feedingstuffs,¹ adopted measures which it alleges are contrary to that Directive.²

In its judgment of 5 December³ the Court dismissed this action as being unfounded.

Case 20/78 — Brooke Bond Liebig Benelux, Schoten v Commission

2.3.45. On 21 December 1977 the Commission adopted a Decision establishing that certain distribution contracts concluded between a manufacturer of spices and a number of large-scale retail foodstores concerning the sale of such spices constitute an infringement of Article 85(1) of the EEC Treaty.⁴ An action to annul this Decision was brought before the Court of Justice on 22 February.⁵

Since the applicant had withdrawn the action, stating that the contracts had expired and that it no longer had an interest in having the Commission's decision annulled, the Court had the case removed from the register by order of 14 December.

Case 35/78 — N.G.J. Schouten BV, Giessen v Hoofdproduktschap voor Akkerbouwprodukten, The Hague

2.3.46. The college van Beroep voor het Bedrijfsleven asked the Court of Justice on 14 March 1978 for a preliminary ruling on the validity of Regulation (EEC) No 1356/76 on the monetary compensatory amounts and the differential amounts applicable in respect of movements in the Irish pound and the pound sterling.⁶

In its judgment of 14 December the Court held that the regulation in question was valid.⁷

Case 85/78 — Bundesanstalt für Landwirtschaftliche Marktordnung, Frankfurt am Main v Firma J. Hirsch & Söhne GmbH, Mannheim

2.3.47. In a case concerning the cancellation of an application for an import licence in respect of barley for brewing, which had been granted on condition a deposit was lodged pursuant to Article 16 of Regulation No 19 (cereals)⁸ and which was disputed on account of an error which occurred in the course of administrative procedures, the Bundesverwaltungsgericht asked the Court of Justice for a ruling on whether it was possible to challenge the grant of a licence on this ground under Community law or under national law and, in the latter case, whether the deposit lodged could be recovered.⁹

In its judgment of 12 December⁷ the Court held that the question of whether an application for the grant of an import licence can be cancelled and what the effect of such cancellation would be, having regard to the system established by the regulation in question, together with Regulation No 130/62/EEC providing for exceptions to Article 17 of the Regulation in question in the matter of advance fixing of the levy on certain products, be decided on the basis of Community law.

The Court pointed out, further, that an application for the grant of an import licence cannot be cancelled by the applicant on the ground of an error in his declaration of in-

¹ OJ L 38 of 11.2.1974.

² Bull. EC 2-1978, point 2.3.33.

³ OJ C 3 of 5.1.1979.

⁴ OJ L 53 of 24.2.1978.

⁵ Bull. EC 2-1978, point 2.3.39.

⁶ OJ L 153 of 12.6.1976 and Bull. EC 3-1978, point 2.3.32.

⁷ OJ C 21 of 24.1.1979.

⁸ OJ 30 of 20.4.1962.

⁹ Bull. EC 3-1978, point 2.3.36.

tent as regards the choice, made available under Regulation No 130, between the application of the levy in force on the date on which the application was lodged and the application of the levy in force on the date of importation.

Case 254/78 — Sarl Prost-International, Nantes v Fa Sägemühle E. Brodbeck, Remohingen- Wilerdingen

2.3.48. The Karlsruhe Oberlandesgericht requested the Court of Justice, pursuant to the Protocol on the interpretation of the Convention on jurisdiction and the enforcement of judgment in civil and commercial matters,¹ to interpret Article 27(2) of the Convention² as to whether a party against whom enforcement is sought can resist the making of an order for enforcement on the ground that he was not served in sufficient time with the document instituting proceedings, if notice of the pending action was served on him later and he failed to take any procedural steps in his defence.³

Since the case has not been pursued in the national court, the Court ordered that the application of 13 December for a preliminary ruling be removed from the court register.

Economic and Social Committee

164th plenary session

2.3.49. The Economic and Social Committee held its 164th plenary session in Brussels on 19 and 20 December with the Committee's Chairman, Mrs Baduel Glorioso, presiding.

Opinions

European Monetary System and the common agricultural policy

2.3.50. By 97 votes for, 10 against and 13 abstentions, the Committee approved the proposal for a Regulation on the impact of the European Monetary System on the common agricultural policy.⁴

In its Opinion the Committee welcomes the Commission proposals, without which the decisions setting up the European Monetary System would be incomplete. The Commission proposals ensure that when the European Monetary System comes into operation farm prices in the Member States as well as EAGGF payments in aid of structural projects will remain unchanged in money terms.

The Committee hopes that the European Monetary System will lead to greater currency stability between the Member States of the Community. If this happens, the prospects of returning to greater unity of action in the agricultural sector are likely to be brighter. Greater currency stability will make it possible, in particular, to phase out monetary compensatory amounts. In this connection, the Committee refers to its Opinion of 1 February 1978 on the proposal for a Council Regulation relating to the fixing of representative conversion rates in agriculture.⁵ The Committee also draws attention to the problems arising out of the fact that not all the Community countries have become full members of the European Monetary System.

Although the Opinion was generally favourable, many reservations were expressed during the discussion because of the uncertainty of whether application of the EMS would really have no adverse effect on farmers' incomes. The Committee reserved its position on this point until the forthcoming agricultural price review.

¹ OJ L 204 of 2.8.1975.

² OJ L 299 of 31.12.1972.

³ Bull. EC 11-1978, point 2.3.40.

⁴ OJ C 294 of 8.12.1978 and Bull. EC 11-1978, point 2.1.73.

⁵ OJ C 84 of 8.4.1978 and Bull. EC 2-1978, point 2.3.60.

Community action in the cultural sector

2.3.51. By 78 votes for, 13 against and 10 abstentions, the Committee adopted an Opinion on Community action in the cultural sector.¹

The Committee welcomes the initiative taken by the Commission within the cultural sector. It is in broad agreement with its proposals which are centred on solving the economic and social problems which arise in this sector.

The Committee takes the view that the mounting economic and social problems facing 'cultural workers' have to be dealt with and that the basic intention should be to provide the cultural sector with all the benefits and advantages of the European Community as, for example, free movement and establishment; harmonization of taxes and laws, and in particular those on royalties.

The Committee feels that the consequences of technological change and development need to be seen in their proper perspective so that there can be a balance between the interests of the users and the need for authors and publishers to obtain a reasonable return for their work. The case of performers is unique. Their recorded broadcasts and televised performances compete with their own live performance and hence endanger the survival of the living theatre and music. Furthermore, the Committee is surprised that the cinema is not specifically included in the Community action programme. The Committee urges the Commission to take up the problems within the cinema by including it in the programme and so help to improve the economic and social position of film workers.

The Committee also encourages the voluntary adoption of a record card system for making it easier to recover stolen cultural goods. Disparities existing in the present legislation between one country and another as to combating thefts of cultural goods also aid and abet thieves and illicit dealers. The Committee accordingly comes out in support of harmonizing preventive legislation in this area.

The Committee expressed dissatisfaction with the operation of some private artistic agencies which give rise to abuse and should be supervised by Government authorities. Cultural workers should soon be able to use the SEDOC system (European vacancy clearance system) to receive information and advice regarding employment opportunities.

The Committee welcomes the proposal of the Commission for the training periods for young cultural workers in a Community country other than their own. But at the same time, the Committee is concerned that all necessary measures be taken to ensure that their social security benefits in the host country are not less than those to which they are entitled in their home countries.

As to taxation of cultural workers, there is agreement with the proposal that taxable earnings should be spread retrospectively over several years and in advance as, for example, in the sale of copyright (in those countries where sale of copyright is taxed).

The Committee urges that there should be a recommendation to ratify the 1961 Rome Convention for the Protection of Performers, Producers of Phonograms and Broadcasting Organizations. Already five of the nine member countries have ratified. The Committee shares the Commission's concern for the protection of the work of the creative craftsmen and points at the same time to the difficulties encountered when having to differentiate between mass produced pseudo-cultural goods (as a consequence of technical development) and genuine artistic and cultural objects.

Within the area of social welfare and social security, the Committee urges that social security will have to be adopted to suit the special circumstances of cultural workers, as their work is often of an intermittent nature. As to the promotion of nuclear conservation techniques, the Committee requests that more precise information on the consequences of using these nuclear techniques should be made available. The Committee recommends that the Commission draft a proposal calling on the Member States to reserve a percentage of public expenditure for works of applied art and to stipulate that, in administrative office buildings, a certain percentage of the gross capital expenditure should be set aside for the creation of works of art.

The Committee points out, in conclusion, that all people from all walks of life should be integrated far more into the cultural life of Europe. The diffusion of culture into small rural communities and towns is still a major problem. The Committee asks the Commission to carry out a study to focus attention particularly on the preservation and development of minority language and on young people and people living in rural areas as to how to involve them in the cultural life of a country.

¹ Supplement 6/77 — Bull. EC and Bull. EC 11-1977, points 1.4.1 to 1.4.4.

Industrial restructuring and conversion

2.3.52. This Opinion, adopted by a very large majority (89 votes for, 2 against and 2 abstentions), on the proposal for a Regulation relating to Community aid for industrial restructuring and conversion operations¹ approved the Commission's plan to establish a scheme for the restructuring and conversion of industries in difficulty, a plan commensurate with the views expressed by the Committee on several previous occasions.

Since the Regulation could play a more and more far-reaching role in the future, the Committee thinks that special attention will have to be paid to the danger of distortions in competition between Community firms being created or aggravated and that priority will have to be given to the proper harmonization of national and Community aid. This should not, however, force all the Member States to set up their own aid schemes, nor tie Community aid too closely to the provision of similar aid by the Member State in question.

The Committee approves the proposal that the Commission, which will be assisted by an Advisory Committee, is to have a high degree of autonomy in considering applications for aid and defining how this aid will be granted. It will be for the Council, however, to decide which sectors are to receive aid. The Committee would none-the-less like to be consulted about these Council decisions and would also like the Commission to seek the views of the employers and workers concerned by each operation. Allowance will also have to be made for the big differences from one sector to another or between firms and the aid will have to take account of both general social requirements and the need for industries to be competitive.

While acknowledging that the Regulation should be directed first and foremost at restructuring operations, the Committee thinks that it could also aid conversion operations by creating new jobs in the tertiary and other sectors.

In this respect it welcomes the fact that priority is to be given to small and medium-sized enterprises. The Committee notes finally that the sum of 20 million EUA provided for restructuring and conversion operations in the current year is relatively modest and thinks that it should be possible to increase this sum on the basis of the initial results obtained.

Ionizing radiation

2.3.53. By 66 votes for, 1 against and 4 abstentions, the Committee adopted an Opinion on the proposal for a Council Directive amending the Directive laying down the basic safety standards for the health protection of the general public and workers against the dangers of ionizing radiation.²

The Committee approved the proposed amendments to the Euratom basic safety standards. These are the changes the Committee requested on 12 July 1978 in order to bring the Euratom standards into line with the latest recommendations issued by the universally recognized International Commission on Radiological Protection (ICRP). In particular, the Committee welcomes the Commission's acceptance of the Committee's view on the importance, in the field of radiological protection, of progressively updating Community safety standards to take account of developments in international research.

The proposed revisions define new concepts and units and provide values which take account of new metabolic data. They are also calculated in a more logical way. For the first time, they take account of the additivity of the radiation to which the various organs and tissues are exposed. The Committee also agrees, in principle, with a procedure which would allow the standards to be progressively and regularly updated in future. The Commission proposes that a 'Standing Committee' be set up for the purpose. At the same time, the Economic and Social Committee emphasizes the need to respect its right to be consulted under Articles 31 and 32 of the Euratom Treaty.

*

2.3.54. The other Opinions, adopted unanimously, without debate concerned the following: wheeled agricultural or forestry tractors;³ tuberculosis and brucellosis in cattle

¹ OJ C 272 of 16.8.1978 and Bull. EC 10-1978, point 2.1.24.

² OJ C 147 of 22.6.1978.

³ OJ C 268 of 11.11.1978 and C 200 of 22.8.1978; Bull. EC 9-1978, point 2.1.7 and Bull. EC 7/8-1978, point 2.1.10.

and swine fever;¹ R & D programmes for reference materials and methods, applied metrology,² climatology,³ secondary raw materials⁴ and the second (revised) environmental research programme (Opinion adopted by 66 votes for, 6 against and 9 abstentions);⁵ straight feedingstuffs.⁶

European Investment Bank

Loans raised

2.3.55. The European Investment Bank has launched a bond issue for FF 500 million on the French capital market.

The issue has been underwritten by a banking syndicate headed by Banque Nationale de Paris in conjunction with Credit Lyonnais, Société Générale, Banque de Paris et des Pays-Bas and Caisse des Dépôts et Consignations. The bonds carry a coupon of 10% and have a life of eighteen years. They are redeemable in eighteen annuities (including both interest and principal). The principal will be repaid either by redeeming at par bonds drawn each year or by purchasing bonds on the stock exchange; over each period, at least half of the bonds redeemable will be redeemed at par. The Bank may at any time purchase bonds for early redemption. The issue was offered for public subscription in France at par from 4 December. Application has been made for the issue to be listed on the Paris stock exchange.

The income from the bonds is subject to French tax on securities, including the FF 3 000 allowance per tax payer per year granted to certain holders of fixed-interest securities and the levy in lieu of income tax.

The proceeds of the loan will be used by the Bank to finance lending operations.

2.3.56. The European Investment Bank has floated a bond issue for DM 200 million on the international capital market.

The issue has been underwritten by an international consortium of banks headed by Deutsche Bank AG. The twelve year bonds bear interest at a nominal rate of 6.5%, payable on 1 January each year. The bonds are re-

deemable at par at term. A repurchase fund will provide for purchase of bonds at prices not above par at any time during the first eight years of the issue's lifetime. From 1 January the Bank has the right to redeem in advance, at par, all bonds still in circulation.

The bonds were offered for public subscription from 10 January 1979 at 99%, the yield, calculated on total lifetime basis, being 6.62%. Application has been made for listing on the Frankfurt, Berlin, Düsseldorf, Hamburg and Munich stock exchanges.

Proceeds from the sale of the bonds will be used by the Bank to help to finance its ordinary lending operations. This bond issue brings total EIB public issues in Deutsche Mark to DM 2 630 million. In addition, the Bank has so far contracted private Deutsche Mark issues totalling DM 2 145 million.

Loans granted

United Kingdom

Industry and energy investments

2.3.57. The European Investment Bank has made three new loans for a total equivalent to UKL 15 million (22.5 million EUA) for industrial and energy projects in the United Kingdom. Details are as follows:

(i) UKL 5 million lent to UKF Fertilisers Limited for ten years at 8.35% for expansion of its works at Ince, Cheshire (part of the Merseyside Special Development Area).

Additional units for the production of nitric acid and ammonium nitrate, due for completion in the second half of 1980, should create a hundred new jobs.

¹ OJ C 289 of 2.12.1978 and Bull. EC 11-1978, points 2.1.83.

² OJ C 176 of 25.7.1978 and Bull. EC 7/8-1978, point 2.1.122.

³ OJ C 247 of 18.10.1978 and Bull. EC 9-1978, points 1.5.1 to 1.5.8.

⁴ OJ C 233 of 3.10.1978 and Bull. EC 9-1978, point 2.1.77.

⁵ OJ C 173 of 20.7.1978 and Bull. EC 6-1978, point 2.1.120.

⁶ OJ C 294 of 8.12.1978.

(ii) UKL 5 million to the Cooperative Wholesale Society Ltd—CWS (for eight years at 7.9%) to recognize and modernize an industrial complex at Shieldhall, Glasgow.

For the most part, the project concerns new plant for production and bottling of non-alcoholic drinks; nearly 700 jobs should be safeguarded and about sixty new ones created.

(iii) UKL 5 million to the State-owned British Nuclear Fuels Limited to finance part of its share in the URENCO gas centrifuge uranium enrichment plant being built at Capenhurst, Cheshire; the loan is for fifteen years at 10.10%.

The project is being carried out by URENCO (UK); 75% of its capital is held by British Nuclear Fuels and the remainder in equal shares by Uran-Isotopentrennungsgesellschaft mbH (URANIT) and Ultra Centrifuge Nederland NV (UCN), representing, respectively, German and Dutch interests.

The plant (annual production should be sufficient to fuel four 1 000 MW nuclear power stations for one year) will help to develop uranium enrichment capacity within the Community and cover a substantial and growing proportion of Europe's needs from the beginning of the 1980s.

2.3.58. The European Investment Bank has made available the equivalent of UKL 55 million (82.5 million EUA) for industrial and energy projects in the United Kingdom. Of this sum, UKL 30 million will be directed to support small and medium-scale industrial ventures in assisted areas, with priority going to those which make the most impact in terms of creating or safeguarding employment.

The finance will be provided via a scheme agreed between the Bank and the Government under which the regional offices of the Department of Industry in England, the Scottish Economic Planning Department, the Welsh Office Industry Department and the Department of Commerce in Northern Ireland act on the EIB's behalf in using funds provided by the Bank to make loans down to UKL 17 000.

These loans will be made for seven years at a fixed interest rate of 9%. They will be disbursed in foreign currencies, but the Government will safeguard borrowers from the effects of fluctuations in exchange rates and also provide the EIB with the necessary security, in the form of a guarantee for each loan. The Government's

charge for this is 1% p.a., bringing the total rate to 10%. Under the same scheme, the EIB made UKL 20 million available in December last year; over thirty ventures, estimated to involve the creation or safeguarding of some 4 100 jobs, have been selected for financing with these funds.

Power station in Scotland

2.3.59. A further loan for UKL 25 million has been made for the construction of a 1 320 MW power station at Peterhead, Aberdeenshire to the North of Scotland Hydro-Electric Board (NOSHEB) for twenty years at an interest rate of 10.95%. In 1974 the EIB provided a loan of UKL 10.4 million for an earlier stage of construction.

This power station is important to the development of the Highlands and Grampian regions, where electricity consumption is expected to rise alongside the growth in industrial and other activities, largely linked to exploitation of North Sea oil and gas.

France

2.3.60. The European Investment Bank has granted two loans, together worth FF 254 million (43.9 million EUA), to finance construction of two sections of motorway between Beaune and Besançon and, in the Alpes Maritimes, between La Turbie and Roquebrune. In both cases, the funds go to the Caisse Nationale des Autoroutes (CNA), a public institution which exists to raise loans for investment by semi-public firms holding motorway concessions. The loans are for twenty years, and bear interest at 10%. These operations bring EIB financing of motorway construction in France to a total of around FF 700 million.

Mulhouse-Beaune Motorway

2.3.61. The first loan, for FF 200 million, is to be onlent by CNA to Société des Autoroutes Paris-Rhin-Rhône (SAPRR). The project covers an 83 km section of motorway with two two-lane carriageways and three ma-

major structural works, bridging the Rhine-Rhône Canal, the Saône and one of its tributaries. The Beaune-Besançon section is the final link in the A 36 Beaune-Mulhouse motorway and will connect the Paris-South-East France motorway artery with the German and Swiss borders and thus with the Basle-Frankfurt motorway. As well as playing a vital part in improving the Community's motorway system, the scheme will improve communications with France-Comté and Alsace and thus help to solve the problems of economic restructuring with which these regions are faced. The works, provisionally costed at FF 1 000 million overall, are scheduled for completion late in 1980.

Esterel-Côte d'Azur motorway

2.3.62. The second loan, for FF 54 million, is to be onlent to Société de l'autoroute Esterel-Côte d'Azur (ESCOTA), and will be used for the final, La Turbie-Roquebrune section of the A8 motorway which runs from Aix-en-Provence to Menton on the Italian border.

The project covers work on the first construction phase of this 5.3 km section, which will be a three-lane carriageway, with an additional two-lane carriageway on certain difficult stretches. The works are scheduled for completion during the latter half of 1979. At FF 215 million, the overall cost of this section of motorway is fairly high, on account of the difficult terrain, which necessitates construction of a viaduct and the driving of three tunnels.

The A8 motorway (a FF 50 million loan to finance the Roquebrune-Menton section was granted by the EIB in 1967) will connect the French and Italian motorway grids and provide a vital link in the international road system between Marseilles and Genoa, giving access from the Rhône Valley and South-East France to Northern and Central Italy. The project is of especial interest to the Community, inasmuch as it will facilitate trade between Italy and France and north-western Europe.

2.3.63. The European Investment Bank has granted a loan for the equivalent of FF 570 million (100 million EUA) towards extension and modernization of the telecommunications system in the Nord-Pas-de-Calais region of France. The loan is for fifteen years at 9.9% and has been made to the Caisse

Nationale des Télécommunications (CNT) which will make the funds available to the Administration des Postes et Télécommunications (PTT).

The capital investment involved, put at close to FF 2 000 million, relates to the construction, extension and modernization of exchange buildings and equipment, the extension of the trunk and local networks and the provision of additional subscriber connections and apparatus. The number of lines connected to automatic exchanges will rise from 525 000 to more than 810 000 and the number of telex subscribers from 3 500 to over 4 100. The various installations are expected to be operational by mid-1980 and will improve subscriber density in the Nord-Pas-de-Calais, now below the national average. They should also help to encourage industrial conversion and attract new industries to the region, which is suffering the effects of the decline of traditional industries: coal-mining, textiles and steel.

With this loan, the EIB has now channelled a total of more than FF 3 000 million to CNT for modernizing and extending telecommunications facilities. Total EIB lending in France in 1978 rises to the equivalent of over FF 2 000 million, as against FF 1 650 million the previous year.

Italy

2.3.64. The amount of finance provided in Italy this year by the European Investment Bank, the European Community's long-term finance institution, has reached a total equivalent to LIT 908 700 million, of which almost 83%—LIT 756 700 million—has gone to support investment in the Mezzogiorno. This more than doubles the LIT 426 700 million lent in 1977, which was already 25% up on the previous year.

These figures were published when it signed agreements for thirteen new loans worth in total LIT 219 700 million (202.8 million EUA), of which again the major share—LIT 178 200 million—goes to the Mezzogiorno. Much of the increase achieved this year is accounted for by loans for projects helping to improve energy supplies, which come to LIT 352 700 million, as against LIT 39 500 million in 1977.

Thirteen new loans

2.3.65. The new operations illustrate the wide variety of activities supported by the EIB in Italy. LIT 63 600 million goes to industry for investments ranging in size from small and medium-scale ventures through to expansion of a Fiat car plant.

In the energy sector, the Bank is financing various schemes which, in line with Community policy, will help either to reduce dependence upon oil and gas imports by exploiting local resources or diversify the nature and source of imports. Loans are for construction of geothermal power stations, harnessing steam within the earth to produce electricity (LIT 31 500 million), the first section in Italy of the Algeria-Italy gasline (LIT 60 000 million) and also for development of four offshore oil and gas fields (LIT 20 700 million).

The Bank continues its support for infrastructure projects in the Mezzogiorno with a loan for LIT 29 000 million for development of the Ragusa and Gela industrial zones in Sicily and LIT 15 000 million for an irrigation project in Calabria. Details are as follows:

Industry in the Mezzogiorno

2.3.66. To finance small and medium-sized industrial ventures, a global loan of LIT 20 000 million has been granted for twelve years to the Cassa per il Mezzogiorno, which will onlend the proceeds to ISVEIMER (Istituto per lo Sviluppo Economico dell'Italia Meridionale). In agreement with the EIB, ISVEIMER will select projects to be financed from amongst its own clients and parcel out the funds accordingly.

Three loans totalling LIT 33 500 million have been made to IMI (Istituto Mobiliare Italiano) to finance individual industrial projects in the south:

- (i) LIT 22 000 million (ten years, 8.5%) for extension of the Fiat car plant at Termini Imerese, Sicily, where production of small capacity models is due to double to 500 per day (1 000 new jobs are foreseen); a LIT 8 000 million loan was made for the same project in April this year;
- (ii) LIT 2 500 million (also for ten years at 8.5%) for expansion of the Magneti Marelli SpA (Fiat subsidiary) factory at San Salvo, Abruzzi, which produces car batteries; the company plans to introduce a new 'long life' model and raise the total production capacity by some 75% to 1 400 000 per year, creating about 190 new jobs;

- (iii) LIT 9 000 million (eight years, 8.1%) for improvements to a colour TV tubes plant in Frosinone, Latium, run by Videocolor SpA, a company owned by the French group Videocolor SA. Raising capacity, widening the product range and introduction of new technologies should help to maintain the existing 2 140 jobs and create a further forty.

Industrial zones and irrigation

2.3.67. Two other loans have been made to the Cassa per il Mezzogiorno:

- (i) LIT 29 000 million (fifteen years at 8.65%) for works to improve road access, water supplies and drainage at the Gela and Ragusa industrial zones in Sicily, providing better operating conditions for companies established or planning to set up there;
- (ii) LIT 15 000 million (again fifteen years at 8.65%) for irrigation of about 5 500 ha of the coastal strip in Calabria, between the rivers Tacina and Alessi; greater productivity and a switch to more profitable crops should lead to higher incomes for the 2 000-strong farming community in the area covered by the project and also a substantial increase in employment

Energy

2.3.68. Six loans, worth LIT 90 700 million in all, have been made to ENI (Ente Nazionale Idrocarburi) for projects carried out by subsidiaries of the group:

- (i) LIT 60 000 million for fifteen years at 8.65% for use by Snam SpA in laying 230 km of gas pipeline in Calabria and Sicily plus 15 km under water, across the Messina Straits. This will be the first section in Italy of a series of pipelines, running 1 900 km from Algeria to Bologna in Northern Italy, which by 1985 should supply Italy with about one third of its natural gas requirements, a major share for the Mezzogiorno;
- (ii) LIT 13 200 million (twelve years at 8.6%) for work undertaken by Agip SpA to develop the 'Squalo' natural gas field discovered 20 km off the coast from Pescara, Abruzzi, in the Adriatic Sea;
- (iii) LIT 4 000 million (twelve years at 8.6%) for Agip's development of the 'Hera Lacinia' gas field, 10 km off the coast from Crotona, Calabria, in the Ionian Sea; this is the second loan for the project—LIT 4 000 million was lent in April 1978;

(iv) LIT 2 500 million (twelve years at 8.6%) for Agip's development of the 'Emilio' gas field, 30 km off the Abruzzi coast in the Adriatic Sea;

(v) LIT 1 000 million (six years at 8.05%) again for an Agip project, the first stage in development of the 'Rospo Mare' oil field discovered in the Adriatic, 20 km off the Vasto, Molise;

(vi) LIT 10 000 million (eight years at 9.75%) for expansion and modernization of three plants belonging to Nuovo Pignone SpA (in Florence and Massa, Tuscany and Talamona, Lombardy) which produce high technology gas transmission and other equipment for the energy industry.

Again in the energy field, the Bank lent LIT 31 500 million (for fifteen years at 8.65%) to ENEL (Ente Nazionale per l'Energia Elettrica) for the construction of five geothermal power plants. These units, with a total capacity of 63 MW, will be built in the Larderello and Monte Amiata areas of Tuscany, where drawing upon steam power from within the earth to produce electricity dates back some 65 years.

FR of Germany

2.3.69. The European Investment Bank has granted a loan for the equivalent of DM 3.5 million (1.4 million EUA) to help to finance construction of a meat products factory in the industrial zone of Saarbrücken. The loan is for twelve years at 6.2%.

The joint borrowers are FLEIGRU Vermögensverwaltungsgesellschaft GbR and FLEIWA-Saarländische Fleischwaren GmbH, subsidiaries of the promoter, ASKO Deutsche Kaufhaus Aktiengesellschaft of Saarbrücken, a retail trading company with a chain of stores, shopping centres and supermarkets situated mostly in Germany, but also in Luxembourg and France.

The capital investment assisted by the Bank (put at DM 15.6 million) will go into constructing a 6 300 m² factory to take over production from the older units which are no longer adequate. The new factory will give ASKO AG enough capacity to process 1 600 tonnes of meat a month as from 1980. The project should bring 70 new jobs to an area where the decline of certain long-established activities, principally coal-mining and the iron and steel industry, has led to a level of unemploy-

ment which is relatively high compared to the national average.

Denmark

2.3.70. The European Investment Bank has granted two loans in Denmark, together worth DKR 380 million (54.1 million EUA), to finance equipment at a power station—enabling it to burn coal instead of oil—and to improve shipping links with Greenland.

Coal-Fired power station

The majority of the funds, the equivalent of DKR 300 million, has been made available to an electricity generating concern, IFV-Elektricitetsselskabet Isefjordværket Interessentskab, for twelve years at 9%.

The loan will be used to convert to coal-firing the fifth 600 MW generating unit at Asnaes power station on the island of Zealand, which will further Community aims of reducing dependence on oil imports.

Costed at DKR 600 million, the project is scheduled for completion in September 1980. Last year the EIB provided a loan for DKR 55 million for similar works concerning another generating unit at the same power station and a DKR 31.2 million loan towards anti-pollution installations, mainly at Asnaes.

Denmark relies on oil imports to meet 89% of its energy requirements; the only viable alternative at the moment is coal. Coal consumption in Denmark's power stations is set to triple (3 million to 9 million tonnes per year) between now and 1985, reducing dependence on oil imports to 60%.

Shipping links with Greenland

2.3.71. The second loan, for the equivalent of DKR 80 million, has been granted to the State towards improving Greenland's shipping services; the loan is for fifteen years at 4.55%.

The funds will be made available to the Royal Greenland Trade Department which is responsible for the transport of the greater part of goods and passengers to and from Greenland.

They will be used for the purchase of four new vessels—two freighters for Atlantic service, equipped with freezer/cold storage rooms, a coastal freighter and one fuel oil and petrol tanker. All four ships, designed for Arctic navigation, are to be put into service in 1979 and will provide about 100 jobs.

With this loan, which covers about 50% of the investment, put at DKR 163 million, the EIB has now lent some DKR 220 million for developing Greenland. Since 1973 the EIB has assisted projects concerning telecommunications along the south-west coast, port installations, electricity supplies and construction of an airport at Godthaab

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Since Denmark's accession to the European Community in 1973, loans provided by the EIB for investment projects in this country total DKR 1 345 million.

Portugal

2.3.72. The European Investment Bank has granted three loans, together amounting to the equivalent of 35 million EUA, under the Financial Protocol signed between the European Community and Portugal, which came into effect on 1 November last. The funds are to be used in support of investment in the chemicals and cement production industries.

Two of the loans, for a combined total of 25 million EUA, have been granted to Quimigal, Portugal's leading chemicals company, details as follows:

(i) 17 million EUA towards modernizing facilities for production of nitrogen fertilizer; the main features of the project are a new ammonia plant (capacity 285 000 tonnes per year) at Barreiro and a nitric acid plant (115 000 tonnes per year) at Alverca. The loan carries a term of fourteen years, with interest at 8.9%. To step up its food production, Portugal has a vital need for fertilizer, to be met, as far as possible, without raising the

import bill. The new facilities should lead to the creation of about 120 jobs and safeguard a further 300;

(ii) 8 million EUA, granted for twelve years at 8.85% to finance the installation of new plant at Barreiro to produce glass fibre, polyester resin for reinforced plastics and base materials for the manufacture of polyurethanes. These investments form part of the company's efforts to move into new sectors with good market prospects. At the same time, the project will widen the technology base of Portuguese industry and make a favourable impact on the balance-of-payments. About 200 new jobs should be created;

(iii) third loan, for 10 million EUA (fourteen years at 8.9%) goes towards the installation of plant that will serve to increase cement production at the Souselas (near Coimbra) works of Cimentos de Portugal EP (CIMPOR).

The project is a key element in the company's investment programme aimed at raising its capacity from 4.4 to 5.5 million tonnes per annum. A substantial increase in national cement production will in the years ahead forestall any shortage that could inhibit the building industry or compel the country to resort to imports. Quite apart from the significance of the venture in terms of employment in the construction sector, the new plant should itself involve the creation of 145 jobs.

These three loans totalling 35 million EUA constitute the first round of operations to be mounted in respect of the 200 million EUA provided for in the Financial Protocol for EIB lending in support of investment projects assisting Portugal's economic development.

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Under the exceptional emergency aid offered by the Community towards the end of 1975, the EIB has already granted loans in Portugal, in 1976 and 1977, for 150 million EUA. These went to industrial and energy projects, irrigation schemes and port works; all the loans were at interest rates of between 5.9 to 6.5%, after deduction of a three-point interest subsidy funded out of the Community budget.

Papua-New Guinea

2.3.73. Under the terms of the Lomé Convention, the European Investment Bank has provided finance totalling 8.9 million EUA (roughly 8.01 million kina) for construction

of a palm oil mill, plus storage and loading installations, in Papua-New Guinea. This is the Bank's first operation in Papua-New Guinea, which adhered to the Lomé Convention on 28 March 1977.

The finance is made available in two forms:

(i) a loan of 7 million EUA granted to Higaturu Processing Proprietary Ltd. (HPPL), of which half the capital is held by the State and half by the Commonwealth Development Corporation (United Kingdom); the loan is for fifteen years at an interest rate of 5.65%, taking into account a 3% interest subsidy from the Community's European Development Fund (EDF);

(ii) a conditional loan worth 1.9 million EUA (term fixed in principle at twenty years, interest at 2%) granted to the State to finance its contribution to an increase in HPPL's capital; this loan is provided from EDF resources set aside under the terms of the Lomé Convention for risk capital operations managed by the EIB. The loan allows for the reimbursement schedule to be modified according to the levels of profitability reached by the plant.

The scheme which the Bank is helping to finance calls for a total investment of 20.7 million EUA. The oil mill should gradually build up production to some 43 000 tonnes per year, all for export. It will form part of an agro-industrial complex, work on which began last year; this will include a 4 000-hectare main plantation, providing about 1 000 jobs, and 5 600 hectares of smallholder plantations, run by 1 400 farmers and their families. The oil mill itself should create 160 jobs.

Apart from the EIB loans, finance for the oil mill is also being provided by the Commonwealth Development Corporation.

Nigeria

2.3.74. Under the Lomé Convention the European Investment Bank has granted a global loan of 25 million EUA (about 21 million naira) to the Nigerian Industrial Development Bank Ltd (NIDB) which will on-lend the funds, with the EIB's agreement, for medium-scale industrial venture throughout the country.

This is the EIB's first operation in Nigeria which in terms of its population and natural resources, especially its oil industry, is one of the most important developing countries in Africa.

The loan is the largest yet made by the EIB under the Lomé Convention; it is for eleven years at an interest rate of 5.75%, after deduction of a 3% interest subsidy from the Community's European Development Fund.

The main shareholder in the NIDB is the State; it was constituted in 1964 to provide equity and long-term loan finance for manufacturing, mining and hotel projects.

Its operations have grown at a rapid pace over the last few years; during the period 1975-77 it approved loan and equity investments worth 232 million EUA in over sixty individual projects, involving the creation of an estimated 37 000 jobs.

In addition to the EIB loan, external financial support for the NIDB's activities is also being provided by the World Bank.

Global loans, which have been used to effect by the EIB in most of the Community Member Countries and also Greece, Turkey and Portugal, have become an important means of providing aid under the Lomé Convention.

Zaire

2.3.75. Three Community loans totalling 19.8 million EUA have been made to the Republic of Zaire to help finance construction of an oil mill and road improvements.

A total of 5.8 million EUA goes to the oil mill project, in Gosuma (Ubangi region). This mill, together with associated large-scale and smallholder plantations established with other Community financial support, is to be run by the State-owned *Palmeraies du Zaire* (PALMEZA). The funds are provided in two forms:

(i) a conditional loan for 4 million EUA (term fixed, in principle, at twenty years; interest at 2%) made available by the Bank, acting as agent for the European Community, using European Development Fund resources set aside under the Lomé Convention for various kinds of risk capital operations managed by the EIB;

(ii) a loan on special conditions for 1.8 million EUA provided as part of financial aid arrangements under the second Yaoundé Convention, by the Commission and

the EIB, acting as agent for the Community; the term is forty years, the interest rate 1%.

The total cost of the industrial investment is put at the equivalent of 8 million EUA. The Republic of Zaire will be contributing something like 1 million EUA from its own budget and a further soft loan, for about 1.2 million EUA, is being provided by the Commission under the terms of the Lomé Convention.

The Gosuma agro-industrial complex forms part of the Zaire Government's national plan for stimulating production of palm oil and palm nuts and kernels. The project will have a favourable impact on value added, the country's balance of payments and public finances.

In addition to these two loans, the Commission and the EIB, again acting as agent for the Community, have concluded a finance contract with the Republic of Zaire for a loan on special conditions amounting to 14 million EUA.

Made available for forty years at a rate of 1% as financial aid under the second Yaoundé Convention, this loan will go towards improving and asphaltting the Penetungu-Lubutu section of the Kisangani-Bukavu road.

One of the cornerstones of Zaire's economic recovery programme, this road project will link Bukavu, the chief town in the agricultural and tourist region of Kivu, with Kisangani, the chief town in Upper Zaire, which in turn is linked with Kinshasa by river.

Financing Community activities

Budgets

General Budget for 1979

2.3.76. At the part-session from 11 to 15 December,¹ Parliament made no amendments whatever to the Draft Budget as

amended and modified by the Council at its second reading on 20 November.² Instead Parliament invoked the last sentence of Article 203 (6) of the EEC Treaty, which reads: 'If within this period [fifteen days after the Draft Budget is placed before the Assembly by the Council] the Assembly has not acted, the Budget shall be deemed to be finally adopted.' The President of Parliament accordingly declared that the procedure provided for in Article 203 (7) had been completed and that the Budget had been finally adopted. He announced that the Budget—as adopted—would be published in the Official Journal of the European Communities.

The Budget adopted raised the appropriations for the European Regional Development Fund to 1 100 million EUA in appropriations for commitment and 553 million EUA in appropriations for payment. This was the result of an amendment made by Parliament at the first reading which the Council did not change in the second reading because it was unable to produce the qualified majority required. A further consequence was that the maximum rate of increase for non-compulsory expenditure was exceeded as regards appropriations for commitment.

On 19 December the President of the Council sent the President of Parliament a letter in which he stated that the adoption of the Budget was not in accordance with Article 203 of the Treaty, since a new rate of increase for non-compulsory expenditure had not been fixed by agreement between the Council and Parliament. The Council added that it reserved its position on the consequences of the situation and that in due course it would decide what action was required under the Treaties. The letter states that the Council is prepared to continue the dialogue with Parliament if the latter wishes.

¹ Point 2.3.4.

² Bull. EC 11-1978, point 2.3.92.



In his reply dated 22 December the President of Parliament confirmed the result of Parliament's deliberations.

The Commission, which had in fact earlier publicly and to the budgetary authority expressed reservations about certain points of the procedure, took the view that the Budget had been formally adopted and could therefore be implemented.

It has stated its willingness to participate in any discussions on the interpretation of the provisions in question between the two bodies constituting the budgetary authority.

The changes introduced in the main stages of the budgetary procedure are shown in table.

The estimated revenue comprises—in addition to the traditional own resources (agricultural levies, customs duties and sugar levies)—VAT-based payments in the case of Belgium, Denmark, France, Italy, the Netherlands and the United Kingdom, and GNP-based contributions in the case of Ireland, Luxembourg and the Federal Republic of Germany: these three States had informed the budgetary authority and the Commission that they would not be ready to apply the sixth and ninth Directives on the harmonization of the VAT base on 1 January 1979.¹

Amendment of the Financial Regulation

2.3.77. After further contacts between the Council and Parliament under the conciliation procedure,² on 12 December the Council adopted a revised common position which includes some of the amendments put forward by the Commission in its proposal of 12 June 1978 amending the Financial Regulation of 21 December 1977.

The new provisions embody the Commission's proposals on research and investment

appropriations (except for the indicative nature of the financial ceilings for the programmes) and the carrying-over of appropriations. For borrowing and lending operations, Parliament and the Council have still to reach agreement.

ECSC Operational Budget

2.3.78. The Commission consulted Parliament and the ECSC Consultative Committee, which both came out in favour of maintaining the ECSC levy rate at 0.29%. The Member States are to make a special contribution of 32 million EUA, chiefly to meet the finance requirements resulting from the steel crisis. In view of other available resources (including interest yield on investments and on loans granted out of non-borrowed funds, cancelled commitments which will not be used), the Commission therefore decided on 22 December to fix the levy rate for 1979 at 0.29%. As a result of this decision it will be possible to cover the requirements of 152 million EUA from the ECSC Operational Budget. The requirements break down as follows:

	<i>million EUA</i>
Administrative expenditure	5
Readaptation aid	67
Research aid	47
Interest relief grants on loans for investment and industrial conversion	27
Coking coal aid	6

The main differences between this budget and the one for the previous year are the increase in the appropriations for readaptation (67 million EUA against 60 million in 1978) and research (47 million EUA against 41 million in 1978), and the decrease in appropria-

¹ Bull. EC 11-1978, point 2.3.91.

² Bull. EC 6-1978, point 2.3.99 and 11-1978, point 2.3.94.

tions for interest relief (27 million EUA against 40 million in 1977).

The amount set aside for interest relief has had to be reduced from the 55 million EUA entered in the Draft Budget to 27 million owing to the corresponding reduction in the Member States' contributions (32 million instead of 60 million EUA).

In 1979 the Commission will continue to discuss with the Council how additional resources should be allocated to ECSC requirements.

Financial operations

ECSC

Loans raised

2.3.79. The Commission raised the following loans in December:

- (i) a private placing of USD 40 million carrying an interest rate of 9.25% for twelve years;
- (ii) various placings totalling DM 60 million carrying interest rates of between 6% and 6.75% for terms of between six and ten years;
- (iii) a USD 50 million bond issue underwritten by an international consortium of banks. The bonds carry an annual interest of 9.75% for the first five years and 9% for the remaining fifteen years. They were issued at 99% of their nominal value and are to be listed on the Luxembourg stock exchange;
- (iv) a private placing of SFR 100 million at an interest rate of 2.50%, for three years.

Loans granted

Loans paid

2.3.80. Under Article 54 of the ECSC Treaty, the Commission paid out loans totalling 63.7 million EUA in December.

Industrial loans amounting to 60.1 million EUA were made to six undertakings to finance the following programmes:

Industrial loans

Coal industry

Rationalization and modernization of collieries

National Coal Board, London:

- North Yorkshire (Sharlston colliery)
- South Yorkshire (Barnburgh, Manvers, Manton, Yorkshire Main and Hatfield collieries)
- West Yorkshire (Bowers Row distribution centre)
- Derbyshire (Oxcroft colliery)
- Cheshire (Holditch colliery)
- Nottinghamshire (Bilsthorpe, Ollerton, Gedling and Mansfield collieries)
- Staffordshire (Hayes distribution centre)
- Greater Manchester (Parsonage colliery)
- Tyne and Wear (Wearmouth colliery)

Steel industry

Restructuring projects

- Acciaierie e Ferriere Lombarde Falck SpA, Milan (Sesto S. Giovanni and Vobarno works)
- ARBED SA Luxembourg (Esch-Belval, Differdange, and Schiffange works)

- Thyssen Aktiengesellschaft vorm. August Thyssen-Hütte, Duisburg (Oberhausen works)

Modernization of wire rod production

- Acciaierie di Bolzano SpA, Bolzano (Bolzano works)

Rationalization of section production

- Acciaierie e Ferriere Beltrame SpA, Vicenza

Low-cost housing

Loans for the construction or fitting-out of low-cost housing amounted to 3.6 million EUA.

Loan decisions

2.3.81. The Commission also decided to grant two loans under the first paragraph of Article 54 of the ECSC Treaty and obtained the Council assent to the grant of further loans under the second paragraph of Article 54 and Article 56(2).

These loans will total 41.7 million EUA and are to be granted to the following undertakings:

Industrial loans

Steel industry

Infrastructure project

- SA Finolor, Paris (Richemont/Moselle works)

Rationalization of pig-iron and steel production

- Brymbo Steel Works Ltd, Wrexham
- Fabbrica Italiana Tubi Ferrotubi SpA, Milan (Trigoso/Sestri Levante works)

Conversion loans

United Kingdom — South Wales

Rockwool Ltd, London (Wern Tarw works, near Bridgend, Mid-Glamorgan)

Girling Midland Ross Air Actuation Ltd, Birmingham (Tafarnaubach works, Ebbw Vale, Gwent)

Luxembourg

Société Nationale de Crédit et d'Investissements (SNCI), Luxembourg (for small and medium-sized firms)

France — Lorraine

Compagnie électro-mécanique, Paris (Maizières-les-Metz/Moselle works)

Euratom

Loan raised

2.3.82. The Commission raised the following loan in December on behalf of Euratom: a USD 50 million private placing carrying an interest rate of 9½%, payable annually, for a term of twelve years. The proceeds will be used to finance investment by firms eligible for Euratom loans.

Loans granted

Loan decision

2.3.83. The Commission has decided to grant the Ente Nazionale per l'Energia Elettrica (ENEL) a loan of USD 49.4 million, at an annual interest rate of 9.75% for a term of about twelve years.

This loan is to assist the financing of the construction of the two units of the nuclear power station at Montalto di Castro, Latium,

Financing Community activities



which together will have an output of about 2 000 MW. This is the first loan granted by Euratom to an Italian firm under the Council Decision of 29 March 1977 for encouraging investment in the nuclear production of electricity in order to reduce the Community's dependence on imported energy.



PART THREE

DOCUMENTATION

1. Units of account

Units of account

European unit of account

Changeover from the unit of account to the EUA

3.1.1. On account of the severe disturbances in international monetary relationships and the replacement of the system of fixed parities by floating exchange rates, the Community decided to introduce a new unit of account. Whereas the old unit of account (u.a.) was defined by reference to a given weight of fine gold, with fixed parities, the new 'basket' unit of account (EUA) reflects the day-to-day fluctuations between the various currencies on the foreign exchange markets

A 'basket' unit of account is made up of different national currencies; the European unit of account is thus defined by reference to a sum of fixed amounts of Member States' currencies. When the EUA was introduced in 1975, these fixed amounts were obviously not chosen at random but took account, among other things, of the size of each Member State's economy.

The value of one EUA is the sum of the values of the following amounts: BFR 3.66, LFR 0.14, DM 0.828, HFL 0.286, UKL 0.0885, DKR 0.217, FF 1.15, LIT 109 and IRL 0.00759.

Depending on whether the rates of these different currencies are those recorded on the market in Brussels, Copenhagen or Paris, etc., the rate of the European unit of account is given in Belgian francs, Danish kroner or French francs, etc. The effect of this definition is that the value of the EUA in any national currency moves in line with changes in the weighted average of exchange rates in all the currencies in the basket; in other words, it reflects the aggregate movement in those currencies (Table 1)

The value of the EUA in the Member States' currencies is determined each day by the Commission on the basis of the official exchange rates notified by Member States' central banks; the value of the EUA is also calculated in a number of other currencies. Rates for the value of the EUA in the various national currencies are published

Table 1 — Values in national currencies of one European Unit of Account

National currency	1 December ¹	15 December ²	29 December ³
Belgian franc and Luxembourg franc	39.8765	39.8155	39.6543
German mark	2.51734	2.51520	2.50868
Dutch guilder	2.73449	2.72568	2.71453
Pound sterling	0.671600	0.669847	0.675274
Danish krone	7.00159	7.00064	6.99113
French franc	5.78555	5.78584	5.75538
Italian lira	1 109.39	1 124.80	1 140.06
Irish pound	0.671600	0.669847	0.675274
United States dollar	1.30028	1.32674	1.37688
Swiss franc	2.26314	2.23569	2.22839
Spanish peseta	93.2129	94.5062	96.2307
Swedish krona	5.78843	5.85306	5.86949
Norwegian krone	6.71039	6.78750	6.90841
Canadian dollar	1.52288	1.56877	1.62918
Portuguese escudo	61.0666	61.8013	61.4795
Austrian schilling	18.4144	18.3990	18.2739
Finish mark	5.28866	5.34615	5.43954
Japanese yen	263.272	260.079	265.566

¹ OJ C 289 of 2 12 1978.

² OJ C 302 of 16 12 1978

³ OJ C 312 of 30 12 1978

daily.¹ In addition, anyone may contact the Commission to obtain this information.

Scope of application of the EUA

3.1.2. Since it was devised in 1975, the EUA has been phased into use in various areas of Community activity: 1975: ACP-EEC Lomé Convention (Council Decision of 21 April 1975);² balance sheet of the European Investment Bank (Decisions of the Board of Governors dated 18 March 1975 and 10 November 1977);

1976: ECSC operational budget (Commission Decision of 18 December 1975);³

1978: General budget of the Communities (Financial Regulation of 21 December 1977);⁴ 'customs matters (Council Regulation of 23 November 1978).⁵

The European unit of account is now used in all areas of Community activity, apart from the common agricultural policy, operations of the European Monetary Co-operation Fund (EMCF).

The EUA has also been in use for some time in the fields of banking and commerce (Table 2).

Table 2 — *Annual interest rates on bank deposits denominated in EUA*

	1 December 1978	15 December 1978	29 December 1978
1 month	8 - 9	7 ¹⁵ / ₁₆ - 8 ¹⁵ / ₁₆	7 ¹ / ₈ - 8 ¹ / ₈
3 months	8 ⁷ / ₁₆ - 9 ⁷ / ₁₆	8 ³ / ₁₆ - 9 ³ / ₁₆	7 ⁵ / ₈ - 8 ⁵ / ₈
6 months	8 ⁹ / ₁₆ - 9 ⁹ / ₁₆	8 ⁷ / ₁₆ - 9 ⁷ / ₁₆	7 ¹⁵ / ₁₆ - 8 ¹⁵ / ₁₆
12 months	8 ¹¹ / ₁₆ - 9 ¹¹ / ₁₆	8 ⁷ / ₁₆ - 9 ⁷ / ₁₆	8 ¹ / ₄ - 9 ¹ / ₄

(Rates prevailing in Brussels)

'Green' rates

3.1.3. The old unit of account (u.a.) is still used in connection with the common agricultural policy. However, the conversion procedures applied have been substantially modified; conversion into national currencies

of common agricultural prices expressed in units of account (u.a.) has long ceased to be based on fixed parities determined by reference to a given weight of fine gold and is now determined by 'representative rates', which are used in the agricultural field only. Generally referred to as 'green' rates, representative rates are fixed by decision of the Council (Table 3). The difference between these rates and the rates obtaining on the exchanges is offset by monetary compensatory amounts.

The market rates for the snake currencies (Benelux, Denmark, Federal Republic of Germany) are taken to be

Table 3 — *Conversion rates into national currencies for the unit of account used in connection with the common agricultural policy*

National currency	December 1978
Belgian franc and Luxembourg franc	49.3486
Danish krone	8.56656
German mark	{ 3.41258 ¹ 3.40238 ⁵
French franc	{ 6.45761 ² 6.00103 ¹ 6.22514 ⁵
Irish pound	0.739700 ¹ 0.786912 ⁵
Italian lira	{ 1 096.00 ³ 1 030.00 ⁴ 1 154.00 ⁵
Dutch guilder	3.40270
Pound sterling	{ 0.586638 ¹ 0.634204 ⁵

¹ For olive oil, wine (until 15 December) and fisheries products.

² For pigmeat.

³ For wine (until 15 December)

⁴ For olive oil and fisheries products.

⁵ For other products.

¹ In the Official Journal of the European Communities and in the press.

² OJ L 104 of 24.4.1975.

³ OJ L 327 of 19.12.1975.

⁴ OJ L 356 of 31.12.1977.

⁵ OJ L 333 of 30.11.1978.

2. Additional references in the Official Journal

Units of account

their central rates, with the result that the compensatory amounts for these countries are not changed unless the central rates and the representative rates are adjusted. The monetary compensatory amounts for the other Member States are normally fixed each week on the basis of the average exchange rate of the relevant national currency against the currencies in the snake.

3.2.1. This section lists the titles of legal instruments and notices of Community institutions or organs which have appeared in the Official Journal since the last Bulletin was published but relating to items appearing in earlier issues of the Bulletin; the references were not available when the Bulletin went to press.

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

Bull. EC 11-1978

Point 2.1.7.

Proposal for a Council Directive on the approximation of the laws, regulations and administrative provisions of the Member States relating to construction products.
OJ C 308, 23.12.1978.

Point 2.1.28

Council Regulation (EEC) No 2899/78 of 23 November 1978 opening, allocating and providing for the administration of a Community tariff quota for wines of fresh grapes, falling within subheading ex 22.05 C of the Common Customs Tariff and originating in Cyprus (1979)

Council Regulation (EEC) No 2900/78 of 23 November 1978 opening, allocating and providing for the administration of a Community tariff quota for liqueur wines, falling within subheading ex 22.05 C of the Common Customs Tariff and originating in Cyprus (1979)

Council Regulation (EEC) No 2901/78 of 27 November 1978 temporarily and partially suspending the autonomous Common Customs Tariff duties on certain types of fish.

Council Regulation (EEC) No 2902/78 of 28 November 1978 temporarily suspending the autonomous Common Customs Tariff duties on certain industrial products
OJ L 349, 13.12.1978.

Point 2.1.114

Proposal for a Council Decision adopting a research and training programme (1979-1983) for the European Atomic Community in the field of controlled thermonuclear fusion
OJ C 299, 13.12.1978.

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It is imperative that orders give the complete reference which precedes each title.

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DA Dansk	Mult. Et enkelt bind med forskellige tekster på flere sprog	p. Side
DE Deutsch	Ein einziger Band mit verschiedenen Texten in mehreren Sprachen	Seite
EN English	A single volume with different texts in several languages	Page
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ACP-EEC Convention of Lomé
(signed 28 February 1975)
Compilations of texts.

III – 1 September 1977 – 30 September 1978.
1978. 187 p. limited distribution

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Ein Parlament für Europa.
Die erste Direktwahl des Europäischen Parlaments.
Juli 1978, 4. rev. Ausgabe.
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III – 1^o settembre 1977 – 30 settembre 1978.
1978. 187 p. diffusione limitata

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III – 1 september 1977 – 30 september 1978.
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KOMMISSIONEN - KOMMISSION - COMMISSION
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**Bibliography on Community relations with the
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1978.
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naio 1978.
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CB-24-78-144-EN-C ISBN 92-825-0369-0
Practical Guide to the Use of the European Communities' Scheme of Generalized Tariff Preferences. 1 May 1978.

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Comparison in real values of the aggregates of ESA 1975. January 1978.
Comparaison en valeurs réelles des agrégats de SEC 1975. Janvier 1978.
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Landbrugsstatistiske studier - 21. 1978.
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1978. 290 p. (DE).
BFR 240 DKR 41,50 DM 15,30 FF 33,80
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CA-AB-78-013-FR-C ISSN 0378-360X
Informations de l'Eurostat.
Numéro spécial.
1978. 214 p. (Mult.) Gratuit

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Handelingen van het Europese Parlement

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Trykt udgivelse: Abonnement fra marts 1978 til marts 1979.

Gedruckte Ausgabe: Abonnement von März 1978 bis März 1979.

Printed paper edition: Subscription from March 1978 to March 1979.

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Op papier gedrukte uitgave: Abonnement van maart 1978 tot maart 1979.

Udgivelse på mikrofilmkort: levering med en tidsforskydning på tre måneder i forhold til den trykte udgivelse.

For Parlamentets session 1978-1979: 1. del, slutningen af oktober 1978; 2. del, slutningen af november 1978; 3. del, slutningen af februar 1979; 4. del, slutningen af maj 1979.

Abonnement fra marts 1978 til marts 1979.

Ausgabe auf Planfilm: Lieferung jeweils im Abstand von drei Monaten nach Erscheinen der gedruckten Ausgabe.

Für das Parlamentsjahr 1978-1979 sind folgende Lieferungen vorgesehen: 1. Teillieferung: Ende Oktober 1978; 2. Teillieferung: Ende November 1978; 3. Teillieferung: Ende Februar 1979; 4. Teillieferung: Ende Mai 1979.

Abonnement von März 1978 bis März 1979.

Microfiches edition: delivery about three months after the parallel printed paper edition.

For the 1978-1979 parliamentary year, deliveries are scheduled as follows: Batch I, end of October 1978; Batch II, end of November 1978; Batch III, end of February 1979; Batch IV, end of May 1979.

Subscription from March 1978 to March 1979.

Édition microfiches: livraison avec un décalage de 3 mois sur l'édition imprimée.

Pour l'année parlementaire 1978-1979, les livraisons sont prévues: 1^{re} tranche, fin octobre 1978; 2^e tranche, fin novembre 1978; 3^e tranche, fin février 1979; 4^e tranche, fin mai 1979.

Abonnement de mars 1978 à mars 1979.

Edizione su microschede: consegna con un ritardo di tre mesi rispetto all'edizione stampata.

Per l'anno parlamentare 1978-1979, le consegne sono previste: prima serie, fine ottobre 1978; seconda serie, fine novembre 1978; terza serie, fine febbraio 1979; quarta serie, fine maggio 1979.

Abbonamento da marzo 1978 a marzo 1979.

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Bulletin of the European Communities
Bulletin des Communautés européennes
Bollettino delle Comunità europee
Bulletin van de Europese Gemeenschappen
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La situazione economica della Comunità	ISSN 0378-3499
De economische toestand van de Gemeenschap	ISSN 0378-3642

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LIT 71 500 HFL 204 UKL 48 USD 83

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Industriens konjunkturindikatorer
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BFR 1 250	DKR 205	DM 79,50	FF 168
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Production végétale
Produzione vegetale
Plantaardige produktie

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BFR 2 500	DKR 410	DM 158,50	FF 336
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Statistiche mensili delle uova
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Salgspriser for animalske produkter
Verkaufspreise tierischer Produkte
Selling prices of animal products
Prix de vente de produits animaux
Prezzi di vendita dei prodotti animali
Verkoopprijzen van dierlijke produkten

I

E

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Salgspriser for vegetabiliske produkter
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E'

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Einkaufspreise der Betriebsmittel
Purchase prices of the means of production
Prix d'achat des moyens de production
Prezzi d'acquisto dei mezzi di produzione
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F

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Landbrugsmarkeder - Seriepriser: Animalske produkter
Agrarmärkte - Serie Preise: Tierische Produkte
Agricultural Markets - Series Prices: Livestock Products
Marchés agricoles - Série Prix: Produits animaux
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Marchés agricoles - Série Prix: Produits végétaux
Mercati agricoli - Serie Prezzi: Prodotti vegetali
Landbouwmakten - Serie Prijzen: Plantaardige produkten

B

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} A + B

EG-Index der Erzeugerpreise landwirtschaftlicher Produkte
EC-index of producer prices of agricultural products
Indice CE des prix à la production des produits agricoles
Indice CE dei prezzi alla produzione dei prodotti agricoli

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Nouvelle de la politique agricole commune
Notizie sulla politica agricola comune
Landbouwbulletin

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Gratis / Gratis / Gratis / Gratuit / Gratuito / Gratis

Ekspresinformation – Vegetabilsk produktion
Schnellbericht – Pflanzliche Erzeugung
Rapid information – Crop production
Note rapide – Production végétale
Nota rapida – Produzione vegetale
Spoedbericht – Plantaardige produktie

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Schnellbericht – Agrarpreise
Rapid information – Agricultural Prices
Note rapide – Prix agricoles
Nota rapida – Prezzi agricoli
Spoedbericht – Landbouwprizen

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Le Courier - Communauté européenne - Afrique-Caraïbes-Pacifique

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ISSN 0378-4401

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ISSN 0378-3472

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Månedsbulletin for almen statistik
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Bollettino mensile delle statistiche generali
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Timelønninger. Arbejdstid
Stundenverdienste. Arbeitszeit
Hourly earnings. Hours of work
Gains horaires. Durée du travail
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