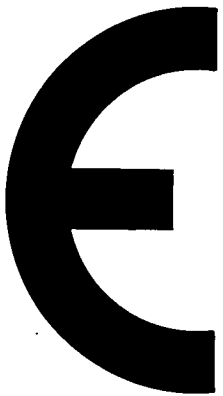


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contents

PART ONE **SPECIAL FEATURES**

- | | |
|---|----|
| 1. Brussels European Council | 7 |
| 2. Review of the common agricultural policy and adoption of agricultural prices for 1984/85 | 10 |
| 3. The EMS after five years | 15 |

PART TWO **ACTIVITIES IN MARCH 1984**

- | | |
|--|----|
| 1. Building the Community | 18 |
| — Economic and monetary policy | 18 |
| — Internal market and industrial affairs | 18 |
| — Industrial innovation and the information market | 27 |
| — Customs union | 28 |
| — Competition | 29 |
| — Financial institutions and taxation | 33 |
| — Employment, education and social policy | 35 |
| — Culture | 39 |
| — Regional policy | 40 |
| — Environment and consumers | 42 |
| — Agriculture | 45 |
| — Fisheries | 54 |
| — Transport | 56 |
| — Energy | 59 |
| — Nuclear safety | 60 |
| — Research and development | 61 |

2. Enlargement and external relations	64
— Enlargement and bilateral relations with applicant countries	64
— Commercial policy	65
— Relations with industrialized countries	68
— Relations with other countries and regions	69
• Mediterranean countries	69
• State-trading countries	71
— Development	71
— International organizations and conferences	75
— Diplomatic relations	76
3. Financing Community activities	77
4. Institutional and political matters	78
— European political cooperation	78
— European policy and relations between the institutions	81
— Institutions and organs of the Communities	82
• Parliament	82
• Council	92
• Commission	94
• Court of Justice	94
• Court of Auditors	102
• Economic and Social Committee	102
• ECSC Consultative Committee	104
• European Investment Bank	105

PART THREE DOCUMENTATION

1. ECU	110
2. Additional references in the Official Journal	111
3. Infringement procedures	111
4. European cultural identity	114
Publications of the European Communities	

Supplements 1984

*1/84 Unfair terms in contracts concluded with consumers

* In preparation.

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PART ONE

SPECIAL FEATURES

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

ECU = European currency unit

BFR = Belgische frank / Franc belge

DKR = Dansk krone

DM = Deutsche Mark

DR = Greek drachma

FF = Franc français

HFL = Nederlandse gulden (Hollandse florijn)

IRL = Irish pound / punt

LFR = Franc luxembourgeois

LIT = Lira italiana

UKL = Pound sterling

USD = United States dollar

1. Brussels European Council

1.1.1. The first European Council of the year took place in Brussels on 19 and 20 March, following intense preparations¹ to avoid a repetition of the failure in Athens.² Although a number of agreements were reached on the basis of draft conclusions drawn up by the French Presidency, the European Council was unable to agree on a solution to the problem of the British contribution to the Community budget. Since all the other partial agreements reached on other matters were conditional upon an overall agreement, in principle they became a dead letter. No conclusions were adopted and Mr Mitterrand, like Mr Andreas Papandreu in Athens, said that it would be inappropriate to make any political statements on the Middle East or East-West relations, when no overall agreement had been reached on internal Community policy problems.

Nevertheless, considerable progress was made and subject to an overall agreement, the following points were agreed:

(i) confirmation of the agreement on the overall compromise regarding the reform of the common agricultural policy obtained at the Council meetings from 11 to 13 March and 16 and 17 March: limits to milk production, flexibility of national quotas, advantages for small-scale producers, fixing of agricultural prices and the gradual dismantling of MCAs. However, the problems which the Agriculture Ministers had left for the European Council were not resolved (special arrangements for Irish milk—Ireland pleading a vital national interest on this point—Community participation in compensation for German farmers following the dismantling of the MCAs, measures for products other than milk). Solutions to these problems were found at the Council meeting on 30 and 31 March;³

(ii) the launching of a number of new policies and the integrated Mediterranean programmes; an increase in financial resources allocated to the Funds;

(iii) a decision to activate the enlargement negotiations so that they could be completed by September this year (national par-

liaments will then ratify the Treaties at the same time as they ratify the increase in own resources);

(iv) measures to contain the growth in the Community budget, i.e. the question of 'budgetary and financial discipline': firstly, the growth in agricultural spending calculated over three years must be kept below the rate of increase in the own resources base; secondly, the Council undertakes not to exceed the maximum rate of increase for non-compulsory expenditure as laid down in Article 203 of the Treaty;

(v) the maximum VAT own resources rate will be 1.4% from 1 January 1986, provided the instruments for enlargement and the creation of new own resources are ratified by the national parliaments at the same time; it is already envisaged that, subject to a unanimous decision by the Council and ratification by the national parliaments, this rate could be raised to 1.6% on 1 January 1988.

The discussion of the British budget contribution could be summed up in this way: was a mechanism necessary? If so, for how long? On the basis of what figures?

The Ten agreed on the principle of the following mechanism: the imbalance to be corrected in a given country would be calculated by comparing its share of VAT payments and its share of Community budget expenditure. Thus no account would be taken of agricultural levies and customs duties which belong to the Community and which derive from purchases made outside the Community. The principle of Community preference remained fundamental.

Any imbalance above a certain threshold would be corrected to an extent varying with the relative wealth of the Member State in question.

The correction would be made by a deduction from the VAT own-resources payments

¹ Bull. EC 1-1984, point 2.4.3; Bull. EC 2-1984, point 2.4.9.

² Bull. EC 12-1983, point 1.1.1 *et seq.*

³ Point 1.2.1 *et seq.*

due from the country concerned the following year. The resulting cost would be divided among all the Member States according to their normal share of VAT payments. The mechanism would be linked to the lifetime of the new own resources set up by the decision to raise the VAT ceiling. This formula had been accepted by all the Member States. For the agreement to become operative, there had to be further agreement on the amount of the correction that would be produced by application of the mechanism to the 1983 budget figures. This would then enable the Council to fix the parameters of the mechanism (threshold and rate of compensation). This was where the difficulties arose: despite various compromises offered, it proved impossible to eliminate completely the gap between the British Government and the other Member States.

Did that mean then, asked Mr Mitterrand President of the European Council, at his press conference, that Europe was in serious difficulties over a matter of two or three hundred million ECU? Certainly not, but negotiations had ended in discussions about principles. The fundamental principles of the Community had been called into question.

The United Kingdom's initial position had been to include agricultural levies and customs duties when calculating its contribution. However, these duties and levies were the Community's own, and the nine other delegations agreed on this point.

Mr Mitterrand then went on to talk about the future. He would continue his tour of the capitals to prepare for the European Council in June. He announced a new initiative: 'I want to ask all the countries of the Community, in particular those which were involved in Europe from the outset, to meet up and discuss what can be done to safeguard Europe ... We will make a fresh start,' he concluded, 'which means we will carry on. The Ten have received another blow, but for those of us who are ready to fight on, the cause is not lost.'

Mrs Thatcher, the British Prime Minister, said that she had appreciated President Mit-

terrand's efforts and that he had been very cooperative and steadfast in seeking a solution. She hoped that the problems would be solved by the European Council in June or even earlier.

While Mr Bettino Craxi, the Italian Prime Minister, spoke of a 'paralysed Community' and Mr Wilfried Martens, the Belgian Prime Minister, deplored 'the failure of the European Council and its inability to settle the Community budget problem', the West German Chancellor, Mr Helmut Kohl, said that although the actual outcome has been the worst imagined, essential progress had nevertheless been made on a great many specific matters.

1.1.2. Mr Thorn told the press that the Commission would prepare proposals to enable the Council to give shape to the points on which agreement had been reached within the European Council. President Mitterrand had listed the points of agreement and had also specified that these would be presented to the various Council meetings so that decisions could be taken on them.

The Foreign Ministers accordingly met again on 27 March to resume discussions on the basis of the draft conclusions of the Presidency. They confirmed the points of agreement and re-opened negotiations on the issue which had proved the stumbling block of the European Council, the British budgetary contribution. However, the discussions foundered on both the operation of the corrective mechanism and the reference amounts for the first year of operation (planned to be 1985).

In the absence of any agreement on correcting the budget imbalance, the Council recorded that no progress was possible beyond the point reached in the European Council and it agreed to take the matter up again at its next meeting on 9 and 10 April. The Agriculture Ministers resumed discussions on the same day and on 31 March reached a unanimous overall agreement¹

¹ Points 1.2.1 *et seq.* and 2.1.113 to 2.1.120.

covering both the conditional agreements reached between 11 and 17 March and the points outstanding from the European Council.

1.1.3. The failure of the European Council was the subject of two important statements to Parliament on 28 March, one from the President of the Council, Mr Claude Cheysson, the other from the President of the Commission, Mr Gaston Thorn. Mr Cheysson began by outlining the many points of agreement and stated his optimism because only two obstacles remained. He was optimistic when he compared what was at stake with the small amount that was causing the dispute. However, he was pessimistic to see that so much time put in by such a representative selection of people had not enabled either matter to be settled; authority and credibility had been lost in the eyes of those abroad who expected so much from Europe and so too—quite honestly—had hope in the European ideal.

Mr Thorn had the following to say:

'This new summit failure is unfortunately just another in a long line—and more's the pity. I fear that it is a sign of a slow but sure deterioration of political will. It also reveals an inability on the part of certain Member States to look beyond their national interests or at least to put them in second place behind the maintenance of an efficient and dynamic Community.'

Although, thanks to the French Presidency, there were signs in Brussels of a basis for an overall agreement on the essential matters, many points in that agreement were nevertheless not sound enough to form a base from which we could really make a fresh start.'

After repeating the main points of agreement, he made statements regarding budgetary discipline and the increase in own resources.

As regards budgetary discipline:

'True, the European Council did accept the provisions put forward by our Commission as regards agricultural expenditure, but not for non-compulsory expenditure. In this respect, it diverged entirely from our proposals and in defining the discipline which the Council will impose on itself, its object is to keep non-compulsory expenditure within the straitjacket formed by the maximum rate; it has discarded the idea put forward by our

Commission for a pre-budget concertation between the three institutions. In doing so there is the risk, regrettably, that Parliament's powers will be diminished. For our part, we have shown that it was wrong to claim that if budget spending was getting out of hand, it was the fault of Parliament's margin of manoeuvre.'

As regards own resources:

'... It was only possible to reach agreement on the basis of the lowest common denominator, namely a 1.4% ceiling ... The communiqué issued by the European Council indicates that a rise to 1.6% would first have to be ratified by the national parliaments or in accordance with national procedures. Personally, I feel that this result is quite unacceptable and our Commission could not possibly take this as the final word. How can you claim to want to get the European Community back on its feet again and then virtually refuse it the means to do so? Fixing the new ceiling at 1.4% most probably means that all the institutions will have to face the financing problem again before three years are out. Can so cheap a price be put on the credibility of the European ideal, which even now is already under siege? To my mind, the new ceiling for own resources needs to be fixed at a higher level to give our Community secure financing ...'

The ensuing debate appeared to lack a firm guiding line, and this was reflected in the fact that no less than seven motions for resolutions from various political groups were submitted, five of which were adopted:

(i) In the resolution moved by Mrs Scrivener (*Lib/F*), Parliament stressed that by virtue of its election, it was responsible for exposing the grave dangers threatening the Community's very existence and repeated its categorical refusal to subscribe to the principle of 'fair returns'; it further requested application of the normal procedures laid down in the Treaties and invited the Commission to draw up proposals immediately to take account of the convergence of views which had emerged during the European Council.

(ii) Mr Barbi's (*PPE/I*) resolution noted that the Heads of State or Government of nine Member States were able to reach agreement on only a few, but nevertheless significant issues, and stressed that only a return to majority voting in the Council would enable the Community to start moving in the right direction.

(iii) In the Committee on Agriculture's resolution, Parliament deplored the fact that the absence of a solution to the financial problems had blocked the agreements reached on agriculture. It called on the Council to adopt, before 1 April, regulations to give effect to the agreement already reached.

(iv) In the resolution tabled by Mr de la Malène (EPD/F) and Mr Lalor (EPD/IRL), Parliament invited all the Heads of State or Government, and in particular the President of the French Republic, to do their best to ensure that the constitutional procedures

for ratifying the draft Treaty on European Union were initiated in each Member State and that the minimum number of accessions required for its entry into force were speedily obtained.

(v) The Arndt (*Soc/D*) resolution considered that a just solution had to be found since the situation was unacceptable for the United Kingdom but that no solution should affect the legal status of own resources, the notion of 'fair returns' had to be rejected and any compensation had to be subject to the rules of the Treaty of Rome.

2. Review of the common agricultural policy and adoption of agricultural prices for 1984/85

Overall agreement in the Council

1.2.1. After a round of meetings throughout March and protracted negotiations at various levels, including those between the Heads of State or Government in the European Council in Brussels,¹ the Ministers of Agriculture reached general agreement, in the early hours of 31 March, on the Commission's set of proposals on the agricultural prices for 1984/85² and on the programme of measures proposed in July 1983 for the rationalization of the common agricultural policy.³

For the first time for a number of years, the new prices can therefore be applied from the beginning of the new marketing year.

The Commission's determination to put the policy back onto economically and financially sounder bases had been supported both by Parliament, which had given its opinion on the Commission's proposals on 15 March,⁴ and by the Economic and Social Committee, in its opinion adopted on 1 March.⁵ In the light of the results of these meetings and in an effort to contribute to

agreement within the Council, the Commission had amended its original proposals on 22 March;⁶ it then put forward new compromise proposals at the Council meeting of 30 and 31 March, thus enabling almost all the 67 regulations embodying the Council's decisions to be adopted unanimously.⁷

The overall agreement has six points:

- (i) a more realistic policy on prices;
- (ii) restoration of a single market by dismantlement of the monetary compensatory amounts;
- (iii) control of milk production through quotas;

¹ Point 1.1.1 *et seq.*

² Points 1.2.2 and 2.1.114.

³ Supplement 4/83 — Bull. EC; Bull. EC 7/8-1983, points 1.1.1 to 1.1.20.

⁴ OJ C 104, 16.4.1984.

⁵ Bull. EC 2-1984, point 2.4.29.

⁶ COM(84) 190 final.

⁷ OJ L 90, 1.4.1984; OJ L 103, 16.4.1984; OJ L 107, 19.4.1984; OJ L 113, 28.4.1984.

- (iv) extension of the principle of guarantee thresholds to new products;
- (v) rationalization of aids and premiums for various products;
- (vi) compliance with Community preference.

Following the Council's meeting, Mr Poul Dalsager, Member of the Commission with special responsibility for agriculture, made the following statement:

'The decisions now taken by the Council of Ministers crown more than three years of effort on the part of the Commission to adapt the common agricultural policy to changed economic circumstances.

During all this time, and particularly since it launched the plan for rationalization of the CAP in June 1983, the Commission has urged the Council to take the necessary decisions. If it had followed the Commission's proposals sooner, the solutions would have been easier. But, at last, the Council has shown its capacity to act, so that the new agricultural prices and other measures can enter into force for the 1984/85 marketing year.

The Council's decisions mark a turning-point in the development of the CAP. They vindicate the efforts of the Commission during the past three years to promote a political consensus in favour of adapting the agricultural policy.

These efforts were not always popular, because the Commission insisted on unpleasant facts and on the need for common rules and common objectives, which can sometimes appear more difficult for Member States than the easy path of economic nationalism. But, in the end, the Commission's aim of rationalizing, rather than renationalizing, the CAP has prevailed.

Not all the reforms proposed by the Commission have been adopted by the Council. For that reason, and because of the delay in the Council's decisions and the deterioration in the market situation, extra resources will be needed to finance the CAP in 1984. The Community must make an effort of financial solidarity with the agricultural population, to mark the consolidation of the agricultural policy on a sounder economic and financial basis for future years.

Looking ahead, the Council must now review the policies for agricultural structures, on the basis of the Commission's proposals which are already on the table. In the field of prices and markets, the Council must continue to build on the progress accomplished. It would be an illusion to suppose that our task is completed. But the Council's decisions have at last put the common agricultural policy on the right path.'

Prices

1.2.2. The Council's decisions endorse the Commission's view that the market situation requires a very cautious policy on prices. In fact, for the first time ever, the average level of prices in ECU adopted by the Council (- 0.5%) actually falls short of the level proposed by the Commission (+ 0.8%). However, if the effect of the agri-monetary measures is included (dismantlement of the positive and negative MCAs), the average increase in agricultural support prices when expressed in national currencies will be 3.3% over the preceding marketing year on average for the Community as a whole. The general inflation rate in the Community having been estimated at 5.1% for 1984, these decisions leave no doubt as to the Council's determination to push through a restrictive prices policy.

With regard to the relativities between the prices, as expressed in ECU, for the various products,¹ the Council broadly endorsed the 'modulated' approach proposed by the Commission. For some Mediterranean products, it approved increases exceeding the Community average.

As for the impact on retail food prices, the decisions will add just over 1% to food prices for the Community as a whole.

The effect on farm incomes cannot be assessed without taking account of the longer-term outlook and productivity gains. If this year's decisions are seen together with those for the three preceding years, the increase in agricultural support prices as expressed in their own currencies has, for most Member States, actually either exceeded the general level of inflation or has not fallen short of general inflation more than by a margin offset by productivity gains normally achieved in farming. In two Member States only (Italy and Ireland), the high rate of inflation has run well ahead of the improvements in agricultural support prices.

¹ The prices for the various products are given at point 2.1.114.

Monetary compensatory amounts

1.2.3. The Commission proposed that existing MCAs be phased out altogether in two stages. The Council decided to dismantle the positive MCAs in three stages.¹ By the end of the first two stages (conversion of positive MCAs into negative MCAs at the beginning of 1984/85 and dismantlement by five points of the German MCAs on 1 January 1985), four fifths of the positive MCAs will have been dismantled in less than one year; they will have disappeared completely by the beginning of 1987/88 at latest. In addition, the negative MCAs for Italy and Greece will be eliminated at the beginning of 1984/85, with a small negative MCA being retained for France.

Also, technical changes in the method of calculation will have the effect of reducing the MCAs on many products, in particular pigmeat.

The Ministers also adopted new arrangements whereby parity changes in the European Monetary System can no longer entail the creation of positive MCAs.

These decisions constitute an important step towards the restoration of single prices on the Community agricultural markets.

Milk

1.2.4. The supply of milk in the Community far exceeds demand, and this product must therefore lie at the centre of any plan to reform the policy. In its July 1983 communication² the Commission offered a clear choice: either reducing milk prices by 12% or introducing a quota system that will ensure reasonable prices to dairy farmers for a limited quantity of milk.

The Council, preferring the quota system, agreed, after protracted discussion, to introduce it for a period of five years. The national quotas will be calculated from the 1981 deliveries plus 1%, except for Ireland and Italy, for which the guaranteed quantity will be that of the 1983 deliveries.

Taking account of internal consumption and the scope for exports, the Council

reached agreement on a guaranteed final quantity of 98 363 000 tonnes. For 1984/85, however, because of the pattern of production and to facilitate transition to the new arrangements, the Council approved a total of 99 235 000 tonnes. It also created a 'Community reserve', enabling additional quotas, totalling 335 000 tonnes for the coming marketing year, to be assigned to Ireland, the United Kingdom (Northern Ireland) and Luxembourg (Table 1).

The Council also agreed that when the quantities added to the reserve are distributed Ireland will enjoy priority treatment so that the quantities available for that country will not be reduced in future years.

As a counterpart to the flexible arrangements for 1984/85, the Council raised the co-responsibility levy from 2% to 3%.

The national quotas will be distributed among the various regions of each Member State, either on the basis of individual quotas (granted to each dairy farmer) or on that of collective quotas (granted to a dairy). Each Member State remains free to choose one or other arrangement provided that the formula applied is the same for all the farmers in a given region. A single Member State may therefore operate both systems, in different regions.

Quota overruns will attract levies of 75% (for individual quotas) and 100% (for collective quotas). Special arrangements have been made for dairy farmers who are operating development plans and young farmers who have started farming since 1981.

Aware of the difficulties besetting the adaptation of dairy production, the Council renewed for two years the Community's direct aid to small dairy farmers, which has been kept at 120 million ECU. It will be financed from the co-responsibility levy, fixed at 3% for 1984/85.

¹ See points 2.1.116 to 2.1.120.

² Supplement 4/83 — Bull. EC; Bull. EC 7/8-1983, point 1.1.7.

Table 1 — *Guarantee thresholds by Member State**thousand tonnes*

	Basic quantity (from 1.4.1985)	Quantities for 1984/85		
		Quantity	Reserve	Totals
Belgium	3 106	3 138	—	3 138
Denmark	4 882	4 932	—	4 932
Germany	23 248	23 487	—	23 487
France	25 325	25 585	—	25 585
Greece	467	472	—	472
Ireland	5 280	5 280	245	5 525
Italy	8 323	8 323	—	8 323
Luxembourg	265	268	25	293
Netherlands	11 929	12 052	—	12 052
United Kingdom	15 538	15 698	65	15 763
Total	98 363	99 235	335	99 570

These changes represent a bold effort by the Community to reconcile the social objectives of the CAP with real market conditions. The decisions are painful because they have been too long deferred; however, if they had not been taken, the common market in milk could well have collapsed altogether in the very short term. Its economic and financial bases have now been effectively reorganized.

Guarantee thresholds

1.2.5. Three years ago the Commission concluded, in its report on the May 1980 mandate, that 'it is neither economically sensible nor financially possible to give producers a full guarantee for products in structural surplus'.¹ In its communication on 'Guidelines for European agriculture', it again stressed the dangers attendant upon the fixing of guaranteed prices 'for unlimited quantities not necessarily geared to the needs of the market'.²

Since then, the Council has approved the Commission's proposals for guarantee thresholds for various products (milk, cereals, rape, processed tomatoes) in addition to those already being operated (sugar and cotton). Beyond the thresholds, the far-

mers cannot expect the Community to provide the same guarantees for their output. The guarantees are no longer open-ended, and the objective of this policy change has been to achieve a more consistent relationship between the guarantees and the market itself and to dovetail them into a long-term plan for rationalization of the farm sector.

In its latest decisions the Council has not only extended the guarantee threshold system to certain other products (sunflower, durum wheat, dried grapes) but has also stressed the need to apply it to the market organizations for surplus products or products liable to boost expenditure. The Council has thus endorsed the Commission's own guidelines concerning the thresholds.

Aids and premiums

1.2.6. Another aspect of the Commission's plan consisted in a thorough review of aids and premiums financed under the CAP. In certain cases this expenditure was no longer

¹ Bull. EC 6-1981, point 1.2.1 *et seq.*; Supplement 1/81 — Bull. EC.

² Bull. EC 10-1981, points 2.1.83 to 2.1.93; Supplement 4/81 — Bull. EC.

fully justified, and given the serious shortage of funds a careful review was called for. Consequently, the Commission proposed that some aids be modified or discontinued altogether. While not accepting all the proposals, the Council adopted major decisions concerning the following products:

Milk: a 75% reduction in the aid to butter consumption, which does not in fact affect consumer prices because of the parallel reduction in the butter intervention price; extension of other aids to the disposal of butter and concentrated milk.

Beef/veal: retention of the suckler cow premium, the only Community scheme specifically designed to encourage beef/veal production; adaptation of the variable premium paid in the United Kingdom and the calf premium.

Sheepmeat: new rules relating to the payment of the ewe premium.

Cereals: adaptation of the compensatory allowances, which will yield substantial savings.

Proteins: decision concerning aids to peas and field beans, soya and lupin seeds.

Fruit and vegetables: reduction in the aids to fruit preserved in syrup; limitation of aids for processed tomatoes.

These measures will improve the general profile of the CAP and also its cost effectiveness.

Community preference

1.2.7. It has always been the Commission's concern to ensure a fair distribution of the sacrifices adjustment entails. This means that all those involved (farmers, consumers, processors, taxpayers, Member States and non-member countries) must accept the discipline entailed by the efforts to safeguard the agricultural policy.

In this context it is important to remember that the Council has adopted or has undertaken to adopt, on Commission proposals,

a number of decisions concerning compliance with the principle of Community preference. The products concerned are the following:

Cereals: adoption of a mandate for negotiation with non-member countries on the stabilization of imports of cereals substitutes.

Milk: reduction in the quantity of butter imported from New Zealand.

Beef/veal: revision downwards of the import 'balance sheets' for meat from non-member countries for 1984.

Sheepmeat: postponement of a decision on the variable premium, pending the outcome of negotiations with non-member countries on a minimum import price.

With regard to exports of agricultural products, the Commission takes the view that guarantee thresholds and, in particular, involvement of producers in disposal costs would enable exports to be developed on a sound basis. It maintains its proposal concerning long-term contracts for the supply of agricultural products to non-member countries.

Financial consequences

1.2.8. With regard to the financial consequences of the Council's decisions, Mr Poul Dalsager has made the following statement:

'The Commission, in order to help the Council find an agreement, has modified its initial proposals relating to rationalization of the CAP and prices for the 1984/85 marketing year. This means that supplementary financing will have to be provided to cover EAGGF guarantee expenditure in 1984 in excess of budget appropriations.

The Commission interprets the Council's acceptance of the package of modified proposals as a confirmation by the Council of the understanding reached by the European Council and the General Affairs Council to the effect that the Council will take the necessary decisions to ensure the financing of the Community budget.

The Commission will at a later stage come forward with detailed proposals to the Council for covering extra financial needs in 1984.'

3. The EMS after five years

Report by the Commission

1.3.1. On 5 March the Commission sent the Council a communication¹ on five years of monetary cooperation in Europe.² The document studies the contribution of the European Monetary System to the convergence of economic policies required for the creation of a zone of stability in Europe, assessing the degree of convergence brought about by the system and describing the results achieved. It goes on to show how the mechanisms of the system have operated in the interests of orderly exchange-rate management, discussing the mechanisms' adequacy for the purpose and their scope.

The EMS as an instrument of economic policy convergence

1.3.2. The EMS has significantly strengthened policy coordination procedures. Since 1979 national policies have come closer together on the need to pursue the aim of stabilizing prices and costs and, thanks to the discipline imposed by the EMS, the concerting of monetary policies within Community bodies has become systematic practice. Especially since February 1982,³ realignment operations have become prime occasions for a thorough examination of national economic policies and for adjusting them along paths of convergence.⁴

This greater convergence has made for satisfactory stability in exchange rates. Despite the unstable international monetary environment, exchange rates between the currencies participating in the system's mechanisms are much less volatile than they used to be, and parity changes have always followed the direction suggested by economic realities (inflation rates, balance-of-payments positions, etc.).

1.3.3. The scope of obligations in the direction of convergence remains limited, since the ultimate responsibility for the conduct of economic policy still lies with the Member States. The EMS has brought about the concerting of monetary policies

but has not yet resulted in any such close coordination of other policies which nevertheless have a direct influence on monetary developments, such as public deficit management or nominal incomes and costs.

Inflation rates are also still too far apart. In the first three and a half years of the EMS, price trends continued to follow divergent paths. Since 1983, however, the trend has been more favourable: for the eight Member States participating in the EMS exchange-rate mechanism, the average inflation rate fell from 8% in 1979 to 6.1% in 1983 and is expected to settle at 5% in 1984, and the maximum spread, which was 11 points in 1979 and 12 in 1983 is expected to narrow to 7.5 points in 1984.

The EMS as an instrument of orderly exchange-rate management

1.3.4. Despite the unstable international monetary environment, the seven currency realignments since March 1979 have paralleled and reflected basic economic trends, thereby showing that the EMS mechanisms are capable of being a force for the cohesion of all participating currencies.

The mechanisms of the systems have generally operated satisfactorily. However, there are shortcomings as regards the official use of the ECU and the divergence indicator. And five years after its inception the EMS is still incomplete: sterling and the drachma are outside the exchange-rate mechanism, and the fluctuation margin for the lira is still 6%.

The ECU's popularity with private transactors is growing, especially in the financial field. The volume of long-term issues amounts to 3 300 million ECU, and medium-term syndicated bank loans stand at 2 000 million ECU.

¹ COM(84) 125 final.

² Bull. EC 12-1978, points 1.1.4 to 1.1.12; Bull. EC 3-1979, point 2.1.1.

³ Bull. EC 2-1982, point 2.1.1.

⁴ Bull. EC 2-1982, point 2.1.2.

Gaps in the system and the Commission's proposals

1.3.5. Besides the system's limitations described above, there are still major gaps. Official use of the ECU remains on a small scale, and the ECU is not regarded as a reserve asset, transactions on the foreign currency markets still being carried out mainly in dollars. Technical shortcomings and especially the importance attached by the Member States to certain bilateral exchange-rate relationships prevent the convergence indicator from functioning to its fullest extent. Finally, two specific factors have limited the convergence of monetary policies themselves: continuing restrictions in several Member States on the free movement of capital; and the possibility of borrowing on international markets without having to comply with policy conditions, which has made for the underutilization of the conditional credit facilities of the EMS (with the exception of the Community borrowing facility, which was used by France in June 1983¹).

1.3.6. In an effort to plug these gaps, the Commission issued a communication together with a draft Council resolution in March 1982 in which it proposed a series of measures to strengthen the system in the following four fields: promoting the use of the ECU; improving the system's mechanisms; reinforcing moves towards convergence; and opening up the EMS to the outside world.² It added to these proposals in two further communications, one on financial integration (April 1983) in which it advocated that the ECU be promoted as the prime instrument for financial integration,³ and a second on promoting the international role of the ECU (May 1983) as a means of proclaiming the importance of the system *vis-à-vis* the outside world.⁴

The Council's conclusions

1.3.7. On 12 March the Council examined the EMS experience on the basis of the Commission's communication. It noted that the principal objective of the EMS as laid down by the European Council at Bremen,⁵ namely 'the creation of a closer monetary cooperation leading to a zone of monetary stability in Europe', had been achieved. The Ministers expressed their considered view of the system's performance and prospects as follows:

'They find it particularly remarkable that these positive results have been obtained despite unprecedented disturbances in the world economic and monetary situation. The EMS has had the merit of reducing the impact of these disturbances on Europe and they therefore consider it to be a valuable achievement. They are therefore unanimous in wishing to maintain and strengthen it. This is the primary objective. However, they do not see it as a finished product and will bear in mind the longer-term objectives laid down in the European Council's resolution of 5 December 1978. They will therefore take advantage of every opportunity to achieve further progress in the system by making practical adjustments, paying particular attention to the remarkable developments in private use of the ECU on the markets.

They consider that the Commission proposals, and its recommendation on financial integration, are a very useful basis for discussions on this subject.

Finally, they consider that the undertaking that they are thus pursuing is an important contribution to the wider operation of stabilizing the international monetary system. In subscribing to the international monetary commitment of the Versailles Summit, the Community representatives referred to the complementarity in this respect of the stability obligations subscribed to under the EMS.'

¹ Bull. EC 5-1983, point 2.1.3; Bull. EC 6-1983, point 2.1.8.

² Bull. EC 3-1982, points 1.4.1 to 1.4.4.

³ Bull. EC 4-1983, points 1.2.1 to 1.2.9.

⁴ Bull. EC 5-1983, points 2.1.4 to 2.1.7.

⁵ Bull. EC 6-1978, points 1.5.1. to 1.5.8.



PART TWO
ACTIVITIES
IN MARCH 1984

1. Building the Community

Economic and monetary policy

Economic situation

2.1.1. On 12 March, on the basis of a communication transmitted by the Commission on 1 March,¹ the Council carried out its first-quarter examination of the economic situation in the Community,² in accordance with Article 2 of the convergence Decision of 18 February 1974. It agreed with the Commission that there was no need at present to adjust the economic policy guidelines for 1984 which it had adopted in December 1983 in its annual economic report.³

Medium-term policy

2.1.2. On 27 March Parliament adopted a resolution on a programme for European economic recovery⁴ and on 29 March a resolution on the Community's medium and long-term economic prospects.⁵

European Monetary System

2.1.3. On 12 March the Council made a statement on the results of five years of operation of the EMS,⁶ after a detailed exchange of views on the basis of a Commission communication,⁷ drawn up in consultation with the Monetary Committee,⁸ transmitted to it on 5 March.

Community loans

2.1.4. Parliament⁹ and the Economic and Social Committee¹⁰ gave their opinions on 27 March and 29 March on the Commission's proposal for activating a second tranche of loans for 1 400 million ECU under NCI III.¹¹ Pointing out that NCI II had been used up in less than a year and that NCI III, though amounting to 3 000 million ECU, would likewise be exhausted very soon, Parliament stressed the need for making this facility a permanent instrument.

Monetary Committee

2.1.5. The Monetary Committee held its 500th meeting in Brussels on 26 March with Mr Camdessus in the chair. It discussed measures recently adopted in several Community countries, and continued its work on financial integration in the Community in preparation for the next Council meeting.

Internal market and industrial affairs

Strengthening of the internal market

Council

2.1.6. At its meeting on internal market affairs, held on 8 March, the Council examined a number of proposals concerning the relaxing of border formalities in the light of the disruptions at certain Alpine border posts last February;¹²

(i) In December 1983, when it adopted the Regulation introducing arrangements for movement within the Community of goods sent from one Member State for temporary use in one or more other Member States,¹³ the Council undertook to continue working to consolidate and extend these arrangements. Accordingly, on 8 March agreement was reached concerning a list of commercial samples to be covered and the Council affirmed its intention to extend the system to the works of painters and other artists.

¹ COM(84) 108 final.

² Point 2.4.24.

³ OJ L 378, 31.12.1983; Bull. EC 12-1983, point 2.1.2.

⁴ Point 2.4.20; OJ C 117, 30.4.1984.

⁵ Point 2.4.22.

⁶ Point 1.3.1. *et seq.*

⁷ COM(84) 125 final.

⁸ Bull. EC 2-1984, point 2.1.6.

⁹ OJ C 117, 30.4.1984.

¹⁰ Point 2.4.34.

¹¹ OJ C 48, 21.2.1984; Bull. EC 1-1984, point 2.1.2.

¹² Bull. EC 2-1984, points 2.1.8 to 2.1.11.

¹³ OJ L 2, 4.1.1984; Bull. EC 12-1983, point 2.1.25.

(ii) The Council continued its discussions on the introduction of a single document.¹ It also examined a draft resolution on the introduction of computerized administrative procedures as a means of facilitating Community trade, in accordance with the undertaking given on 25 November 1983.² The resolution contains a request to the Member States to computerize the administrative aspects of their customs procedures as quickly as possible, in close collaboration with the Commission. The idea is to automate data exchange and gradually to interconnect the computers used for such procedures. The Council is asking the Commission to continue its activities in this field and, by 1 October at the latest, to present proposals concerning the setting-up of a Community computerization framework, together with a work programme and timetable.

There was a general consensus of opinion on the draft resolution, which should be adopted shortly.

(iii) On 1 December 1983, when the Council adopted the Directive on the facilitation of physical inspections and administrative formalities in respect of the carriage of goods between Member States,³ France, Italy, Greece and Luxembourg requested a special transition period (until 31 December 1986) for the transposition of the Directive into national law.

At the Council meeting on transport, held on 22 March, when discussion of this matter was taken over from the internal market meeting, the French delegation formally stated its intention to forego the transition period and to apply the Directive in its entirety with effect from 1 January 1985. The Italian and Greek delegations agreed to implement it as soon as possible—in any case before 1 December 1986.

2.1.7. In response to Mr Tugendhat's communication the month before,⁴ the Council meeting on 12 March to discuss economic and financial affairs, agreed to give priority to the removal of barriers to cooperation between firms located in different Member States. In particular, it

would discuss the proposal for a Regulation on the establishment of a European economic interest grouping,⁵ presented originally in December 1973, and taxation-related proposals.

Commission proposals

2.1.8. The Commission adopted a communication to the Council and to Parliament on the formalities to be completed in intra-Community trade and the difficulties they cause.⁶ The document contains a detailed analysis of the whole range of complications still encountered and sets out a number of specific proposals with a view to eliminating obstacles and restricting checks to the absolute minimum. For instance, the Commission suggests that checks be performed as far as possible at the place of destination rather than at frontier posts, where congestion is most likely to occur.

2.1.9. The Commission considered it necessary to include in its proposals relating to the single document⁷ a requirement that the document should contain statistical data concerning Community quotas and bilateral quota authorizations, which are at present communicated separately. On 14 March it therefore transmitted to the Council two proposals for amendments to the regulations and directives in force with regard to quotas and bilateral authorizations.⁸

2.1.10. On 20 March the Commission proposed to the Council that from 1 July next all restrictions should be lifted on the duty-free admission of fuel contained in the normal fuel tanks of commercial road vehicles.⁹

*

¹ OJ C 203, 6.8.1982; Bull. EC 6-1982, point 2.1.10; OJ C 71, 16.3.1983; Bull. EC 12-1982, point 2.1.20; OJ C 102, 15.4.1983; OJ C 209, 5.8.1983.

² Bull. EC 11-1983, point 2.1.9.

³ OJ L 359, 22.12.1983; Bull. EC 12-1983, point 2.1.190.

⁴ Bull. EC 2-1984, point 2.1.58.

⁵ OJ C 14, 15.2.1974; OJ C 103, 28.4.1978.

⁶ COM(84) 134.

⁷ Point 2.1.6.

⁸ OJ C 86, 28.3.1984; COM(84) 109 final.

⁹ Point 2.1.58; COM(84) 171 final.

2.1.11. On 16 March Parliament adopted two resolutions, one on obstacles encountered at the frontiers and the other on postal charges in the Community.¹

Free movement of persons and freedom to provide services

Mutual recognition of qualifications and access to occupations

Veterinary surgeons

2.1.12. The *ad hoc* group of senior officials responsible for the free movement of veterinary surgeons, which met on 1 March,

exchanged information on problems relating to the application of the Directives of 18 December 1978 on the right of establishment and mutual recognition of qualifications in veterinary medicine.² The group also drew up a statistical table relating to the movements of veterinary surgeons in 1981 and 1982 within the framework of these Directives (see Table 2).

Doctors

2.1.13. The Advisory Committee on Medical Training, which met on 6 and 7

¹ Point 2.4.17; OJ C 104, 16.4.1984.

² OJ L 362, 23.12.1978.

Table 2 — Number of veterinary surgeons who are Community nationals and who are entitled, under the veterinary surgeons Directives, to practise in 1981 and 1982 in one of the Member States listed at the head of the columns below after obtaining their qualifications in another Member State¹

	Germany (FR)	France	Italy	Netherlands	Belgium	Luxembourg ²	United Kingdom	Ireland	Denmark	Greece
Total	± 38	50	0	5	1	3	8	0	1	0
Nationals of:										
Germany (FR)		1		0	0	0	3		0	
France	0	13		0	0	0	0		0	
Italy	0	0		0	0	0	0		0	
Netherlands	24	0		2	0	0	1		0	
Belgium	4	36		2	0	3	0		0	
Luxembourg	1	0		0	0	0	0		0	
United Kingdom	6	0		0	0	0	2		0	
Ireland	0	0		0	0	0	0		0	
Denmark	0	0		1	0	0	2		0	
Greece	3	0		0	1	0	0		0	
Qualified in:										
Germany (FR)	.	1		0	0	0	5		1	
France	.	0		0	0	0	0		0	
Italy	.	0		0	1	0	0		0	
Netherlands	.	0		0	0	0	1		0	
Belgium	.	49		4	0	3	0		0	
Luxembourg	.	0		0	0	0	0		0	
United Kingdom	.	0		0	0	0	0		0	
Ireland	.	0		0	0	0	0		0	
Denmark	.	0		1	0	0	2		0	
Greece	.			0	0	0	0		0	

Key: . figures not available
± approximately

¹ This table, as the heading suggests, does not include Community nationals who acquired their qualification in a Member State other than that of which they are a national but in which they were authorized to practise there (these are not migrant veterinary surgeons but migrant students). However, it does include all migrant veterinary surgeons, provided that they have obtained authorization to practise in a Member State.

² All Luxembourg veterinary students are obliged to train abroad; those who subsequently become established in their home country are therefore not included in the table.

March 1984, decided to organize a symposium in June 1985 to mark the tenth anniversary of the Directives on doctors, having as its theme the training of doctors in the 21st century. It also discussed training in Greece, Belgium and the Federal Republic of Germany.

Custody of children

2.1.14. On 16 March Parliament adopted a resolution on the custody and abduction of children across national borders.¹

Free movement of goods

Removal of technical barriers to trade

Industrial products

2.1.15. On 16 March Parliament delivered an opinion on the proposal for an amendment² to the Council Directive of 19 December 1974 on the approximation of laws relating to the making-up by volume of certain prepackaged liquids.³ While approving of the Commission's intention to reduce the range of nominal volumes permitted for prepackaged products, it does not consider that the provision of the 1974 Directive rendered redundant by the proposal for a Directive on containers of liquids for human consumption,⁴ can be deleted until the latter has been adopted by the Council.

Foodstuffs

2.1.16. On 20 March the Commission transmitted to the Council a proposal⁵ to amend the Council Directive of 27 June 1977 on the approximation of the laws of the Member States relating to coffee extracts and chicory extracts.⁶ The amendments are needed to adapt the Directive both to the general provisions of the Directive of 18 December 1978 concerning labelling⁷ and to the effects of technical progress and external competition.

Business law

Companies

Eighth Directive on the qualifications of persons authorized to carry out statutory audits of annual accounts

2.1.17. On 13 March the Council adopted, after three years of discussions, the eighth company law Directive, which concerns the qualifications of persons authorized to carry out statutory audits of annual accounts.⁸

The eighth Directive takes the body of Community accountancy law a step further forward, following the adoption in July 1978 of the fourth Directive (on the annual accounts of limited companies)⁹ and in May 1983 of the seventh Directive (on the consolidated accounts of groups of companies).¹⁰

The fourth and seventh Directives introduced a common accounting framework for companies in the Community, establishing rules on the content of accounts and the principles of valuation. They also stipulate that the accounts be the subject of an objective external review and that the annual report be checked to ensure that it and the accounts are consistent. The role of the auditor is therefore crucial to the production of reliable accounts, which must be disclosed to the public.

2.1.18. The eighth Directive sets a high common standard of education and training

¹ Point 2.4.17; OJ C 104, 16.4.1984.

² OJ C 104, 16.4.1984.

³ OJ L 42, 15.2.1975.

⁴ OJ C 204, 13.8.1981.

⁵ OJ C 90, 31.1.1984; COM(84)138 final.

⁶ OJ L 172, 12.7.1977.

⁷ OJ L 33, 8.2.1979.

⁸ Supplement 4/78 — Bull. EC; OJ C 112, 13.5.1978; Bull. EC 4-1978, point 2.1.8; OJ C 317, 8.12.1979; Bull. EC 11-1979, point 2.1.10.

⁹ OJ L 222, 14.8.1978; Bull. EC 6-1978, point 2.1.12.

¹⁰ OJ L 193, 18.7.1983; Bull. EC 5-1983, points 2.1.26 to 2.1.30.

for auditors. They must attain university entrance level, complete a minimum of three years' practical training and pass an examination of professional competence at final university level before a Member State may approve them to carry out the audits required by Community law. Persons who did not initially reach the level of university entrance may also be approved, at the option of the Member State, if they have 15 year's relevant experience or combine 7 year's experience with a course of practical training. In any event they must pass the same examination of professional competence. The rights acquired by those already approved, or those in training, are protected by appropriate provisions.

Firms of auditors may also be approved. Audits by them may only be done by auditors qualified under the Directive. The majority of the management of such firms must also be qualified.

In any event Member States must ensure that all auditors are persons of good repute, and are independent, and that audits are carried out with professional care. As a further safeguard the names and addresses of auditors, including members or shareholders of firms, must be available to the public.

The Directive must be given effect in the Member States within the same period allowed for the seventh Directive, i.e. by 1 January 1988. It does not regulate the mutual recognition of the qualifications of auditors nor their freedom to provide services. Such matters will be the subject of a future Community initiative which should, however, greatly benefit from the adoption of the eighth Directive.

The Directive, then, represents an important further step in the accountancy field in the Community. The guarantee of a common, high standard for auditors will ensure that not only the form and content but also the standard of the disclosed accounts of companies and groups of companies are consistent throughout the Community, thus providing a further safeguard for the users of such information.

Economic and commercial law

Criminal law

2.1.19. On 16 March Parliament adopted a resolution¹ on the application within the Community of the criminal law principle that 'no one shall be liable to be tried or punished again for an offence for which he has already been finally convicted or acquitted in accordance with the law and penal procedure of each country' (*non bis in idem*).

Small business — Business Cooperation Centre — Distributive trades

Distributive trades

2.1.20. The Bureau of the Committee on Commerce and Distribution met on 2 March. The rapporteurs of the working party on the internal market handed in their preliminary reports on barriers to trade and the free movement of goods in the Community's internal market, and selective distribution in Europe and franchising.

The work will be continued within the working parties.

Industry

2.1.21. During its second part-session in March² Parliament held debates on the situation in various industries and passed resolutions on motor vehicles, telecommunications, textiles and clothing,³ the operation of the multifibre arrangement, shipbuilding, machine tools⁴ and industrial cooperation between firms in the Community.

¹ Point 2.4.17; OJ C 104, 16.4.1984.

² Point 2.4.22; OJ C 117, 30.4.1984.

³ See Bull. 7/8-1981, points 1.4.1 to 1.4.9.

⁴ See Bull. 2-1983, point 2.1.26.

*Steel¹***Forward programme**

2.1.22. On 14 March the Commission adopted, on its first reading, the forward programme for the second quarter of 1984, concerning which the ECSC Consultative Committee had delivered its opinion on 23 March.² The Committee agreed with the market analysis and prospects presented by the Commission to demonstrate that, having reached its lowest ebb, the economic situation appeared to be picking up and could only improve in future, albeit with variations from one country to another.

The production of crude steel during the second quarter, estimated at 30 million tonnes, should exceed the Commission's forecast for the first three months of the year, particularly in view of the acceleration

in the upward trend observed in January (9.7 million tonnes) and February (9.9 million tonnes).

The increase in aggregate production appears to be accounted for by pre-products for tubes, which are not subject to production quotas under Article 58 of the ECSC Treaty. However, it is still too soon for any signs of an imbalance between supply and demand to have emerged.

Actual consumption during the second quarter is estimated at 26.6 million tonnes, compared with 24.56 million tonnes during the first quarter. The balance for Community crude steel is given in Table 3.

¹ International relations are dealt with in the 'Commercial policy' and 'Relations with industrialized countries' sections.
² Point 2.4.38.

Table 3 — *Balance for crude steel*

	<i>million tonnes</i>			
	Second quarter 1982	Second quarter 1983	First quarter 1984 ¹	Second quarter 1984 ¹
Real consumption	28.27	25.47	24.56	26.6
Stock change	± 0	+ 0.20	+ 0.50	+ 0.50
Imports	3.16	2.88	2.45	2.60
Exports	6.14	5.58	5.30	5.50
Production	31.25	28.37	28.00	30.00

¹ Estimates.

With regard to international trade, the Commission emphasizes that the extension until the end of 1984 of the import control system for steel products, on the basis of the broad lines adopted by the Community in 1983, should make it possible to prevent imports from rising much above the figures for 1983. The arrangements must uphold the abovementioned system of import control and monitoring.

Exports should remain stable at the rather low average level maintained since 1982.

Account must be taken of the reduced rate of growth in the US economy planned for 1984 and of the difficult financial position of most of the developing countries. Favourable seasonal factors and the clear improvements forecast as regards the economic situation of certain industrialized countries could bring Community exports to around 5.5 million tonnes, which is slightly higher than was predicted during the last quarter.

Forecasts for the second quarter show some progress or at least a certain stability in the

internal market, compared with the first quarter, in all sectors except 'other means of transport', which reflect the state of stagnation prevailing in industries such as shipbuilding, commercial vehicles, locomotives and railway rolling stock, and the aircraft industry. Favourable trends in the Com-

munity as a whole, however, mask fairly substantial variations from one Member State to another: in certain countries, there is a downward trend in most sectors. Table 4 shows the seasonally adjusted indicators of activity for the main steel-using sectors.

Table 4 — *Activity indicators for the main steel-using sectors*

	<i>base 100 = 2nd quarter 1983</i>		
	4th quarter 1983	1st quarter 1984	2nd quarter 1984
Manufacture of metal articles	99.8	99.8	100.8
Mechanical engineering	106.5	100.8	103.1
Electrical engineering	107.6	104.6	104.2
Manufacture of motor vehicles	95.6	97.2	100.1
Other means of transport	99.7	98.0	95.2
Construction and civil engineering	96.9	84.7	102.0

With regard to investments, the sluggishness of the private housing sector seems likely to persist, whereas a 2% increase in building in the industrial and service sectors is expected. A growth of between 2 and 3% could be experienced in the machine-tools industry and the industrial-plant sector. The general conclusion from the studies and sectoral surveys carried out is that an overall increase of nearly 3% should be registered in the steel market during the second quarter of 1984.

As far as individual products are concerned, the prospects for coated products are particularly promising, whereas the market in reversing-mill plate, which is linked with depressed sectors such as shipbuilding, remains dull. On the other hand, the outlook for both heavy sections and flat products is encouraging. The market in wire rod continues to benefit from the constant demand for consumer goods and from the fact that the product has numerous mechanical and electrical-engineering applications.

There may also be an upturn in the reinforcing-bars sector following the seasonal interruption of building activities during the winter months. Lastly, production of merchant bars, which is more closely related to plant in general and to light engineering, should exceed that of the second quarter of 1983.

With regard to production quotas (shown in Table 6), those for the second quarter of 1984 were calculated on the basis of revised references and are not strictly comparable with those of the first quarter.

In 1983 the number of workers affected by cuts in working hours fell from 181 000 to 65 000, while the number of hours not worked fell appreciably. These two factors appear to reflect a healthier trend which could be attributed to a better matching of manning levels to effective production.

Table 7 shows the relative severity of manning-level reductions in the Member States (not including Greece) during the period December 1973 to December 1983.

Table 5 — Comparative trends in the production of goods subject to quotas

Product	<i>million tonnes</i>			
	I/1983	II/1983	III/1983	IV/1983 ¹
Ia Hot-rolled coil	4 306	4 914	4 703	5 288
Ib Uncoated sheet	3 380	3 561	3 313	3 719
Ic Galvanized sheet	824	910	809	952
Id Other coated sheet	600	664	614	744
II Reversing-mill plate	1 287	1 201	1 050	1 170
III Heavy sections	1 164	1 317	959	1 141
IV Wire rod	2 515	2 572	2 352	2 718
V Reinforcing bars	1 804	1 826	1 707	1 818
VI Merchant bars	2 089	2 048	1 798	2 137

¹ Estimate.

Table 6 — Comparative trends in quotas

Product	<i>million tonnes</i>					
	I/83	II/83	III/83	IV/83	I/84	II/84
Ia Hot-rolled coil	3 465	3 675	3 881	3 963	4 090	4 223
Ib Uncoated sheet	2 767	3 315	3 366	3 320	3 500	3 665
Ic Galvanized sheet	780	885	842	849	852	884
Id Other coated sheet	597	690	657	718	747	826
II Reversing-mill plate	1 118	1 185	1 118	1 116	1 134	1 202
III Heavy sections	1 032	1 120	1 175	1 230	1 176	1 152
IV Wire rod	2 310	2 330	2 220	2 323	2 485	2 561
V Reinforcing bars	1 638	1 710	1 770	1 822	1 821	1 724
VI Merchant bars	2 224	2 160	2 196	2 103	2 165	2 200

Table 7 — Manning-level reductions in the steel sector (1973-83)

	Relative severity of reductions	Manning-level reductions %
<i>Community average</i>	100.0	- 38.3%
United Kingdom	175.7	- 67.3%
Luxembourg	114.9	- 44.0%
France	104.7	- 40.7%
Denmark	106.3	- 40.1%
Belgium	94.3	- 36.1%
Germany (FR)	73.9	- 28.3%
Netherlands	46.0	- 17.6%
Italy	6.8	- 2.6%
Ireland	0	0

Crisis measures

Production certificate and accompanying document

2.1.23. On 7 March the Commission adopted, on its first reading, a draft Decision amending Decision 3717/83/ECSC introducing for steel undertakings and steel dealers a production certificate and an accompanying document for deliveries of certain products.¹ The Consultative Committee delivered a favourable opinion on this amendment at its 23 March meeting.² In addition, the Council's assent was sought under Article 95 of the ECSC Treaty.

¹ OJ L 373, 31.12.1983.² Point 2.4.40.

Restructuring

National plans

2.1.24. Following its approval of the plan for the restructuring of the Luxembourg steel industry,¹ the Commission continued to examine the various national plans submitted to it pursuant to the Decisions of June 1983.² In mid-March it took its first decisions in respect of the Federal Republic of Germany by authorizing the Federal Government to release an initial tranche of aids totalling 163 million ECU for the following four firms: Eschwerken Bergwerksverein AG, Boehler AG, Düsseldorf, Halberger Hütte and Maximilianshütte; this last-mentioned steelworks was also granted a loan with interest-rate subsidy and a State guarantee. These decisions were taken with reference to the planned restructuring of the German steel industry, as a result of which the total production capacity will be cut by 6 010 tonnes and the workforce reduced to 145 000 by 1986.

Electronics and information technology

Esprit programme

2.1.25. Following the approval of the first phase of the Esprit programme,³ the Commission formally confirmed the organizational structure of the Information Technologies and Telecommunications Task Force, the expansion of which in the coming months should lead to optimum implementation of the programme.

2.1.26. On 21 March a first call for proposals⁴ based on the Esprit workplan⁵ was announced. At the same time, the Task Force began to evaluate the 38 pilot projects funded in 1983,⁶ which it intends to compare with the proposals received in response to its first call, which have to be submitted by 7 May.

These various activities will lead to the award of a series of contracts in the autumn of 1984. At the same time, on the basis of the projects selected and a consultation procedure still to be initiated, the 1985

workplan will be prepared for transmission to the Council in November 1984.

Multiannual data-processing programme

2.1.27. On 26 March Parliament endorsed⁷ the proposal for the extension to 1984-86 of the first part of the multiannual programme in the field of data-processing.⁸ It also stressed that priority was to be given to standardization measures and the award of public-works contracts and called for the preparation of a Directive on legal protection for individual computer programs and the rights of individuals with regard to data-processing.

Interinstitutional networks

2.1.28. Within the framework of the Council Decision of 1982 providing for the establishment of the Caddia system (Cooperation in data and documentation for imports/exports and agriculture),⁹ the Commission completed its preliminary work in respect of the objectives which had been set and the means for their achievement. In this connection it submitted a proposal to the Council on 16 March concerning the adoption of a long-term (7 to 10 years) Community development programme for the use of computerized telecommunications systems for the processing of data relating to imports/exports and the management and financial control of agricultural-market organizations.¹⁰

Telecommunications

2.1.29. On 30 March Parliament passed resolutions on European television and commercialization of new media.¹¹

¹ Bull. EC 2-1984, point 2.1.21.

² OJ L 227, 19.8.1983; Bull. EC 6-1983, point 1.1.1 *et seq.*

³ OJ L 67, 9.3.1984; Bull. EC 2-1984, point 1.3.1. *et seq.*

⁴ OJ C 80, 21.3.1984.

⁵ OJ L 81, 24.3.1984.

⁶ Bull. EC 7/8-1983, point 2.1.24.

⁷ OJ C 117, 30.4.1984.

⁸ OJ C 334, 10.12.1983; Bull. EC 11-1983, point 2.1.26.

⁹ OJ L 247, 23.8.1982; Sixteenth General Report, point 176.

¹⁰ COM(84)119 final.

¹¹ Point 2.4.22; OJ C 117, 30.6.1984.

2.1.30. In the field of telecommunications, further meetings were held with the group of senior national experts who are discussing the recommendations sent by the Commission to the Council in September 1983.¹

These discussions will make it possible to define the activities in respect of which the Commission will initiate a broader consultation procedure with a view to the submission of specific proposals by mid-1984.

2.1.31. On 21 March a meeting took place in Brussels between Mr Etienne Davignon, Vice-President of the Commission, and Mr Jacques Dondoux, President of the European Conference of Postal and Telecommunications Associations (CEPT).

The Commission and CEPT confirmed their readiness to cooperate with a view to the creation of a European telecommunications area, in particular through the harmonization of standards and national procurement procedures and the gradual opening up of markets to operators.

Other industries

Forestry-based industries

2.1.32. Pursuant to the Commission decision of 11 May 1983² adopted at the same time as the proposal to the Council for an action programme regarding forestry and forestry-based industries,³ the Commission has appointed the members of the advisory committee which is to assist it in implementing this programme.

Industrial innovation and the information market

Information market

2.1.33. The Committee for Scientific and Technical Information and Documentation, meeting on 15 and 16 March, discussed and approved the Commission's proposals concerning priority areas for the first year of the five-year programme for the development of the specialized information market

in Europe. The proposal for a Decision in respect of this programme was laid before the Council in November⁴ and endorsed by Parliament in March.⁵

The Committee's conclusions were transmitted to the Scientific and Technical Research Committee, which approved them at its meeting on 22 and 23 March.⁶ The areas in question are:

(i) the production of information services in sectors in which Community-level coordination is required (patents, biotechnology and properties of materials);

(ii) the distribution of information services: use of the new information technologies will increase as the Docdel (electronic document delivery) project advances and as computerized image systems are developed; the nature and content of services will have to reflect the needs of a broader range of users, including the professions and small businesses;

(iii) the launching of specific projects in countries where the specialized information market is at a less advanced stage: these activities will be concerned both with the applications of new technologies and with the educational and training aspects.

Specialized information

2.1.34. Since the beginning of March the Commission's host computer ECHO has been providing users with a telex service which will direct them to appropriate data banks according to the type of information required. Users can also request specific information on any invitation to tender issued in a given sector.

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2.1.35. On 29 March the Economic and Social Committee endorsed⁷ the proposal

¹ Bull. EC 9-1983, point 2.1.23.

² OJ L 137, 26.5.1983.

³ Bull. EC 5-1983, point 2.1.36.

⁴ OJ C 328, 2.12.1983; Bull. EC 11-1983, point 2.1.35.

⁵ OJ C 117, 30.4.1984.

⁶ Point 2.1.186.

⁷ Point 2.4.36.

for a Council Decision on a Community programme for the development of the specialized information market.¹

2.1.36. On 30 March Parliament passed a resolution proposing various measures to encourage European inventors.²

Customs union

General legislation

Goods returned to the customs territory of the Community

2.1.37. On 15 March the Commission sent the Council a proposal for a Regulation³ making certain changes to the Regulation of 25 March 1976,⁴ under which goods returned to the customs territory of the Community after having been exported from it can, subject to certain conditions, be admitted wholly or partly free of import duty. One of the purposes of the changes is to provide for like treatment of all products, the export of which has attracted a financial advantage under the common agricultural policy. The other is to repeal the provisions stipulating that the Regulation is to apply to returned goods only where they are returned by or at the instance of the original exporter.

Customs procedures with economic impact

Inward processing

2.1.38. On 21 March the Commission adopted a Directive⁵ concerning the application of the Council Directive of 4 March 1969 on the harmonization of provisions laid down by law, regulation or administrative action in respect of inward processing.⁶ The new Directive establishes objective criteria by which the competent authorities can authorize the processing of rice under the equivalent compensation system. The

criteria are based on grain length and length/width ratio.

Temporary importation

2.1.39. At its first part-session in March Parliament approved⁷ the proposal for a Regulation on the temporary importation of means of transport, which the Commission sent to the Council in December 1983.⁸

Common Customs Tariff

Suspension of concessions; increase in duties

2.1.40. On 30 March the Commission asked the Council⁹ to amend its Regulation of 6 February suspending tariff concessions and increasing duties under the Common Customs Tariff with regard to certain products and establishing quantitative restrictions with regard to other products originating in the United States.¹⁰

Economic tariff matters

Tariff quotas

2.1.41. On 5 March the Council adopted a Regulation opening, allocating and providing for the administration of a Community tariff quota for carrots falling within CCT subheading ex 07.01 G II originating in Cyprus (1984).¹¹

¹ OJ C 328, 2.12.1983; Bull. EC 11-1983, point 2.1.35.

² Point 2.4.22; OJ C 117, 30.4.1984.

³ OJ C 87, 29.3.1984; COM(84) 127 final.

⁴ OJ L 89, 2.4.1976; Bull. EC 3-1976, point 2104.

⁵ OJ L 100, 12.4.1984.

⁶ OJ L 58, 8.3.1969; OJ L 59, 5.3.1983.

⁷ OJ C 104, 16.4.1984.

⁸ OJ C 4, 7.1.1984; Bull. EC 12-1983, point 2.1.26.

⁹ Point 2.2.18; COM(84) 183 final.

¹⁰ OJ L 40, 11.2.1984; Bull. EC 2-1984, point 2.1.38.

¹¹ OJ L 67, 9.3.1984.

Competition

General rules applying to undertakings

Extension of block exemption for certain specialization agreements

2.1.42. The Commission has started the procedure for amending Regulation (EEC) No 3604/82 of 23 December 1982 on the application of Article 85(3) of the Treaty to certain categories of specialization agreements.¹

The purpose of the proposed amendments is to further encourage cooperation between undertakings, particularly small and medium-sized firms, in the field of production. To this end, the Commission proposes to raise the present threshold for the total annual turnover of the undertakings participating in the specialization agreements from 300 million ECU to 500 million ECU. Furthermore, the Commission intends to introduce into the block exemption Regulation an accelerated procedure whereby agreements which exceed this 500 million ECU annual turnover threshold and/or the 15% market share threshold up to a maximum of 25% in a substantial part of the common market could benefit from the block exemption if they are notified to the Commission and the Commission does not object within a specified period.

The Commission's action is part of its broader policy to promote cooperation between undertakings where this serves to enhance the competitiveness and strengthen the structure of the European industry and does not endanger the maintenance of effective competition within the Community. A previous example of this policy is the proposed block exemption on research and development cooperation agreements² recently published in the Official Journal. The common features found in specialization agreements and cooperation agreements on research and development make it desirable to harmonize certain provisions of the relevant block exemption Regulations.

Before the final adoption of the amended block exemption Regulation on specialization agreements, which can be expected before the end of the year, the Advisory Committee on Restrictive Practices and Dominant Positions must be consulted twice, and the draft Regulation plus a notice requesting comments from any interested parties must be published in the Official Journal.

Restrictive practices, mergers and dominant positions: specific case

Prohibited horizontal agreements

Maintenance of competition on the cigarette market

2.1.43. The Commission has intervened under Articles 85 and 86 of the EEC Treaty to ensure that competition in the Community is not distorted by arrangements concerning two of the world's largest cigarette companies, Philip Morris Inc. of the USA and Rothmans International plc of the United Kingdom.

In April 1981, Philip Morris Inc. concluded a number of agreements with Rembrandt Group Ltd of South Africa. These agreements were notified to the Commission and complaints were lodged against them by three other cigarette companies. Under these agreements, Rembrandt sold to Philip Morris a 50% share in Rothmans Tobacco Holdings Ltd, which owned a controlling interest in Rothmans International. Philip Morris and Rembrandt also concluded a partnership agreement providing for cooperation in the conduct of the affairs of Rothmans International. Rembrandt retained ownership of the other half of the holding company.

¹ OJ L 376, 31.12.1982; Bull. EC 12-1982, point 2.1.34.

² OJ C 16, 21.1.1984; Bull. EC 1-1984, point 2.1.32; Bull. EC 10-1983, point 2.1.44.

In May 1982 the Commission commenced formal proceedings and issued a statement of objections, taking the provisional view that the agreements between Philip Morris and Rembrandt gave rise to a distortion of competition by virtue of their impact on the conduct of their subsidiaries in the Community.

Philip Morris and Rembrandt then agreed to make substantial changes to their arrangements restructuring their shareholdings. Philip Morris now owns shares giving it 24.9% of the votes in Rothmans International. It also owns UKL 16.6 million worth of convertible bonds in Rothmans International. It has severed all connections with Rothmans Tobacco Holdings Ltd, thereby abandoning the instrument which enabled it, as a shareholder, to coordinate its activities with those of Rembrandt. The latter has thus once again become the sole owner of the holding company and no longer needs Philip Morris' votes to act decisively as a shareholder in Rothmans International.

Philip Morris, which is to have no representatives on the board of any Rothmans company operating in the Community, has agreed with Rembrandt that it will not increase its shareholding in Rothmans International if as a result its voting rights would be increased to 25% or more. Philip Morris has also undertaken to inform the Commission of any such acquisition in such a way as to enable urgent action to be taken if necessary. Any other change in the parties' arrangements will also be notified to the Commission.

Since Philip Morris and Rembrandt have abandoned their partnership agreement and the mechanism for its implementation and bearing in mind that Philip Morris is now a minority shareholder in Rothmans International without any power of control or decisive influence over its affairs, the Commission is satisfied that the distortions of competition in the Community cigarette market have been eliminated and that it is in a position to take urgent preventive action in the event of any future moves to alter the competitive relations between Philip Morris and Rothmans.

Permissible forms of cooperation

Competition rules applied in the field of insurance

2.1.44. On 30 March the Commission took its first formal decision applying the competition rules to a restrictive practice in the field of insurance.¹ Early in 1983, in the course of inquiries it was conducting on its own initiative, the Commission became aware of a restrictive practice concerning insurance for machinery breakdown and on-site accidents in Italy. About 15 direct insurers, linked by a reinsurance treaty with firms based outside Italy, had set up an association, known as Nuovo Cegam, by means of an agreement which the Commission considered might infringe the ban on restrictive practices laid down by the Treaty of Rome (Article 85(1)).

After a statement of objections was sent to the firms concerned, they agreed to make major changes to the association's instruments of constitution and notified the amended agreement, asking for negative clearance or exemption under Article 85(3).

The direct insurers belonging to the association seek to publicize and to promote industrial insurance, which is not as developed a business in Italy as it is in other Member States. The association's main activity is updating and processing technical data in order to improve management in the sector, and providing technical assistance to members. The association draws up risk premium tariffs with rates based on common accident statistics, which thus exclude any loading element for such items as administrative costs, taxes and profits; the members use these tariffs as a basis for determining the commercial premium actually charged to policyholders. Each direct insurer thus remains free to fix its premium on the basis of its own independent commercial policy considerations. This fundamental feature reflects a substantial modification of the text which was in force before the Commission stepped in, when the as-

¹ OJ L 99, 11.4.1984.

sociation's tariff was expressed in terms of commercial premiums.

In view of this change the Commission, having called for comments from interested parties in a notice published in the Official Journal,¹ decided to exempt the agreement notified for a period of 10 years.

Mergers

Acquisition by Deutsche Siderexport of a holding in Service Acier Rhénan (SAR) and by Sidernederland of a holding in Namascor

2.1.45. Pursuant to Article 66 of the ECSC Treaty, which entitles the Commission to review mergers, including those in the steel industry, the Commission on 26 March authorized Deutsche Siderexport GmbH, Germany, and Sidernederland BV, the Netherlands, to acquire holdings in Service Acier Thénan (SAR), France, and Namascor, the Netherlands, respectively.

SAR and Namascor are both 'steel service centres'; SAR was previously controlled entirely by Klöckner & Co., Germany, while Namascor was controlled by Klöckner (51%) and Mitsubishi Corporation (49%). Following these transactions the capital of SAR is shared between Deutsche Siderexport (49.02%) and Klöckner (50.98%), and the capital of Namascor between Klöckner (34%), Sidernederland (33.33%), and Mitsubishi (32.67%). As steel service centres SAR and Namascor deal in steel products, particularly sheet and strip of all kinds, which they cut and slit from coils to the customer's requirements.

These two undertakings offer their customers a more personalized service than traditional stockholders.

Deutsche Siderexport and Sidernederland are selling agencies of Finsider and their clientele is different from that of traditional stockholders or steel service centres, while Klöckner is a group with a range of activities, including the steel trade. Apart from its holdings in Namascor, Mitsubishi is not otherwise active in steel production or the steel trade in the Community.

These transactions should improve supplies to the steel service centres and allow fuller use to be made of their plants and also provide the Finsider group with steel service centres on the German, French and Benelux markets.

State aids

General aids

Export aids

France

2.1.46. On 7 March the Commission decided to initiate the Article 93(2) procedure in respect of a special exchange guarantee scheme which the French Government intends to introduce for French exporters proposing to bid for the contract for the construction of tranche IV of the Magalopolis power station in Greece, following a call for tenders issued by the Greek Public Power Cooperation.

Any assistance granted to a French firm competing with firms from other Member States for a contract within the Community constitutes an export aid which distorts competition and affects trade between Member States. Such assistance is incompatible with the common market under Article 92(1) and, in accordance with the Commission's long-standing position in such matters, cannot benefit from any of the exemptions provided for by this Article.

At the meeting of the Council's Policy Coordination Group for Credit Insurance, Credit Guarantees and Financial Credits held on 29 February, the Greek delegation explained the arrangement introduced by the Public Power Corporation to ensure, despite the fact that tenders should be quoted in drachmas, that the associated exchange risk would be covered almost entirely by the Corporation, while the bid prices could make provision for the remaining risk.

¹ OJ C 281, 18.10.1983.

Lest the Public Power Corporation take a decision before the French Government had notified the Commission of its plans regarding this aid scheme, the Commission initiated the Article 93(2) procedure in respect of the measure and gave the French Government notice to submit its comments. A notice was also published in the Official Journal to invite comments from the governments of the other Member States and interested third parties.

Greece

2.1.47. On 21 March the Commission decided to initiate the Article 93(2) procedure in respect of Decision No 1574/70 of the Greek Currency Committee and subsequent amendments (in particular Decision No 350/82) and the reduction in the employers' share of social security contributions attributable to exports which is granted to certain firms as an alternative to the measures of assistance provided for by Decision No 1574/70.

Under this Decision payments—originally in the form of interest relief grants—are made to undertakings for exports of manufactured, craft or processed agricultural goods. The amount is calculated in accordance with a complicated formula related to the 'export value-added'. An attempt was made to phase out the scheme prior to accession and the amount now ranges from 6.6% to 12% (i.e. 55% of the original level of 12% to 24%) of the fob price of the exported goods. Early in 1982, by Decision No 350/82 amending Decision No 1574/70, payments were practically doubled for small and medium-sized firms and for all firms in the clothing industry, with the exception of knitwear where the normal rates apply. Payments are made from Bank of Greece funds and amounted to DR 8.362 million in 1980 and DR 12.121 million in 1981.

The reduction of social security contributions attributable to exports was introduced before Decision No 1574/70. The Greek Government confirmed in its letter dated 16 December 1983 that this scheme is still available as an alternative form of assist-

ance for a small number of firms. The employers' share of social security contributions is brought down to the level of the workers' share (from 18.75% to 10.25% in 1981).

The Commission has given notice to the Greek Government and to the governments of the other Member States to submit their comments. A notice has also been published in the Official Journal to invite comments from other interested parties.

Regional aids

Germany

2.1.48. On 13 December 1983 the German Government notified the Commission of a special scheme for creating alternative jobs in the Bremen employment area outside the shipbuilding and steel industries. In addition to infrastructure aids for public agencies, the scheme provided investment premiums for industries other than shipbuilding and steel.

Study of the region shows that unemployment in this area is well above the Federal average and is likely to worsen considerably on account of redundancies in shipbuilding and steel. The Commission accordingly decided to raise no objection to these measures of assistance.

However, investment over 6 million ECU must be notified in advance and the Federal Government must report to the Commission every year on the situation in the Bremen employment area. The Commission reserves the right to review its position in the light of the reports.

Italy

2.1.49. On 17 June 1983 the Italian Government notified the Commission of the Sicilian Region's bill for refinancing a number of the Region's Acts facilitating access to credit for small and medium-sized firms and cooperatives in industry, the distributive trades, craft industry, fisheries, and agriculture. Article 1 of this bill provides for a fresh injection for an Irfis (Istituto Regionale Finanziamento Industrie Siciliane) re-

volving fund used to grant low-interest loans to build up stocks of raw materials and semi-finished products.

On 9 August 1982 the Commission terminated an Article 93(2) procedure in respect of this fund, by granting a temporary exemption subject to the proviso that any refinancing of such a scheme must be notified to the Commission in advance and that a technical adjustment must be made to eliminate the element of operating aid from the scheme and make it more transparent.

Since the Italian Government did not state whether the technical adjustment had been made, the Commission considered that the measures had been renewed unchanged and was therefore constrained to initiate the Article 93(2) procedure. The Commission decided to raise no objection in respect of the remaining measures concerning industry; such measures had been approved in the past, and they concerned aid for small business and craft firms.

Industry aids

Steel

2.1.50. Continuing its analysis of Member States' final restructuring plans,¹ the Commission approved the plan submitted by the Federal Republic of Germany.²

2.1.51. The ECSC Consultative Committee gave its opinion³ in March on the Commission's fifth report to the Council on the application of the rules for aid to the steel industry.⁴

Shipbuilding

Germany

2.1.52. On 21 March the Commission decided to raise no objection to the scheme of assistance for the shipbuilding industry notified by the Federal Government on 28 September 1983. The scheme, drawn up by the *Länder* governments of Schleswig-Holstein, Hamburg, Bremen and Lower Saxony, introduces a programme of aid for shipyards from 1 October 1983 to 31 December 1985. The programme has been

allocated DM 69 million and will mean subsidies of 6% (up to 31 December 1984) and 4% (in 1985) for orders obtained by the German yards up to 31 December 1985. Part of the subsidies could be recovered from any operating profits made by the yards up to 1988.

The Commission has noted that the worsening difficulties of shipbuilding in the Community, borne out by a sharp fall in orders registered since the beginning of 1983, are particularly damaging to the Member States' major yards, including those in northern Germany. These yards have started restructuring and some of their installations have been closed down. Against this background and in view of the likelihood of large-scale redundancies, the governments of the *Länder* considered that emergency aids were needed to ensure that the efforts and sacrifices for restructuring purposes had not been made in vain.

The rate of assistance for the yards planned by the *Länder* is relatively low (6% in 1984 and 4% in 1985); even if it is combined with aid already available in the Federal Republic, it will still be lower than the levels of assistance authorized in the past for other Member States.

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2.1.53. On 27 March Parliament adopted a resolution⁵ on nationalization moves in France.

Financial institutions and taxation

Financial institutions

Banks

2.1.54. On 14 March the Commission sent the Council an amended proposal⁶—after

¹ Bull. EC 2-1984, point 2.1.4.

² Point 2.1.24.

³ Point 2.4.39.

⁴ Bull. EC 2-1984, point 2.1.46.

⁵ Point 2.4.22; OJ C 117, 30.4.1984.

⁶ OJ C 83, 24.3.1984; COM(84) 124 final.

Parliament¹ and the Economic and Social Committee² had delivered their opinions—for a Directive concerning the annual accounts of banks and other financial institutions.³

This new proposal provides in particular for the classification by maturity of certain assets and liabilities to be based on the remaining maturity as at the balance-sheet date (instead of the originally agreed maturity), and confers on the banking supervisory authorities an active role in monitoring the use made by credit institutions of the possibility of maintaining hidden reserves in the published balance sheet.

2.1.55. On 14 March, after consulting the Banking Advisory Committee, the Commission sent the Council its report on the application, as a condition of a credit institution's authorization to operate, of the criterion of the 'economic need' of the market.⁴ This report, drawn up pursuant to the first Directive of 12 December 1977 on the coordination of laws, regulations and administrative provisions relating to the taking up and pursuit of the business of credit institutions,⁵ concludes that France, Ireland, Italy and Denmark (for mortgage-lending institutions) should be allowed to continue to apply the criterion of economic need for a further five years, i.e. until 15 December 1989. It also states that the Commission is shortly to propose a Directive allowing Greece to take advantage of this option. After the abovementioned date, reference to the economic need criterion for both the establishment of new credit institutions and the opening of branches by existing institutions will be prohibited.

Taxation

Cooperation between firms in different Member States

2.1.56. After a wide-ranging exchange of views on the communication from Mr Tugendhat,⁶ the Council agreed that priority should be given to work on eliminating obstacles to cooperation between firms situ-

ated in different Member States, in particular to the proposals on a common system of taxation applicable to mergers, divisions and contributions of assets,⁷ a common system of taxation applicable to parent companies and subsidiaries of different Member States,⁷ the elimination of double taxation in connection with the adjustment of transfers of profits between associated undertakings (arbitration procedure)⁸ and the system of taxation applicable to transactions in securities.⁹

Indirect taxes

Value-added tax

2.1.57. On 21 March the Commission sent the Council a communication¹⁰ concerning the application of Article 27(1) to (4) of the sixth Council Directive of 17 May 1977 on value-added tax¹¹ to a request for derogation submitted by the United Kingdom Government. The purpose of the derogation is to avoid certain types of fraud or tax evasion on supplies of gold, gold coin and gold scrap between taxable persons by the introduction of a special tax accounting scheme.

Tax-free allowances

Motor fuel

2.1.58. On 20 March the Commission sent the Council two proposals for Directives:¹²

(i) the first amends Directive 83/181/EEC of 28 March 1983¹³ determining the scope

¹ OJ C 242, 12.9.1983; Bull. EC 7/8-1983, point 2.1.48.

² OJ C 112, 3.9.1982; Bull. EC 2-1982, point 2.4.28.

³ OJ C 130, 1.6.1981; Bull. EC 3-1981, point 2.1.31.

⁴ COM(84) 118 final.

⁵ OJ L 322, 17.12.1977.

⁶ Bull. EC 2-1984, point 2.1.58.

⁷ OJ C 39, 22.3.1969.

⁸ OJ C 301, 21.12.1976.

⁹ OJ C 133, 16.6.1976.

¹⁰ COM(84) 144 final.

¹¹ OJ L 145, 13.6.1977.

¹² OJ C 95, 6.4.1984; COM(84) 171 final.

¹³ OJ L 105, 23.4.1983; Bull. EC 3-1983, point 2.1.45.

of Article 14(1)(d) of the sixth Directive¹ as regards exemption from value-added tax on the final importation of certain goods;

(ii) the second amends Directive 83/127/EEC, also dated 28 March 1983, on the standardization of provisions regarding the duty-free admission of fuel contained in the fuel tanks of commercial motor vehicles,² by raising the limit from 50 to 200 litres.

The purpose of these proposals is to remove, from 1 July 1984, for vehicles travelling between Member States, all restrictions on the amount of fuel contained in the normal fuel tanks of commercial road vehicles which may be admitted duty-free, including the restriction concerning frontier traffic. This measure should facilitate the crossing of frontiers by abolishing the levying of VAT and excise duty at frontiers on ordinary transport operations: a limited duty-free allowance as laid down by the Directives adopted in March 1983³ involves additional checks and, if the limit is exceeded, the levying of excise duty and VAT on the excess fuel, and therefore causes delays at frontiers.

Tax-free allowances for travellers

2.1.59. On 29 March the Commission adopted a proposal, to be sent to the Council, for an eighth Directive increasing tax-free allowances in international travel.⁴ The purpose of this proposal, which supplements two earlier proposals for sixth and seventh Directives sent to the Council in April 1983,⁵ is to increase the tax-free allowance for travellers from outside the Community (and hence the tax-free allowance relating to tax-free purchases made by persons travelling within the Community covered by the proposal for a seventh Directive⁵) on the basis of a multiannual programme corresponding to the programme contained in the proposal for a sixth Directive.⁵ The programme would raise the value of this allowance from the present 45 ECU to 60 ECU in 1985 and by stages to 85 ECU in 1988.

Excise duties

Cigarettes

2.1.60. On 16 March Parliament delivered a favourable opinion⁶ on the Commission's proposal to extend the second stage of harmonization of the structure of excise duties on cigarettes.⁷ It emphasized, however, that approval of the fifth extension of the second stage of harmonization must not be interpreted as approval for continuing the approach of harmonizing the ratio between the specific and proportional components of the tax at any further stage of harmonization.

Employment, education and social policy

Employment

Employment and the labour market

Local employment initiatives

2.1.61. The Commission completed its final report on the first programme of consultations on local employment initiatives.⁸

In addition to a summary and analysis of the activities carried out under the programme, the report's conclusions contain proposals to encourage the development of employment initiatives in each Member State.

¹ OJ L 145, 13.6.1977.

² OJ L 91, 9.4.1983; Bull. EC 3-1983, point 2.1.46.

³ OJ L 105, 23.4.1983; Bull. EC 3-1983, point 2.1.45.

⁴ OJ C 102, 14.4.1984; COM(84) 182 final.

⁵ OJ C 114, 28.4.1983; Bull. EC 4-1983, point 2.1.60.

⁶ OJ C 104, 16.4.1984.

⁷ OJ C 348, 23.12.1983; Bull. EC 12-1983, point 2.1.62.

⁸ Bull. EC 1-1983, point 2.1.34; Bull. EC 2-1983, point 2.1.46; Bull. EC 4-1983, point 2.1.65; Bull. EC 6-1983, point 2.1.77; Bull. EC 7/8-1983, point 2.1.53; Bull. EC 10-1983, point 2.1.54; Bull. EC 11-1983, points 1.2.1 to 1.2.13.

2.1.62. On 30 March Parliament gave its opinion¹ on the Commission communication to the Council on Community action to combat unemployment—the contribution of local employment initiatives.² It welcomed the Commission's proposals and called for formal and legal obstacles existing in certain Member States to be removed immediately so as to provide equality of opportunity for all local employment initiatives in the Community.

The same day it also adopted two resolutions,³ one on unemployment in the Community and some of its consequences and the other on the efforts being made by the Commission to support small-scale local employment initiatives.

2.1.63. The Statistical Office of the European Communities (Eurostat) recently published a yearbook *Employment and unemployment—1984*.⁴ Illustrated by many charts, this publication contains statistics for employment up to 1983.

Free movement of workers

2.1.64. On 15 and 16 March the Directors of Employment Services held a meeting in Brussels to round off the 11th⁵ and launch the 12th programme of exchanges of placement staff between the Member States. The 11th programme enabled some 300 employees of the placement services in all Member States, except Luxembourg and Ireland, to take part in the bilateral exchange programmes organized by the Commission.

Financial instruments

Special measures of Community interest in the field of employment

2.1.65. The Council was unable to adopt the amended proposal for a Regulation establishing special measures of Community interest in the field of employment⁶ in the absence of an overall solution to the problem of the future financing of the Community.⁷

European Social Fund

Guidelines for the management of the Fund

2.1.66. On 30 March Parliament adopted a favourable opinion¹ on the guidelines proposed by the Commission for the management of the European Social Fund 1985-87.⁸ It feels that some experience must be gained of the working of the present arrangements before the rules for the management of the Fund are changed. Furthermore, it proposes that the list of areas with high unemployment and/or those undergoing restructuring be revised.

Social Fund annual report

2.1.67. As a supplement to its tenth report on the activities of the European Social Fund, presented to the Council in July 1982⁹ in accordance with the Regulation of 20 December 1977,¹⁰ the Commission presented all the national reports on the activities of the European Social Fund in Community countries in 1981, as drawn up by the Member States.

Education and vocational training

Cooperation in education

2.1.68. The Education Committee met on 15 and 16 March and made a detailed and constructive examination of the topics which will be the subject of discussions and policy decisions at the next meeting of the Council and Ministers of Education meeting within the Council, to be held in Brussels on 21 May. The main topics are: the

¹ OJ C 117, 30.4.1984.

² Bull. EC 11-1983, points 1.2.1 to 1.2.13.

³ Point 2.4.22; OJ C 117, 30.4.1984.

⁴ Available from the Office for Official Publications of the European Communities, Luxembourg.

⁵ Bull. EC 3-1983, point 2.1.51.

⁶ Bull. EC 2-1984, point 2.1.66.

⁷ Point 2.3.3.

⁸ OJ C 5, 10.1.1984; Bull. EC 12-1983, point 2.1.66.

⁹ Bull. EC 7/8-1982, point 2.1.57.

¹⁰ OJ L 337, 27.12.1977.

teaching of foreign languages in the Community; measures to be taken to combat functional illiteracy in the Community; integration of handicapped children into schools; education of migrant workers' children; and teaching in the face of demographic change and the new economic and social circumstances.

2.1.69. During its 12 to 16 March part-session Parliament held a detailed discussion of various topics concerning education and adopted resolutions of the following four subjects:¹

- (i) higher education and the development of cooperation between higher education establishments;
- (ii) the academic recognition of diplomas and periods of study;
- (iii) freedom of education in the European Community;
- (iv) education for children whose parents have no fixed abode. At its part-session from 26 to 30 March it adopted a resolution on the creation of a European library.²

Relations between educational systems

2.1.70. Working closely with the Commission, the Belgian authorities organized a European symposium held at Deurne (Antwerp) from 5 to 8 March on the education of young people between 14 and 16; this initiative forms part of the action programme in the field of education established by the resolution of 9 February 1976.³ The main topics discussed were the organization of teaching, transitional education, minimum standards, innovation and the certification of educational attainment.

Vocational training

2.1.71. On 26 March the Council formally adopted a Regulation,⁴ as part of the Community's response to the Greek memorandum,⁵ concerning special financial support for Greece in the social field, the substance of which it had approved in December 1983.⁶

This Regulation provides for Community financial support for the period 1984 to

1988, amounting to 55% of eligible public expenditure for the construction, adaptation and equipment of vocational training centres (Athens and Thessaloniki) and centres for the rehabilitation (particularly vocational) of the mentally ill and mentally handicapped throughout Greece. The sum considered necessary for the execution of these two programmes amounts to 120 million ECU over the five years, 60 million ECU being allocated to each.

2.1.72. On 22 and 23 March the Advisory Committee for Vocational Training met to discuss the transition of young people to adult and working life, the implementation of the Council resolutions of 2 June 1983 on vocational training measures relating to new information technologies⁷ and the introduction of new information technology in education,⁸ and the training needs of small firms.

2.1.73. The Management Board of the European Centre for the Development of Vocational Training met on 20 March to discuss the question of a successor to the present Director, who will be leaving the Centre at the end of September, and agreed to hold an extraordinary meeting in Brussels on 7 May to appoint the new Director.

It was also decided to improve coordination between certain measures carried out by the Commission and the activities of the Centre.

Continuing training and the labour market

2.1.74. A conference on the links between continuing training and the labour market was held at the European Centre for the Development of Vocational Training in Berlin from 7 to 9 March. The following questions were discussed in detail: the poli-

¹ Point 2.4.17; OJ C 104, 16.4.1984.

² Point 2.4.22; OJ C 117, 30.4.1984.

³ OJ C 38, 19.2.1976.

⁴ OJ L 88, 31.3.1984.

⁵ OJ C 232, 30.8.1983; Bull. EC 7/8-1983, point 2.1.62.

⁶ Bull. EC 12-1983, point 2.1.76.

⁷ OJ C 166, 25.6.1983; Bull. EC 6-1983, point 2.1.81.

⁸ OJ C 256, 24.9.1983; Bull. EC 6-1983, point 2.1.82.

cies to be adopted (at Community and at national, regional or local levels) with regard to continuing training at a time of high unemployment; the apportionment of training costs among the beneficiaries (individuals, employers and public authorities); and the choice of effective new approaches to deal with specific problems such as long-term unemployment.

Living and working conditions and social protection

Labour law and industrial relations

2.1.75. On 13 March Parliament adopted a resolution on sexual discrimination at the workplace,¹ deploring discrimination against homosexuals as regards access to jobs and working conditions.

Equality between men and women

2.1.76. A proposal for a Directive designed to promote the principle of equal treatment for women in self-employed occupations, including agriculture, and on protection during pregnancy and maternity, was sent by the Commission to the Council on 15 March.² The proposal forms part of the action programme being conducted by the Commission on the promotion of equal opportunities for women (1982-85),³ the broad lines of which were approved by the Council in its resolution of 12 July 1982.⁴ It would oblige Member States to remove any real obstacles preventing women in these categories from attaining full professional status and to ensure that a minimum of career disruption took place in the event of pregnancy and maternity, with the right to use replacement services and obtain appropriate social security cover. Once adopted, this new Directive will complement the legislation already in effect to ensure that the principle of equal treatment for men and women, embodied in the following Council Directives, is fully observed: equal pay (10 February 1975),⁵ equal treatment for men and women as regards access to employment, vocational training and promotion (9 February 1976)⁶ and equal treatment for

men and women in matters of social security (19 December 1978).⁷

2.1.77. To coincide with the informal meeting of Ministers of Employment in Paris on 8 March, the first to be devoted to women's employment, the Statistical Office of the European Communities (Eurostat) published a statistical bulletin on 'Female employment and unemployment'.⁸ These statistics show that women are present in ever greater numbers on the labour market, but also that the unemployment rate for women is distinctly higher than for men.

2.1.78. The Commission took part in the second meeting of the Commission on the status of women, held in Vienna from 27 February to 7 March, in preparation for the 1985 World Conference to review and appraise the achievements of the United Nations Decade for Women (1976-85).

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2.1.79. On 30 March Parliament delivered a favourable opinion⁹ on the proposal for a Directive on parental leave and leave for family reasons,¹⁰ calling for the conditions for the application of the proposed measures to be extended and for parents-in-law to be expressly included among the categories benefiting from this leave. It also endorsed, on 30 March,⁹ the proposed Directive on equal treatment for men and women in occupational social security schemes.¹¹

Also on that day it adopted a resolution on the equal treatment of widows and widowers as regards social security.¹²

¹ Point 2.4.17; OJ C 104, 16.4.1984.

² OJ C 113, 27.4.1984; COM(84) 57 final.

³ Supplement 1/82 - Bull. EC; OJ C 22, 29.1.1982; Bull. EC 12-1981, points 1.2.1 to 1.2.5.

⁴ OJ C 186, 21.7.1982; Bull. EC 5-1982, point 2.1.48; Bull. EC 7/8-1982, point 2.1.67.

⁵ OJ L 45, 19.2.1975.

⁶ OJ L 39, 14.2.1976.

⁷ OJ L 16, 10.1.1979.

⁸ Statistical bulletin *Employment and unemployment*, 1-1984, Eurostat, Luxembourg.

⁹ OJ C 117, 30.4.1984.

¹⁰ OJ C 333, 9.12.1983; Bull. EC 11-1983, point 2.1.80.

¹¹ OJ C 134, 21.5.1983; Bull. EC 4-1983, point 2.1.70.

¹² Point 2.4.22; OJ C 117, 30.4.1984.

Social integration of the handicapped

2.1.80. On 19 March the Commission approved a memorandum outlining the position of handicapped people employed by it and the measures already adopted or planned as regards administrative provisions and reception facilities. This paper is part of the process of modernizing the Commission's staff policy.

2.1.81. From 21 to 23 March the Commission held a workshop in Brussels on the employment of handicapped persons; this event comes under the action programme adopted by the Council in December 1981.¹ In the course of the month the Commission also coordinated three one-day symposia in Athens for representatives from various occupational sectors, which featured experts involved in the Community network of rehabilitation centres from seven Member States.

Health and safety

Public health

2.1.82. On 21 and 22 March the Commission held a meeting of experts from the Member States in Luxembourg to discuss the general question of the right to compensation for the victims of occupational diseases. The meeting was devoted essentially to the examination of a draft Commission report on the action taken by the national governments in response to the recommendations made by the Commission on 23 July 1962 concerning the adoption of a European list of occupational diseases² and on 20 July 1966 concerning conditions for the compensation of victims of occupational diseases.³

Health and safety at work

2.1.83. The Committee of Senior Officials responsible for Labour Inspection, meeting on 12 and 13 March, decided to set up an exchange system for inspectors. The system provides for the utilization in the countries concerned of the experience gained in the course of any exchange. The Committee also held an initial discussion on the coordi-

nation required at national level in respect of measures relating to labour inspection and on the specific problems that arise in that field as a result of the introduction of new technologies into firms.

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2.1.84. On 26 March Parliament approved⁴ the proposal for a Council Directive on the protection of workers from noise at work.⁵

Health and safety (Euratom)

2.1.85. In March both Parliament⁴ and the Economic and Social Committee⁶ approved the Commission communication to the Council concerning the Community's role as regards the safety of nuclear installations and the protection of public health and the draft Resolution on transfrontier radiological problems.⁷

Culture

Venice Declaration on the European cultural identity

2.1.86. A symposium entitled 'Does Europe have a cultural identity?' was held in Venice from 29 to 31 March at the instigation of Mrs Maria Antonietta Macciocchi, Member of the European Parliament, and under the patronage of Mr Piet Dankert, President of the Parliament, and Mr Gaston Thorn, President of the Commission; it was financed by the City of Venice, the Cini Foundation and the Commission.

The symposium provided a forum for around 100 European and non-European representatives of the world of learning and the arts to exchange views on four basic themes (history, the arts, the sciences and

¹ Bull. EC 11-1981, point 2.1.64.

² OJ 80, 31.8.1962.

³ OJ 147, 9.8.1966.

⁴ OJ C 117, 30.4.1984.

⁵ OJ C 289, 5.11.1982; Bull. EC 10-1982, point 2.1.45.

⁶ Point 2.4.36.

⁷ OJ C 338, 15.12.1983; Bull. EC 7/8-1983, point 2.1.74.

information) and to affirm, refute or aspire to the existence of a European cultural identity.

At the close of the discussions, during which Mr Thorn underlined the importance attached to cultural matters by the Community in general and the Commission in particular, the Venice meeting adopted a declaration reaffirming the European cultural identity.¹

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2.1.87. On 30 March Parliament adopted resolutions² on the creation of a European Library, the foundation of a Euro-Arab University at a traditional meeting place of Islamic and European culture on Spanish soil and on the University Institute for Euro-African Studies in Lecce, Italy.

Addendum

2.1.88. The following paragraph should have been added at the end of point 2.1.92 in Bulletin 11-1983: 'In her capacity as chairman Mrs Melina Mercouri presented this outline as her own conclusions to be drawn from the discussion'.

Regional policy

Second periodic report on the social and economic situation and development of the regions

2.1.89. In accordance with the Council resolution of 6 February 1979,³ the Commission on 7 March adopted the second periodic report on the social and economic situation and development of the regions of the Community.⁴ The report, drawn up in close cooperation with the Regional Policy Committee, covers the situation of the regions in the early 1980s and developments since the first oil shock in 1973. Like the first report, it gives an up-to-date and detailed analysis of regional disparities in employment, production, productivity and other factors. It also has several new sections on the infrastructure endowment of the Community's regions, the particular situation of

the regions affected by the decline in certain industries, the consequences for industry and agriculture in the regions of bringing Spain and Portugal into the Community, projections concerning employment in the regions, regional aspects of the growth of the service sector, and the regional impact of new information technologies.

The report shows that over the past 10 years regional disparities in production have not lessened but are still very wide. The regions with the poorest performances are in Greece, Ireland, Northern Ireland and southern Italy, i.e. on the western and southern periphery of the Community. The group of the 10 regions with the best performances and the group of the 10 with the poorest performances are respectively 50% above and 50% below the Community average. The predominant factor is the differences between regions in labour productivity, which alone explain between half and three quarters of production disparities. Productivity levels vary widely within sectors and concomitantly with a region's overall level of development, which itself depends on the region's endowment in productive capital and infrastructure. Regional labour market disequilibria are characterized by growing differences in unemployment. Between the 10 strongest regions and the 10 weakest, unemployment rates range from 5 to 20%. In general, the regions with low production levels also have very high unemployment rates. The future prospects for labour markets in the 1980s suggest a further deepening of regional differences, owing to population pressures and a growing influx of women onto the labour market.

The report highlights two phenomena: first the close correlation between the level of productivity and the level of endowment in economic infrastructures (telecommunications, transport, energy, etc.), the latter be-

¹ Point 3.4.1.

² Point 2.4.22; OJ C 117, 30.4.1984.

³ OJ C 36, 9.2.1979.

⁴ COM(84) 40 final/3. See also Fourteenth General Report, point 276.

ing of decisive significance for the former; and secondly, the serious possibility that new technologies will be developed mainly in the major urban areas, which would further widen the present development gaps. Bearing in mind the social and economic situation of the regions of Spain and Portugal, the report suggests that the enlargement of the Community may be expected to produce two sorts of consequences. In industry the positive and negative effects on job creation should tend to offset each other overall; but in agriculture there are likely to be regional differences in net impact, to the disadvantage of the Mediterranean regions.

In the enlarged Community, regional disparities will be much more marked. The economic performances of the applicant countries are well below the Community average, and they have higher unemployment and heavy population pressures. A large proportion of their labour force is employed in agriculture, and they exhibit widely varying levels of internal development; in the enlarged Community the population in regions regarded as the least developed will be double the figure in the present Community.

Integrated Mediterranean programmes

2.1.90. On 29 March Parliament gave its opinion¹ on the proposal for a Council Regulation instituting the integrated Mediterranean programmes for regions of Greece, Italy and France.² Although it approved the Commission's proposal, it felt that it lacked the essential qualities to achieve the objectives of developing the least-developed regions of the Mediterranean (clarity, simplicity and coordination of the different measures). It accordingly called on the Commission to amend the proposal along the lines it indicated. It also pointed out that efforts to develop the Mediterranean regions had to cover all sectors of activity and not just agriculture.

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2.1.91. On 29 March Parliament passed a resolution on the situation in Northern Ireland.³

Financial instruments

European Regional Development Fund

Revision of the ERDF

2.1.92. On 29 March the Economic and Social Committee gave its opinion⁴ on the Commission's amended proposal for the revision of the ERDF.⁵

Integrated operations

2.1.93. On 23 March the Commission granted FF 945 000 (about 136 950 ECU) for a study preparatory to an integrated operation in the arid hill-country of Provence in France.⁶ The Community's contribution will cover 63% of the cost of the study, the remaining 37% being met by the French authorities. The study, to be completed in February 1985, concerns an area with complex economic, social and environmental problems, which will be tackled with the resources of several Community financial instruments. The study will use an integrated approach to examine the possibilities for developing priority sectors such as agriculture, forestry, industrial and craft industry activity suited to the local context, tourism and vocational training. The study will also define the measures needed for the most beneficial management of the environment.

¹ OJ C 117, 30.4.1984.

² Bull. EC 3-1983, points 1.3.1 to 1.3.13 and 3.4.1 to 3.4.4; OJ C 251, 19.9.1983; Bull. EC 7/8-1983, point 2.1.78; Bull. EC 10-1983, point 2.1.76.

³ Point 2.4.23; OJ C 117, 30.4.1984.

⁴ Point 2.4.35.

⁵ OJ C 360, 31.12.1983; Bull. EC 11-1983, points 1.1.1 to 1.1.8.

⁶ The 'arid hill-country' of Provence comprises the mountain areas of the departments of Alpes-de-Haute-Provence, Hautes-Alpes, Alpes-Maritimes, Drôme, Var and Vaucluse and certain peripheral Piedmont areas, in particular in Var and Vaucluse. The upper mountain areas are not included.

Environment and consumers

Environment

Council

2.1.94. The Council cleared up a number of items at its meeting on 1 March:¹ it formally adopted a Decision concluding the fourth Protocol to the Barcelona Convention—the Protocol concerning Mediterranean specially protected areas,¹ it reached agreement on the substance of a Directive on the combating of air pollution,³ and it approved a Regulation concerning the financing of action by the Community relating to the environment.⁴

On the other hand, Ministers failed to reach agreement on the transfrontier shipment of hazardous wastes, though some progress was achieved.⁵

Action by the Community relating to the environment

2.1.95. At the end of a further exchange of views, the Council, on 1 March, approved a Regulation on the financing of action by the Community relating to the environment (ACE) from the general budget.

The Regulation, proposed by the Commission in December 1982,⁶ provides for grants totalling 13 million ECU over a three-year period in support of:

- (i) demonstration projects on the development of clean technologies, i.e. technologies which cause little or no pollution and are more economical of natural resources;
- (ii) demonstration projects to develop new techniques and measuring methods;
- (iii) promotional projects aiming at contributing towards the upkeep and re-establishment of seriously threatened biotopes which, as the habitat of endangered species, are of particular importance to the Community; these projects are to implement the Council Directive of 2 April 1979 on the conservation of wild birds.⁷

The Community may pay up to 30% of the cost in the case of the demonstration projects and up to 50% in the case of the promotional projects. The Commission, aided by an Advisory Committee made up of representatives from the Member States, will manage the budget and make sure that none of the grants affect conditions of competition in a manner incompatible with the Treaty.

Information system on the state of the environment and natural resources

2.1.96. On 28 March the Economic and Social Committee gave its opinion⁸ on the proposal for a Decision on the adoption of a work programme for the first phase of the implementation of an information system on the state of the environment and natural resources in the Community (1984-87), which the Commission sent to the Council in October 1983.⁹

Prevention and reduction of pollution and nuisances

Freshwater and marine pollution

Barcelona Convention

2.1.97. On 1 March the Council adopted the Decision¹⁰ concluding, on behalf of the Community, the fourth Protocol to the 1986 Barcelona Convention — the Protocol concerning Mediterranean specially protected areas.¹¹ Under the terms of the Protocol,

¹ Point 2.4.24.

² Point 2.1.97.

³ Point 2.1.104.

⁴ Point 2.1.95.

⁵ Point 2.1.108.

⁶ OJ C 30, 4.2.1983; Bull. EC 12-1982, point 2.1.96; OJ C 158, 16.6.1983; Bull. EC 5-1983, point 2.1.83.

⁷ OJ L 103, 25.4.1979.

⁸ Point 2.4.36.

⁹ OJ C 291, 27.10.1983; Bull. EC 10-1983, point 2.1.82.

¹⁰ OJ L 68, 10.3.1984.

¹¹ Bull. EC 3-1983, point 2.1.76.

the Contracting Parties, i.e. the Mediterranean States, have undertaken to implement all appropriate measures to protect areas of the Mediterranean important for safeguarding the natural resources, natural sites and cultural heritage of the region. They have agreed to do all they can to establish protected areas and to endeavour to take whatever action is necessary to conserve and, where necessary, restore them as rapidly as possible.

Another objective of the Protocol is to encourage research and to increase public awareness of the protected areas, all in close collaboration with the parties concerned.

Caribbean Convention

2.1.98. On 16 March Parliament endorsed¹ the proposal for a Decision concerning the signing of the Protocol on Cooperation in Combating Oil Spills in the Wider Caribbean Region and the conclusion of the Convention for the Protection and Development of the Marine Environment of the Wider Caribbean Region and the protocol thereto.²

Oslo Convention

2.1.99. The Commission sat in as an observer at the meeting, held in Dun Laoghaire, Ireland, from 20 to 23 March, of the Standing Advisory Committee for Scientific Advice set up under the Oslo Convention. The Committee discussed a series of reports on the problems raised by the 1982 permits and approvals for dumping at sea, for dumping in inland surface water and for burning at sea and considered the supervision and continuous monitoring of dumping sites.

Paris Convention

2.1.100. From 26 to 29 March the Commission took part in another meeting in Dun Laoghaire, this time convened by the authorities responsible for the Paris Convention for the Prevention of Marine Pollution from Land-based Sources. The delegates recommended the Paris Commission to adopt the Community directives on cad-

mium and mercury discharges into the aquatic environment.³

Mercury discharges

2.1.101. On 8 March the Council formally adopted a second Directive on mercury discharges into the aquatic environment,⁴ this time concerning discharges by sectors other than the chloralkali electrolysis industry, which had been dealt with already by the Council Directive of 22 March 1982.⁵ The latest Directive lays down limit values and quality objectives for the aquatic environment in the Community and gives the Member States two years by which to satisfy them.

Titanium dioxide

2.1.102. On 27 March the Commission adopted a report⁶ to the Council and to Parliament on the application by the Member States of the Council Directive of 20 February 1978 on waste from the titanium dioxide industry.⁷

The report, based on information provided by the Member States, sums up the progress made in preventing and reducing pollution and gives the Commission's appraisal of the steps taken by the Member States to apply the Directive and to reduce the volume of all categories of waste produced by the industry.

Dumping of radioactive waste at sea

2.1.103. Parliament adopted a resolution on the dumping of radioactive waste at sea on 14 March.⁸

¹ OJ C 104, 16.4.1984.

² Bull. EC 12-1983, point 2.1.115.

³ OJ L 291, 24.10.1983; OJ L 81, 27.3.1982; OJ L 74, 17.3.1984.

⁴ OJ L 74, 17.3.1984; Bull. EC 12-1983, point 2.1.114.

⁵ OJ L 81, 27.3.1982; Bull. EC 3-1982, point 2.1.55.

⁶ COM(84) 175 final.

⁷ OJ L 54, 25.2.1978.

⁸ Point 2.4.17; OJ C 104, 16.4.1984.

Air pollution

Industrial plants

2.1.104. On 1 March the Council reached agreement on a Directive on the combating of air pollution from industrial plants. This Directive, the first general one concerned with combating air pollution, was originally proposed in April 1983;¹ it stipulates that the Member States must introduce a prior authorization procedure for operation of the industrial plants concerned. No authorization will be granted until the competent authority is satisfied that all the appropriate preventive measures have been taken, and in particular that the best available technology has been used, and that operation of the plant will not give rise to air pollution likely to endanger human health or to harm living resources and ecosystems.

The energy, metal-processing, non-metallic mineral products, waste disposal and chemical industries are the main branches of industry concerned.

The Directive also requires the Member States to adopt policies and strategies to adapt existing plant, step by step, to the best available technology.

Finally, the Directive states that, wherever necessary, the Council will fix emission limit values for the Community as a whole; these must be based on the best available technology, must not entail excessive costs and must take due account of the nature, quantity and harmfulness of the emissions in question.

Lead in petrol

2.1.105. ERGA II—the Working Party on the Evolution of Regulations, Global Approach, set up by the Commission in July 1983—has now completed its study of the problems likely to be raised by the reduction, and eventual elimination, of lead in petrol. Its final reports to the Commission will be taken as the starting point for drafting proposals on lead in petrol and on the reduction of emissions from motor vehicles.

Protection and rational use of land, the environment and natural resources

Flora and fauna

Washington Convention

2.1.106. On 5 March² the Commission again³ amended the Council Regulation of 3 December 1982 on the implementation in the Community of the Washington Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora.⁴

The latest amendment, unanimously endorsed by the Committee on the Convention, adds the giant panda to Appendix I, the list of species of fauna and flora subject to trade limits and controls.

Ivory trade and imports

2.1.107. On 16 March Parliament adopted a resolution requesting the Commission to prohibit the import into, or transit through, the Community of all ivory from countries not party to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora.⁵

Natural resources

Transfrontier shipment of hazardous wastes

2.1.108. The Council re-examined in depth⁶ the proposal for a Directive on the supervision and control of transfrontier shipment of hazardous wastes.⁷ Some progress was made, particularly on the notification procedures, the conditions for transporting the wastes and on defining the producer's responsibility. However, the Council could not adopt the proposal because the questions of the powers of the exporting State and of wastes intended for recycling both remain unresolved.

¹ OJ C 139, 27.5.1983; Bull. EC 4-1983, point 2.1.85.

² OJ L 64, 6.3.1984.

³ OJ L 367, 28.12.1983; Bull. EC 11-1983, point 2.1.109.

⁴ OJ L 384, 31.12.1982; Bull. EC 12-1982, point 2.1.105.

⁵ Point 2.4.17; OJ C 104, 16.4.1984.

⁶ Bull. EC 6-1983, point 2.1.127.

⁷ OJ C 53, 25.2.1983; OJ C 186, 12.7.1983.

Waste management and recycling

2.1.109. Parliament adopted a resolution on waste management and the recycling industries on 16 March.¹

*Improvement of the quality of life***Environment and employment**

2.1.110. Finally, the Commission sent representatives to the colloquy on environment and employment held in Barcelona on 1 and 2 March under the auspices of the Council of Europe's Parliamentary Assembly. Some hundred delegates (members of parliament, experts, and representatives of local and regional government, both sides of industry and youth organizations) reached a general consensus that vigorous steps should be taken to pursue environment policies. Far from aggravating the economic crisis, environment policies were creating new markets and, with them, new jobs. Taking the conclusions reached at the colloquy as its starting point, the Council of Europe now plans to draft a resolution on this subject.

Consumers**Council**

2.1.111. The second Council meeting to be devoted exclusively to consumer protection and information policy was held in Brussels on 2 March;² this meeting was marked by the formal adoption of a Decision introducing a Community system for the rapid exchange of information on dangers arising from the use of consumer products,³ approved by the Council meeting on consumer affairs on 12 December 1983.⁴ This system, which is to become operational by March 1985, has been set up for four years and may be revised or continued in the light of experience.

The Council also made progress—though without achieving practical results—on other points on its agenda, which included product liability,⁵ misleading and unfair advertising,⁶ and contracts negotiated away from business premises.⁷

Finally, the Council took note of a communication on consumer policy transmitted by the Commission on 24 February,⁸ on which it held a preliminary exchange of views.

*Consumer information, education and representation***Labelling and presentation of foodstuffs**

2.1.112. On 16 March Parliament issued an opinion⁹ on a proposal for a Council Directive¹⁰ amending the Directive of 18 December 1978 on the labelling, presentation and advertising of foodstuffs for sale to the ultimate consumer.¹¹ While unconvinced of the need for an indication of alcoholic strength in respect of beer, cider and perry, Parliament nevertheless approved the Commission's proposal.

Agriculture**Council**

2.1.113. Before reaching a general agreement on the reform of the common agricultural policy and on prices for 1984/85 on 30 and 31 March,¹² the Ministers of Agriculture had met several times during the month.²

The Council meeting on 5 and 6 March was almost entirely devoted to exploratory bilateral contacts which the Presidency and Commission held with the delegations of the individual Member States.

¹ Point 2.4.17; OJ C 104, 16.4.1984.

² Point 2.4.24.

³ OJ L 70, 13.3.1984; OJ C 321, 22.12.1979; Bull. EC 12-1979, point 2.1.93; OJ C 22, 27.1.1983; Bull. EC 12-1982, point 2.1.107.

⁴ Bull. EC 12-1983, point 2.1.125.

⁵ Bull. EC 12-1983, point 2.1.127.

⁶ Bull. EC 12-1983, point 2.1.128.

⁷ Bull. EC 12-1983, point 2.1.130.

⁸ Bull. EC 2-1984, point 2.1.93.

⁹ OJ C 104, 16.4.1984.

¹⁰ OJ C 281, 26.10.1982; Bull. EC 10-1982, point 2.1.62.

¹¹ OJ L 33, 8.2.1979; Bull. EC 12-1978, point 2.1.90.

¹² Point 1.2.1 *et seq.*

At its meetings on 11 to 13 and 16 and 17 March the Council was able to agree on the elements of a package comprising the control of milk production and the dismantling of MCAs on the one hand and agricultural prices and related measures for 1984/85 on the other. However, the implementation of this agreement was conditional on the right balance being struck by the European Council in its decisions on agricultural problems, control of budget spending, own resources and new policies.

The European Council, meeting on 19 and 20 March,¹ was unable to reach overall agreement however, in particular because there was no settlement of the budget rebate to the United Kingdom, or of the question of applying milk quotas in Ireland, whose delegation took the view that this was a matter of 'vital interest'. All the points conditionally agreed earlier were thus reopened for discussion.

The Agriculture Ministers resumed their negotiations on 26 and 27 March on the basis of amended proposals from the Commission, which formalized the content of the conditional agreements and added other measures to deal with the points remaining open.² The Council concentrated on Irish milk quotas, some aspects of dismantling positive MCAs which had not been resolved and various reservations concerning products other than milk which were still on the table.

The Council did not arrive at a final agreement until its meeting on 30 and 31 March.

Agricultural prices for 1984/85

2.1.114. The agricultural prices for 1984/85 adopted by the Council on 31 March³ on the basis of proposals from the Commission⁴ are set out in Table 8.

Cereal substitutes

2.1.115. On 31 March the Council authorized the Commission to start either tariff negotiations or consultations with GATT contracting parties enjoying duty exemptions (bound in GATT) on certain

cereal substitutes with a view to a partial and temporary withdrawal of this concession.⁵

The products concerned are maize starch residues (mainly corn gluten feed), spent grains from brewing and distilling, and maize cake.

Economic aspects of the common agricultural policy

Agri-monetary measures

Calculation and dismantling of monetary compensatory amounts

2.1.116. On 31 March the Council adopted,⁶ on a proposal from the Commission² arrangements to ensure that up to 1 April 1987 (start of the 1987/88 milk year) changes in central rates under the European Monetary System (EMS) can no longer lead to the creation of stable positive monetary compensatory amounts (MCAs).

This is to be achieved by applying a corrective coefficient (equal to the highest percentage revaluation resulting from the realignment) to the EMS central rates for currencies respecting the 2.25% fluctuation margins. MCAs are to be calculated from these 'green' central rates in such a way that negative MCAs are introduced or increased for all Member States except the one whose currency has appreciated the most. For the latter country, the MCA will remain unchanged. The negative MCAs created under these arrangements will be dismantled as and when the economic situation in the various Member States permits, on proposals from the Commission.

The Commission is to report to the Council on the working of these arrangements by 31 December 1986 and will make proposals

¹ Point 1.1.1 *et seq.*

² COM(84) 190 final.

³ Point 1.2.2; OJ L 90, 1.4.1984; OJ L 107, 19.4.1984; OJ L 113, 28.4.1984.

⁴ OJ C 62, 5.3.1984; Bull. EC 1-1984, points 1.1.1 to 1.1.7.

⁵ Bull. EC 1-1984, point 2.1 68.

⁶ Point 1.2.3; OJ L 90, 1.4.1984.

in the light of the economic and monetary situation in the Community, the situation as regards farm incomes and experience gained.

If, on the basis of the Commission's report, the Council does not decide either to prolong the existing arrangements or to introduce new ones before the start of the 1987/88 milk year, the system applying before 1984/85 will be resumed.

2.1.117. On the issue of dismantling existing positive MCAs, the Council has approved a three-stage approach:

(i) The first stage will begin with the start of the 1984/85 marketing year for each product. Part of the positive MCAs of all the Member States concerned will be dismantled by applying a corrective coefficient allowing a conversion into negative MCAs. The corrective coefficient will be calculated so as to reduce German positive MCAs by 3 percentage points by converting to negative MCAs.

The Council has decided that the additional negative MCAs created in this way are to be dismantled with effect from the beginning of the 1984/85 marketing year for each of the agricultural products involved.

(ii) The second stage will begin on 1 January 1985. The Council has decided that the German positive MCAs will be dismantled by 5 percentage points with effect from this date and the Dutch MCAs by 0.6 in the case of milk, 0.7 in the case of cereals and 0.8 in the case of other products, so that the Dutch MCAs are equal to the German MCAs.

In order to offset the impact on farm incomes of the reduction of prices in German marks, the Federal Republic of Germany will be authorized by the Community to grant special aid (equivalent to 3% of the price of a product) by altering the VAT payable on agricultural products.

The Community is to participate in financing this aid on a degressive basis, contributing 120 million ECU in 1985 and 100 million ECU in 1986. Community participation in

1987 will depend on the level of national compensation being paid in Germany.

If the Netherlands applies for and receives authorization to take measures similar to those in Germany, it will qualify for Community support of the same kind offered to Germany.

(iii) The third stage involves the dismantling, by the beginning of the 1987/88 marketing year for each of the products concerned, of any positive German and Dutch MCAs remaining after 1 January 1985.

2.1.118. Existing negative MCAs are to be eliminated on proposals from the Commission. The Council has thus decided, for the 1984/85 marketing year, to discontinue existing Italian and Greek MCAs and to dismantle some French MCAs.

The Council has also decided on the basis of a Commission proposal to alter some of the rules for calculating and applying MCAs. The 'non-cumulation' rule has been changed so that no MCA will be paid or changed whenever the monetary gap, minus the neutral margin, is 0.50 or less; an MCA of 1 is to apply if the gap is 1 or less.

In the wine sector, the 'contraction' rule, stipulating that—in the case of negative MCAs—the MCA to be applied is the MCA for the Member State concerned minus the lowest negative MCA, has been abolished. In addition, the neutral margin may now be increased to 5 percentage points for wine.

In the case of pigmeat, the MCAs will be calculated from 1 January 1985 on the basis of the quantity of cereals needed to produce a given amount of pigmeat.

2.1.119. Following the Council's decisions, the Commission adopted the necessary implementing regulations, including regulations on the fixing of MCAs and amendments to Regulation (EEC) No 1054/78.¹

For beef/veal the Commission also altered the price on which MCAs are based (85% of the guide price).

¹ OJ L 92, 2.4.1984.

Table 8 — Price decisions for the various products

	Type of price or amount	1983/84		1984/85 decisions		Period of application	Greece ¹	
		Amount (ECU/t)	Increase (%)	Amount (ECU/t)	Increase (%)		Amount fixed 1983/84 (ECU/t)	Amount decided 1984/85 (ECU/t)
Common wheat	Target price	261.41	4.3	259.08	- 0.9	1.8.1984-31.7.1985	CP	CP
	Common single intervention price	184.58	3.0	182.73	- 1.0		CP	CP
	Reference price for bread wheat — average quality	215.29	3.0	213.14	- 1.0		CP	CP
Durum wheat	Target price	355.42	4.8	357.70	0.6	1.7.1984-30.6.1985	CP	CP
	Intervention price	312.08	4.6	312.08	0.0		CP	CP
	Aid	99.81	5.5	101.31	1.5		77.36 ²	89.34 ²
Barley	Target price	238.17	4.3	236.30	- 0.8	1.8.1984-31.7.1985	CP	CP
	Common single intervention price	184.58	3.0	182.73	- 1.0		CP	CP
Rye	Target price	238.17	4.3	238.37	- 0.1	1.8.1984-31.7.1985	CP	CP
	Intervention price	184.58	3.0	184.58	0.0		CP	CP
Maize	Target price	238.17	4.3	236.30	- 0.8	1.8.1984-31.7.1985	CP	CP
	Common single intervention price	184.58	3.0	182.73	- 1.0		CP	CP
Rice	Target price — husked rice	523.16	5.3	539.49	3.1	1.9.1984-31.8.1985	CP	CP
	Intervention price — paddy rice	306.53	5.5	314.19	2.5		CP	CP
Sugar	Basic price for sugarbeet	40.89	4.0	40.89	0	1.7.1984-30.6.1985	CP	CP
	Intervention price for white sugar	534.70	4.0	534.70	0		CP	CP
Olive oil	Production target price	3 194.2	5.5	3 162.3	- 1.0	1.11.1984-31.10.1985	CP	CP
	Intervention price	2 299.2	5.5	2 276.2	- 1.0		CP	CP
	Production aid	702.6	5.5	695.6	- 1.0		405.20	550.40
Oilseeds	Target price					1.7.1984-30.6.1985	CP	CP
	— Swede and turnip rape	482.20	4.0	472.6	- 2.0			
	— Sunflower seed	577.10	6.0	582.2	- 1.0 ³	1.9.1984-31.8.1985	CP	CP
	Basic intervention price					1.7.1984-30.6.1985	CP	CP
	— Swede and turnip rape	438.0	4.0	429.2	- 2.0			
	— Sunflower seed	527.1	6.0	532.7	- 1.0 ³	1.9.1984-31.8.1985	CP	CP
	Norm price					1.9.1984-31.8.1985	CP	CP
	— Soya beans	561.7	6.5	570.1	1.5			
— Flax seed	545.9	6.0	548.6	0.5	1.8.1984-31.7.1985	CP	CP	
Minimum price soya beans	494.3	6.5	501.7	1.5	1.9.1984-30.8.1985	CP	CP	

Dried fodder	Fixed-rate aid Guide price	8.49 178.94	6.0 6.0	8.41 177.15	- 1.0 - 1.0	19.5.1984-31.3.1985 1.7.1984-30.6.1985	CP CP	CP CP
Peas and beans	Activating price Guide price Minimum price	517.6 334.4 291.9	8.7 6.5 6.5	512.4 331.1 289.0	- 1.0 - 1.0 - 1.0	1.7.1984-30.6.1985	CP	CP
Lupin	Activating price Minimum price	— —	— —	478.2 317.9	— —	1.7.1984-30.6.1985	CP	CP
Flax and hemp	Fixed-rate aid (per ha) — Fibre flax — Hemp	355.12 322.52	6.0 6.0	351.57 319.29	- 1.0 - 1.0	1.8.1984-31.7.1985	118.37 107.51	277.72 252.22
Cotton	Norm (guide) price Minimum price	927.5 881.2	2.0 2.0	941.4 894.4	1.5 1.5	1.9.1984-31.8.1985	CP CP	CP CP
Table wine Type RI RII RIII AI AII AIII	Guide price (per degree/hl or per hl according to type)	3.45 3.45 53.84 3.20 71.74 81.93	5.5 5.5 5.5 6.0 5.5 5.5	5.42 3.42 53.30 3.17 71.02 81.11	1.0 - 1.0 - 1.0 - 1.0 - 1.0 - 1.0	1.9.1984-31.8.1985	CP CP CP CP CP CP	CP CP CP CP CP CP
Raw tobacco	Norm price ⁵ Intervention price ⁵		4-7.5 5-8.5		- 3- + 2 - 3- + 2	1984 harvest	CP	CP
Fruit and vegetables	Basic price		3.5-6.5 ⁴		- 1- + 2	1984/85	4	4
Milk	Target price for milk Intervention price — for butter — for skimmed-milk powder — for cheese • Grana Padano 30-60 days • Grana Padano 6 months • Parmigiano-Reggiano 6 months	274.3 3 578.6 1 496.4 3 612.8 4 395.3 4 802.6	2.3 2.3 2.3 2.3 2.3 2.3	274.3 3 197.0 1 658.8 3 817.5 4 727.5 5 216.1	0.0 - 10.6 10.9 5.7 7.6 8.6	1.4.1984-31.3.1985	CP	CP
Beef/veal	Guide price for adult bovines Intervention price for adult bovines	2 070.9 1 863.8	5.5 5.5	2 050.2 1 845.2	- 1.0 - 1.0	2.4.1984-1.4.1985	CP	CP
Sheepmeat	Basic price (carcass weight)	4 323.6	5.5	4 280.4	- 1.0	4.4.1984-31.3.1985	CP	CP
Pigmeat	Basic price (carcass weight)	2 053.87	5.5	2 033.30	- 1.0	1.11.1984-31.10.1985	CP	CP

Table 8 (continued)

	Type of price or amount	1983/84		1984/85 decisions		Period of application	Greece ¹	
		Amount (ECU/t)	Increase (%)	Amount (ECU/t)	Increase (%)		Amount fixed 1983/84 (ECU/t)	Amount decided 1984/85 (ECU/t)
Silk worms	Aid per box of silkseed	106.00	6.0	107.59	1.5	1.4.1984-31.3.1985	84.01	95.80

Note: Where appropriate, account is taken of the activation of the guarantee thresholds.

¹ Prices for Greece are shown only where they differ from the common prices (CP).

² For the regions of Greece which received no national aid before Greece joined, Community aid is 57.26 ECU/ha for 1983/84 and will be 79.29 ECU/ha for 1984/85.

³ On the basis of a standard quality having an oil content of 42% (previously 40%).

⁴ Products listed in Annex II to Council Regulation (EEC) No 1035/72 of 18 May 1972 (% increase and periods of application):

	1983/84	CP 1984/85	Greece 1984/85	
Cauliflowers	6.5%	2.0%	CP	1. 5.1984 to 30. 4.1985
Tomatoes	3.5%	- 1.0%	6.4%	11. 6.1984 to 30.11.1984
Peaches	6.5%	0.5%	6.5%	1. 6.1984 to 30. 9.1984
Lemons	6.5%	0.5%	CP	1. 6.1984 to 31. 5.1985
Pears	3.5%	0.5%	CP	1. 7.1984 to 30. 4.1985
Table grapes	6.5%	2.0%	CP	1. 8.1984 to 31.10.1984
Apples	3.5%	0.5%	CP	1. 8.1984 to 30. 6.1985
Mandarins	5.5%	0.5%	4.6%	16.11.1984 to 28. 2.1985
Sweet oranges	6.5%	0.5%	8.0%	1.12.1984 to 31. 5.1985
Apricots	6.5%	- 1.0%	CP	1. 6.1984 to 31. 7.1984
Aubergines	6.5%	2.0%	CP	1. 7.1984 to 31.10.1984

For Greece, lower prices have to be fixed for tomatoes, peaches, mandarins and oranges (price alignment and increase included).

Common prices are applicable for cauliflowers, lemons, pears, table grapes, apples, apricots and aubergines.

⁵ Increases in 1984/85 in norm prices and premiums for tobacco varieties:

Variety	Norm price*	Premium
Mavra, Tsebelia	- 2	- 2
Forchheimer Havanna, Beneventano	- 3	- 3
Badischer Geudertheimer, Kentucky, Paraguay, Nijkerk, Missionero, Round-Tip, Xanti-Yaka, Perustitza, Erzegovina, Kaba Koulak (non classic), Myrodata Agrinion	0	0
Badischer Burley, Virgin D, Bright, Burley I, Burley GR, Maryland, Virginia GR, Basmas Katerini, Kaba Koulak (classic), Zichnomyrodata	2	2

* The figures for Greek varieties are further increased by the incorporation of the third 25% of national aid.

For milk and milk products, all processing costs will henceforth be disregarded for the purposes of calculating derivation coefficients for the determination of MCAs on products other than those covered by the information system.

2.1.120. On 15 March Parliament endorsed,¹ subject to certain reservations, the amendments to the MCA arrangements, proposed by the Commission in October 1983.²

Situation as regards agricultural holdings and incomes

2.1.121. At its second part-session in March Parliament gave a favourable opinion³ on the proposal that the Commission sent to the Council last February for the organization of surveys on the structure of agricultural holdings covering 1985 and 1987.⁴

Market organizations

Adjustment of the basic regulations

Milk

2.1.122. In March the Ministers of Agriculture adopted important decisions designed to restore equilibrium on the milk market.⁵

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2.1.123. Parliament adopted an opinion on 16 March¹ on the Commission's proposals on the introduction, for milk, of a system of guarantee thresholds at the production stage⁶ and on provisions relating to the consumption of butter and processed milk.⁷ This opinion also covered a proposal to amend the Regulation introducing a system of premiums for the non-marketing of milk and milk products and for the conversion of dairy herds.⁸ Parliament requested in particular that the Commission submit an analysis of the impact of the quota system by the end of 1984.

2.1.124. The Economic and Social Committee gave its opinion on 8 March on the

three proposals concerning the system of guarantee thresholds.⁹

Processed fruit and vegetables

2.1.125. On 31 March the Council, after obtaining Parliament's opinion,¹ adopted the amendments to the systems of aid for processed fruit and vegetables (Community aid in Greece, measures to facilitate sales and storage, surveillance of certain imports, introduction of a guarantee threshold for tomatoes and dried grapes)¹⁰ which the Commission proposed in March 1983,¹¹ and the restrictions on aid for cherries preserved in syrup, the termination of the possibility of processing products withdrawn from the market with a view to free distribution of the product obtained and the changes to the financial compensation for the processing of certain varieties of orange which the Commission proposed in October 1983.¹²

Prices and specific measures

Milk

2.1.126. Meeting on 30 and 31 March, the Council of Agriculture Ministers failed to reach agreement on adoption of the five-year scheme for imports of New Zealand butter into the United Kingdom put forward by the Commission last October¹³ but agreed to extend to April and May the authorization given to the United Kingdom to import certain amounts of this product

¹ OJ C 104, 16.4.1984.

² OJ C 299, 5.11.1983; Bull. EC 10-1983, points 2.2.102 to 2.2.106.

³ OJ C 117, 30.4.1984.

⁴ OJ C 60, 2.3.1984; Bull. EC 2-1984, point 2.1.98.

⁵ Point 1.2.4 *et seq.*; OJ L 90, 1.4.1984.

⁶ OJ C 314, 19.11.1983; Bull. EC 9-1983, points 2.1.80 to 2.1.83.

⁷ OJ C 289, 15.10.1983; Bull. EC 9-1983, point 2.1.84.

⁸ OJ C 314, 19.11.1983; Bull. EC 11-1983, point 2.1.127.

⁹ Point 2.4.33.

¹⁰ OJ L 103, 16.4.1984.

¹¹ OJ C 94, 8.4.1984; Bull. EC 3-1983, point 2.1.119.

¹² OJ C 301, 8.11.1983; Bull. EC 10-1983, point 2.1.111.

¹³ Bull. EC 10-1983, points 2.1.121 and 2.1.122.

on special terms. The quantity fixed for the period 1 January to 31 May was 34 583 tonnes. At the same time, the Council adapted the special levy to the new butter intervention price.

Wine

2.1.127. On 16 March the Commission fixed the countervailing charges to apply in the wine sector. In view of the market situation the existing charges were extended for all products except wine imported in bottles which, because of the high price, was given a zero charge.

2.1.128. On 19 March the Commission sent the Council a proposal for a Regulation on oenological practices based on an exchange of letters in July 1983 between the Community and the United States of America.¹

Oils and fats

2.1.129. The Commission's proposal of September 1983 on the introduction of a tax on vegetable oils and animal fats, except for those intended for non-food uses as well as butter,² was the subject of an opinion issued by Parliament on 15 March.³ Parliament took the view that a measure of the type proposed could not be considered without prior negotiation with the supplier countries.

Subsequently, the European Council meeting, on 19 and 20 March, failed to muster a majority for such a tax: several governments were firmly opposed to it.

2.1.130. Parliament endorsed³ the Commission proposal providing for special measures concerning olive oil, designed to reduce the scope for fraud.⁴

Flowers

2.1.131. At its second part-session in March Parliament gave a favourable opinion⁵ on the proposal for a Regulation on import arrangements for certain cut flowers (roses and carnations) which the Commission sent to the Council last February.⁶

Structures

Integrated Mediterranean programmes

2.1.132. On 29 March Parliament gave its opinion⁷ on the proposal for a Regulation establishing integrated Mediterranean programmes in Italy, France and Greece.⁸

New measures and adjustment of Directives

2.1.133. On 5 March, in connection with the Commission's response to the Greek memorandum, the Council formally adopted a Regulation extending the common measure to accelerate agricultural development in certain regions of Greece,⁹ on which it had agreed in February.¹⁰

Agricultural legislation

Veterinary legislation

2.1.134. Following the eradication of foot-and-mouth disease in the Netherlands, the Commission cancelled on 7 March the restrictions which had applied in trade.¹¹ The spread of the classical swine fever epidemic in Germany and the Netherlands caused the Commission on 16 March to extend¹² the geographical area covered by the bans on intra-Community trade in live pigs (Germany, Netherlands) and pigmeat (Germany).¹³ In a Decision dated 21 March the Commission also approved a change to the Italian plan for the accelerated eradication of classical swine fever.

1 Point 2.2.20.

2 OJ C 289, 25.10.1983; Bull. EC 9-1983, point 2.1.95.

3 OJ C 104, 16.4.1984.

4 OJ C 249, 17.9.1983; Bull. EC 7/8-1983, point 2.1.130.

5 OJ C 117, 30.4.1984.

6 OJ C 54, 25.2.1984; Bull. EC 2-1984, point 2.1.115.

7 Point 2.1.90; OJ C 117, 30.4.1984.

8 OJ C 251, 19.9.1983; Bull. EC 3-1983, points 1.3.1 to 1.3.13; Bull. EC 7/8-1983, point 2.1.78.

9 OJ L 68, 10.3.1984.

10 Bull. EC 2-1984, point 2.1.118.

11 Bull. EC 2-1984, point 2.1.121; OJ L 77, 21.3.1984.

12 OJ L 85, 28.3.1984.

13 Bull. EC 2-1984, point 2.1.120.

2.1.135. On 28 March the Economic and Social Committee endorsed the proposal for a Directive on health inspection problems affecting intra-Community trade and imports from third countries of semen of domestic animals of the bovine and porcine species.¹

Competition

2.1.136. Under Articles 92 to 94 of the EEC Treaty, the Commission decided to make no comment concerning the introduction of the following draft measures, notified by:

United Kingdom

Guernsey: changes to existing aid schemes:

- (i) Quality bonus scheme for flowers;
- (ii) New crop development scheme;
- (iii) Fuel cost reduction interest subsidy scheme.

Denmark

Changes to the 1983 and 1984 budgets of the Funds for the fruit-growing and horticultural trades.

Italy

Specific instance of the application of Act No 675/77 of 12 August 1977 (industrial improvement scheme) involving sugar and sugar by-products (investment aid to an undertaking implementing a project to save energy, reduce pollution and exploit products derived from sugar).

Federal Republic of Germany

Bavaria: individual aid to a slaughterhouse (pigmeat, beef/veal) to create new chilling and cutting capacity.

Greece

- (i) Aid for the repair of farm buildings damaged by high winds in July 1983;
- (ii) aid to producers of mastic on Khios, where lentiscus trees had been damaged by adverse weather.

2.1.137. Also under Articles 92 to 94, the Commission decided, in connection with changes to an existing scheme in Guernsey (the price support scheme for tomatoes) to recommend to the UK authorities that they replace this type of aid, which was not normally permitted, by an aid system similar to the machinery of the common organization of the market.

2.1.138. As part of the same review, the Commission decided to terminate the Article 93(2) procedure in respect of flat-rate premiums paid by the French Government in connection with cattle production and supply contracts (*contrats d'élevage*), part of the package related to the 1981 Agricultural Conference. The French authorities had decided to discontinue this aid at the end of the 1983/84 marketing year.

The Commission also decided to terminate identical proceedings, relating to the same general package, in the case of aid schemes to promote quality table wines, to strengthen economic organization in the wine sector, to improve the equipment of cooperative wineries, to encourage producers' groups in horticulture, to support energy conservation in production under glass and to deal with damage caused by natural disasters, to support investment in preserved fruit and vegetables and fruit juice and, in Corsica, aid for the restructuring of vineyards, joint promotion of wines and investment in various types of agricultural production.

European Agricultural Guidance and Guarantee Fund

Guarantee Section

2.1.139. In March the Commission sent the Council a report on the system of uniform interest rates used for calculating the financing costs of funds raised by the Member States to finance intervention buying of agricultural products (in the form of storage).²

¹ OJ C 267, 6.10.1983; Bull. EC 9-1983, point 2.1.103.

² COM(84) 129 final.

The report, which the Council requested in May 1983, looks at the main aspects of financing intervention costs, pinpoints various problems facing individual Member States and suggests possible alternatives to present financing methods.

Guidance Section

2.1.140. In the first quarter of 1984 the Guidance Section reimbursed 470 000 ECU to Germany for expenditure incurred in 1982 under Regulation (EEC) No 458/80.

Fisheries

2.1.141. On 16 March Parliament adopted a resolution on the restoration of its right to be consulted on the implementation of the common fisheries policy.¹

Resources

Internal aspects

1984 TACs and quotas

2.1.142. Following consultations between the Community and Spain concerning reciprocal fishing rights for 1984,² the Council adopted the new TACs and adjusted Member States' quotas of whiting, anglerfish and megrim on 5 March.³

Community measures

2.1.143. On the basis of information from the Netherlands authorities concerning the exhaustion of their whiting and sole quotas in certain ICES divisions, on 6 and 12 March the Commission prohibited vessels flying the flag of the Netherlands from fishing for these two species in the divisions in question.⁴

National measures to protect local stocks

2.1.144. On the basis of Article 19 of Regulation (EEC) No 171/83 of 25 January 1983,⁵ the Commission approved the following measures:

United Kingdom: eight bye-laws passed by the Cornwall Sea Fisheries District Committee prior to the entry into force of this Regulation, applying to all or part of the waters subject to the Committee's authority, within the three-mile limit from the base lines: Trawling Bye-law of 31 October 1949, Prohibition of Trawling in parts of the district Bye-law of 4 March 1908, Spillers and Set Gear Prohibition Bye-law of 19 August 1932, Cornwall Nets Bye-law 1974 of 6 November 1974, Cornwall Shellfish Boats Bye-law 1977 of 18 March 1977, Cornwall Crab Bye-law 1979 of 12 September 1979, Cornwall Bass Fishery Bye-law 1980 of 28 November 1980, and Cornwall Mesh of Nets in parts of the district Bye-law 1981 of 8 July 1981.

As regards the three measures which complete the set of Cornwall Sea Fisheries Bye-laws (Cornwall Detrimental Substances Bye-law 1973 of 25 June 1973, Cornwall Scallops Bye-law 1980 of 11 August 1980, and Spider Crabs (*Maja Squinado*) Bye-law 1982 of 5 August 1982), the Commission found that the first was not caught by Regulation (EEC) No 171/83, whereas the second and third introduced rules on fisheries which were, respectively, less rigorous than and identical with those in the Regulation. The Commission therefore asked the United Kingdom Government to ensure that the latter two bye-laws are repealed.

National measures which are stricter than Community rules

2.1.145. On 19 March the Commission found that the following measure conformed to Article 20(1) of Regulation (EEC) No 171/83⁵ but stated that it might review at any time the compatibility of the measure with Community law and the common fisheries policy:

¹ Point 2.4.17; OJ C 104, 16.4.1984.

² Bull. EC 2-1984, point 2.1.132.

³ OJ L 67, 9.3.1984.

⁴ OJ L 65, 7.3.1984; OJ L 70, 13.3.1984.

⁵ OJ L 24, 27.1.1983.

France: decree governing the use and characteristics of scallop dredges used by vessels flying the flag of France in waters under French jurisdiction in regions 2 and 3 as defined by Regulation (EEC) No 171/83.

*

2.1.146. On 16 March Parliament adopted a resolution on the right of access to fishing grounds and the management of fishery resources in the Mediterranean.¹

External aspects

Bilateral relations

Norway

2.1.147. Pending scientific advice on the state of North Sea herring stocks and following bilateral consultations between the Community and Norway, on 5 March the Council adopted interim measures relating to herring-fishing in certain areas of the North Sea for the period until 31 July 1984.²

Spain

2.1.148. On 5 March, following bilateral consultations under the Community-Spain fisheries agreement,³ the Council acted on the Commission proposal of 27 February⁴ and approved rights and conditions for fishing in Community waters in 1984, applicable to vessels flying the flag of Spain.²

United States

2.1.149. Bilateral negotiations between the Community and the United States for a framework agreement on fisheries took place in Washington from 26 to 29 March. The negotiations will continue in the coming months.

French Guiana

2.1.150. The Council extended until 31 May the validity of fishing licences granted to various non-member countries for fishing within the 200-nautical-mile zone of French Guiana.⁵

In the interim the Council will examine the Commission proposal for new measures

applicable to vessels flying flags of non-member countries in the French Guiana fishing zone from 1 April 1984 to 31 March 1985.⁶ This proposal takes account of the greater number of French vessels fishing for shrimp in these waters in 1984 and would authorize fishing for snapper on condition that 50% of catches are landed in French Guiana for processing by local industry.

Seychelles

2.1.151. On the basis of the Commission proposal of 9 March,⁷ the Council decided on 16 March⁸ provisionally to apply the Community-Seychelles agreement initialled in January⁹ retroactively from 11 January.

Before that date French shipowners were able to fish for tuna in the waters off Seychelles under a private arrangement made with the Seychelles Government in November 1983. The sums paid by the owners under this arrangement and the quantities of tuna caught during the period will be taken into account under the new three-year agreement.

Markets and structures

Market organization

2.1.152. On 15 March the Commission adopted a Regulation on applications for the financing of aids granted by Member States to producers' organizations in the fishery products sector.¹⁰

The aim of this Regulation is to tighten up supervision on the activities of producers' organizations and bring applications for the repayment of aids into line with the new system of starting-up aids.

¹ Point 2.4.17; OJ C 104, 16.4.1984.

² OJ L 67, 9.3.1984.

³ OJ L 322, 28.11.1980.

⁴ Bull. EC 2-1984, point 2.1.133.

⁵ OJ L 88, 31.3.1984.

⁶ COM(84) 139 final.

⁷ COM(84) 122 final.

⁸ OJ L 79, 23.3.1984.

⁹ Bull. EC 1-1984, point 2.1.94.

¹⁰ OJ L 73, 16.3.1984.

Structures

2.1.153. On 16 March Parliament adopted a resolution on the development of aquaculture in the Community,¹ following up its resolution of May 1979.²

Competition

2.1.154. Under Articles 92 to 94 of the EEC Treaty, the Commission decided not to raise any objection to the implementation of the plans, of which it had been notified by the Federal Republic of Germany, to grant aid to shrimp-fishing in the form of a flat-rate interest subsidy of 15%—5% each year—on tideover loans of DM 30 000 to offset financial loss caused by a sharp fall in catches due to exceptional circumstances. The budget for the aid, to be released in one instalment in 1984, is DM 600 000.

2.1.155. The Commission also decided to institute proceedings against the French Government before the Court of Justice for failing to implement its decision of 8 February 1983 on aid granted to fishing enterprises for the maintenance of employment (fuel subsidies).³

Transport

Council

2.1.156. Following the disturbances at a number of Alpine border posts in February,⁴ a special Council meeting of Transport Ministers was held on 22 March,⁵ the main item on the agenda being the facilitation of frontier crossings. Ministers examined the possibility of bringing the national measures for implementing the Council Directive of 1 December 1983 into force as soon as possible.⁶

On the basis of proposals from the Commission, the Council also examined other measures designed to help facilitate frontier crossings, notably the duty-free admission of the fuel contained in the fuel tanks of commercial vehicles⁷ and financial support

for infrastructure projects of Community interest.⁸ Finally, it examined the problems arising from the introduction of certain taxes by Switzerland and Austria.⁹

Inland transport

Infrastructure

Investments

2.1.157. On 20 March, in preparation for the meeting on 22 March, the Commission sent the Council a communication,¹⁰ as a follow-up to its proposal for a multiannual infrastructure programme,¹¹ listing the infrastructure projects which are particularly likely to improve traffic conditions on cross-border routes. These projects also involve infrastructure improvements to the crossing points themselves.

The Commission urged that the Council quickly take a decision on this matter, in connection with the proposal for a Regulation on financial support for a transport infrastructure programme.

2.1.158. In response to the opinions given by Parliament¹² and the Economic and Social Committee¹³ on the multiannual transport infrastructure programme (1984-87), which was sent to the Council in July 1983,¹¹ the Commission altered its original proposal on 29 March,¹⁴ in accordance notably with Parliament's request that Community financing of projects under the programme should be limited to 40% of the cost.

¹ Point 2.4.17; OJ C 104, 16.4.1984.

² OJ C 140, 5.6.1979.

³ Bull. EC 7/8-1980, point 2.1.109; Bull. 2-1983, point 2.1.124.

⁴ Bull. EC 2-1984, points 2.1.8 to 2.1.11.

⁵ Point 2.4.24.

⁶ Point 2.1.6; OJ L 359, 22.12.1983.

⁷ Point 2.1.162.

⁸ Point 2.1.157.

⁹ Point 2.1.173.

¹⁰ COM(84)172 final.

¹¹ OJ C 36, 10.2.1984; Bull. EC 7/8-1983, point 2.1.175.

¹² OJ C 10, 16.1.1984; Bull. EC 12-1983, point 2.1.192.

¹³ OJ C 358, 31.12.1983; Bull. EC 10-1983, point 2.1.170.

¹⁴ OJ C 99, 11.4.1984; COM(84)161 final.

2.1.159. Before the Council met on 22 March, Parliament had passed a resolution¹ recommending a series of transport-infrastructure measures for adoption. On 30 March it also passed a resolution on transport problems in Greece, with particular reference to infrastructure development, and a resolution on improving transalpine railway links.

Special measures of Community interest

2.1.160. The Council was unable to adopt the amended proposal for a Regulation introducing special measures of Community interest in the field of transport infrastructure² for lack of a general solution to the problem of the future financing of the Community.³

Approximation of structures

International railway cooperation

2.1.161. On 30 March Parliament approved⁴ a proposal for a Council Recommendation to the Member States' railway companies on strengthening their cooperation in the commercial management of international passenger and goods transport by rail.⁵

Taxation

Duty-free admission of fuel

2.1.162. On 20 March the Commission proposed that the Council should remove, from 1 July, all restrictions on the duty-free admission of fuel contained in the normal fuel tanks of commercial motor vehicles.⁶

Combined transport

2.1.163. On 30 March Parliament approved⁴ the proposal sent by the Commission in June 1983⁷ for a Council Recommendation on the collaboration of the Member States' railway companies and piggyback companies with the international piggyback transport company, Interunit.

Technical aspects

Roadworthiness testing of private cars

2.1.164. An initial introductory meeting with government experts and representatives of industrial and trade organizations was held in Brussels on 21 March with a view to examining the merits of introducing regular roadworthiness testing of private cars.

Road safety

2.1.165. On 20 March the Commission sent the Council a draft resolution on the implementation of a Community road safety programme.⁸ This should make it possible to take steps to improve the infrastructure, vehicles and the behaviour of road users with the aim of reducing the number and severity of road accidents.

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2.1.166. Parliament adopted a resolution on the road safety programme on 13 March.⁹

2.1.167. On 30 March Parliament approved⁴ the proposal sent by the Commission in September 1983¹⁰ for a Council Recommendation on technical matters concerning operation and internal barriers to the crossing of frontiers affecting the international carriage of goods.

Social conditions

2.1.168. On the basis of experience gained so far, and in the light of consultation with government departments in the Member States and the two sides of industry, on 20

¹ Point 2.4.15; OJ C 104, 16.4.1984.

² Bull. EC 2-1984, point 2.3.3.

³ Point 2.3.3.

⁴ OJ C 117, 30.4.1984.

⁵ OJ C 191, 16.7.1983; Bull. EC 6-1983, point 2.1.217.

⁶ Point 2.1.58; COM(84)171 final.

⁷ OJ C 179, 6.7.1983; Bull. EC 6-1983, point 2.1.218.

⁸ OJ C 95, 6.4.1984; COM(84)170 final.

⁹ Point 2.4.17; OJ C 104, 16.4.1984.

¹⁰ OJ C 254, 22.9.1983; Bull. EC 9-1983, point 2.1.131.

March the Commission proposed¹ that the Council should amend the Regulation of 25 March 1969 on the harmonization of certain social legislation relating to road transport² and that of 20 July 1970 concerning the introduction of recording equipment in road transport.³

These amendments are intended to make the current arrangements more flexible without departing from the basic objectives laid down in the rules introduced in 1969 and 1970.

The Commission also sent the Council a proposal for a recommendation designed to improve inspections and make penalties more effective, with a view to ensuring that both Regulations are more fully implemented in the Member States.

Operation of the market

Access

Community quota

2.1.169. On 14 March the Commission sent the Council two proposals,⁴ one amending the Regulation of 16 December 1976 on the Community quota for the carriage of goods by road between Member States⁵ and the other amending the Directive of 13 May 1965 concerning the standardization of certain rules relating to authorizations for the carriage of goods by road between Member States.⁶ The purpose of these two proposals is to abolish the journey record sheet accompanying transport authorizations issued under a quota once the 'single document' currently under consideration has been adopted.⁷

Rates

2.1.170. On 30 March Parliament endorsed⁸ the proposal for a Council Recommendation on railway tariffs for international container or piggyback transport.⁹

Fuel rationing

2.1.171. On 28 March the Economic and Social Committee gave its opinion¹⁰ on the

June 1983 proposal for a Directive on fuel rationing for commercial transport between Member States in the event of energy supply difficulties.¹¹

Air transport

2.1.172. On 30 March Parliament passed a resolution on airport charges in the Community.¹²

International relations

2.1.173. At its 22 March meeting the Council reviewed the problems associated with the taxation of road vehicles in certain non-member countries, notably Switzerland, Austria and Yugoslavia. This discussion was particularly topical, as Switzerland, in a referendum on 26 February, had decided to introduce on 1 January 1985 a new special tax on heavy goods vehicles and a motorway users' (private motorists') tax disc.¹³ Austria has already increased its special HGV tax with effect from 1 January 1984.

During the Council meeting the Commission presented a memorandum summarizing the information obtained from bilateral discussions with the Swiss Government in Berne on 9 March.

The Council was also told that Switzerland, Austria and Yugoslavia, in cooperation with the Commission, all intend to seek a solution concerning infrastructure charging and in that connection to help establish a European system. Within the Community,

¹ OJ C 100, 12.4.1984; COM(84)147 final.

² OJ L 77, 29.3.1969; OJ C 73, 17.3.1979 (consolidated version).

³ OJ L 164, 27.7.1970; OJ L 181, 4.7.1973; OJ L 334, 24.12.1977.

⁴ OJ C 86, 28.3.1984; COM(84)109 final.

⁵ OJ L 357, 29.12.1976; OJ L 369, 20.12.1982.

⁶ OJ 88, 24.5.1965.

⁷ Point 2.1.6.

⁸ OJ C 117, 30.4.1984.

⁹ OJ C 187, 13.7.1983; Bull. EC 6-1983, point 2.1.220.

¹⁰ Point 2.4.36.

¹¹ OJ C 295, 22.7.1983; Bull. EC 6-1983, point 2.1.226.

¹² Point 2.4.22; OJ C 117, 30.4.1984.

¹³ Bull. EC 2-1984, point 2.1.150.

such a system would require the adoption of the 1968 proposal for a Directive on the taxation of commercial vehicles.¹

Yugoslavia

2.1.174. The first of the regular meetings agreed to by the Commission and the Yugoslav authorities in September 1983² was held in Belgrade on 26 and 27 March; information was exchanged and solutions sought to problems of common interest.

Emphasizing the special role of Yugoslavia's transport network in trade between northern and southern Europe and with the Middle East, the representatives of the two sides agreed that cooperation should involve the following points:

- (i) negotiations on road passenger transport, railway tariffs and combined road/rail transport;
- (ii) the facilitation of frontier crossings; and
- (iii) infrastructure charging (taxing commercial vehicle transit operations).³

Energy

Council

2.1.175. At its meeting on 12 and 13 March the Council (Foreign Ministers) looked at two energy matters: the new arrangements for coking coal and coke for the iron and steel industry⁴ and the amount required for demonstration projects for 1983-85.⁵ Having obtained Parliament's opinion,⁶ it also confirmed the need for social support measures for the coal industry⁷ and agreed to return to this matter and to the question of solid fuels at a meeting on energy to be convened very shortly.

Formulating and implementing a Community energy policy

Specific measures of Community interest relating to energy strategy

2.1.176. In spite of agreement having been reached with Parliament, the Council was

unable to adopt the amended proposal for a Regulation establishing specific measures of Community interest relating to energy strategy⁸ because there had been no general solution to the problem of the future financing of the Community.⁹

Specific problems

Solid fuels

2.1.177. On 16 March Parliament issued an opinion¹⁰ on the proposal for a Regulation concerning financial support from the Community for industries producing solid fuels¹¹ and on the proposals for a balanced solid fuels policy.¹² It specified allocation criteria and the sectors to which financial support should be given, and came out in favour of a more general coal policy covering the production, storage and use of solid fuels as well as supplies from outside the Community.

The solid fuels market

2.1.178. On 6 March the Commission adopted a report, for transmission to the ECSC Consultative Committee, on the market for solid fuels in the Community in 1983 and the outlook for 1984. The report points out that in 1983 solid fuels covered 23.7% of internal energy consumption compared with 24.2% in 1982. The trend is likely to continue in 1984. The total supply of coal was 24 million tonnes (7.5%) down on 1982, most of the impact being on Community production. The fall in demand, mainly in the steel industry, spread in 1983 to power

¹ OJ C 95, 21.9.1968.

² Bull. EC 9-1983, points 2.1.135 and 2.2.23.

³ Point 2.1.173.

⁴ Point 2.1.179.

⁵ Point 2.1.182.

⁶ OJ C 46, 20.2.1984.

⁷ OJ C 290, 26.10.1983; Bull. EC 10-1983, point 2.1.185.

⁸ Bull. EC 2-1984, point 2.1.151.

⁹ Point 2.3.3.

¹⁰ OJ C 104, 16.4.1984.

¹¹ OJ C 232, 30.8.1983; Bull. EC 7/8-1983, point 2.1.188.

¹² Bull. EC 6-1983, point 1.2.16.

stations. The increase in stocks of coke and coal continued in 1983.

New arrangements for coking coal and coke for the iron and steel industry

2.1.179. On 23 March the Commission, having received the Council's assent at its meeting on 12 and 13 March, extended¹ for the period 1984-86 its Decision of 25 July 1973 on coal and coke for the iron and steel industry in the Community.²

The arrangements cover a maximum of 10 million tonnes of coking coal a year. The average rate of sales aid is some 3.6 ECU per tonne. The contributions needed to finance these sales aids relating to intra-Community trade are apportioned as follows: 6 million ECU from the ECSC budget, 6 million ECU from the steel industry, and a maximum of 24 million ECU from the six Member States engaged in intra-Community trade.

This aid is degressive: the maximum tonnage eligible in the third year is to depend on a reappraisal of the general system of national aids to the coal industry which is to expire on 31 December 1985.

Measures taken by Member States in support of the coal industry

2.1.180. On 13 March the Commission sent the Council, for consultation as required by the Commission Decision of 25 February 1976,³ a memorandum on the financial aids granted by the Member States to the coal industry in 1983 and on the additional financial aids granted by the Member States to the coal industry in 1982.⁴

Taking the Community as a whole, these aids increased by 6.7%; aid per tonne increased by an average 10%. These increases show how Community coal has been made less competitive by the drop in world prices.

Oil and gas

Natural gas

2.1.181. On 30 March Parliament passed a resolution on Community gas policy.⁵

Alternative sources of energy and energy saving

2.1.182. On 11 July 1983 the Council adopted two Regulations, valid for 1983, on the granting of financial support for demonstration projects 'under a multiannual programme'.⁶ It had tried in vain to find a consensus on a five-year formula (1983-87).

When it returned to the matter on 13 March, the Council approved the amount considered necessary (265 million ECU) for 1983-85. This clears the way for the early adoption of two Regulations on programmes of demonstration projects—the same as those adopted in 1983—the first on the gasification and liquefaction of solid fuels and the second on energy saving, alternative sources of energy and the replacement of hydrocarbons.

Nuclear safety

2.1.183. Parliament and the Economic and Social Committee approved on 30 March⁷ and 28 March⁸ the Commission communication to the Council concerning the Community's role as regards the safety of nuclear installations and the protection of public health and the draft Council Resolution on transfrontier radiological problems.⁹

¹ OJ L 80, 24.3.1984; OJ C 132, 19.5.1983; Bull. EC 3-1983, point 2.1.159; Bull. EC 12-1983, point 2.1.211.

² OJ L 259, 15.9.1973; OJ L 106, 21.4.1982; Bull. EC 4-1982, point 2.1.94.

³ OJ L 63, 11.3.1976.

⁴ COM(84)116 final.

⁵ Point 2.4.22; OJ C 117, 30.4.1984.

⁶ OJ L 195, 19.7.1983; Bull. EC 7/8-1983, points 2.1.191 to 2.1.193.

⁷ OJ C 117, 30.4.1984.

⁸ Point 2.4.36.

⁹ OJ C 338, 15.12.1983; Bull. EC 7/8-1983, point 2.1.194 and 2.1.195.

Research and development

Development of the common policy

Coordination of national policies

2.1.184. At a meeting on 22 and 23 March the Scientific and Technical Research Committee (CREST) approved the proposal transmitted by the Commission in November 1983 concerning a five-year programme for the development of the specialized information market in Europe.¹ It also expressed the view that, during the first year, the main emphasis of the programme should be on information relating to patents, industry and research, biotechnology, materials, regional disparities, electronic publishing and image banks.

The Committee then delivered its opinion on the list of Advisory Committees for Management and Coordination to be set up for the Community's various R&D activities. It would shortly be necessary to form about a dozen of these Committees to replace the various CREST subcommittees, the Advisory Committees on Programme Management and the Concerted-Action Committees, with the result that the number of existing Commission advisory committees would be reduced by half.

Lastly, CREST examined the results of the work carried out by its subcommittees in 1983 and the report on the public financing of R&D in the Member States (1975-83).

International cooperation

2.1.185. CREST also discussed the action taken in the field of technology, growth and employment following the Versailles and Williamsburg Summits.² It requested more information on the content of the 18 international cooperation projects in science and technology that had been initiated, with a view to possible participation by the Member States which had not attended the summits.

COST projects

2.1.186. On 14 March, in the context of European cooperation in the field of scientific and technical research (COST), memoranda of understanding for the implementation of two telecommunications research programmes were signed by Belgium, the Netherlands, Sweden and the UK. The projects in question relate to broad-band local digital telecommunications networks (COST 202 bis) and land-based mobile digital radio-communications systems (COST 207).

2.1.187. On 15 March the Community signed a memorandum of understanding concerning the implementation of a European research project relating to systems of socio-technologies and industrial safety (COST A1).

Scientific and technical objectives

Promoting agricultural competitiveness

2.1.188. On 8 March the Commission formally adopted a Decision implementing the joint research programmes and programmes for coordinating agricultural research adopted by the Council on 12 December 1983.³ To cover the financing of these programmes the Commission sent the budgetary authority a proposal for the transfer of appropriations the same day.⁴

2.1.189. A seminar on composting agricultural and other wastes was held at Brasenose College, Oxford, from 19 to 22 March as part of the Community's R&D programme on the recycling of urban and industrial waste (1979-83).⁵ The following points were examined: engineering aspects, the composting process and use of the heat released; the product and its use, and economic factors. The recommendations made

¹ OJ C 328, 2.12.1983; Bull. EC 11-1983, point 2.1.35.

² Bull. EC 1-1983, point 2.1.108; Bull. EC 4-1983, point 2.1.153.

³ OJ L 358, 22.12.1983; Bull. EC 12-1983, point 2.1.159.

⁴ COM(84) 137 final.

⁵ OJ L 293, 20.11.1979; Thirteenth General Report, point 420; OJ L 357, 21.12.1983; Bull. EC 12-1983, point 2.1.228.

during the seminar will provide guidelines for future activities under the recycling programme.

Promoting industrial competitiveness

Textiles

2.1.190. The Forschungsinstitut für Textiltechnik (Research institute for textiles techniques) at Denkendorf, Federal Republic of Germany, has designed and developed a prototype machine which enables a very high proportion of the waste produced in the working of wool to be recovered. Since wool is an expensive raw material for the textiles industry, the recovery of waste with a view to its purification and recycling offers very great economic advantages.

The development and commercial exploitation of this new machine will enable the wool-spinning industry to improve its efficiency by making full use of the fibre content in the raw material.

Support for the research which led to this result was provided under the Community R&D programme in the field of textiles and clothing.¹

Technical coal research

2.1.191. As required by Article 55(2)(c) of the ECSC Treaty, the Commission transmitted to the Council (for its assent) and the ECSC Consultative Committee (for its opinion) a coal research programme for which it intends to grant aid totalling 19.5 million ECU.

This programme, which covers 46 projects, is in two parts relating respectively to:

(i) mining techniques (divided into six subprogrammes covering 26 projects, for which 12 million ECU will be allocated; and

(ii) the use and upgrading of coal (divided into four subprogrammes covering 20 projects), for which 7.38 million ECU will be allocated; the remaining 0.12 million ECU will be reserved for the dissemination of the results obtained and ancillary costs.

Because of the doubts surrounding the availability of ECSC budget funds, the Commission decided to limit the appropriations for commitment to 10.5 million ECU in 1984.

Improving the management of energy resources

Nuclear fission energy

2.1.192. On 9 March the Commission published a call for proposals in the Official Journal² with a view to the implementation of the new shared-cost research programme concerning the decommissioning of nuclear installations (1984-88), which had been adopted by the Council in January.³ This call for proposals relates to the parts of the programme concerned with R&D activities and the testing of new techniques under the conditions that obtain in practice.

The total Community contribution envisaged for these two parts of the programme is 9.5 million ECU, of which 60% will be committed in 1984/85.

Increasing aid to development

2.1.193. On 19 March, in response to requests by Parliament for technical changes,⁴ the Commission amended⁵ its proposal of June 1983 concerning a programme of assistance for the development of indigenous scientific and technical research capacities in the developing countries (1984-87).⁶

Improving living and working conditions

ECSC social research

2.1.194. On 12 March the Commission decided to grant 1 666 850 ECU under Article 55 ECSC for seven projects under the Ergonomics IV programme.⁷

¹ Bull. EC 12-1981, point 2.1.167; Bull. EC 4-1982, point 2.1.103; Bull. EC 7/8-1982, point 2.1.184.

² OJ C 68, 9.3.1984.

³ OJ L 36, 8.2.1984; Bull. EC 1-1984, point 2.1.110.

⁴ OJ C 10, 16.1.1984.

⁵ COM(84) 143 final.

⁶ OJ C 180, 7.7.1983; Bull. EC 6-1983, point 2.1.277.

⁷ Bull. EC 9-1980, point 2.1.33.

Radiation protection

2.1.195. Inhalation is an important route for the intake of radioactive gases and aerosols by the body. With the aid of models designed to describe how these substances are deposited in and eliminated from the lungs, and to permit estimation of their spatial and temporal distribution in the respiratory tract with reference to cells at risk, it is possible to define inhalation limits and to assess the risks associated with the inhalation of radioactive materials. In view of their great importance for the radiological protection of workers and the general public, these aspects are the subject of intensive study under the Commission's radiation protection programme.¹

In this connection, a workshop on 'Lung modelling with reference to the inhalation of radioactive materials', organized jointly by the Community and the National Radiological Protection Board, was held at Oxford, UK, from 26 to 28 March.

The following topics were reviewed: lung morphometry, deposition models, absorption of gases, human data relating to deposition, elimination mechanisms, human and animal data relating to elimination, cells at risk, microdosimetry of the lung, dosimetric models and implications for radiation protection. The workshop made it possible to identify areas in respect of which existing models are inadequate, the lines along which they might be modified and the experimental data that will be required in order to improve lung models.

Horizontal activities*FAST programme*

2.1.196. In accordance with its responsibility for the execution of the new FAST programme for the period 1983-87,² the Commission published a call for proposals on 7 March 1984³ with a view to concluding shared-cost research contracts (50% Commission-financed) relating to the following topics:

- (i) Relationships between technology, employment and work.
- (ii) Transformation of services and technological change.
- (iii) The emergence of the strategic industrial system: communication.
- (iv) The emergence of the strategic industrial system: food.
- (v) Integrated development of renewable natural resources.

The total Community contribution to the research activities covered by this call for proposals is estimated at 1 585 000 ECU, of which approximately 40% will be committed in 1984.

¹ OJ L 78, 25.3.1980; Fourteenth General Report, point 494.

² OJ L 293, 25.10.1983; Bull. EC 6-1983, point 2.1.257.

³ OJ C 66, 7.3.1984.

2. Enlargement and external relations

Enlargement and bilateral relations with applicant countries

Mediterranean policy

2.2.1. On 30 March the Commission presented a report, accompanied by proposals, to the Council concerning the exploratory talks which it held in 1983 and early in 1984 with Mediterranean non-member countries and the two prospective Member States, with a view to future relations after the enlargement of the Community.¹

Agriculture

2.2.2. Further to the communication presented in July 1983,² the Commission put before the Council at the end of March a communication on the main features of the measures applied and the policy adopted by each of the two applicant countries regarding State aids for agriculture.³ It also presented a communication on the prices of agricultural products in Portugal to the Council on 12 March.⁴

Portugal

Accession negotiations

2.2.3. The 17th meeting of the Conference at ministerial level was held in Brussels on 13 March.

The Community made a statement, further to the one presented on 24 February,⁵ concerning a number of agricultural products (wine, processed products, fresh fruit and vegetables).

This meeting was described by Mr Ernâni Rodrigues Lopes and also by Mr Claude Cheysson, the President of the Council, as a significant step forward which, in Mr Cheysson's view, would make it possible to consider moving on in May to the substantive problems in agriculture.

Mr Natali, for his part, stressed the importance the Commission attached to the minis-

terial meeting in May, which should enable very considerable progress to be made on the areas at present under negotiation, on a par with the results obtained on industrial matters at the September 1982 ministerial meeting.⁶

Pre-accession aid

2.2.4. On 13 March the Council adopted a Decision authorizing the Commission to negotiate an agreement with Portugal, in the form of an exchange of letters, for the grant of 50 million ECU to finance specific operations designed to bring about structural improvements in Portugal's agriculture and fisheries.⁷

Spain

Accession negotiations

2.2.5. The 30th deputy-level meeting of the negotiations for Spain's accession to the Community was held in Brussels on 21 March.⁸

The Community presented statements on patents, Euratom and secondary legislation.

The Spanish statements were on external relations (tariff exceptions applicable to GSP countries) and agriculture (general aspects, sectoral aspects of the transitional arrangements, general and supplementary transitional mechanisms, and duration of the transitional measures), in reply to the Community statement presented in February.⁹

Agreement was reached concerning Euratom (exchange of information on nuclear energy and Spain's agreements with non-

¹ Point 2.2.28.

² Bull. EC 7/8-1983, point 2.2.1.

³ COM(84) 163 final; COM(84) 165 final.

⁴ COM(84) 117 final.

⁵ Bull. EC 2-1984, point 2.2.2.

⁶ Bull. EC 9-1982, point 2.2.1.

⁷ Bull. EC 2-1984, point 2.2.3.

⁸ Bull. EC 1-1984, point 2.2.2.

⁹ Bull. EC 2-1984, point 2.2.4.

Community countries and international organizations).

Bilateral relations

2.2.6. During the first of its March sessions Parliament adopted a resolution on Spain's accession and on fisheries.¹

Commercial policy

Implementing the common commercial policy

Commercial policy instruments

Easing of restrictive measures

2.2.7. Under the Council Regulation of 14 November 1983 on import arrangements for products originating in State-trading countries, not liberalized at Community level,² the Commission took decisions opening quotas for the following:

Italy—Hungary: horticultural sheet glass; drawn glass of a thickness of less than 2.5 mm;

Italy—German Democratic Republic: synthetic organic dyestuffs;

Italy—Hungary/USSR: unwrought aluminium, not alloyed, containing 99.5% aluminium;

Italy—People's Republic of China: silk woven men's shirts;

Italy—Romania: 2- and 3-cylinder tractor engines; transmissions for tractors; front axles for tractors.

Under the same Regulation,² the Commission modified the quotas for the following:

United Kingdom—German Democratic Republic: textile products (categories 37 and 50);³

Italy—German Democratic Republic: textile products (categories 15B and 16).

It also changed import arrangements, still pursuant to this Regulation,² as follows:

Greece—Hungary/Poland/Czechoslovakia: elimination of the quantitative restrictions on the release for free circulation of various industrial products.⁴

Trade protection

2.2.8. The trade protection measures taken in March are shown in Table 9.

¹ Point 2.4.17; OJ C 104, 16.4.1984.

² OJ L 346, 8.12.1983.

³ OJ L 82, 23.3.1984.

⁴ OJ C 85, 27.3.1984.

Table 8

Council	Commission
<p><i>Definitive countervailing duty imposed on:</i> Imports of tube and pipe fittings of malleable cast iron originating in Spain and definitive collection of the provisional duty OJ L 74, 17.3.1984 (Provisional countervailing duty: OJ L 322, 19.11.1983)</p>	<p>Anti-dumping proceedings <i>Provisional anti-dumping duty imposed on imports of:</i> Certain electronic scales originating in Japan OJ L 80, 24.3.1984 (Initiation of proceeding: OJ C 236, 3.9.1983) Certain ball bearings originating in Japan or Singapore OJ L 79, 23.3.1984 (Initiation of proceeding: OJ C 188, 14.7.1983)</p>

Table 9 (continued)

Council	Commission
	<p><i>Notice of review of definitive anti-dumping duty imposed on imports of:</i> Certain acrylic fibres originating in the United States OJ C 65, 6.3.1984 (Imposition of definitive anti-dumping duty: OJ L 114, 3.5.1980; OJ L 55, 2.3.1983)</p> <p><i>Notice of extension of the anti-dumping proceeding concerning imports of:</i> Pentaerythritol originating in Spain to include imports of this product originating in Canada or Sweden OJ C 72, 13.3.1984 (Initiation of proceeding: OJ C 244, 13.9.1983) Soya bean oil cake originating in Argentina to include imports of this product originating in Brazil OJ C 76, 17.3.1984 (Initiation of proceeding: OJ C 283, 20.10.1983)</p> <p><i>Notice of initiation of anti-dumping proceeding concerning imports of:</i> Oxalic acid originating in Brazil, the German Democratic Republic or Spain OJ C 67, 8.3.1984 Copper sulphate originating in Bulgaria, Hungary, Poland or Spain OJ C 90, 31.3.1984 Electronic typewriters originating in Japan OJ C 83, 24.3.1984</p> <p><i>Acceptance of undertaking in connection with the anti-dumping proceeding concerning imports of:</i> Certain synthetic fibre hand-knitting yarn originating in Turkey and termination of that proceeding OJ L 67, 9.3.1984 (Initiation of proceeding: OJ C 102, 15.4.1983) Pentaerythritol originating in Spain and termination of that proceeding OJ L 88, 31.3.1984 (Initiation of proceeding: OJ C 244, 13.9.1983) Certain iron or steel angles, shapes and sections originating in Romania and termination of that proceeding OJ L 83, 27.3.1984 (Initiation of proceeding: OJ C 109, 23.4.1983)</p> <p><i>Termination of anti-dumping proceeding concerning imports of:</i> Caustic-burned natural magnesite originating in the People's Republic of China OJ L 66, 8.3.1984 (Initiation of proceeding: OJ C 162, 29.6.1982; OJ C 192, 27.7.1982)</p>

Export credits

2.2.9. On 10 March Parliament adopted a resolution on export credit subsidies.¹

Sectoral commercial policy measures*Iron and steel products***Arrangements with non-member countries**

2.2.10. The Commission continued negotiations on the new steel arrangements for 1984 with those countries which had not yet given their final agreement. It signed arrangements with Bulgaria (6 March) and Poland (7 March) and concluded negotiations with Finland, Austria and Sweden. Negotiations with Brazil (pig iron), Spain and Norway are continuing.

2.2.11. The renewal of the special understanding with Japan for 1984 was agreed.

United States measures concerning special steels

2.2.12. On 30 March the Commission laid before the Council a proposal² to amend the Regulation it had adopted in February³ following the restrictive measures imposed by the United States on imports of special steels from the Community.

*Textile products***Agreements and arrangements with non-member countries***China*

2.2.13. A Commission delegation visited Peking from 19 to 29 March for the renewal of the textile negotiations between the Community and China.⁴ At the end of these negotiations an Additional Protocol to the 1979 Textile Agreement⁵ was initialled, at the Community's request, incorporating anti-fraud and anti-surge mechanisms into the Agreement. It also specifies, for certain

products, the quantities which can be exported by China during the period of validity of the Agreement (1984-88).

In connection with the provisions which expired on 31 December 1983, five new restrictions on exports to the Community were established, and also a number of other restrictions concerning one or more regions of the Community. At China's request the Community delegation agreed to raise the level of certain restrictions. These increases are still consistent with the Community's textile policy, however.

MFA countries

2.2.14. In the course of the consultations with Yugoslavia held in Brussels on 1 and 2 March the two delegations agreed on a quantitative limit for exports of men's jackets (category 17) to the United Kingdom and also settled some administrative problems.

2.2.15. On 16 March the Commission transmitted to the Council a proposal for a Regulation concluding an Agreement between the Community and Colombia on trade in textile products,⁶ following negotiations conducted by the Commission pursuant to the Council Decision of 25 February 1982.⁷

Mediterranean preferential countries

2.2.16. On 16 March the Commission and Turkey initialled in Brussels an administrative cooperation agreement on Turkish cotton yarn exports to the Community in 1984 and 1985.

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2.2.17. On 30 March Parliament adopted two resolutions, one on the rules of origin and the other on the functioning of the Multifibre Arrangement, with special refer-

¹ Point 2.4.17; OJ C 104, 16.4.1984.

² Point 2.2.18; COM(84) 183 final.

³ OJ L 40, 11.2.1984; Bull. EC 2-1984, point 2.2.18.

⁴ Bull. EC 11-1983, point 2.2.14; Bull. EC 12-1983, point 2.2.15.

⁵ Thirteenth General Report, point 503.

⁶ COM(84) 121 final.

⁷ OJ L 83, 29.3.1982; Bull. EC 2-1982, point 2.2.8.

ence to the state of the European textile industry.¹

Relations with industrialized countries

United States

US measures concerning special steels

2.2.18. On 30 March the Commission asked the Council to amend² the Regulation adopted on 6 February in response to the US restrictions on imports of special steels from the Community³ so as to update to 1 February the ECU/dollar exchange rate and incorporate provisions indicating more clearly the products to which the tariff increases would apply and specifying the procedures for working out the breakdown of quotas among the Member States.

Wine

2.2.19. On 6 March the United States International Trade Commission rejected petitions lodged on behalf of Californian wine producers by the American Grape Growers Alliance for Fair Trade in January⁴ which could have led to countervailing and anti-dumping duties being imposed on certain Community table wines.

The Commission issued the following statement:

'The Commission welcomes the decision of the United States International Trade Commission of 6 March which concluded that there was no injury in any of the four anti-dumping and countervailing duty investigations concerning French and Italian table wine exports.

While the exact motivation of this decision is not yet available, the Commission takes note that the decision of the ITC was unanimous and would appear to support the Community's view that the complaints were unfounded.

The Commission, however, continues to be concerned with the numerous petitions for import relief still outstanding in other sectors.'

2.2.20. On 19 March the Commission sent the Council a proposal for a Regulation on oenological practices.⁵ The proposal, which

was based on an exchange of letters in July 1983 between the Community and the United States of America,⁶ is designed to allow wines originating in the United States to which substances not provided for in Community rules have been added to be released for direct human consumption in the Community. This measure was made possible by an undertaking on the part of the US Government to abolish a large number of oenological practices not permitted in the Community and by the efficiency of the US inspection system.

2.2.21. The decision taken by the Commission on 16 March to fix a zero countervailing charge for bottled wine imported from the United States⁷ helped, as did the proposed Regulation of 19 March,⁸ to eliminate some of the contentious issues dividing the Community and the United States in the wine sector.

Cereal substitutes

2.2.22. On 31 March the Council gave the Commission a mandate for GATT negotiations on the stabilization of Community imports of cereal substitutes,⁹ for which the United States is the main supplier.

Canada

2.2.23. The third round of negotiations for amendments to parts of the Euratom-Canada Agreement¹⁰ took place in Brussels on 29 and 30 March.

The two sides made progress towards agreement on most of the points at issue.

¹ Point 2.4.22; OJ C 117, 30.4.1984.

² COM(84) 183 final.

³ OJ L 40, 11.2.1984; Bull. EC 2-1984, point 2.1.38.

⁴ Bull. EC 1-1984, point 2.2.21; Bull. EC 2-1984, point 2.2.19.

⁵ COM(84) 149 final.

⁶ Bull. EC 7/8-1983, points 2.2.44 to 2.2.46.

⁷ Point 2.1.127.

⁸ Point 2.2.20.

⁹ Point 2.1.115.

¹⁰ Bull. EC 12-1981, point 2.2.42.

Japan

2.2.24. On 16 March Parliament adopted a resolution on Community participation in the Tsukuba International Exhibition in 1985 and the training of European junior executives in Japan.¹

Australia

2.2.25. Ministerial consultations between the Community and Australia took place in Canberra on 20 and 21 March. On that occasion—the third of its kind²—Mr Haferkamp met the Australian Prime Minister, Mr Bob Hawke, and also had talks with the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Trade, Mr Lionel Bowen, the Minister for Foreign Affairs, Mr Bill Hayden, and other senior members of the Australian Government.

Discussions covered agricultural policy—particularly trade in beef, sheepmeat, dairy products and other commodities—and it was agreed that there should be regular meetings of Community and Australian agricultural trade and market experts.

Discussing trade in manufactured products, Mr Haferkamp pointed to the concern in the Community about manufacturing access to the Australian market. He also expressed concern about the Australian procedures and practices in relation to anti-dumping and countervailing duties investigations.

It was decided to continue discussing difficulties of access on both sides for manufactured goods, especially for high-quality Community exports to Australia, and the possible effect of the operation of non-tariff barriers. It was further agreed to consider how business on both sides could be helped to cooperate more closely, including if possible joint ventures.

European Free Trade Association

2.2.26. On 29 March the Economic and Social Committee delivered an own-initiative opinion on relations between the Community and the EFTA countries.³

Austria and Switzerland

2.2.27. At its meeting on 22 March the Council (transport) discussed problems connected with the taxing of road vehicles in Switzerland and Austria.⁴

Relations with other countries and regions

Mediterranean countries

Mediterranean policy

2.2.28. On 30 March, following up the communication it presented in June 1982,⁵ the Commission sent the Council a report on the exploratory talks held over the last 12 months⁶ with Mediterranean non-member countries and the two prospective Member States. The report contains a number of proposals concerning the implementation of a Mediterranean policy for the enlarged Community.

The Commission notes that the talks broadly confirmed the analysis it had made in 1982 of the 'overall approach' 10 years on, the Mediterranean countries agreeing that little progress had been made towards the objectives set. There was also general support for the approach to Mediterranean policy advocated at that time by the Commission with a view to future Spanish and Portuguese membership of the Community.

The Commission is now, therefore, putting forward practical proposals designed to maintain and strengthen the preferential trade and cooperation ties between the Mediterranean countries and the Community.

On industrial trade the Commission reiterates the need for its Mediterranean partners to have continued access to the Community

¹ Point 2.4.17; OJ C 104, 16.4.1984.

² Bull. EC 4-1980, point 2.2.42; Bull. EC 12-1981, point 2.2.44.

³ Point 2.4.32.

⁴ Point 2.1.173; Bull. EC 2-1984, point 2.2.22.

⁵ Bull. EC 6-1982, points 1.2.1 to 1.2.4.

⁶ Seventeenth General Report, point 678.

market, and proposes that textile trade in particular be as far as possible brought once more within the letter and spirit of the Agreements, a process which would parallel the gradual liberalization of the Community's trade with Spain and Portugal after accession and be backed by stronger industrial coordination arrangements. The Commission stresses that the need for better coordination is general if crises in other sensitive sectors are to be avoided, and proposes that future agreements contain provision for such arrangements.

As regards trade in agricultural products, it is important that Mediterranean countries be able to take advantage in practice of their access to the Community market, and the Commission therefore proposes that customs duties and other import mechanisms applied at Community borders be suitably modified on imports up to a ceiling corresponding to traditional trade flows. The system would be phased in gradually, over a transition period equivalent to that for imports of the same products from the new Member States, and would cover various fresh fruits and vegetables important to the Mediterranean countries' export trade, and wine. The problem of Tunisian olive oil exports, on the other hand, can best be dealt with, in the Commission's view, by Community purchase agreements, gradually scaled down, to accompany support for measures to increase olive oil consumption in Tunisia and convert the land to other types of production.

The Commission also confirmed the views on cooperation it had expressed in 1982, suggesting in greater detail ways of stepping up trade, scientific and technological, industrial, agricultural, social and financial cooperation, and multilateral development activities.

The Commission emphasized the political and economic importance of its relationship with Mediterranean non-member countries, pointing out that the Community's external Mediterranean policy would have to be accompanied by vigorous action to shift the internal balance in favour of the regions

most affected by enlargement, by measures such as the integrated Mediterranean programmes.¹

Cyprus

2.2.29. On 26 March the Council adopted a Regulation² on the conclusion of a second financial protocol between the Community and Cyprus.³ This protocol, which is to enter into force on 1 May, provides for 44 million ECU of aid over a five-year period (28 million ECU in EIB loans, 10 million ECU in grants and 6 million ECU in special loans) and is designed to benefit the entire population of the island.

Yugoslavia

2.2.30. Talks on the exchange of information and the search for solutions to problems of common concern in the field of transport took place in Belgrade on 26 and 27 March.⁴

Tunisia

2.2.31. Mr Pisani paid an official visit to Tunisia from 14 to 16 March. He talked to the President, Mr Habib Bourguiba, the Prime Minister, Mr Mohamed M'Zali, and the Ministers of Foreign Affairs, Economic Affairs, Planning, Agriculture, Higher Education and Research.

Mr Pisani's talks with members of the Tunisian Government were the occasion for a review of EEC-Tunisian relations covering financial and technical cooperation activities and shorter-term trade issues. A further topic of discussion was Tunisia's concern at the forthcoming enlargement of the Community and its implications for bilateral relations.⁵

¹ Bull. EC 3-1983, points 1.3.1 to 1.3.13 and 3.4.1 to 3.4.3; OJ C 251, 9.9.1983; Bull. EC 7/8-1983, point 2.1.78.

² OJ L 85, 28.3.1984.

³ Bull. EC 12-1983, point 2.2.38; Bull. EC 9-1983, point 2.2.22.

⁴ Point 2.1.174.

⁵ See also point 2.2.28.

While in Tunis Mr Pisani also met Mr Adnan Omran, Assistant Secretary-General of the Arab League, with whom he discussed the Euro-Arab Dialogue, looking at progress on economic and technical issues and the future prospects for the Dialogue.

Jordan

2.2.32. Mr Thorn was on an official visit to Jordan from 2 to 4 March, in the course of which he was received by his Majesty King Hussein and Crown Prince Hassan, and met members of the Jordanian Government. Talks centred on the state and future development of bilateral relations under the Cooperation Agreement, and the major topics of current concern.

Egypt¹

2.2.33. Mr Thorn paid an official visit to Egypt from 4 to 6 March at the invitation of the Egyptian Government. He had talks with President Hosni Mubarak and members of the Government and Parliament, with whom he discussed the operation of the EEC-Egypt Cooperation Agreement and the problems of the Middle East.

State-trading countries

China

2.2.34. In March the Commission decided to provide 3.5 million ECU to finance a vocational training project in China under the programme of aid to non-associated developing countries.²

2.2.35. The Additional Protocol to the Community-China Textile Agreement was initialled in Peking on 29 March.³

2.2.36. On 30 March Parliament passed resolutions on the economic importance of the newly industrialized countries and the foundation of a Euro-Arab University at a traditional meeting place of Islamic and European culture on Spanish soil.⁴

Development

Towards better coordination of development policies and operations

2.2.37. On 29 March, in response to a request made last November, the Commission transmitted a communication to the Council on the better coordination of development cooperation policies within the Community.⁵

The Commission's view is that the action to be taken should be geared to the practical and operational aspects of coordination and in line with the new approach the Community hopes to follow in cooperating with the various categories of developing countries. The purpose of coordination is to ensure that all cooperation activities—bilateral, multilateral and especially European (Community plus individual Member States)—are consistent and complementary. Total EEC aid accounts for 33% of the world's official aid (29% from the Member States and 4% from the Community) and for 53% of aid to Africa.

After taking stock of the present state of coordination, the communication sets out a plan of action which covers all beneficiaries of EEC cooperation: the ACP States, the southern and eastern Mediterranean countries and the non-associated developing countries. The Commission's proposals aim at improving the exchange of information, strengthening coordination in the field and opening the way for a more systematic use of cofinancing operations.

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2.2.38. On 30 March Parliament passed resolutions on the rules of origin and on the

¹ The financial aspects of relations with southern and eastern Mediterranean countries are dealt with in the 'Development' section under 'Financial and technical cooperation'.

² Point 2.2.49.

³ Point 2.2.13.

⁴ Point 2.4.22; OJ C 117, 30.4.1984.

⁵ COM(84)174 final.

University Institute for Euro-African Studies in Lecce, Italy.¹

Commodities and world agreements

Cocoa

2.2.39. At the 26th meeting of the International Cocoa Council, held in London from 14 to 23 March, it was decided to convene a conference in Geneva, from 7 to 25 May, to negotiate a fourth International Cocoa Agreement.²

The paper on which the conference will base its proceedings contains a statement of the positions adopted by the various delegations on the economic arrangements they wish to include in the new agreement and sets out the legal and administrative provisions of the 1980 Agreement.

The Community, in accordance with a joint but as yet incomplete position approved by the Council on 13 March, was in favour of convening the conference and will endeavour to reach common ground in the outstanding areas between now and the start of the conference, so that it can make a positive contribution to the work done in Geneva.

Tin

2.2.40. The International Tin Council held its 8th meeting in London from 21 to 24 March, when it was decided that the provisional application of the Agreement should be extended to 30 June to give some of the signatories time to complete their constitutional and legislative procedures.

The period during which tin exports are to be held to the 22 000-tonne level is similarly extended.

Malaysia's Minister of Primary Industries, Mr Paul Leong, informed the members of the International Tin Council that plans were afoot to set up a tin exchange in Kuala Lumpur and to introduce future trading.

The Tin Council examined Singapore's position relating to the export of tin concen-

trates of unspecified origin and noted that the precautionary measures some producing countries had adopted were paying off. Nevertheless, in order to halt this trade, there was a call for measures to be taken against countries importing the product.

The Tin Council also noted that some countries which were not subject to export controls were, despite the current tin surplus, taking steps to increase production or intended to do so.

Food aid

Annual programmes

2.2.41. On 13 March the Council, on a proposal from the Commission³ endorsed by Parliament,⁴ adopted a Regulation on the apportionment of the quantities of cereals provided for under the Food Aid Convention for the period 1 July 1983 to 30 June 1986.⁵

The breakdown of the 1 650 000 tonnes of cereals which constitute the minimum annual contribution pledged by the Community and the Member States under the Food Aid Convention is as follows:

Community operations: 927 663 tonnes (56%);

Member States' operations: 722 337 tonnes (44%).

Emergency operations

2.2.42. In March the Commission approved the following emergency food operations under Article 927 of the budget:

Ethiopia: 1 069 tonnes of cereals, valued at 250 000 ECU, will be distributed via NGOs to people in Eritrea.

¹ Point 2.4.22; OJ C 117, 30.4.1984.

² Bull. EC 2-1984, points 2.2.34 to 2.2.37.

³ OJ C 324, 29.11.1983; Bull. EC 1-1984, point 2.2.32.

⁴ OJ C 77, 19.3.1984.

⁵ OJ L 73, 16.3.1984.

Gambia: 200 000 ECU will be used to purchase dried fish, via the Catholic Relief Services, to assist people seriously affected by the drought.

Southern Africa: The following aid was allocated: 2 200 tonnes of cereals to be distributed via UNHCR to refugees from Mozambique in Zimbabwe, in conjunction with a 150 000 ECU grant for the purchase of beans; 2 500 tonnes of cereals to help Zimbabwe cope with drought; 5 000 tonnes of cereals for Mozambique, also suffering from the effects of drought.

This aid adds up to 9 700 tonnes, with an estimated value of 2 050 000 ECU.

Emergency aid

2.2.43. On 1 March the Commission decided, under Article 950 of the budget, to grant a further 1 300 000 ECU in emergency aid to Mozambique,¹ where drought and a cyclone have created a disastrous situation. It will be used to purchase and transport some 1 300 tonnes of seeds.

This aid will be channelled through the Commission Delegation in Swaziland and the Mozambique Government.

Trade promotion

International Tourism Fair, Berlin

2.2.44. The ACP countries, the OCTs and other developing countries were well represented at the International Tourism Fair held in Berlin from 3 to 9 March. This fair, the most important world event of its type, attracted 19 African, 10 Caribbean, 5 Pacific and 3 Indian Ocean exhibitor-countries, together with 8 OCTs and 10 developing countries in Latin America, all of which were sponsored by the Community. Their stands were grouped in 'Caribbean', 'African', 'Pacific' and 'Andean Pact' villages, which proved to be popular meeting-places for European tour operators. Organization of the fair was helped by a contribution of about 400 000 ECU from the Commission.

International food fair in Barcelona

2.2.45. Five African States which export coffee, cocoa, tropical fruits or other agricultural products took part, with technical and financial support from the Community, in 'Alimentaria', an international food fair held in Barcelona from 10 to 15 March.

Stabex

2.2.46. A decision by the Commission on 7 March, authorizing a Stabex transfer of 31 160 673 ECU to Ghana in respect of cocoa products, completed the appraisal of transfer requests for the 1982 year of application.

To meet this transfer, a preliminary payment of all the funds remaining in the 1982 Stabex instalment can be made at once. For the balance, amounting to 13 852 363 ECU, it will be necessary to use some of the 1983 instalment in advance, but the 20% available for such advance use will not be exceeded. The Commission therefore recommended to the ACP-EEC Committee of Ambassadors that the advance be authorized. On 30 March the Committee of Ambassadors decided accordingly.

After two years in which the system's resources were insufficient, it has been possible to meet all the admissible 1982 transfer requests.

Financial and technical cooperation

ACP States and OCTs

2.2.47. In March the Commission decided on the allocation of fifth EDF resources totalling 34 179 951 ECU to finance projects, programmes and emergency aid

¹ Bull. EC 2-1984, point 2.2.41.

operations administered by it in the following sectors:

	<i>ECU</i>
Rural production	7 147 326
Energy	917 625
Transport and communications	18 900 000
Water engineering	2 725 000
Social infrastructure	1 260 000
Other	650 000
Emergency aid	<u>2 580 000</u>
	34 179 951

Southern and eastern Mediterranean countries

2.2.48. In March the EIB granted Egypt, under the second Financial Protocol, three loans from its own resources for the equivalent of 22.5 million ECU for a plant to produce building materials and 3 million ECU from budgetary resources for smaller industrial projects.¹

Non-associated developing countries

China

2.2.49. In March the Commission decided to allocate 3 500 000 ECU from its programme of assistance for non-associated developing countries to a management training project in China. This project, which is the largest of its type so far undertaken there, aims at strengthening the Peking Business Administration Centre by launching a Master's degree in business administration. European financing of the project will cover the first two intakes of MBA students over the period 1985-89. The students will follow an intensive course in English and then carry out consultancy assignments with industrial enterprises in the Peking area. The aim of the project is to examine in what conditions European management methods can be applied in a Chinese industrial context. Approximately 60 European lecturers in business administration will participate in the programme, and successful students will have an opportunity for further training in Europe.

The project reflects the importance which the Chinese authorities attach to management training: difficult negotiations were needed before the Commission's decision was reached. The project will be administered for the Commission by the European Foundation for Management Development, which embraces all the major European business schools. It will be sponsored on the Chinese side by the China Enterprise Management Association.

Relations with non-governmental organizations

2.2.50. Between 1 January and 31 March 201 projects totalling 25 560 000 ECU were submitted to the Commission.

In the same period, total grant aid of 5 800 000 ECU, covering 42 projects, was committed or will soon be.

In addition, 16 campaigns to increase the European public's awareness of development issues have been financed at a cost of 770 000 ECU.

Institutions

ACP-EEC

Accession

2.2.51. On 5 March St Christopher and Nevis, the former British associated State in the Caribbean, which is made up of two islands with a total population of around 44 000, became the 64th ACP State when its instrument of accession to the second Lomé Convention was deposited with the Secretariat of the Council.²

Since 1976 St Christopher and Nevis and the Community have been engaged in a programme of cooperation in accordance with the Council Decision on the association of the OCTs. Under the second Lomé Convention, in addition to benefiting from the trade and other provisions of the Con-

¹ Point 2.4.46.

² OJ L 72, 15.3.1984.

vention, St Christopher and Nevis will receive some 2.2 million ECU in financial and technical cooperation.

Committee of Ambassadors

2.2.52. The ACP-EEC Committee of Ambassadors met on 30 March in preparation for the ACP-EEC Council meeting to be held in Fiji on 2 May. The following points were made during the discussions.

Concerning imports of out-of-season strawberries from ACP countries, the Community presented its proposals, which did not go far enough in the view of the ACP partners (period of the year covered, reduction in rate of duty, quota).

The ACP States also expressed reservations about the proposals for new Community regulations concerning aflatoxin levels in animal feeds and the tax on vegetable oils and flowers from Kenya, seeing them as indications of a protectionist tendency. They asked the Community for a firm assurance that this was not the intention.

The ACP countries also voiced anxiety over the fixing of 1984-85 sugar prices and the Community's reluctance to reallocate quotas.

In the area of Stabex, an agreement was reached for the use in advance of part of the 1983 instalment, pursuant to the second Lomé Convention, in order to pay all the transfers in respect of 1982. The Community stressed the fact that only a continuous updating of statistics would enable the Commission to deal rapidly with transfer requests after a loss in earnings had been noted. It also asked to be given reports on the use made of transfers as laid down in the Lomé Convention. The ACP side undertook to respect its commitments in the matter.

The Community pointed to its positive role in the discussions on a cocoa agreement and was urged by the ACP to adopt a more favourable position regarding price levels (to be discussed with the ACP Group).

On the issue of the origin of fisheries products, the ACP States asked the Community to give its opinion, before the ACP-EEC

Council meeting, on the two ACP proposals concerning the definition of 'their vessels' and the unloading of catches taken in EEC waters.

The Community circulated a paper on the state of the negotiations with Spain and Portugal, a matter over which the ACP States had expressed anxiety. The Commission would be holding talks with the ACP States in order to keep them informed and listen to their concerns and views.

Visits

Liberia

2.2.53. A delegation of Liberian Ministers, led by Mr Ernest Eastman, Minister of Foreign Affairs, visited the Commission on 1 March and was received by Mr Davignon and Mr Pisani.

The Liberian delegation underlined the serious economic and budgetary problems currently besetting their country, particularly in the mining sector.

The Community aid programme to Liberia was reviewed, both sides agreeing to take appropriate steps to speed up its implementation.

International organizations and conferences

United Nations

2.2.54. The Commission took part in the second meeting of the Commission on the Status of Women, held in Vienna from 27 February to 7 March, in preparation for the 1985 World Conference to review and appraise the achievements of the United Nations Decade for Women (1976-85).

Economic and Social Council

Economic Commission for Europe

2.2.55. The 35th session of the ECE's Committee on Agricultural Problems,

which was held in Geneva from 12 to 16 March, provided an opportunity for an exchange of information between Western and Eastern-bloc countries.

The main item on the agenda was the development of agriculture in Europe in 1983.

The Community representative said that the Community's agriculture was efficient and that the problems lay not in increasing production but in improving market equilibrium. A drive to achieve structural adjustments was needed, underpinned by a prudent prices policy and multiannual production targets, with reductions in intervention prices whenever thresholds are exceeded.

General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade

GATT Council

2.2.56. The GATT Council met on 14 March and dealt with a number of issues which are the subject of dispute settlement proceedings.

The panel set up to examine a complaint by the Community concerning the 'manufacturing clause' in United States copyright legislation—which requires that any book by an American author must be produced at all stages in the United States—stated in its report that the clause was incompatible with the General Agreement. Similarly, the panel examining a dispute between the United States and Japan found certain restrictions imposed by Japan on imports of leather to be incompatible with GATT rules. In another case concerning the reduction of the US quota for sugar imports from Nicaragua, the panel concluded that the United States had infringed its obligations under the General Agreement. Lastly, at Canada's request, the Council established a panel to examine the Community's 1984 newsprint quota.

In implementation of the decisions taken at the ministerial session in November 1982,¹ the Council set up a working group to

study the problems arising in the following sectors: non-ferrous metals and minerals; forestry products; fish and fisheries products. Lastly, an IMF study on 'Exchange rate volatility and world trade' was put before the Council.

Group on Quantitative Restrictions and Other Non-tariff Measures

2.2.57. The Group on Quantitative Restrictions and Other Non-tariff Measures held its fourth meeting in Geneva on 22 March.² The objective was to continue stage II of its work, i.e. to review existing quantitative restrictions and other non-tariff measures, and in particular the grounds on which the restrictions are maintained and their conformity to the General Agreement.

At the next meeting the Group will decide when to move on to stage III (discussion and drafting of conclusions).

Since the Group aims to complete its work in October, the following programme of meetings was fixed: 7 and 8 May, 13 and 14 June, 2 and 3 July, 26 to 28 September, and 15 and 16 October.

Diplomatic relations

2.2.58. The President of the Council and the President of the Commission received HE Mr Carlos Enrique Gutiérrez Luna, Head of Mission of the Republic of Guatemala to the European Communities, and HE Mr Joseph William Nthiga Nyagah, Head of Mission of the Republic of Kenya to the European Communities, who presented their letters of credence, to take effect on 13 March 1984.

The new ambassadors succeed Mr Hugo Argueta Figueroa (Guatemala) and Mr Japheth Gideon Kiti (Kenya).

¹ Bull. EC 11-1982, point 1.1.1 *et seq.*

² Bull. EC 12-1983, point 2.2.78.

3. Financing Community activities

Budgets

General budget

Own resources

2.3.1. The European Council of 19 and 20 March reached agreement on budgetary discipline and on raising from 1 to 1.4% the maximum VAT rate applied to the uniform Community base, the yield of which accrues to the Community budget as own resources.¹ The agreement was not, however, finalized, because the European Council could not agree on the United Kingdom's budget contribution for 1984 and subsequent years.

Financial regulation

2.3.2. On 15 March, after Parliament² and the Court of Auditors³ had delivered their opinions, the Commission sent the Council an amendment to its proposal for a general revision of the 1977 Financial Regulation.⁴ The original proposal was made in 1980.⁵ The amended proposal takes account, as far as possible, of the opinions of the other institutions concerned. It is now up to the Council to take action on this matter, which is essential for the smooth implementation of the Community budget.

Adoption of the new Financial Regulation will undoubtedly take some time and will require conciliation between Parliament and the Council.

Financial compensation

1983

2.3.3. Following Parliament's endorsement⁶ on 12 March of the three amended proposals for Regulations introducing special measures of Community interest for the United Kingdom and Germany for 1983 in the fields of employment, transport and energy,⁷ the Council completed consideration of these instruments on 12 and 13 March. It concluded that there was no

longer any divergence between its own position and that of Parliament but agreed to defer adoption until after the European Council.

The failure to find a solution to the Community's financial problems¹ meant that the Council was unable to adopt the three Regulations formally on 20 March.

Financial operations

ECSC

Loans raised

2.3.4. In March the Commission issued the first public bond loan for the ECSC denominated in ECU. This 10-year issue for 60 million ECU carries a coupon of 6%; it was priced at par and will be repayable on final maturity at 175%.

The Commission also made a number of private placings in German marks and Dutch guilders for the equivalent of 17.06 million ECU.

Loans paid out

2.3.5. Acting under Articles 54 and 56 of the ECSC Treaty, the Commission made loans totalling 21.48 million ECU in March for the following purposes:

Industrial loans

2.3.6. A loan was made to a firm in Germany to help finance an investment programme aimed at increasing consumption of Community coal.

¹ Point 1.1.1 *et seq.*

² OJ C 277, 17.10.1983; Bull. EC 9-1983, point 2.3.2.

³ OJ C 232, 11.9.1981.

⁴ OJ C 97, 9.4.1984; COM(84) 123 final.

⁵ OJ C 119, 21.5.1981; Bull. EC 12-1980, point 2.3.72; see also Tenth General Report, point 95.

⁶ OJ C 104, 16.4.1984.

⁷ Bull. EC 2-1984, point 2.3.3.

Subsidized housing

2.3.7. Loans for the building of subsidized housing totalled 9.83 million ECU, of which 9.46 million ECU was for steelworkers and 370 000 ECU was for mineworkers.

Conversion loan

2.3.8. Conversion loans (Article 56) totalling 9.18 million ECU were granted to the following undertakings:

Germany

Supra-regional loans for small and medium-sized businesses: Industriekreditbank AG, Düsseldorf; Westdeutsche Landesbank Girozentrale, Münster; and Saarländische Investitionskreditbank AG, Saarbrücken.

Belgium

Province of Luxembourg: Idelux, Arlon, and Magolux, Messancy (Messancy plant).

EEC-NCI

2.3.9. In March the Commission issued a 7-year public bond loan of 60 million ECU carrying a coupon of 10.5% and priced at 99.75%. This issue was intended to be taken up primarily by the European savings banks, which would widen the range of investors in ECU loan issues.

Euratom

2.3.10. In March the Commission made a private placing in Belgian francs for the equivalent of 21.92 million ECU.

4. Political and institutional matters

European political cooperation

Foreign Ministers' declarations

2.4.1. Community Foreign Ministers held a political cooperation meeting when the Council met on 27 March and adopted the following declarations prepared at the European Council on 19 and 20 March.

Declaration on East-West relations

2.4.2. The Ten have a responsibility in regard to peace and stability in Europe and to the security of their populations. They consider that the process of European integration which they have launched and which they intend to pursue resolutely is of primary importance in this regard. They declare

their determination to maintain and intensify their contribution to the improvement of relations between East and West. They appeal to the Soviet Union to cooperate in progress towards genuine *détente* on the basis of a balance of forces, of respect for the interests of all States, of the faithful implementation of the Helsinki Final Act in all its aspects and of the renunciation of the use and threat of force. In this connection, the Ten recall their position on the question of Afghanistan.

The Ten emphasize the particular importance of the implementation of the Helsinki Final Act for peace and security in Europe. Having made a decisive contribution to the creation of the CSCE process, which seeks to overcome the division of Europe, they will pursue their efforts aimed at conducting a constructive dialogue with the Soviet Union and its allies in central and eastern Europe. They hope to develop cooperation with each of

them on a stable and realistic basis in all concrete fields. They consider that, if it is to have its full significance, cooperation between States must benefit the individual citizen. They favour freer contact between people in both parts of Europe, in particular between those of the two German States.

The Ten wish to see the success of arms control and disarmament negotiations and the resumption of those which have been broken off. For their part, they are determined to make every effort required in order to ensure progress in the negotiations in which they are taking part, in particular the Conference in Stockholm on Disarmament in Europe where they consider that positive results can be attained.

They set as their objective the establishment of a state of peace and security in Europe in which man's right to unrestricted self-fulfilment and the right of peoples to self-determination will be recognized and respected. They assert that it is possible to make progress towards this objective by peaceful evolution. Convinced that all the European peoples wish to live in peace, they appeal to the governments of the Soviet Union and its allies in central and eastern Europe to work for more constructive East-West relations in a spirit of equality and of respect for the legitimate security interests of all concerned. The Ten, for their part, are determined to make their own contribution, in the interests of Europe and of peace in the world.

Near and Middle East

2.4.3. The Ten are intensely concerned by the three conflicts in the Near and the Middle East—Lebanon, the Arab-Israel dispute and the war between Iraq and Iran—which are serious both in themselves and in the effect which each has on the others.

Lebanon

The ten Heads of State or Government recall the fundamental importance of the re-establishment of Lebanon in its independence, sovereignty, unity and territorial integrity. The Ten hope that, following the Lausanne Conference, progress towards reconciliation in Lebanon will prove possible. They hope that the Lebanese Government and all political forces will continue their efforts to bring about national unity and establish a lasting peace throughout the country by reaching a just solution to its internal problems which respects Lebanese sovereignty and the desire of the population of that country to escape from the suffering inflicted on it by the Middle East conflict. They underline the need to initiate without delay processes which will lead to the withdrawal of foreign forces from Lebanese territory.

They express the hope that the international community will shortly be in a position to give the Lebanese Government any help it requests in order to maintain peace in the country.

They undertake to participate actively at the appropriate time in the work of reconstructing Lebanon.

Middle East

Following decades of confrontation in the Middle East, the need for a settlement guaranteeing peace among all the States of the region is universally recognized. The Ten consider that this settlement should include the right to existence and security of all these States, including Israel.

Likewise, all the parties concerned have conceded that a settlement must take account of the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people. In the view of the Ten, this entails acceptance of the right of the Palestinian people to self-determination, with all that this implies.

Finally, it has been universally acknowledged that all the problems which exist between Israel and its neighbours must be resolved in accordance with the principles recognized by the international community, including non-recourse to the use of force and non-acquisition of territory by force. For the Ten, this means that, in accordance with Resolutions 242 and 338 of the Security Council, Israel must put an end to the territorial occupation which it has maintained since the conflict of 1967.

The Ten call on all parties to draw the consequences from these principles and to start the negotiations which are necessary for their implementation.

A negotiated settlement will require the continuing and independent expression of the will of the Palestinian people; the PLO must be associated with the negotiations.

In the Ten's view, furthermore, a process of negotiation presupposes mutual recognition of the existence and the rights of the parties in the conflict.

The Ten express their concern at the collapse of the hopes engendered in September 1982 by certain converging and promising peace initiatives and they declare that the absence of all progress towards a negotiated solution since then exacerbates antagonisms and entrenches the positions of those who favour confrontation.

They note, however, that certain recent developments, such as the meeting of the Islamic Conference in Casablanca and the resumption of the dialogue between Jordan and the Palestinians, have been encouraging. They request all parties to make sincere efforts to re-examine their positions with a view to reducing the gap between them,

taking particularly into account elements contained in the Reagan Plan and in the Fez Declaration. They also call upon all parties to renounce the use or threat of force and upon the Government of Israel to put an end to its policy of establishing settlements in the occupied territories.

They undertake to support any constructive step which might be initiated by the parties.

They recall that the United Nations Security Council can play a significant role in the pursuit of a solution to the Middle East conflict negotiated between the parties.

They stress their wish to develop the activity of the European Community on behalf of the populations of the occupied territories.

The governments of the Ten, both individually and collectively through the channel of the presidency, will maintain such contacts with the authorities and personalities of the region as could be useful in bringing the various positions closer together and contributing to the removal of the obstacles which stand in the way of a process of negotiation.

Iran/Iraq

The Heads of State or Government emphasize the gravity of the risks which continued warfare between Iraq and Iran poses for the region of the Gulf, for the entire Middle East and for international peace and stability.

Recent developments have increased the sufferings of the peoples of both countries and could open the way to new and dangerous escalation in the intensity and spread of the conflict.

The Ten wish to record their distress at the allegations of the use of chemical weapons. They hope that following the United Nations inquiry the full truth of the matter will be brought to light. They recall their unqualified condemnation of any use of such weapons.

The Ten call on the parties to comply with the principles and provisions of humanitarian international law in armed conflicts.

The Ten hope that each of the parties will finally agree to comply with the Security Council resolutions and heed the numerous appeals addressed to them by the international community. They hope that the parties will cooperate in the search for a peaceful solution, honourable for them both.

They hope that the United Nations Secretary-General will intensify his efforts for the restoration of peace and are ready to lend him their support to this end.

Latin America

The Ten affirm their desire to maintain and develop their historical relations with South America. They deem it important to welcome the progress made by democracy in this region. This remarkable progress has been achieved at a time of serious economic difficulties, due partly to the burden of foreign debts.

The Ten express, in particular, their profound satisfaction at the restoration of democracy in Argentina following the elections of 30 October 1983. They welcome the steps taken by the new Government of President Alfonsín to re-establish the rule of law in the country.

The Ten hope that Argentina's return to a system of pluralist democracy will encourage a similar evolution in other South American countries where human rights continue to be subjected to serious violations.

Reiterating the position which they expressed on Central America in their Stuttgart declaration of 19 June 1983, the Ten confirm their appreciation for the continuing efforts of the Contadora Group.

They hope that these efforts can contribute to a reduction of tensions and to progress towards peace, respect for independence, the establishment of pluralistic democracy and the solution of the economic and social problems of the countries concerned.

Cyprus

The Ten reiterate their statement of 16 November 1983.¹ They support Security Council Resolution 541/83, which should be used as a basis for restoring the territorial integrity and unity of the Republic of Cyprus. They regret that Turkey has recognized the self-styled 'Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus'. They call upon the Turkish Government to withdraw this recognition and to exercise their influence on the leaders of the Turkish-Cypriot community so that they should rescind their decision. They pledge their support for the Secretary-General of the United Nations in the pursuit of his mission of good offices in accordance with Security Council Resolution 541.

CSCE: Athens meeting on the peaceful settlement of disputes

2.4.4. As part of the follow-up to the Madrid meeting of the Conference on Security

¹ Bull. EC 11-1983, point 2.4.1.

and Cooperation in Europe, a meeting of experts from the participating countries met in Athens on 21 March with the purpose of pursuing 'the examination of a generally acceptable method for the peaceful settlement of disputes aimed at complementing existing methods'. The head of the French delegation made a speech on the Ten's behalf stressing their preference for a method which improved on existing methods and included a number of mandatory requirements, such as arbitration, inquiry or conciliation.

*

On 13 and 16 March Parliament adopted resolutions on the destabilizing activities of Eastern countries' secret services on the territory of the Community and the Western world, Nicaragua, a request for an amnesty for political prisoners in Uruguay, the arrest of Yuri Badzyo, the sentencing of a pregnant woman to be stoned to death and the effects of the Iran-Iraq war on the Community's oil supplies.¹

On 29 March it passed a resolution on the situation in Northern Ireland.²

European policy and relations between the institutions

European policy

Brussels European Council

2.4.5. The European Council met for the first time this year on 19 and 20 March in Brussels, with Mr François Mitterrand in the chair.³

Progress was made in a number of areas, but differences of view on correcting the British budget imbalance prevented final agreement on the full package.

As after Athens, it was agreed that specialized Council meetings should continue to discuss the outstanding issues put to them with a view to finding definitive solutions as quickly as possible.

Accordingly, the Council of Agriculture Ministers adopted the 1984-85 farm prices and measures to reform the CAP. At its meeting on 27 and 28 March the Council of Foreign Ministers resumed discussion of the British budget problem.

2.4.6. After the Presidents of the Council and the Commission had reported on the outcome of the European Council, Parliament adopted five resolutions.⁴

Greek memorandum

2.4.7. On 5 March the Council, in response to the Greek memorandum of March 1982,⁵ formally adopted a Regulation,⁶ proposed by the Commission in July 1983,⁷ which it had approved in February⁸ extending the common measure on the acceleration of agricultural development in certain regions of Greece.

2.4.8. On 26 March it adopted the proposal on exceptional financial support for the construction and equipment of vocational training centres and centres for the care and rehabilitation of the mentally handicapped⁹ which the Commission had presented in July 1983.¹⁰

2.4.9. Lastly, the Council of Transport Ministers¹¹ announced its intention of granting 25 million ECU to finance transport infrastructure in Greece.¹²

¹ Point 2.4.18; OJ C 104, 16.4.1984.

² Point 2.4.23; OJ C 117, 30.4.1984.

³ Point 1.1.1 *et seq.*

⁴ Point 1.1.3; OJ C 117, 30.4.1984.

⁵ Bull. EC 3-1982, point 2.4.1; Bull. EC 3-1983, points 1.4.1 to 1.4.13.

⁶ OJ L 68, 10.3.1984.

⁷ Bull. EC 7/8-1983, point 2.1.144.

⁸ Bull. EC 2-1984, point 2.1.118.

⁹ Point 2.1.71; OJ L 88, 31.3.1984.

¹⁰ Bull. EC 7/8-1983, point 2.1.62; Bull. EC 12-1983, point 2.1.76.

¹¹ Point 2.4.24.

¹² OJ C 36, 10.2.1984; Bull. EC 7/8-1983, point 2.1.177.

Relations between the institutions

New conciliation procedure

2.4.10. In response to Parliament's resolution of December 1983¹ on the draft Joint Declaration of the Council, Parliament and the Commission on a new conciliation procedure,² the Commission asked the Council on 9 March to begin discussion of the draft without delay.

At the same time it indicated that it considered most of the amendments requested by Parliament acceptable and felt that Parliament's version could form the basis for discussion with the exception of paragraph 5(e) (where Parliament votes against the text of a provision examined under the conciliation procedure, a new agreement must be reached between the institutions concerned before Parliament delivers its opinion).

Increased powers for Parliament

Solemn Declaration on European Union

2.4.11. On 13 March the Council informed Parliament that it intended to start applying the provisions of paragraph 2.3.7 of the Solemn Declaration on European Union adopted by the Stuttgart European Council.³

Accordingly, Parliament will be consulted, taking into account the requirements of urgency, between the signing and the conclusion of all 'significant' international agreements, other than association and trade agreements, for which the Treaties do not already require it to be consulted. Parliament will also be consulted before the accession of a State to the Community.

2.4.12. In a resolution adopted on 29 March⁴ Parliament asked to be consulted before the appointment of a new President of the Commission in accordance with the provisions of the Solemn Declaration on European Union adopted by the European Council at Stuttgart in June 1983.⁵

Right to be consulted on fisheries

2.4.13. On 16 March Parliament passed a resolution on the restoration of its right to be consulted on fisheries matters.⁶

Institutions and organs of the Communities

Parliament⁷

Strasbourg: 12 to 16 March

2.4.14. Several major debates dominated this first part-session in March, particularly the one on agricultural questions—reforming the common agricultural policy and fixing the farm prices⁸—in which Parliament felt that it had been by-passed by the institutional procedures adopted by the Council, the House giving its opinion just as the Council, at its meetings on 12 and 17 March, was reaching overall agreement.⁸

Transport policy was another weighty issue and was highlighted by a well applauded statement from Mr Charles Fiterman, President of the Council.

Transport policy and infrastructure

2.4.15. The House heartily applauded the statement by Mr Charles Fiterman, French

¹ OJ C 10, 16.1.1984; Bull. EC 12-1983, point 2.4.11.

² Bull. EC 12-1981, points 1.3.1 to 1.3.7; Supplement 3/82 — Bull. EC.

³ Supplement 3/82 — Bull. EC; Bull. EC 6-1983, point 1.6.1.

⁴ Point 2.4.22; OJ C 117, 30.4.1984.

⁵ Bull. EC 6-1983, point 1.6.1 (paragraph 2.3.5).

⁶ Point 2.4.17; OJ C 104, 16.4.1984.

⁷ This report was prepared from *Le point de la session* published by Parliament's Secretariat. The complete texts of the resolutions adopted by Parliament are reproduced in OJ C 104, 16.4.1984 and OJ C 117, 30.4.1984 and the reports of the proceedings are contained in OJ Annexes 1-310, 1-311 and 1-312. The political groups of members are indicated in brackets by the following abbreviations: *Soc* = Socialists; *EPP* = European People's Party—Christian Democratic Group; *ED* = European Democratic Group; *Com* = Communists and Allies; *Lib* = Liberals and Democrats; *EPD* = European Progressive Democrats; *Ind* = Group for the Technical Coordination and Defence of Independent Groups and Members; *NA* = Non-affiliated. The countries of origin are indicated as follows: B = Belgium, DK = Denmark, D = Federal Republic of Germany, GR = Greece, F = France, IRL = Ireland, I = Italy, L = Luxembourg, NL = Netherlands, UK = United Kingdom.

⁸ Point 1.2.1 *et seq.*

Minister of Transport and President of the Council. Mr Fiterman said he was convinced that progress must be made in a pragmatic manner towards a common transport policy, where everything still had to be done and where at present there was no overall cohesion. He told the House that he had set up a working party specifically responsible for the constant coordination of economic measures to ease traffic at frontiers. Emphasizing the futility of speechifying about liberalization if practical solutions were not found for certain basic problems—like the fair charging of infrastructure costs or harmonization of technical standards and social conditions for workers. He wanted to see liberalization advancing in line with these solutions in order to achieve not a fuzzy free-trade area but a genuine human community, a single market where each and everyone's interests would be respected. To attain this objective he advocated a flexible programme geared to a limited number of projects of obvious Community interest like, for example, a Central Europe-Atlantic road link, railway cooperation and the opening of broad-gauge waterways and fixed maritime itineraries. The methods of financing that he proposed were original in that they would make combined use of budget and non-budget funds. Turning to the problem of road safety he proposed that 1985 be made the 'year of European road safety'. Then referring to a supporting resolution by the House,¹ he announced the decision by France and Germany to start production of the Airbus A 320 and said that he hoped the next Council meeting of Transport Ministers would make some progress.

One of the first speakers to take the floor, Mr Jan Klinkenborg (*Soc/D*), called for a planned communications network, which he felt was crucial to the development of the Community. Having stressed that the respective roles of each means of transport must be defined within the framework of global European coordination, he emphasized the need to develop both the Community's railway network and that of the countries through which Community lines had to pass (the link with Greece through Aus-

tria and Yugoslavia). But believing that this process would not work without Community financial support for such infrastructure projects, he insisted that the work of the Transport infrastructure Committee be monitored by Parliament. As regards the evaluation of Community interest he wanted all investigations to be conducted solely by the Commission departments and said that this work should produce a calculation of costs and profits that quantified the benefit to the Member States concerned and to the Community.

Mr Amédée Turner (*ED/UK*), who endorsed the conclusions of the Klinkenborg report and supported the objectives set by Mr Fiterman, nevertheless maintained that modernizing the east coast ports in England would be no less of a Community achievement than grand European projects mentioned by the Council President. Mr Pierre Baudis (*EPP/F*) wanted the Commission to draw up a basic regulation as soon as possible and be entrusted with the tasks of guidance and coordination. He insisted that priority be given to establishing a scale for evaluating objectives with indisputable criteria that could be compared by means of a cost/benefit analysis for each project.

Mrs Marie-Claire Scaroni (*EPD/F*) said she was pinning her hopes on the forthcoming Council meeting of Transport Ministers and pressed for the setting up of a European technico-industrial group to develop a European high-speed railway network.

Speaking for the Commission Mr Giorgios Contogeorgis, the Member with special responsibility for transport, said he understood that Parliament would like to control the 'infrastructure' committee but did not believe it could be possible since it was a technical committee and the projects presented by the Member States were not to be made public. He therefore suggested that this committee meet Parliament's Committee on Transport in order to make an oral report. As regards the methods for evaluat-

¹ OJ C 46, 20.2.1984; Bull. EC 1-1984, point 2.4.10.

ing Community interest, he simply proposed that the Commission should study with the Member States ways to improve statistics.

The end of the debate saw the resolution moved by Mr Jan Klinkenborg (*Soc/D*) unanimously adopted.

2.4.16. Parliament gave opinions on a number of Commission proposals, including:

(i) a Directive amending the Directive of 19 December 1974¹ on the approximation of the laws of the Member States relating to the making-up by volume of certain pre-packaged liquids;²

(ii) a Directive amending the Directive of 18 December 1978³ on the approximation of the law of the Member States relating to the labelling, presentation and advertising of foodstuffs for sale to the ultimate consumer;⁴

(iii) the fixing of prices for certain agricultural products and related measures for the 1984-85 marketing year;

(iv) a number of regulations concerning the milk sector;⁵

(v) two Regulations amending Regulations on the common organization of the market in fruit and vegetables and in products processed from fruit and vegetables;⁶

(vi) a Regulation laying down special measures in respect of olive oil;⁷

(vii) a Regulation introducing a tax on certain oils and fats;⁸

(viii) a Directive concerning the fifth extension of the second stage of harmonization of taxes other than turnover taxes which affect the consumption of manufactured tobacco;⁹

(ix) a Regulation concerning Community financial support in favour of industries producing solid fuels and on the Commission's proposals for a balanced solid fuels policy;¹⁰

(x) three Regulations on the financial aspects of special measures of Community interest in the fields of employment, transport and energy.¹¹

2.4.17. The House also passed resolutions on:

(i) obstacles at frontiers—freedom of movement for traffic in the Community: urging the Member States to take all appropriate measures in respect of administration, statistics and customs to ease intra-Community traffic, Parliament asked the Commission to investigate ways of constructing new motorways without levying tolls;

(ii) application of the *non bis in idem* principle in criminal law in the European Community: Parliament called for the authority of *res judicata* to be recognized in the legislation of all the Member States and urged the Council of Ministers of Justice to state their position on this principle;

(iii) postal charges in the Community: the House asked the Member States to apply identical rates for any mail within their territories and for mail services to other Member States; the Commission was asked to review its recommendation in order to ensure a consistent and comprehensive approach covering all categories of mail;

(iv) custody and abduction of children across national borders: Parliament called on the Commission to recommend that the Member States adopt a protocol supplementing, in the field of the recognition and enforcement of decisions relating to custody, the Brussels Convention on Jurisdiction and the Enforcement of Judgments, and hoped that the Community would encourage as many non-member countries as possible to ratify the Hague Convention of 25 October 1980 on the Civil Aspects of the International Abduction of Children;

(v) freedom of education in the European Community: having regard to the particu-

¹ OJ L 42, 15.2.1975.

² Point 2.1.15.

³ OJ L 33, 8.2.1979.

⁴ Point 2.1.112.

⁵ Point 2.1.123.

⁶ Point 2.1.125.

⁷ Point 2.1.130.

⁸ Point 2.1.129.

⁹ Point 2.1.60.

¹⁰ Point 2.1.177.

¹¹ Point 2.3.3.

larly marked pluralism within the Member States in the field of education, the House insisted that parents should have the right to choose a school for their children and the freely established schools should be recognized by the State and receive from it the financial aid to enable them effectively to exercise their right to exist;

(vi) higher education and the development of cooperation between higher educational establishments: anxious to see Europe catch up with Japan and the United States in science and technology, Parliament proposed various measures for cooperation between universities at Community level and the establishment of European institutes to avoid financial and human waste; the Commission was asked to boost cooperation between European universities and their counterparts in the ACP and Latin-American countries;

(vii) education for children whose parents have no fixed abode: the Commission was asked to devise, and try out by means of pilot projects, education systems tailored to the social and cultural circumstances of fair, circus and barge children;

(viii) the academic recognition of diplomas and of periods of study: in order to promote the mobility of young people and their free movement in the Community, the House called on the Commission to find ways to win acceptance for the principle of broad equivalence between the Member States in the academic entrance level and the annual work schedule, and thus reduce obstacles to the mobility of students at intermediate levels;

(ix) sexual discrimination at the workplace: urging the Member States to apply the same age of consent for homosexual and heterosexual acts, Parliament asked the Commission to present proposals to ensure that no cases arise in the Member States of discrimination against homosexuals with regard to access to employment and working conditions and to take steps to induce the WHO to delete homosexuality from its international classification of diseases;

(x) waste: the House called on the Commission to prepare a multiannual prog-

ramme for waste management and urged the Member States to align their laws on existing Community or European legislation, particularly with regard to toxic and harmful waste and the international carriage of dangerous waste and goods; the House also called for heavy penalties for offenders;

(xi) the dumping of chemical and radioactive waste at sea: believing that disposal on land entailed fewer unknown risks than dumping at sea, Parliament asked the Council, the Commission and the Member States to ensure that existing international conventions and agreements were ratified; the Commission was asked to develop a Community system for the safe storage of waste that cannot be reprocessed or neutralized;

(xii) the import of ivory into the Community: the House asked the Commission to urge the African countries, the United Kingdom, Hong Kong, Belgium and Japan to apply the international conventions in force and thus help to preserve certain endangered populations of African elephant;

(xiii) the development of aquaculture in the Community: further to its earlier resolution¹ Parliament requested the Commission to promote the development of this activity and set out a package of proposals for research, structural organization, regional distribution and protection of the environment;

(xiv) right of access to fishing grounds and the management of fishery resources in the Mediterranean: believing that the aim of regulating right of access should be to preserve inshore fishing and that the management of resources must take account of the wide variety of activities other than fisheries pursued in the Mediterranean, the House asked the Commission to draw up a programme for the exploitation of coastal areas that covered these two aspects and included the non-member countries;

(xv) Spanish accession and fishing: recalling that Spanish trawlers were still fishing

¹ OJ C 140, 5.6.1979.

illegally in Community waters and stressing the need to restructure the Spanish fishing fleet—whose activity in existing Community waters posed a serious threat to the Community's fishing industry—Parliament asked the Commission to make monthly reports to the House on progress being made on fisheries in the negotiations on Spain's accession;

(xvi) restoring Parliament's right to be consulted on the implementation of the common fisheries policy: having complained that the regulations adopted in January 1983 deprived the House of this right,¹ Parliament urged the Commission to undertake to consult it regularly as before and urged the Council to do likewise by amending the offending regulations;

(xvii) Community programme to promote road safety: emphasizing the amount of human misery and the cost to society as a result of traffic accidents, the House asked the Commission to present proposals as soon as possible for improving roads and road signs, compulsory equipment for vehicles, and minimum obligations for road users; the Council was urged to take prompt decisions on these matters;

(xviii) export credit subsidies: the House asked the Commission to draw up an inventory of systems established by the Member States with a view to eventual transfer to Community competence of all activities in this field; the Commission was urged to make a new study on the setting-up of a European Export Bank which would also promote wider use of the ECU;

(xix) Community participation in the 1985 Tsukuba (Japan) International Exhibition and the scheme for the training of junior European business executives in Japan: the House hoped that the Commission and participating Member States would form a group at the Exhibition and suggested that the Commission investigate how small and medium-sized firms and their association could be more closely involved with the junior business executive training scheme.

2.4.18. In the fields of political cooperation and human rights Parliament passed resolutions on:

(i) destabilizing activities of Eastern countries' secret services on the territory of the Community and the Western world: recalling that the new outbreaks of terrorist activities and spying and the spreading of forged documents as an 'active measure' to sow discord between Member States of the Community was the work of Soviet spies and 'officials', 71 of whom were expelled from Community territory in 1983, Parliament asked the Foreign Ministers to evaluate the effect of the Soviet Union's 'active measures' campaign on Community interests and to make a similar appraisal of Soviet technical and scientific espionage activity with a view to a joint submission to the Soviet Government;

(ii) Nicaragua: the House urged the Nicaraguan Government to allow a free electoral choice by guaranteeing the freedom of the press and other media as well as the right of association, and by respecting human rights. It declared its support for the efforts of the Contadora Group to find a regional solution to the conflicts afflicting Nicaragua and other countries in Central America;

(iii) the arrest of Yuri Badzyo: the House requested the Council of Foreign Ministers to make representations to the Soviet authorities with a view to the release of the Ukrainian citizen sentenced for publishing a scientific study and the victim of appalling brutality;

(iv) request for an amnesty for political prisoners in Uruguay: the House requested the Uruguayan authorities to comply with this request for an amnesty addressed by the prisoners' mothers;

(v) the sentencing of a pregnant woman to be stoned to death: the House called on the Court of Al Ain in the United Arab Emirates to repeal this sentence imposed for an act of adultery;

¹ OJ L 24 and OJ L 25, 27.1.1983; Bull. EC 1-1983, points 1.1.1 to 1.1.11.

(vi) the effect of the Iran-Iraq war on the Community's oil supplies: recalling its resolution on surveillance and protection of shipping routes¹ Parliament emphasized the importance of the Gulf to Europe's oil supply and suggested that the Community should show its solidarity by helping to defray the expenditure incurred in the deployment of naval forces by certain Member States in order to secure the Community's oil supplies through the Straits of Hormuz in 1984.

Strasbourg: 26 to 30 March¹

2.4.19. It was undeniably the adoption of a 'plan for European economic recovery', based mainly on the Albert-Ball report, that dominated the proceedings at the second March part-session.

The debates on the failure of the Brussels European Council³ and on agriculture⁴ offered members an opportunity to voice serious concern at the turn of events, although they avoided over-dramatizing the situation.

Plan for economic recovery

2.4.20. Presenting the report, Mr Fernand Herman (EPP/B) identified three main causes of Europe's declining economic power: the diminished competitiveness of businesses; the slackening in productive investment; and, because of the cost of maintaining a high level of social security for everybody, the growing deficit of the public sector. He concluded that the Community must therefore attenuate, it not eliminate, the structural impediments constituted by the partitioning of markets, the instability of exchange rates, the technology gap, the heavy tax burden, the inflexibilities of the labour and capital markets and the overindebtedness of the public authorities. This, felt Mr Herman, was the prerequisite for the lasting success of a policy to restimulate supply. He summarized his proposals with the slogan 'more Europe, more investment and more research' but found diverging views on three points of the solutions for the problems posed. The first involved the amount to be devoted to social security; in

Japan and the United States it was about 15 to 17% of gross national product, whereas it stood at 25 to 30% in the Community. Mr Herman held that though social welfare must constitute a priority, it must take account of the constraints and the rigour of the economic arguments and not exceed 18 to 20% of GNP so that the Community economy can continue to compete with Japan and the United States. The second problem related to the need and measures for recovery, which the speaker believed could not be of the Keynesian type—by stimulating overall demand by means of public investment or monetary facilities—but must be based on a reduction in the pressure of taxation and the cost of the credit and on a boost for investments to be financed by European resources which will be available after public finances have been put on a sound footing and a genuine Community market achieved. The third point of contention concerned wage costs and the reduction of working time, where Mr Herman fully endorsed Michel Albert's analysis, which concluded that the number of hours worked and remuneration must be kept in constant ratio so that there would be neither a deflationary effect nor inflation. Over and above these three points Mr Herman agreed on the need to find a social consensus in order to resume economic development but felt that it was dangerous to make people believe that was a painless, easy and immediate solution to unemployment.

Europe must 'change its skin' said Commission Vice-President, Mr François-Xavier Ortoli, during the debate, as he gave priority to productive investment and the battle against inflation, by modernizing the structures and achieving a true single market and especially by changing its behaviour. He was to say more than once that it was through more Europe that the Member States would derive more sovereignty.

¹ OJ C 327, 14.12.1981; Bu.. EC 11-1981, point 2.3.8.

² OJ C 117, 30.4.1984; OJ Annex 1-312.

³ Point 1.1.3.

⁴ Point 1.2.1 *et seq.*

At the close of the debate, where the split between left and right was clearly revealed—between the liberals, who believed in recovery through supply, and the supporters of public action, who wanted recovery through demand—the resolution was passed by 102 votes to 57 with 3 abstentions and carried several amendments including one by the Socialist Group calling for controls on multinationals in order to strengthen competition policy. Another amendment by Mr Elmar Brok (*EPP/D*) urged the Council to adopt the proposal for a fifth company law Directive¹ and the proposed 'Vredeling' Directive on the information and consultation of workers in transnational undertakings.² Mr Fernand Herman himself piloted a compromise amendment on introducing a convergence indicator, computed on the basis of several factors, which would act as a warning signal for those States whose economic and monetary policies were veering from the Community average. This amendment concluded as follows: 'Non-compliance with the Commission's recommendations should be liable to penalties'.

Earlier, during the explanations of vote, Mr Joannis Papantoniou (*Soc/GR*) and Mr Willy Vernimmen (*Soc/B*) had said they would be voting against the resolution, Mr Papantoniou because the Socialist Group's amendments on social protection had not been included and Mr Vernimmen because the text opted for lower wages and poorer social structures. Mr Karel Van Miert (*Soc/B*) rejected a report which ignored the reduction of working time, as did Mr Thomas von der Vring (*Soc/D*), who claimed that the recovery plan was a let-down for the workers, who would have to take a cut in real wages. Mrs Anne-Marie Lizin (*Soc/B*) said she had no time for a plan which made the poorest foot the bill for restructuring the European economies.

2.4.21. Parliament gave opinions on a number of Commission proposals including:

(i) a Decision empowering the Commission to initiate a second tranche of loans under the New Community Instrument

(NCI III) for the purpose of promoting investment in the Community;³

(ii) a Decision amending a Decision in respect of general measures in the field of data processing;⁴

(iii) a Decision adopting a Community programme for the development of the specialized information market in Europe;⁵

(iv) the guidelines for the management of the European Social Fund for the years 1985-87;⁶

(v) a Directive on the protection of workers from the risks related to exposure to chemical, physical and biological agents at work: noise;⁷

(vi) a communication on Community action to combat unemployment — the contribution of local employment initiatives;⁸

(vii) a Directive on parental leave and leave for family reasons;⁹

(viii) a Directive on the implementation of the principle of equal treatment for men and women in occupational social security schemes;⁹

(ix) a Regulation instituting integrated Mediterranean programmes;¹⁰

(x) four recommendations concerning the railways of the Member States and relating to technical matters concerning operation and internal barriers to the crossing of frontiers affecting the international carriage of goods,¹¹ the strengthening of cooperation in the commercial management of international passenger traffic and goods transport by rail,¹² railway tariffs for international transport by container and piggy-

¹ OJ C 131, 13.12.1972; OJ C 240, 9.9.1983; Supplement 6/83 — Bull. EC; Bull. EC 7/8-1983, points 1.2.1 to 1.2.4.

² OJ C 217, 12.8.1983; Bull. EC 6-1983, points 1.3.1 to 1.3.7.

³ Point 2.1.4.

⁴ Point 2.1.27.

⁵ Point 2.1.33.

⁶ Point 2.1.66.

⁷ Point 2.1.84.

⁸ Point 2.1.62.

⁹ Point 2.1.79.

¹⁰ Point 2.1.90.

¹¹ Point 2.1.167.

¹² Point 2.1.161.

back techniques¹ and the International Company for Piggyback Transport;²

(xi) a communication concerning the Community's role as regards the safety of nuclear installations and the protection of public health and a resolution on transfrontier radiological problems.³

2.4.22. The House also passed resolutions on:

(i) the Community's medium and long-term economic prospects: after considering the general political and economic trends and constraints and questioning the validity of a systematic attempt to achieve total harmonization which all too often led to paralysis and a plethora of rules, Parliament declared that the Commission's medium-term planning must not simply be a forecasting exercise but must also constitute a political act; the House believed that a return to majority voting was essential if the Community was to be able to decide in good time the necessary changes, which, moreover, could be made only within those companies willing to take risks;

(ii) The state of convergence, with particular reference to the interdependence of all policies: after surveying the Community's economic and social objectives, which it found seriously compromised, Parliament diagnosed a certain ineffectiveness in the economic and social framework defined by the Treaties and concluded that the Community might well lose some of what had been achieved; it therefore urged the Council to take forceful measures to complete the internal market and harmonize structural policies and operations in order to achieve this convergence, for which it proposed a new indicator and the setting up of a new parliamentary committee;

(iii) the Community's external trade and global monetary instability: the House expressed a number of requests concerning exchange rates, international indebtedness and European monetary cooperation in order to encourage the 'renewed increase in world trade' needed for strong recovery;

(iv) encouraging European inventors: the House called for a battery of measures (in-

vention premiums, better legal protection, closer links between inventors and the high technology industries) to improve the image of the inventor and proposed the setting up of a 'European agency for industrial innovation' in order to facilitate the spread of inventions;

(v) industrial cooperation between groups in the European Community: Parliament believed that this cooperation would depend on encouraging competition policy 'to assist the Europeanization of corporate structures, whilst still preventing the operation of monopolistic concerns';

(vi) broadcast and televised communication: the House considered that the creation of a European news film organization, a constant concern for local radio and citizens' band radio and the impact of new broadcasting and televising techniques, without ruling out financing by advertising, would help to counter the threat to the diversity of opinion posed by the commercialization of new information media;

(vii) a policy commensurate with new trends in European television: the House supported such a policy, which meant setting up a common legal framework, technical and industrial cooperation, a European satellite television channel and European production of programmes. For advertising it proposed rules to ensure that revenue was apportioned fairly between the public and private sectors in the various media;

(viii) telecommunications: Parliament called for the earliest possible adoption of a European strategic plan, the main lines of which would be proposed by the Commission and geared to action in five areas: promotion of investment at Community level; establishment of European standards; loosening of postal and telegraph monopolies; major new Community initiatives in research and development so as to exploit the Community scale to the full and consolidate the Esprit programme;⁴ launching of trial projects;

¹ Point 2.1.170.

² Point 2.1.163.

³ Points 2.1.85 and 2.1.183.

⁴ OJ L 67, 9.3.1984; Bull. EC 2-1984, points 1.3.1 to 1.3.11.

(ix) the state of the European automobile industry: appraising progress towards a common strategy, Parliament laid the emphasis on the financing of research that must be designed to encourage innovations which offered realistic returns on capital; the House also stressed the need for a global approach to regulations governing the protection of the environment, safety and energy consumption, external commercial policy and the social aspects of modernizing the industry;

(x) The European machine tool industry: the House called for a comprehensive study of the market and inventory of machine tools existing in Europe; the Member States were urged to establish the conditions to enable this industry to become competitive again and take full advantage of a European strategy to be devised;

(xi) the Community shipbuilding industry: finding that there was no common market in shipbuilding, since no Community country had booked any order from another Member State, Parliament asked the Commission to resist the aggressive and often unfair selling methods of the Far East countries and encourage customers to 'buy European' with the aid of European investment premiums and Community guarantees for loans;

(xii) the Community textile and clothing industries: the House supported the renewal of the Multifibre Arrangement, hedged by constraints and stricter management; it recommended a Community strategy with measures to ensure a better balance in Community trade with non-member countries, measures designed to prevent distortion of competition by transferring to Community level the essential aid now provided by the Member States and to dissuade them from artificially sustaining uneconomic capacity, and measures to promote competitiveness by developing research;

(xiii) the French nationalizations: believing that no government must pursue a policy likely to diminish the dynamism and competitiveness of industry or add unnecessarily to production costs, with the inevi-

table risk of distorting the conditions of competition, Parliament asked the Commission to compile a report on the consequences of the nationalizations in France including the extent to which the neutrality of the banking system had been respected and with regard to the transparency of financial relations between the State and public undertakings and financing the needs of the economy and, in general terms, compatibility with the rules of the market economy as defined in the Treaties;

(xiv) unemployment in the Community: Parliament asked the Commission to report on the links between certain social problems (acts of violence, suicides, pathological syndromes) and the worsening unemployment situation;

(xv) equal treatment of widows and widowers as regards social security: the Commission was requested to submit as soon as possible amendments to the Directive of 19 December 1978 on equal treatment for men and women¹ in order to eliminate discrimination in this specific area;

(xvi) Community gas policy: the House wanted to see a diversified supply and urged the Commission to introduce more order and transparency in the gas market;

(xvii) improving transalpine railway links: after calling for the definition of a global conception of transport in the Alpine region considered as a transfrontier geographical and economic entity, Parliament proposed that combined traffic be developed there and asked the Community to finance the railway infrastructure work on the five main links which cross the region and certain non-member countries, like Yugoslavia;

(xviii) airport charges in the Community: in view of the public service played by airports, Parliament asked the Commission to initiate various measures to clarify and rationalize their use, in particular by standardizing accounting methods and charging systems. The Commission was also asked

¹ OJ L 6, 10.1.1979.

to submit proposals for establishing the conditions of free competition between Community airports;

(xix) transport problems in Greece: having emphasized the need for Greece to catch up in transport infrastructures — especially on land — the House congratulated the Greek Government on its investment programme and asked the Community to concentrate its aid on railway transport;

(xx) the functioning of the Multifibre Arrangement (MFA): whilst it found that the MFA had worked well, the House hesitated to say that it should be further extended and stressed that the future of the Community textile industry could not rely solely on a policy of import restrictions;

(xxi) economic importance of the newly industrialized countries: Parliament addressed a series of requests to the Commission on the policy to be followed towards the Republic of Korea, Taiwan, Hong Kong, Singapore, Brazil and Mexico: it should ensure that defensive measures were transparent and graduate the scheme of generalized preferences so that it would benefit the poorer countries; the House warned the Commission against providing any subsidized credit to industries in world surplus capacity; the newly industrialized countries themselves were recommended to pursue a policy of diversification, set up their own generalized preference scheme, join the ILO and comply with the rules of that body;

(xxii) the rules of origin: restating that the rules of origin were intended to enhance transparency and not to be used by the industrialized countries to protect their home markets while preaching free trade, the House believed that the cumulation rules allowed to EFTA countries, which permit originating products to be processed in two or more partner countries, should be extended to ACP and GSP countries;

(xxiii) the University Institute for Euro-African Studies in Lecce (Italy): the House called on the Commission and the Council to give their patronage and support to this institute;

(xxiv) foundation of a Euro-Arab university: the House proposed such a university be founded on Spanish soil in order to make it the historical meeting place of Islamic and European culture and of universities in all the countries concerned;

(xxv) creation of a Community library: Parliament called for the creation of a European Library at the European University Institute in Florence, to be equipped with a computerized information system, which would store centrally all bibliographical information relevant to Europe and could be consulted on a decentralized basis;

(xxvi) implementation by the Council of the undertakings given to Parliament in the Solemn Declaration adopted in Stuttgart:¹ Parliament called on the governments to designate the President of the Commission on the basis of ability and experience for the post and called on the Council to ensure that the House, in accordance with the undertakings,¹ was consulted on this appointment;

(xxvii) failure of the Brussels European Council on 19 and 20 March: the House expressed its views on this subject in five resolutions.²

2.4.23. In the field of human rights Parliament passed one resolution: the situation in Northern Ireland: recognizing that the infringements of human rights and the discriminatory practices suffered by the Catholic minority had had deplorable effects on the situation in Northern Ireland, Parliament proposed to increase Community aid to improve the economic and social situation of the people and asked the United Kingdom to participate fully in the European Monetary System in order to develop and secure a better balance in trade between the two parts of Ireland.

¹ Bull. EC 6-1983, point 1.6.1, paragraph 2.3.5.

² Point 1.1.3.

Council

2.4.24. The Council held 11 meetings in March. The following table lists the number, place and date of each meeting, the

names of the Council President and Commission representatives and the main items of business. A more detailed account of specific items can be found in the sections of the Bulletin referred to in the footnotes.

Table 10 — *Council meetings in March 1984*

Number, place and date of meeting	Subject	President	Commission	Main items of business
912th Brussels 1 March	Environment	Mrs Bouchardeau	Mr Narjes	Transfrontier shipment of hazardous waste ¹ Combating air pollution from industrial plants ¹ Community action on the environment ¹ Barcelona Convention: specially protected areas of the Mediterranean ¹
913th Brussels 2 March	Consumer protection	Mrs Lalumière	Mr Narjes	Product liability ¹ Misleading advertising ¹ Doorstep sales Communication on consumer policy
914th Brussels 5 and 6 March	Agriculture	Mr Rocard	Mr Dalsager	Fixing of prices for certain agricultural products and related measures, including proposals concerning reform of common agricultural policy ²
915th Brussels 8 March	Internal market	Mrs Lalumière	Mr Davignon Mr Tugendhat Mr Narjes Mr Contogeorgis	New commercial policy instrument Removal of technical barriers to trade Easing of frontier formalities ³ Standardization
916th Brussels 12 March	Economic and financial affairs	Mr Delors	Mr Ortoli Mr Tugendhat	Progress in monetary cooperation after five years of EMS ⁴ First-quarter review of economic situation ⁵ Tax measures to encourage cooperation between companies from different Member States ³ Direct insurance other than life insurance ⁶

Number, place and date of meeting	Subject	President	Commission	Main items of business
917th Brussels 12 and 13 March	Foreign affairs	Mr Cheysson	Mr Thorn Mr Haferkamp Mr Natali Mr Davignon Mr Burke	Preparations for European Council Portuguese accession ⁷ New commercial policy instrument GATT — opening of negotiations on changes in tariff concessions concerning certain maize by-products ² Fourth International Cocoa Agreement ⁸ Special measures of Community interest for United Kingdom and Germany ⁹ Energy problems ¹⁰ Greek memorandum ¹¹ Eighth company law Directive ³
918th Brussels 11 to 13 March, 16 and 17 March	Agriculture	Mr Rocard	Mr Dalsager	Fixing of prices for certain agricultural products and related measures, including proposals concerning reform of common agricultural policy ²
919th Brussels 22 March	Transport	Mr Fiterman	Mr Contogeorgis Mr Narjes	Measures to facilitate frontier crossings ³ Taxation of commercial vehicles Taxation of vehicles transiting through Switzerland ¹² Transport infrastructure Future activities
920th Brussels 20 March	Foreign affairs	Mr Cheysson	Mr Thorn	Special measures of Community interest for United Kingdom and Germany ⁹
921st Brussels 30 and 31 March	Agriculture	Mr Rocard	Mr Dalsager	Fixing of agricultural prices for 1984/85 and adjustments to common agricultural policy ² Relations with New Zealand ²
922nd Brussels 27 March	Foreign affairs	Mr Cheysson	Mr Thorn Mr Davignon Mr Tugendhat	Follow-up to European Council ¹³

¹ Environment and consumers.² Agriculture.³ Internal market and industrial affairs.⁴ Point 1.3.1 *et seq.*⁵ Economic and monetary policy.⁶ Financial institutions and taxation.⁷ Enlargement and bilateral relations with applicant countries.⁸ Development.⁹ Financing Community activities.¹⁰ Energy.¹¹ European policy and relations between the institutions.¹² Transport.¹³ Point 1.1.1 *et seq.*

Commission

Activities

2.4.25. The Commission held a large number of meetings in March, both to take stock of the situation before the European Council that was held on 19 and 20 March¹ and to prepare for the Council meetings called upon to work on issues on which the European Council had been unable to reach agreement.

In Parliament, Mr Thorn summarized the outcome of the European Council and gave the Commission's assessment of the situation.

Decisions, communications and proposals

2.4.26. Since March 1979 the history of monetary cooperation in Europe has been the story of the European Monetary System. At the Council's request, the Commission sent it a communication summarizing the first five years of operation of the EMS.²

The Commission adopted a communication to the Council and Parliament on the problems caused by formalities and checks on intra-Community trade, which had been highlighted by events at a number of Alpine frontier posts in February.³ It also approved a proposal for a Directive with the purpose of increasing the allowances for travellers coming from non-Community countries to complement the proposal made in April 1983⁴ for a programme of successive increases in the tax-free allowances granted to travellers within the Community.

In the social field, the Commission transmitted to the Council a proposal for a Directive on the application of the principle of equal treatment for men and women in self-employed occupations, including agriculture, and on protection during pregnancy and maternity.

The Commission adopted its second periodic report on the social and economic situation and development of the regions of the Community.

The Commission adopted a communication on fisheries for purposes of the accession negotiations with Spain.

As a follow-up its to communication of June 1982⁵ and the exploratory talks it has had in 1983 and early 1984 with non-member Mediterranean countries and the countries applying for membership, the Commission has sent the Council a report on these talks and proposals for a Mediterranean policy for the enlarged Community.

Court of Justice⁶

Appointment

2.4.27. On 26 March the Representatives of the Governments of the Member States appointed Mr René Joliet as a Judge of the Court from 10 April 1984 to 6 October 1985,⁷ replacing Mr Mertens de Wilmars, who has resigned. Lord Mackenzie Stuart was appointed President of the Court, similarly until 6 October 1985, in place of Mr Mertens de Wilmars.

¹ Point 1.1.1 *et seq.*

² Point 1.3.1 *et seq.*

³ Bull. EC 2-1984, point 2.1.8.

⁴ OJ C 114, 28.4.1983.

⁵ Bull. EC 6-1982, points 1.2.1 to 1.2.4.

⁶ For more detailed information, see the material published by the Court of Justice in the *Official Journal of the European Communities* and the *European Court Reports*, and the publications of its Information Office (e.g. the annual synopsis of the work of the Court or the information quarterly).

⁷ OJ L 87, 30.3.1984.

2.4.28. New cases

Case	Subject	Basis
ECSC—Steel		
62/84—Usinor v Commission ¹	Commission Decision of 26 January 1984 imposing a fine for exceeding steel production quotas	Article 33 ECSC
63/84—Finsider SpA v Commission	Article 14, first paragraph, second indent, and Article 14A, paragraph 4, fourth indent, of Decision 234/84/ECSC (monitoring system and production quotas)	Article 33 ECSC
64/84—Queenborough Rolling Mill Co. Ltd v Commission	Commission Decision of 26 January 1984 imposing a fine for exceeding steel production quotas	Article 33 ECSC
65/84—FIL SpA v Commission	Decisions Nos 234/84/ECSC, 3236/83/ECSC (2177/83/ECSC), and 207/84/ECSC (2177/83/ECSC), and the Commission Decision of 14 February 1984 notifying steel production quotas	Article 33 ECSC
66/84—Ferriere Di Borgaro SpA v Commission	Commission Decision of 26 January 1984 imposing a fine for exceeding steel production quotas	Article 33 ECSC
67/84—Sideradria SpA v Commission	Commission Decision of 26 January 1984 imposing a fine for exceeding steel production quotas	Article 33 ECSC
68/84—Cogeme SpA v Commission	Commission Decision of 26 January 1984 imposing a fine for exceeding steel production quotas	Article 33 ECSC
74/84—Hoesch Werke AG v Commission ²	Annulment of the Decision of 7 February 1984 ordering checks with respect to prohibited pricing practices for steel products, within the meaning of Annex 1 to the ECSC Treaty	Article 33 ECSC
77/84—Thyssen Stahl Aktiengesellschaft v Commission ²	Article 14B of Decision No 234/84/ECSC (monitoring system and steel production quotas)	Article 33 ECSC
78/84—Krupp Stahl AG v Commission ²	Article 14B of Decision No 234/84/ECSC (monitoring system and steel production quotas)	Article 33 ECSC
82/84—Metalgoi SpA v Commission	Commission Decision of 26 January 1984 imposing a fine for exceeding steel production quotas	Article 33 ECSC
85/84—Usinor SA v Commission ³	Commission Decision of 14 February 1984 notifying steel production quotas	Article 33 ECSC
88/84—Metalgoi SpA v Commission	Commission Decision of 14 February 1984 notifying steel production quotas	Article 33 ECSC
90/84—Finsider SpA v Commission	Commission Decision of 13 February 1984 on an application for the adjustment of production quotas	Article 33 ECSC

Case	Subject	Basis
Free movement of goods		
60 and 61/84—Cinéthèque SA and others v Fédération Nationale des Cinémas Français (FNCF)	Is French law on the reproduction on video cassette of cinematographical works compatible with Community law?	Article 177 EEC
79/84—Procureur de la République v Chaband ⁴	Is a national law imposing minimum prices for motor fuels contrary to Community law?	Article 177 EEC
Customs union		
51/84—Land Niedersachsen, represented by the Georg-August-Universität Göttingen, v HZA Friedrichshafen	Interpretation of Article 3 of Regulation No 1798/75 with reference to the importation of an apparatus described as an 'AS-50 Auto Sampler'	Article 177 EEC
54/84—Richter am Amtsgericht Michael Paul v HZA Emmerich	Interpretation of the words 'imported: in frontier zone travel' in Article 4 of Regulation No 1544/69	Article 177 EEC
55/84—Max-Planck-Gesellschaft zur Förderung der Wissenschaften eV v HZA Frankfurt am Main-Ost ⁵	Validity of Decision 82/184/ECSC establishing that the apparatus described as 'Cray-Computer System, model Cray-1' may not be imported free of CCT duties	Article 177 EEC
Taxation		
47/84—Staatsecretaris van Financiën v G. Schul Douaneexpediteur BV	In the light of the Court's judgment in Case 15/81, how should VAT be calculated on the importation of a second-hand boat which has been sold by one private person to another?	Article 177 EEC
Competition and State aids		
57/84—Belgium v Commission	Decision of 30 November 1983 finding a proposal by the Belgian Government to grant aid to a synthetic fibre producer incompatible with Article 92 EEC	Article 173 EEC
75/84—Metro-SB-Grossmärkte GmbH & Co KG v Commission	Decision 83/672/EEC (IV/29.598—SABA's EEC distribution system), exempting the SABA Fair Service Agreement from the ban in Article 85(1) EEC	Article 173 EEC
Social security		
41/84—P. Pinna v Caisse d'Allocation familiales de la Savoie	Validity of Article 73(2) of Regulation No 1408/71 and interpretation of the word 'residence' in that provision	Article 177 EEC
58/84—Office National des Pensions pour Travailleurs Salariés (ONPTS) v F. Romano	Interpretation of Articles 12 and 46 of Regulation No 1408/71 concerning the overlapping of benefits under Belgian social security law	Article 177 EEC
Agriculture		
39/84—Maizena Gesellschaft mbH v HZA Hamburg-Jonas	Validity of Regulation No 3013/80 amending Regulation No 2140/79 as regards certain MCAs and Regulation No 2803/80 as regards certain cereal export refunds	Article 177 EEC

Case	Subject	Basis
46/84—Nordgetreide GmbH & Co KG v HZA Hamburg-Jonas	Validity of Regulations: No 746/79 amending certain MCAs in the cereals sector; No 3013/80 amending Regulation No 2140/79 as regards certain MCAs and Regulation No 2803/80 as regards certain cereal export refunds	Article 177 EEC
71 and 72/84—R. Surcouf and J. Vidou v Council and Commission ²	Application for the compensation of damage allegedly suffered as a result of the application of MCAs for pigmeat calculated on a theoretical price in violation of Regulations Nos 974/71 and 2579/75	Article 215 EEC
Convention on Jurisdiction and the Enforcement of Judgments in Civil and Commercial Matters		
48/84—H. Spitzley v Sommer Exploitation SA	Applicability of Article 18 of the Brussels Convention to a claim for a set-off which is not based on the same contract or subject matter as the application and in respect of which there is an agreement conferring exclusive jurisdiction pursuant to Article 17	
49/84—(1) L. E.G.C. Debaecker and (2) B. Plouvier v C.G. Bouwman ⁵	Interpretation of Article 27(2) of the Brussels Convention in a case where the defendant had left his place of residence and the plaintiff had been told how the defendant could be contacted	
56/84—C.G. von Gallera v G. Maitre, Maison Laffitte	Article 32 of the Brussels Convention	
Commercial policy		
59/84—Tezi Textiel BV v Commission	Decision of 14 December 1983 authorizing the Benelux countries not to apply Community treatment to men's and boys' woven breeches, shorts and trousers (including slacks); women's, girls' and infants' woven trousers and slacks falling within subheadings ex 61.01 B V and ex 61.02 B II of the Common Customs Tariff (category 6), originating in Macao and in free circulation in the other Member States	Article 173 EEC
Miscellaneous (fundamental rights)		
83/84—N. Makarezos v Commission	Seeking a finding that by taking no action against the conviction by the Greek courts of an officer who took part in the 1967 <i>coup d'état</i> the Commission has failed to fulfil its obligations under the Treaty. Alternatively, annulment of the Commission's letter of 30 January 1984 stating that the matter is not within its competence	Article 175 EEC; alternatively, Article 173 EEC

Case	Subject	Basis
84/84—N. Makarezos v Council	Seeking a finding that by taking no action against the conviction by the Greek courts of an officer who took part in the 1967 <i>coup d'état</i> the Council has failed to fulfil its obligations under the Treaty. Alternatively, annulment of the Council's letter of 22 December 1983 stating that the matter is not within its competence	Article 175 EEC; alternatively, Article 173 EEC
Miscellaneous (Statute of the European School)		
44/19—Derrick Hurd v Kenneth Jones (Her Majesty's Inspector of Taxes)	Are the UK tax authorities bound by a decision taken in January 1957 by the representatives of the six original Member States to the effect that the European supplement (a portion of the remuneration of a member of the teaching staff of the European school established in the UK) should be exempt from tax?	Article 177 EEC
Infringement		
70/84—Commission v Italy ⁶	Article 95 EEC—discriminatory taxation/system of excise duties on spirits	Article 169 EEC

Disputes between the Community and its staff

v Commission: 76/84⁴

¹ OJ C 99, 11.4.1984.
² OJ C 108, 19.4.1984.
³ OJ C 118, 2.5.1984.
⁴ OJ C 106, 17.4.1984.
⁵ OJ C 82, 23.3.1984.
⁶ OJ C 96, 7.4.1984.

2.4.29. Judgments

Date and case	Held
ECSC — Steel	
1.3.1984, 10/83 — Metalgoi SpA v Commission	Application dismissed (annulment of a decision imposing a fine for exceeding steel production quotas)
2.3.1984, 37/84 R and 45/84 R — EISA v Commission	Order referring the two applications for interim measures to the Court (suspension of enforcement of Commission Decision No 3717/83/EEC of 23 December 1983)
15.3.1984, 348/82 — Industrie Riunite Odolesi SpA v Commission ¹	Application dismissed (annulment of a decision imposing a fine for exceeding steel production quotas)

Date and case	Held
28.3.1984, 8/84 — Officine Fratelli Bertoli SpA v Commission	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The amount of the fine imposed on the applicant is adjusted (annulment of a Commission decision imposing a fine for infringement of Article 60 ECSC — failure to comply with prices) 2. Remainder of application dismissed
Free movement of goods	
13.3.1984, 16/83 — Criminal proceedings against Karl Prantl ²	If a Member State restricts the use of wine bottles of a particular shape to certain national products, Articles 30 to 36 of the EEC Treaty do not allow it to prevent the marketing on its territory of wines in such bottles originating in another Member State, where identical or similar bottles are used in that Member State in accordance with a fair and well-established practice
Customs union	
22.3.1984, 92/83 — 3M Deutschland GmbH v Oberfinanzdirektion Frankfurt am Main	An article consisting of a fabric made of PVC monofil 0.9 mm thick, laid direct from a spinning nozzle in the form of coils and hardened and joined together by heat treatment with a spray must, as a 'bonded fibre fabric or similar bonded yarn fabric', be classified under heading 59.03 of the Common Customs Tariff, even when it is intended for use as a floor covering
Competition	
30.3.1984, 84/82 — Germany v Commission ¹	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The Commission Decision of 18 November 1981 authorizing Belgium to put the Belgian textile industry restructuring plan into effect for one year is void 2. The remainder of the application is dismissed
28.3.1984, 29 and 30/83 — Compagnie Royale Asturienne des Mines and Rheinzink v Commission	Article 1(1) and Article 2 of Commission Decision 82/866/EEC of 14 December 1982 relating to a proceeding under Article 85 of the EEC Treaty (IV/29.629 — rolled zinc products and zinc alloys) are void. The remainder of the application in Case 30/83 is dismissed
Social security	
1.3.1984, 104/83 — Cinciuolo v Union Nationale des Fédérations Mutualistes Neutres and Institut National d'Assurance Maladie-Invalidité	Where a migrant worker receives an invalidity pension in one Member State and an occupational disease benefit in another Member State, the pension should not be recalculated in the event of a change in the benefit deriving not from the recipient's individual situation but from a general alteration in the economic and social situation

Date and case	Held
15.3.1984, 313/82 — Tiel Utrecht Schadeverzekering NV v The Gemeenschappelijk Motorwaarborgfonds	The term 'institution', referred to in particular in Article 4(1) of Regulation No 1408/71, means, in respect of each Member State, the body or authority responsible for administering all or part of the Member State's legislation relating to those branches or schemes of social security mentioned by that Regulation
European Social Fund	
15.3.1984, 310/81 — EISS (Ente Italiano di Servizio Sociale) v Commission ¹	Application dismissed (non-payment of balance of ESF contribution)
Agriculture	
15.3.1984, 64/82 — Tradax Graanhandel BV v Commission ¹	Application dismissed in its entirety (seeking a declaration that the Commission had failed to act, inasmuch as it did not indicate the factors used in the calculation which formed the basis for establishing the amount of the levy on certain cereal imports, or a declaration that the Commission's answer to the applicant's inquiries is void)
28.3.1984, 47 and 48/83 — Pluimveeslachterij Midden-Nederland BV and Pluimveeslachterij C. van Miert	Article 2 of Council Regulation No 2777/75 must be interpreted as meaning that where the national implementing measures provided for in the Regulation have not been taken, national rules which lay down quality and marketing requirements for slaughtered poultry and which are enforceable by means of disciplinary measures are compatible with the Regulation provided they are compatible with the objective pursued by the common organization of the market and applied so as not to limit imports of poultrymeat legally produced and marketed in accordance with the quality and marketing requirements in force in the other Member States
Transport	
22.3.1984, 90/83 — Michael Paterson and Others v W. Weddel & Co and Others	Interpretation of various terms relating to the transport of carcasses or animal waste not intended for human consumption (Article 14a of Council Regulation No 543/69)
Infringements	
20.3.1984, 314/82 — Commission v Belgium ¹	By charging sampling fees for imports of fresh, dried, salted and smoked poultrymeat from other Member States, the Kingdom of Belgium has failed to fulfil its obligations under Articles 9 and 12 of the EEC Treaty

Date and case	Held
27.3.1984, 169/82 — Commission v Italy	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. By informing the Commission of Sicilian Regional Laws No 47/80 (Article 10), No 49/80 and No 83/80 (Articles 2-3, 8-12, 15 and 17) only after they were adopted, the Italian Republic has failed to fulfil its obligations under the EEC Treaty 2. Inasmuch as the Region of Sicily has adopted the measures provided for in Article 10 of Regional Law No 47/80 and in Articles 2, 3, 8 and 9 of Regional Law No 83/80, the Italian Republic has failed to fulfil its obligations under the EEC Treaty. 3. The remainder of the application is dismissed
27.3.1984, 50/83 — Commission v Italy	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. By not admitting for testing with a view to registration buses originating in another Member State and built more than seven years previously, the Italian Republic has failed to fulfil its obligations under Article 30 EEC 2. The remainder of the application is dismissed as inadmissible
29.2.1984, 225/83 — Commission v France	Order for removal from the Court Register (Decision 79/854/EEC authorizing certain special tariff measures)
29.2.1984, 239/83 — Commission v Germany	Order for removal from the Court Register (Directive 75/362/EEC on the mutual recognition of doctors' qualifications)
19.3.1984, 115/82 — Commission v Italy	Order for removal from the Court Register (Restrictions on the purchase of certain vessels)
28.3.1984, 74/83 — Commission v France	Order for removal from the Court Register (Infringement of Article 30 EEC — requirement that pressure vessels comply both with French requirements and with the requirements of the country of export)

Disputes between the Community and its staff

v Commission:

- 15.3.1984, 28/83¹ — application dismissed
- 20.3.1984, 75/82¹ — Judgment for the applicant
- 20.3.1984, 117/82¹ — Application dismissed as inadmissible
- 29.3.1984, 25/83 — Application dismissed

v Court of Auditors:

- 9.2.1984, 316/82 — Judgment for the applicant
- 9.2.1984, 40/83 — Application dismissed as inadmissible

v Council:

- 26.1.1984, 189/82 — Judgment for the applicants

Orders for removal from the Court Register

- 23.2.1984, 800-802/79 — D. Sauerbrey and Others v Commission and Council
29.2.1984, 282/83 — Alphasteel Ltd v Commission
29.2.1984, 34/83 — Commissioners of Customs and Excise v ApS Samex and Hanil Synthetic Fiber Industrial Co. Ltd
29.2.1984, 219/82, 291/82, 11/83, 61/83, 84/83, 208/83 and 260/83 Klöckner Werke AG v Commission
14.3.1984, 4/83 and 144/83 — Klöckner Werke AG v Commission
15.3.1984, 88/83 — W. Steinfort v Commission
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¹ OJ C 106, 17.4.1984.

² OJ C 108, 19.4.1984.

Court of Auditors

2.4.30. On 14 March the Court of Auditors adopted an opinion on the second amendment to the proposal for a Council Regulation amending Regulation (EEC, Euratom, ECSC) No 2891/77¹ implementing the Decision of 21 April 1970 on the replacement of financial contributions from Member States by the Communities' own resources.

Economic and Social Committee

216th plenary session

2.4.31. The Economic and Social Committee held its 216th plenary session in Brussels on 28 and 29 March with Mr Ceyrac in the chair.

Despite the general feeling of gloom caused by the failure of the European Council, a topic which Mr Ceyrac discussed in his opening speech, the Committee adopted a good number of opinions, in particular on agricultural matters, international trade, the New Community Instrument and reform of the Regional Fund.

The Bureau of the Committee decided to postpone until October a conference on new technology originally planned for May.

Opinions

Cooperation with EFTA

2.4.32. In an own-initiative opinion adopted on 29 March the Committee called on the Community and the European Free Trade Association—ahead of the joint ministerial meeting scheduled for 9 April—to cooperate more closely to increase their competitiveness in relation to the world's other leading economic powers. It urged a pragmatic approach involving regular exchanges of views with the object of removing non-tariff barriers, simplifying rules of origin and border controls, and harmonizing or applying common standards and technical regulations. The Committee also wished to see cooperation within GATT and coordination of policies on innovation and new technology and called on its EFTA counterpart to launch a similar appeal prior to the forthcoming ministerial meeting.

Reform of the CAP in the milk sector

2.4.33. By 79 votes to 24 with 3 abstentions, the Committee adopted an opinion

¹ OJ L 336, 27.12.1977.

on three proposed regulations concerning milk production which the Commission sent to the Council last September.¹

In view of the urgent need for action the Committee supported the approach agreed by the Council, which involves introducing quotas and reducing prices slightly by raising the co-responsibility levy. It approved the five-year duration for the measures and the arrangements planned by the Council, but called for long-term objectives to be defined in order to give producers the security they needed.

The Committee also approved a number of technical amendments which it felt could ease the situation; these concerned sales promotion inside and outside the Community, a satisfactory policy for New Zealand butter, stricter quality standards for milk production, the use of a tracer element to prevent fraud, and continued consumer subsidies on butter.

During the debate some members criticized the fact that the draft opinion merely proposed to 'take note' of an 'agreement' reached within the Council. One of them said that farmers could not accept both production quotas and a price reduction; instead he called for a tax on imports of oils and restoration of Community preference.

This led to a lively exchange in which another member put the blame on farmers for refusing any alternative solution; he felt that farmers should be put on an equal footing with other workers and could not be offered open-ended income guarantees at a time of crisis.

The majority on the Committee considered the Agriculture Ministers' solution to be the lesser evil and agreed to support it, since failure to reform the CAP would only increase farmers' difficulties.

The majority of farmers' representatives and of the Italian members voted against the opinion.

New tranche of NCI loans

2.4.34. By a very large majority (six votes against) the Committee approved the Com-

mission's proposal to authorize the issue of a new 1 400 million ECU tranche of loans under the NCI.² It endorsed the idea of giving priority to investment projects mainly by small and medium-sized firms.

Two opposing points of view emerged as regards the type of investment that should receive NCI backing, with one side advocating support only for projects that contribute directly to the creation of jobs while the other wished to see employment and re-employment for workers temporarily laid off. As a compromise, both priorities were included in the Committee's opinion.

Reform of the Regional Fund

2.4.35. There was a large majority (60 votes to 8 with 4 abstentions) in favour of the Commission's amended proposal for the reform of the Regional Fund.³ The Committee broadly supported the proposal, subject to certain reservations and changes. Approving aid for redevelopment in areas of industrial decline, it stressed that the Fund should continue to give priority to the traditionally less prosperous regions. In order to cope with the added responsibilities the Fund would need new resources.

The Greek members voted against, stating that the new proposal threatened to widen the gap between rich and poor regions. They feared that the extension of the Fund's tasks in the declining regions would take up most of its resources. Other members, however, spoke of the Fund's importance as a back-up for industrial conversion policy; increased financial resources were essential to ensure continued priority for the least prosperous regions. An amendment along these lines was approved.

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¹ OJ C 314, 19.11.1983; Bull. EC 9-1983, points 2.1.81 to 2.1.83. For the Committee's opinion on the proposals regarding consumption of milk and milk products, see Bull. 2-1984, point 2.4.30.

² OJ C 48, 21.2.1984; Bull. EC 1-1984, point 2.1.2.

³ OJ C 360, 31.12.1983; Bull. EC 11-1983, points 1.1.1 to 1.1.8.

2.4.36. The Committee also adopted opinions on the following:

- (i) Development of the specialized information market:¹ the Committee unanimously endorsed the proposed programme, which aims to prevent any danger of dependence on the non-European information market, and stressed the need for it to incorporate national services and structures;
- (ii) Safety of nuclear installations and the protection of public health and trans-frontier radiological problems:² the Committee endorsed the Commission's communication and the draft Council resolution, emphasizing the leading role to be played by the Commission in laying down standards. It also called on the Commission to encourage the Member States to conclude bilateral or trilateral agreements on cross-frontier emergencies;
- (iii) Animal health problems affecting trade and imports of cattle and pig semen;³
- (iv) Adoption of a work programme for the first phase of the implementation of an information system on the state of the environment and natural resources (1984-87):⁴ the Committee unanimously approved the proposal but stressed that uniform criteria should be applied in the different Member States and urged that the Commission be given adequate coordinating powers;
- (v) Fuel rationing:⁵ the Committee unanimously approved the proposal. It called for criteria for priority forms of transport to be drawn up and also commented on a number of technical aspects.

ECSC Consultative Committee

241st meeting

2.4.37. The ECSC Consultative Committee held its 241st ordinary meeting in Luxembourg on 23 March with Mr Alain Audaïat in the chair.

The main items on the agenda were the forward programme for steel for the second quarter of 1984⁶ and the rules for aids to

the steel industry.⁷ It also adopted two resolutions on social research in the coal and steel industries and environment policy.⁸

Forward programme for steel for the second quarter of 1984

2.4.38. The Committee examined the forward programme for steel for the second quarter on the basis of a report from its Subcommittee for Markets and Prices. Most of the speakers acknowledged the quality of the report and expressed satisfaction at the improvement in the situation. Several members expressed the hope that the arrangements still to be concluded with some non-member countries would soon be signed.

The Committee asked the Commission to ensure that the quotas were complied with since any surpluses could upset the current positive trend. With this in mind, it repeated its wish for greater transparency in the allocation of quotas.

As regards minimum prices, which were increased slightly last month, the users would like to be consulted by the Commission before any further changes are made. Finally, the problem of scrap exports to non-member countries was discussed. This mainly affects the Greek steel industry, which is calling for exports to be limited to market surpluses.

Aids to the steel industry

2.4.39. On examining the fifth report on application of the rules on aids to the steel industry,⁹ the Committee established that the reductions in capacity requested by the Commission as part of the restructuring of

¹ OJ C 328, 2.12.1983; Bull. EC 11-1983, point 2.1.35.

² OJ C 338, 15.12.1983; Bull. EC 7/8-1983, points 2.1.194 and 2.1.195.

³ OJ C 267, 6.10.1983; Bull. EC 9-1983, point 2.1.103.

⁴ OJ C 291, 27.10.1983; Bull. EC 10-1983, point 2.1.82.

⁵ OJ C 195, 22.7.1983; Bull. EC 6-1983, point 2.1.226.

⁶ Points 2.1.22 and 2.4.38.

⁷ Point 2.4.39.

⁸ Point 2.4.41.

⁹ Bull. EC 2-1984, point 2.1.46.

the production apparatus¹ had been accepted by the Member States and that the target could be exceeded since the overall reduction in Community production capacity was expected to be around 30 million tonnes.

The restructuring plans are designed to restore the viability of steel firms, which should be operating without aids by 1986. If progress is unsatisfactory, the Commission might have to reconsider its position on the plans which have now been presented, for which the aids are being released in instalments.

The Committee also stressed that restructuring must be accompanied by social measures. It deplored the slowness of the procedure for transferring funds from the general budget to the ECSC operating budget² and criticized the fact that the transfer for the social measures had been reduced from the 110 million ECU requested to the 62.5 million ECU entered in the general budget for 1984, as a result of the Community's extremely tight financial position.

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2.4.40. The Committee issued favourable opinions on an amendment to the Regulation introducing a production certificate and accompanying document for steel products³ and on a proposal for financial aid to a coal research project.

2.4.41. It unanimously adopted two resolutions:⁴

(i) in the first, on social research programmes in the coal and steel industries, the Committee came out in favour of increasing the role played by the representatives of industry and the workers in their formulation;

(ii) in the second, on Community environment policy, the Committee called for an urgent examination of the causes of acidification and environmental damage and the interrelationship between acid rain and emissions resulting from the burning of fossil fuels; it asked the Commission to send the

Council a balanced programme and a step-by-step timetable for implementing the Commission's proposals (limitation of pollutants from large combustion plants,⁵ air quality standards for nitrogen dioxide)⁶ based on sound social, financial and scientific considerations.

European Investment Bank

Operations in March

2.4.42. In March the European Investment Bank announced loans for investments within the Community totalling 351.8 million ECU.⁷ The breakdown was as follows: 277.9 million ECU for investments in Italy, 51 million in France and 22.9 million in the United Kingdom. In this total 36.4 million ECU was provided from the resources of the new Community borrowing and lending instrument (NCI).⁸ Outside the Community the Bank lent 25.5 million ECU to Egypt and 13.6 million ECU to two ACP States, Ivory Coast and Tonga.

Community

Italy

2.4.43. LIT 381 300 million was lent in Italy, including 50 000 million from NCI resources, mainly (LIT 165 000 million) for the rationalization of energy use and the exploitation of national resources in accordance with Community objectives. LIT 116 300 million went to road and telecommunications infrastructures and 100 000 million to investment in industry

¹ OJ L 227, 19.8.1983; Bull. EC 6-1983, point 1.1.1 *et seq.*

² OJ C 119, 4.5.1983; Bull. EC 3-1983, point 2.1.53; Seventeenth General Report, point 309.

³ Point 2.1.23.

⁴ OJ C 114, 28.4.1984.

⁵ OJ C 49, 21.2.1984; Bull. EC 12-1983, point 2.1.118.

⁶ OJ C 258, 27.9.1983; Bull. EC 9-1983, point 2.1.68.

⁷ The conversion rates at 30 December 1983 used by the EIB in statistics for the first quarter of 1984 were 1 ECU = BFR 46.10, DKR 8.18, DM 2.26, DR 81.78, FF 6.90, HFL 2.54, IRL 0.73, LIT 1 372, LFR 46.10, UKL 0.57, USD 0.83.

⁸ OJ L 298, 20.10.1978; Bull. EC 10-1978, point 2.1.10.

and tourism. In this total LIT 186 300 million went to the Mezzogiorno.

Energy. Loans of LIT 100 000 million were granted to the Banca nazionale del lavoro (BNL) to help finance small and medium-scale investment in energy saving and rationalization throughout Italy. BNL will on-lend the funds to local authorities, public bodies and industrial, agricultural and service undertakings for industrial and infrastructure projects. LIT 80 000 million will be used in central and northern Italy and LIT 20 000 million in the Mezzogiorno. Assistance will be given to industrial energy-saving projects, hydroelectric units, district-heating grids and improvements to gas distribution.

LIT 25 000 million from NCI resources will be onlent to public bodies, local authorities, cooperatives and undertakings for investment projects to make more efficient use of energy in buildings (such as housing estates, schools and hospitals) in central and northern Italy: heat pumps, solar water heaters, low consumption lighting and conversion of heating systems to cheaper fuels.

In addition, LIT 40 000 million was granted to AGIP, through the Banco di Roma, to tap three gas fields in Lombardy, Emilia-Romagna and the Marches. At full productive capacity these fields will represent about 5% of Italian gas output by the late 1980s and will thus make an important contribution towards enhancing the Community's energy resources.

Infrastructure development. Loans of LIT 116 300 million were granted for infrastructure development. LIT 60 000 million went to SIP-Società italiana per l'esercizio telefonico to help finance expansion of the telephone network in Abruzzi, Molise and southern Lazio. This will help improve conditions for regional development and meet growing demand for subscriber connections (about 120 000 new lines are to be installed) by extending existing automatic exchanges and installing new ones and by extending urban and trunk networks. A further LIT 56 300 million was lent to ANAS-Azienda nazionale autonoma delle

strade to help improve road links, also in the Mezzogiorno: LIT 21 000 million for works in Apulia over approximately 110 kilometres of road; LIT 19 300 million for improvements to approximately 30 kilometres of road in Lazio; LIT 16 000 million to improve road links between a number of major centres in Sicily. This should help improve conditions for regional development by easing the flow of road traffic, particularly during the summer months; it should also strengthen links between the Mezzogiorno and the commercial centres in northern Italy.

Manufacturing. Loans of LIT 100 000 million were granted. Of this LIT 65 000 million was lent through IMI-Istituto mobiliare italiano to help modernize and boost output in three industrial undertakings:

(i) LIT 40 000 million will part-finance the streamlining of Videocolor's colour television components plant at Anagni, Lazio. The project involves advanced automation of the manufacturing process and the production of new high-performance tubes. These improvements will help sustain this activity, which is of great importance to the development of this area of the Mezzogiorno.

(ii) LIT 15 000 million will go to Marzotto for the modernization of four textile mills in the provinces of Pavia, Vicenza and Brescia. This loan will provide financial assistance for the installation of sophisticated wool treatment equipment and for improvements to the centralized computer system (including a direct link with Marzotto's European subsidiaries).

(iii) LIT 10 000 million will go to Lombardini for the introduction of advance technology (computerization and robots) in a diesel-engine production plant in Reggio Emilia as part of an investment programme for plant modernization and product diversification (manufacture of industrial engines in addition to agricultural engines).

An additional LIT 35 000 million was granted to BNL, LIT 25 000 million from NCI resources for small and medium-scale industrial investment in central and north-

ern Italy and 10 000 million to be channelled through the Sezione autonoma per l'esercizio del credito alberghiero e turistico for small and medium-scale investment in the hotel and tourist industry in the Mezzogiorno.

France

2.4.44. A loan of FF 350 million (approximately 51 million ECU) was granted for the construction of two sections of the A31 Lorraine-Burgundy motorway, which will link East France with the Lyons region and provide a vital link between the central-northern and southern areas of the country. The two motorway sections involved are Gémeaux-Tilchâtel (8.5 km) and Choiseul-Toul (80.9 km) running from the Paris-Lyons intersection at Beaune to link up with the European motorway network at the Luxembourg border. This will form a major trans-European link with an estimated 40% of vehicles comprising international traffic. It will also help improve communications with Lorraine, which is beset with serious restructuring difficulties, and foster regional development in East France. Work should be completed in 1985.

United Kingdom

2.4.45. UKL 13.5 million was granted for water supply and sewerage works. UKL 8.5 million went to the Yorkshire Water Authority for the installation of 37 km of underground water-supply piping in South Yorkshire and the construction of a water-treatment plant at Langsett and a reservoir at Redmires. The works will improve the water supply to assisted areas and cater for increased demand for a number of years to come in areas in which water shortages have hampered economic development. UKL 5 million was lent to the South-West Water Authority to improve and extend sewerage and sewerage treatment schemes in Plymouth, Bideford and Wadebridge. These works will assist industrial and tourist development in assisted areas.

Outside the Community

Mediterranean region

2.4.46. In Egypt 25.5 million ECU was granted under the second EEC-Egypt Financial Protocol. 22.5 million ECU from the EIB's own resources is to be spent on diversifying supplies of building materials. The loans, granted to the Egyptian Company for Gypsum, Marble and Quarries, bear a 3% interest subsidy funded from the Community budget. 15 million ECU is earmarked for the construction of a gypsum calcination plant at El Sadat City, a new town being built in the desert 95 km from Cairo. The plant, whose total cost is estimated at 30 million ECU, should produce 300 000 tonnes of plaster annually. 7.5 million ECU will part-finance a brick plant at Beni Mazaar, approximately 200 km south of Cairo, which will use desert clay for the manufacture of 60 million bricks per year; the project also involves opening up a nearby clay deposit. Use of clay will go some way towards making good the shortfall in construction materials without spoiling agricultural land. Nile silt, previously used in brickmaking, has become increasingly scarce since construction of the Aswan Dam. The two plants should provide more than 200 jobs.

In addition, 3 million ECU was granted from Community budget resources in the form of a conditional loan at 2% for up to 25 years to the Development Industrial Bank (DIB) to enable it to acquire equity stock in new or existing undertakings in industry and tourism. Set up in 1975 the DIB is Egypt's leading specialist in medium and long-term financing for smaller private sector industrial undertakings.

ACP States

2.4.47. Ivory Coast urgently needs to boost electricity output, as the exceptionally severe drought of 1983 has very significantly impaired hydroelectric power production. In order to put an end to the frequent load-shedding caused at present by inability to

meet demand and to alleviate the disastrous consequences for the economy, the Government has launched an emergency programme for the installation of additional thermal generating capacity, for which the EIB has lent Energie Electrique de Côte d'Ivoire (EECI) 12.6 million ECU with a 3% interest subsidy from the European Development Fund. The project will include installation at the Vridi thermal power station near Abidjan of four turbine generators, designed for firing by fuel or gas, with a combined installed capacity of 100 MW, two transformers, connection to the electricity grid and to a fuel pipeline from a neighbouring refinery and fuel storage installations. The new facilities are intended to come on-stream very quickly and will pro-

vide valuable stand-by capacity in the coming years.

In Tonga 1 million ECU was granted from venture capital to help finance small and medium-sized industrial, agricultural processing and tourist undertakings through the Tonga Development Bank (TDB): 300 000 ECU was granted as a conditional loan to the State of Tonga (2% for 25 years) in order to increase the State's shareholding in TDB and 700 000 ECU was granted to TDB direct, also at 2% for up to 25 years in the form of a global loan (credit line) to acquire equity shareholdings in small and medium-sized undertakings and to finance investment. These two loans will enable the TDB to finance smaller businesses on suitable terms.



PART THREE
DOCUMENTATION

1. ECU

Values in national currencies of one ECU

30 March 1984 ¹	
Belgian franc and Luxembourg franc (convertible)	45.6313
Belgian franc and Luxembourg franc (financial)	47.3381
German mark	2.22826
Dutch guilder	2.51226
Pound sterling	0.597645
Danish krone	8.18346
French franc	6.86146
Italian lira	1 385.62
Irish pound	0.728055
Greek drachma	88.6917
United States dollar	0.859832
Swiss franc	1.85053
Spanish peseta	127.857
Swedish krona	6.63705
Norwegian krone	6.45132
Canadian dollar	1.09878
Portuguese escudo	113.928
Austrian schilling	15.6747
Finnish mark	4.79013
Japanese yen	193.007
Australian dollar	0.918919
New Zealand dollar	1.29395

¹ OJ C 90, 31.3.1984.

NB. Explanatory notes on the ECU and 'green' rates can be found in Bull. EC 7/8-1982, points 3.1.1 to 3.1.3.

Representative rates ('green' rates)

Conversion rates into national currencies for the ECU used in connection with the common agricultural policy

March 1984	
National currency	Value in national currency of one ECU
Belgian franc and Luxembourg franc	44.9008
Danish krone	8.23400
German mark	2.65660 ¹ 2.52875 ² 2.54273 ³ 2.51457 ⁵
Greek drachma	71.5619 ¹ 77.2479 ⁵
French franc	6.19564 ¹ 6.55400 ³ 6.77297 ⁴ 6.49211 ⁵
Irish pound	0.725690
Italian lira	1 341.00
Dutch guilder	2.81318 ¹ 2.72149 ² 2.73327 ³ 2.70981 ⁵
Pound sterling	0.618655

- ¹ For seeds.
- ² For cereals.
- ³ For milk and milk products.
- ⁴ For pigmeat and wine.
- ⁵ For other products.

2. Additional references in the Official Journal

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 11-1983

Points 1.2.1 to 1.2.13

Commission communication relating to Community action to combat unemployment — The contribution of local employment initiatives

OJ C 70, 12.3.1984

Point 2.1.55

Commission Decision of 30 November 1983 on the proposal of the Belgian Government to grant aid to a synthetic fibre producer

OJ L 62, 3.3.1984

Bull. EC 12-1983

Point 2.1.50

Commission Decision of 21 December 1983 amending Decision 82/691/EEC on the designation of areas eligible for regional aid in Denmark from 1 January 1982

OJ L 62, 3.3.1984

Bull. EC 1-1984

Points 1.1.1 to 1.1.17

Commission proposals for determining the price of certain agricultural products and certain related measures (1984/85)

OJ C 62, 5.3.1984

3. Infringement procedures

Initiation of proceedings for failure to implement directives

3.3.1. In March the Commission sent letters of formal notice to 9 Member States concerning their failure to incorporate directives into national law (the Commission not having been informed of national implementing measures) in the following 5 cases:

Customs union

Council Directive of 3 May 1983¹ amending the Directive of 26 May 1975 on detailed rules concerning equivalent compensation and prior exportation under inward processing arrangements² (Ireland, Luxembourg).

Transport

First Council Directive of 4 December 1980 on the introduction of a Community driving licence³ (Belgium, Greece).

Environment, consumer protection and nuclear safety

Council Directive of 28 March 1983 concerning the importation into Member States of skins of certain seal pups and products derived therefrom⁴ (Denmark, France, Greece, Italy, Luxembourg);

Commission Directive of 25 March 1982⁵ adapting to technical progress for the fourth time the Council Directive of 27 June 1967 on the approximation of laws, regulations and administrative provisions relating to the classification, packaging and labelling of dangerous substances⁶ (Germany, Denmark, France, Greece, Italy, Luxembourg, Netherlands);

¹ OJ L 127, 17.5.1983.

² OJ L 156, 18.6.1975.

³ OJ L 375, 31.12.1980.

⁴ OJ L 91, 9.4.1983.

⁵ OJ L 106, 21.4.1982.

⁶ OJ 196, 16.8.1967.

Commission Directive of 23 October 1981¹ adapting to technical progress for the third time the Council Directive of 27 June 1967 on the approximation of laws, regulations and administrative provisions relating to the classification, packaging and labelling of dangerous substances² (Germany, Denmark, France, Greece, Italy, Luxembourg, Netherlands).

Reasoned opinions

3.3.2. In March the Commission delivered 12 reasoned opinions concerning 5 Member States in the following cases:

Internal market and industrial affairs

Incompatibility with Community law of certain provisions of Greek mining legislation (Greece);

Financing terms for the purchase of agricultural equipment (Greece);

Requirement of an import document for shirts originating in Portugal and in free circulation (France);

Requirement of an import document for cotton yarn originating in Egypt and in free circulation in other Member States (France);

Requirement that the name of an authorized representative be notified to the Service des Instruments de Mesure for the importation of certain types of letter-weighing and package-weighing machines (France);

Incorrect application of the Council Directive of 26 July 1971 concerning the coordination of procedures for the award of public works contracts³ (Italy);

Difficulty of obtaining technical opinions from the Centre Scientifique et Technique du Bâtiment (France);

Granting of import licences: money charges and delays (Greece);

Non-conformity of national measures to give effect to the Council Directives of 15 October 1968 on the abolition of restrictions on movement and residence within the Community for workers of Member States and their families⁴ and of 21 May 1973 on the abolition of restrictions on movement and residence within the Community for nationals of Member States with regard to establishment and the provision of services⁵ (Ireland);

Incorrect application of the Council Directives of 27 June 1977 concerning the mutual recognition of diplomas, certificates and other evidence of the formal qualifications of nurses responsible for general care, including measures to facilitate the effective exercise of the right of establishment and

freedom to provide services, and concerning the coordination of provisions laid down by law, regulation or administrative action in respect of the activities of nurses responsible for general care;⁶ incorrect application of the Council Directives of 25 July 1978 concerning the mutual recognition of diplomas, certificates and other evidence of the formal qualifications of practitioners of dentistry, including measures to facilitate the effective exercise of the right of establishment and freedom to provide services, and concerning the coordination of provisions laid down by law, regulation or administrative action in respect of the activities of dental practitioners⁷ (France);

Arrangements for fixing the prices of proprietary medicinal products (Belgium).

Employment, social affairs and education

Non-conformity of national measures to give effect to the Council Directive of 9 February 1976 on the implementation of the principle of equal treatment for men and women as regards access to employment, vocational training and promotion, and working conditions⁸ (Ireland).

Proceedings terminated

3.3.3. The Commission decided not to continue the following infringement proceedings:

Cases in respect of which a reasoned opinion had been sent

Customs union

Charging of customs duties and other amounts on the importation of certain goods contained in the personal luggage of individuals travelling within the Community (France, Luxembourg, Belgium, Netherlands, Germany, Italy, United Kingdom, Ireland, Denmark, Greece).

Internal market and industrial affairs

Contract specifications for national television and radio broadcasting organizations (France);

Identity checks at frontiers (Germany);

Restrictions on the export of diesel fuel (Italy);

Obligation to seek approval for sporting powder (France);

¹ OJ L 351, 7.12.1981.

² OJ 196, 16.8.1967.

³ OJ L 185, 16.8.1971.

⁴ OJ L 257, 19.10.1968.

⁵ OJ L 172, 28.6.1973.

⁶ OJ L 176, 15.7.1977.

⁷ OJ L 233, 24.8.1978.

⁸ OJ L 39, 14.2.1976.

Obstacles to the importation of Belgian *speculoos* (Netherlands);

Low-interest loans to promote savings in hydrocarbon and primary energy consumption (France);

Failure to implement the Commission recommendation of 3 July 1981 to the Member States on the obligation to publish price lists and conditions of sale and on prohibited practices in the steel trade¹ (Luxembourg).

Employment, social affairs and education

Non-conformity of national measures to give effect to the Council Directive of 15 October 1968 on the abolition on restrictions of movement and residence within the Community for workers of Member States and their families² (Denmark).

Agriculture

Ban on importing refined animal fats (Germany);

Sugar-cane molasses: ban on carriage between French overseas departments and territories (France);

Closure of the Resia Pass to butter and cheese imports (Italy);

Ban on potato imports (United Kingdom).

Cases which had been referred to the Court

Customs union

Fee payable for use of special stores in public warehouses (Case 132/82 — Belgium);

Butter: packing in small packages (Case 49/82 — Netherlands);

Storage charge on goods arriving at the special store of public warehouses (Case 133/82 — Luxembourg).

Internal market and industrial affairs

Provisions relating to radio and television programmes (Case 315/82 — Ireland);

Non-conformity of national measures to give effect to the Council Directive of 16 June 1975 concerning the mutual recognition of diplomas, certificates and other evidence of formal qualifications in medicine, including measures to facilitate the effective exercise of the right of establishment and freedom to provide services³ (Case 239/83 — Germany).

Agriculture

Regional aids in Sicily for the marketing of wine (Case 303/82 — Italy);

Restrictions on the importation of sheepmeat originating in the United Kingdom (Case 232/79 — France);

Ban on the distillation of fruit originating in other Member States (Case 128/81 — France).

Transport

Failure to give effect to the Commission Decision of 11 October 1979 authorizing special tariff measures for the carriage of certain goods by rail and road in France⁴ (Case 225/83 — France).

Cases in respect of which formal notice had been given

Taxation and financial institutions

Failure to inform the Commission of national measures to give effect to the Council Directive of 28 May 1969 on the harmonization of provisions laid down by law, regulation or administrative action relating to exemption from turnover tax and excise duty on imports in international travel⁵ (Ireland).

¹ OJ L 184, 4.7.1981.

² OJ L 257, 19.10.1968.

³ OJ L 167, 30.6.1975.

⁴ OJ L 269, 26.10.1979.

⁵ OJ L 133, 4.6.1969.

4. European cultural identity

Venice declaration

3.4.1. The following declaration was adopted at the close of the symposium held in Venice from 29 to 31 March.

1. Europe must be more than just a common market. We cannot know whether it will ever achieve political unity. But what we do know is that it exists in the thoughts and minds, in the feelings and imaginations of the inhabitants of this continent, where modernism, democracy, individual human rights and collective aspirations have been most tellingly expressed and have exercised a far-reaching influence on the world at large.

As representatives of all that is European in the world of learning and the arts, we wish in our very diversity to reaffirm our European cultural identity.

For us the Europe of today is the place whose wide-ranging traditions are most conducive to cultural intercourse and original research, whose divergent systems and ideas lend force to the common search for freedom of creation and expression.

For us there are no frontiers isolating those who have contributed and continue to contribute to the culture of Europe. Spain and Portugal are clearly no exception.

2. The 70 intellectuals gathered here in Venice from many different countries call on all like-minded individuals throughout Europe, on all members of the public, on those who run the mass media, on the governments and on institutions of the Community to ensure that no decisions are taken nor analysis made on the cultural front without the direct involvement of creators and disseminators alike. We would suggest that a European Cultural Assembly be set up.

Community spending on culture is ridiculously low. It should be boosted initially to at least 1% of the Community budget.

3. There is also a pressing need to consolidate the link between the creative energies of science and technology and art and all areas of intellectual and cultural research. Science and technology represent no evil threat to culture. Without the backing of science cultural unity is inconceivable. The barrier between increasingly intensive production and isolated mass consumption must be broken down.

4. The first prerequisite for the creation of a true European cultural area is free movement of ideas, persons and cultural assets throughout Europe. Those who feel a sense of affinity with European

culture but are prevented from participating fully because of the artificial divide between East and West must be able to assume their rightful place in the European intellectual community of which they have been part for so many centuries.

Governmental agreements are not enough. Public and private organizations must be given the means to promote contacts and exchanges with all European countries. Community artists must be able to travel freely with their works.

5. Cultural protectionism is to be avoided, but steps must be taken to ensure that Europe is capable of producing the programmes demanded by its mass media. Individual countries must make an effort to grant more space to cultural programmes produced by their European neighbours. And Europe as a whole must make a joint effort to meet the challenge offered by the telecommunications systems—satellites in particular.

6. The future of European culture is indissociable from that of training and education. We denounce Europe's continuing failure to allow enough of its young people access to higher education, to the arts and technology, or to scientific research. And better welfare protection is urgently required for its thinkers, artists, actors, architects, musicians and other creative citizens.

Training should be geared to providing greater insight into life, work and activities in other European countries. There is no reason why existing educational establishments should not set up bicultural faculties teaching in two European languages and awarding degrees which would open the same doors as national qualifications.

7. Europe has a rich and varied heritage. It should make a special effort to safeguard and stimulate regional culture and disseminate works written in languages which do not enjoy wide international currency. It should set up an agency to assist with the translation of contemporary literature, notably in order to promote the dissemination of works written in minority languages and to obviate the obstacle of censorship.

8. In the face of pressure from financial groupings outside Europe, which threatens to stifle Europe's creative genius, particularly in the cinema, an attempt must be made at European level to raise funds and consolidate distribution and export potential, without encroaching on freedom of action or inspiration. Europe's cultural identity must be neither introspective nor arrogant. Instead, it must represent a quest for freedom and a thirst for all forms of cultural exchange. Europe is ideally placed to boost communication without levelling

out differences; it must open its gates ever wider to the cultural activities of countries which have affinities with European culture. Europe has been defined in terms of limited economic objectives. Both for itself and for the world at large, it now needs to assume the role of blueprint for a civilization uniting past and future and founded on the

freedom to create and criticize in the political, social and cultural sectors.

9. Those present in Venice trust that this will be the first of a number of meetings. The next one is to be held in Madrid to continue the work embarked upon here on the regeneration of Europe's cultural identity.

Publications of the European Communities

Publications of the European Communities

3 – 1984

Introductory note

This catalogue includes the newly published monographs and series issued during the period to which it relates by the institutions of the European Communities, and also their current periodicals. Publications of which English versions have been issued are listed only in that language; otherwise another version, but only one, is included, in the following order of choice:

French	Spanish
German	Portuguese
Italian	Greek
Dutch	others
Danish	

Where other language versions also exist, cross-references are provided by means of a code (those codes should not be used for ordering purposes):

IT: 1 - 12

which means that the Italian version is described in the Italian catalogue of January under No 12. This number is specific to each catalogue; it is a sequence number printed in consecutive order, opposite each entry in the classified list.

Arrangement

The catalogue is divided into three parts, as follows:

Part I – The classified list provides a subject classification of the titles included under 20 headings each divided into subheadings (see below).

Under each subheading, monographs and series are listed first in alphabetical order; there then follows a similar list of periodical titles.

Full entries for monographs and series appear only once; otherwise cross-references are given to the full entries identifying them by the sequence numbers already described. Periodical titles appear in the classified list only as cross-reference entries, full entries being found in Part II.

Part II – Periodicals presents full details of each current Community periodical, listed alphabetically.

Part III – The indexes of titles and series are listed alphabetically and cross-refer using the abovementioned

sequence numbers to the entries in Part I of the monthly catalogue. These indexes cumulate throughout the year.

How to obtain publications

Publications may be priced for sale, gratis, or of limited distribution. Those of the last two classes may be obtained from the issuing institutions, or, where they are published by the Information Offices of the Commission, from those offices, whose addresses are given in the lists on pp. 4 and 5. Publications of limited distribution are, however, generally only for the attention of governments of Member States, Community departments and other authorities concerned.

Orders for priced publications should be directed to the Sales Offices listed on the last page.

All orders should quote the full title, as well as the ISBN or ISSN where such a number precedes the prices in the catalogue.

Abbreviations and conventional signs

The text languages of publications are indicated by the following abbreviations:

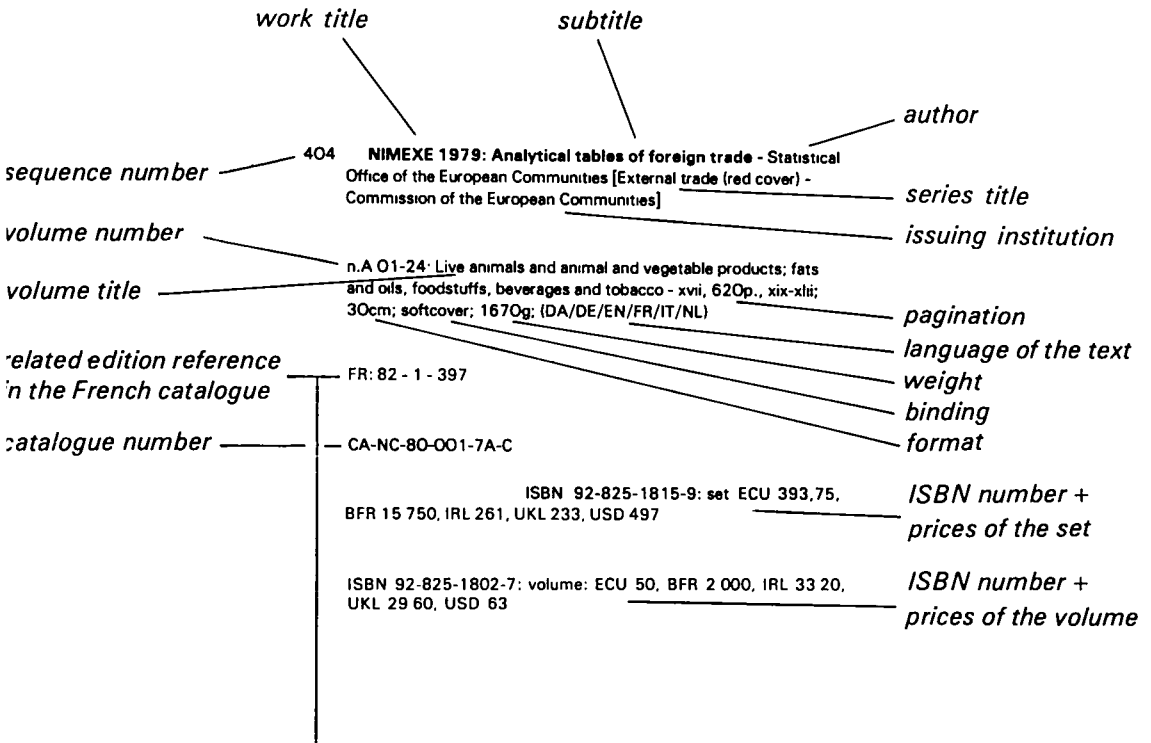
DA	Danish	GA	Irish
DE	German	IT	Italian
GR	Greek	NL	Dutch
EN	English	ES	Spanish
FR	French	PT	Portuguese

A string of such symbols separated by diagonal stroke: denotes a publication in which different language versions of the same text appear under one cover.

The abbreviation 'multi' indicates a publication with mixed multilingual text.

Prices, which exclude any value-added tax which may be chargeable, are fixed in various currencies, using the following abbreviations:

BFR	Belgian franc	HFL	Dutch guilder
DKR	Danish crown	IRL	Irish pound
DM	German mark	LIT	Italian lira
DR	Greek drachma	PTA	Spanish peseta
ESC	Portuguese escudo	UKL	Pound sterling
FF	French franc	USD	US dollar



397 **NIMEXE 1979: Tableaux analytiques du commerce extérieur - Office statistique des Communautés européennes [Commerce extérieur (couverture rouge) - Commission des Communautés européennes]**
 n.A O1-24. Animaux vivants et produits des règnes animal ou végétal, graisses et huiles, aliments, boissons et tabacs - xvii, 62Op., xix-xlii; 30cm; broché; 167Og; (DA/DE/EN/FR/IT/NL)
 EN: 82 - 1 - 404
 CA-NC-80-001-7A-C ISBN 92-825-1815-9: ensemble: Écu 393,75, BFR 15 750, FF 2 266
 ISBN 92-825-1802-7: volume: Écu 50, BFR 2 000, FF 288.

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Classified list

1 General, political and institutional matters

MONOGRAPHS AND SERIES

- 1 **Europe 85 - Commission des Communautés européennes - 185p.:**
30cm: broché: 550g: (FR)
CB-38-83-613-FR-C ISBN 92-825-4171-1: ECU 7,63,
BFR 350.
- European University Institute: Seventh Report of Activities -
Academic year 1982-83: 1983** 21
- 2 **Programme of the Commission for 1984 - Commission of the
European Communities**
1984 - 47pp.: 23cm: stapled: 90g: (EN)
DA 84 - 3 - 2. DE:84 - 3 - 2. FR:84 - 3 - 2. GR:84 - 3 - 1. IT:84 - 3 - 2
CB-38-83-815-EN-C ISBN 92-825-4224-6: ECU 1,31,
BFR 60, IRL 1, UKL 0.80, USD 1.50.

PERIODICALS

30 jours d'Europe.
Avrupa.
Background Report.
Berichte und Informationen.
Bulletin of the European Communities.
COM Documents.
COM Documents.
COM Documents: Monthly catalogue.
Committee Reports of the European Parliament.
Communauté européenne: Lettre d'information du Bureau de
Genève.
Communauté Européenne Informations.
Comunidad europea.
Comunidades Europeias: Informação.
Comunità europea.
Debates of the European Parliament.
Dokumente und Publikationen.
Échos de l'Europe.
Economic and Social Committee: Bulletin.
EF-avisen.
EG Magazin.
EIB-Information.
Eorascál.
Eur info.
Europa.
Europa-Informationen für die Jugendpresse.
Europa van morgen.
Europe 83.
European File.
European news.
European Parliament.
Fiches pédagogiques "30 jours d'Europe".
Information on the Court of Justice of the European Communities.

Informations de l'Eurostat.
Informazioni.
Informazioni documenti.
Informazioni rassegna periodica.
Official Journal of the European Communities, series C: Information
and Notices.
Official Journal of the European Communities, series L: Legislation.
Points de repère: supplément à 30 jours d'Europe.
Press Release.
Ευρωπαϊκή Κοινότητα.

2 Customs union

3 Agriculture, forestry and fisheries

MONOGRAPHS AND SERIES

- Enquête communautaire sur la structure des exploitations
agricoles 1979/1980: n.1** 2
- The Farm Accountancy Data Network - Results on
Microfiches: Accounting year 1978/1979: 1983** 2

PERIODICALS

Agricultural Markets: Prices.
Agricultural prices.
Agricultural statistics: Crop and animal production.
Animal production.
Crop production.
EC-agricultural price indices (Output and Input).

4 Law

MONOGRAPHS AND SERIES

- 3 **COST-Acties: Verzameling van Overeenkomsten, gesloten in
het kader van de Europese samenwerking op het gebied van
het wetenschappelijk en technisch onderzoek - Raad van de
Europese Gemeenschappen**
n.2 1981-1982 - 189blz.: 30cm: gebrocheerd: 500g: (NL)
BX-38-83-063-NL-C ISBN 92-824-0150-2: ECU 16,33,
BFR 750.
- 4 **Court of Justice of the European Communities: Information
for lawyers - Pescatore, P., (Judge): Court of Justice of the
European Communities - 36pp.: 23cm: stapled: 75g: (EN)**

DA 84 - 3 - 4 DE 84 - 3 - 4. FR 84 - 3 - 4. IT 84 - 3 - 4. NL 84 - 3 - 4
DX-38-83-532-EN-C : free of charge.

Women of Europe - Information bulletin.

PERIODICALS

Information on the Court of Justice of the European Communities.

List of laws and regulations adopted in the Member States of the Communities in application of acts adopted by the Communities.

Official Journal of the European Communities, series L: Legislation.

Reports of Cases before the Court of Justice.

5 Social affairs

MONOGRAPHS AND SERIES

- 5 **Educational leave and the labour market in Europe** - Degen, Günther (Dr): Nuissi, Ekkehard (Dr): European Centre for the Development of Vocational Training - 217pp.: 20cm: softcover: 300g: (EN)
HX-37-83-013-EN-C ISBN 92-825-3595-9: ECU 4, BFR 183, IRL 2.90, UKL 2.25, USD 3.50.

Employment and unemployment: 1984 22

- 6 **The employment of women in Portugal** - 234pp.: 30cm: softcover: 520g: (EN) [Document - Commission of the European Communities]
FR.84 - 3 - 7
CE-38-83-742-EN-C ISBN 92-825-4167-3: ECU 17,37, BFR 800, IRL 12.70, UKL 10, USD 15.

- 7 **Equal opportunities and vocational training - Qualifications and educational needs of co-working spouses of owners of small and medium-sized enterprises** - Riis-Jørgensen, K.: European Centre for the Development of Vocational Training - 75pp.: 20cm: softcover: 120g: (EN)
DE:84 - 3 - 5. FR 84 - 3 - 6. IT 84 - 3 - 8. NL:84 - 3 - 7
HX-38-83-265-EN-C ISBN 92-825-4011-1: ECU 4, BFR 183, IRL 2.90, UKL 2.25, USD 3.50.

Labour costs 1981: n.1 25

Labour costs 1981: n.2 26

- 8 **Tecnica informatica e formazione di personale specializzato nel settore dei servizi - Relazione sulle risultanze di ricognizioni bibliografiche e di inchieste con esperti: Repubblica Federale di Germania, Francia, Regno Unito** - Dirrheimer, A. (Dr): Centro Europeo per lo sviluppo della formazione professionale - 231pag.: 20cm: brossura: 315g: (IT)
DE:83 - 6 - 11. EN 83 - 12 - 9. FR 83 - 12 - 11
HX-38-83-443-IT-C ISBN 92-825-4019-7: ECU 4, BFR 183.

PERIODICALS

Euro-Abstracts, Section II: Coal - Steel.

Hourly earnings: Hours of work.

Information Bulletin of the Steel Industry Safety and Health Commission.

Unemployment: Monthly bulletin.

Vocational training: Information bulletin.

Wages and incomes - Rapid information.

6 Tertiary sector

PERIODICALS

Agricultural Markets: Prices.

7 Transport

8 Competition

9 Taxation

10 Economic affairs

PERIODICALS

Balances of payments: Quarterly data.

European Economy.

European Economy: complete series of supplements.

European Economy - Supplement - Series A: Recent economic trends.

European Economy - Supplement - Series B: Economic prospects: Business survey results.

European Economy - Supplement - Series C: Economic prospects: Consumer survey results.

European Economy and supplements A B C.

Eurostatistics: Data for short-term economic analysis.

Industrial short-term trends.

Results of the business survey carried out among managements in the Community.

11 External relations

MONOGRAPHS AND SERIES

COST-Acties: Verzameling van Overeenkomsten, gesloten in het kader van de Europese samenwerking op het gebied van het wetenschappelijk en technisch onderzoek: n.2 1981-1982 3

PERIODICALS

The Courier: Africa-Caribbean-Pacific - European Community.
Monthly external trade bulletin.

12 Energy

MONOGRAPHS AND SERIES

9 **The energy situation in the Community: Situation 1983 - Outlook 1984 (Report from the Commission to the Council) - Commission of the European Communities - 43pp.: 23cm: stapled: 90g: (EN)**
DE:84-3-10. FR:84-3-9. GR:84-3-9. IT:84-3-11. NL:84-3-9
CB-40-84-157-EN-C ISBN 92-825-4315-3: ECU 1,31, BFR 60, IRL 1, UKL 0.80, USD 1.50.

Wind energy evaluation for the European Communities 20

PERIODICALS

Coal: monthly bulletin.
Electrical energy: monthly bulletin.
Energy statistics: Monthly bulletin a) Coal, b) Hydrocarbons, c) Electrical energy.
Hydrocarbons: monthly bulletin.

13 Industry

MONOGRAPHS AND SERIES

10 **Chemical analysis of ferrous materials: Determination of manganese in steels and irons - Electrometric titration method - Iron and Steel Nomenclature Coordination Committee - 4pp.: 30cm: stapled: 20g: October 1983 (EN) [EURONORM: 71-83 - European Coal and Steel Community: Commission of the European Communities]**
DE:84-3-12. FR:84-3-12. IT:84-3-14. NL:84-3-10
CB-37-83-651-EN-C : ECU 3,96, BFR 180, IRL 2.90, UKL 2.30, USD 3.50.

11 **Chemical analysis of ferrous materials: Determination of non-combined carbon (graphite) in steels and irons - Gravimetric method after combustion in a stream of oxygen - Iron and Steel Nomenclature Coordination Committee - 3pp.: 30cm: stapled: 20g: December 1983 (EN) [EURONORM: 38-83 - European Coal and Steel Community: Commission of the European Communities]**

DE:84-3-14. FR:84-3-10. IT:84-3-12. NL:84-3-11
CB-37-83-643-EN-C : ECU 3,96, BFR 180, IRL 2.90, UKL 2.30, USD 3.50.

12 **Chemical analysis of ferrous materials: Determination of sulphur in steels and irons - Gravimetric method - Iron and Steel Nomenclature Coordination Committee - 6pp.: 30cm: stapled: 20g: December 1983 (EN) [EURONORM: 180-83 - European Coal and Steel Community: Commission of the European Communities]**
DE:84-3-13. FR:84-3-13. IT:84-3-15. NL:84-3-12
CB-37-83-675-EN-C : ECU 5,28, BFR 240, IRL 3.80, UKL 3.10, USD 5.

13 **Chemical analysis of ferrous materials: Determination of total carbon in steels and irons - Gravimetric method after combustion in a stream of oxygen - Iron and Steel Nomenclature Coordination Committee - 4pp.: 30cm: stapled: 20g: December 1983 (EN) [EURONORM: 36-83 - European Coal and Steel Community: Commission of the European Communities]**
DE:84-3-11. FR:84-3-11. IT:84-3-13. NL:84-3-13
CB-37-83-635-EN-C : ECU 3,96, BFR 180, IRL 2.90, UKL 2.30, USD 3.50.

14 **Delivery conditions for surface finish of hot rolled plates and wide flats - Iron and Steel Nomenclature Coordination Committee - 4pp.: 30cm: stapled: 20g: October 1983 (EN) [EURONORM: 163-83 - European Coal and Steel Community: Commission of the European Communities]**
DE:84-3-15. FR:84-3-14. IT:84-3-16. NL:84-3-14
CB-37-83-667-EN-C : ECU 3,96, BFR 180, IRL 2.90, UKL 2.30, USD 3.50.

Structure and activity of industry - 1979/1980: 1984 27

Yearbook of iron and steel 1952-1982: 1983 28

PERIODICALS

Industrial production: Miscellaneous sectors.
Industrial short-term trends.
Iron and steel: monthly bulletin.
Iron and steel: quarterly and monthly bulletins.
Iron and steel: quarterly bulletin.
Wages and incomes - Rapid information.

14 Regional policy

MONOGRAPHS AND SERIES

15 **European Regional Development Fund: Eighth annual report - Commission of the European Communities**
1982 - 112pp.: 23cm: softcover: 190g: (EN)
DA:84-3-16. DE:84-3-16. FR:84-3-15. GR:84-3-15.
IT:84-3-17. NL:84-3-15
CB-38-83-677-EN-C ISBN 92-825-4115-0: ECU 9,80, BFR 450, IRL 7.20, UKL 5.60, USD 8.50.

15 Environment and consumer affairs

Euronet Diane News.

16 Scientific and technical research

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COST-Acties: Verzameling van Overeenkomsten, gesloten in het kader van de Europese samenwerking op het gebied van het wetenschappelijk en technisch onderzoek: n.2 1981-1982 3

- 16 **Effects of prenatal irradiation with special emphasis on late effects** - Streffer, C.; Patrick, G. - vi, 242p.: 25cm: softcover: 530g: (EN) [Radioprotection - Directorate-General Information Market and Innovation: Commission of the European Communities] EUR 8067
CD-NP-83-009-EN-C ISBN 92-825-4173-8: ECU 15,25, BFR 700, IRL 11.10, UKL 8.80, USD 13.

- 17 **Étude de la fracturation profonde des massifs rocheux granitiques: étude structurale de la fracturation du granite de Sainte-Sylvestre (mines de Fanay-Augères et de Margnac, Haute-Vienne, France)** - Bles, J.L.; Dutartre, P.; Feybesse, J.Y.; Gros, Y.; Martin, P.: Direction générale Science, recherche et développement - xiv, 208p.: 30cm: broché: 580g: (FR) [Sciences et techniques nucléaires - Direction générale Marché de l'information et innovation: Commission des Communautés européennes] EUR 8922
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IT:84 - 3 - P58. NL:84 - 3 - P78
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NL:84 - 3 - P79
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IT:84 - 3 - P84. NL 84 - 3 - P80
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NL:84 - 3 - P7
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free of charge.
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free of charge.
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Alphabetical index

A

The Agricultural Situation in the Community - 1983 Report - 1983	2 - 7
agriculture with special reference to agronomic research/Prospective inventory of the requirements of Greek	2 - 31
agriculture/The rates of value-added tax in - 1984	2 - 38
Aluminium industry in the European Economic Community/Energy audit No 2 -	2 - 25
Annual investments in fixed assets in the industrial enterprises of the member countries of the European Communities 1975-1981 - 1983	1 - 21
Atrophic rhinitis in pigs	1 - 12

B

Balances of payments - Geographical breakdown 1977-1981 - 1983	1 - 22
Balances of payments - Global data 1971-1982 - 1983	2 - 37
Belgique (Leur statut, leur préparation, leurs perspectives)/Le personnel enseignant chargé de la formation professionnelle en	1 - 18
Beton und Stahl/Thermische und mechanische Trennverfahren für	2 - 34
biologiques des champs magnétiques/Effets	2 - 24
Bulletin des Communautés européennes/Index: - 1979 - 1980	1 - 3 1 - 4

C

The certification of the contents (mass fractions) of cadmium, cobalt, copper, manganese, mercury, nickel, lead and zinc in a sewage sludge of domestic origin - BCR No 144	2 - 17
The certification of the contents of cadmium, copper, mercury and zinc in a calcareous loam soil - BCR No 141	2 - 18
The certification of the contents of cadmium, copper, mercury, lead and zinc in a light sandy soil - BCR No 142	2 - 19
The certification of the contents of cadmium, copper, nickel, lead and zinc in a sewage sludge amended soil - BCR No 143	2 - 20
The certification of the mass fractions (contents) of cadmium, cobalt, copper, manganese, mercury, nickel, lead and zinc in a sewage sludge - BCR No 145	2 - 21
The certification of the mass fractions (contents) of cadmium, cobalt, copper, manganese, mercury, nickel, lead and zinc in a sewage sludge of mainly industrial origin - BCR No 146	2 - 22
Le changement technologique, l'emploi, les qualifications et la formation	2 - 11
Chemical analysis of ferrous materials: Determination of manganese in steels and irons - Electrometric titration method	3 - 10
Chemical analysis of ferrous materials: Determination of non-combined carbon (graphite) in steels and irons - Gravimetric method after combustion in a stream of oxygen	3 - 11
Chemical analysis of ferrous materials: Determination of sulphur in steels and irons - Gravimetric method	3 - 12
Chemical analysis of ferrous materials: Determination of total carbon in steels and irons - Gravimetric method after combustion in a stream of oxygen	3 - 13
chômeurs/La planification des initiatives de préparation professionnelle en faveur des jeunes	1 - 9
The Community's research and development programme on decommissioning of nuclear power plants. Third annual progress report (year 1982)	2 - 23
Compendium of Community provisions on social security	1 - 8
Competition rules: Guide for small and medium-sized enterprises/EEC	1 - 10
Conseil des Communautés européennes/Formulaire des actes mis au point par les groupes Juristes/Linguistes du	2 - 10
COST-Acties: Verzameling van Overeenkomsten, gesloten in het kader van de Europese samenwerking op het gebied van het wetenschappelijk en technisch onderzoek - n.2 1981-1982	3 - 3

Court of Justice of the European Communities: Information for lawyers

3 - 4

Customs valuation, Seventh updating

2 - 6

D

déchets radioactifs en sites granitiques/Études de corrosion des matériaux de conteneurs pour le stockage des	3 - 18
Delivery conditions for surface finish of hot rolled plates and wide flats	3 - 14
Dertigste overzicht der werkzaamheden van de Raad (1 januari - 31 december 1982) - 1982	1 - 1
Directory of the Commission of the European Communities	2 - 1
Duration of unemployment: Methods and measurement in the European Community - 1983	1 - 23

E

EC-Yugoslavia agreements, signed in Belgrade on 2 April 1980	2 - 9
éducation, 1974-1983/Textes relatifs à la politique européenne de l'	2 - 36
Educational leave and the labour market in Europe	3 - 5
EEC Competition rules: Guide for small and medium-sized enterprises	1 - 10
Effects of prenatal irradiation with special emphasis on late effects	3 - 16
Effets biologiques des champs magnétiques	2 - 24
Electrometric titration method/Chemical analysis of ferrous materials: Determination of manganese in steels and irons -	3 - 10
Employment and unemployment - 1984	3 - 22
The employment of women in Portugal	3 - 6
Energy audit No 2 - Aluminium industry in the European Economic Community	2 - 25
Energy audit No. 3 - Pulp, paper and board industry in the European Economic Community	1 - 13
Energy conservation (1979-83) - Survey of results/The second energy R & D programme -	2 - 13
Energy conservation by energy storage - Advanced batteries and fuel cells	2 - 26
energy evaluation for the European Communities/Wind	3 - 20
The energy situation in the Community: Situation 1983 - Outlook 1984 (Report from the Commission to the Council)	3 - 9
energy storage - Advanced batteries and fuel cells/Energy conservation by	2 - 26
Enquête communautaire sur la structure des exploitations agricoles 1979/1980 - n.1. Introduction et bases méthodologiques	3 - 23
Entwicklung von Rechenverfahren und Durchführung von Modellrechnungen zur thermomechanischen Wechselwirkung des Salzes mit der Bohrlochauskleidung bzw. mit eingelagerten Abfallblöcken	2 - 27
Equal opportunities and vocational training - Qualifications and educational needs of co-working spouses of owners of small and medium-sized enterprises	3 - 7
Étude de la fracturation profonde des massifs rocheux granitiques: étude structurale de la fracturation du granite de Sainte-Sylvestre (mines de Fanay-Augères et de Margnac, Haute-Vienne, France)	3 - 17
Études de corrosion des matériaux de conteneurs pour le stockage des déchets radioactifs en sites granitiques	3 - 18
Europe 85	3 - 1
L'Europe aujourd'hui - État de l'Intégration européenne - 1982-1983	1 - 2
European Certified Reference Materials (EURONORM-CRMs) for the determination of the chemical composition of iron and steel products - Information Circular No 1	2 - 14
European Certified Reference Materials (EURONORM-CRMs) prepared under the auspices of the European Coal & Steel Community (ECSC) - Information Circular No 1	2 - 14
European concerted action - COST 50 - Materials for gas turbines - EC 1 - Crack initiation and growth in high temperature low cycle fatigue	2 - 28

- European Regional Development Fund: Eighth annual report
- 1982 3 - 15
- European Union/Towards the 1 - 6
- European University Institute: Seventh Report of Activities - Academic year 1982-83 3 - 21
- 1983 3 - 21
- Het Europees Monetair Stelsel - Ontstaan, werking en perspectieven 2 - 2
- Evaluation of the European Community's radiation protection research programme (1976-80) 1 - 14
- exploitations agricoles 1979/1980/Enquête communautaire sur la structure des 3 - 23
- n.1. Introduction et bases méthodologiques 3 - 23
- F**
- The Farm Accountancy Data Network - Results on Microfiches: Accounting year 1978/1979 - 1983 3 - 24
- Flat glass for building 2 - 29
- Forestry statistics 1976-1980 - 1984 2 - 12
- formateurs dans la Communauté européenne: Rapport de synthèse/Formation professionnelle et formation des 1 - 16
- formation professionnelle dans les pays membres de la Communauté européenne/Systèmes de 1 - 19
- formation professionnelle en Belgique (Leur statut, leur préparation, leurs perspectives)/Le personnel enseignant chargé de la 1 - 18
- formation professionnelle en Italie - État actuel de la situation et perspectives évolutives/Le personnel de 1 - 17
- Formation professionnelle et formation des formateurs dans la Communauté européenne: Rapport de synthèse 1 - 16
- formation/Le changement technologique, l'emploi, les qualifications et la 2 - 11
- Formulaire des actes mis au point par les groupes Juristes/Linguistes du Conseil des Communautés européennes 2 - 10
- FRANCE [Structure of earnings 1978-79 - Principal results: - n 2] 1 - 27
- fusion nucléaire contrôlée/Le programme européen de 1 - 15
- G**
- gas turbines - EC 1 - Crack initiation and growth in high temperature low cycle fatigue/European concerted action - COST 50 - Materials for 2 - 28
- General government accounts and statistics 1970-1981 - 1982 1 - 24
- General Report on the Activities of the European Communities/Seventeenth - 1983 2 - 5
- geothermal energy - European geothermal update/Third international seminar - Results of EC research and demonstration projects in the field of 2 - 35
- Geothermal energy - R & D Programme 2 - 30
- glass for building/Flat 2 - 29
- Glossarium: Glossary of labour and trade union movement 2 - 40
- granite de Sainte-Sylvestre (mines de Fanay-Augerès et de Margnac, Haute-Vienne, France)/Étude de la fracturation profonde des massifs rocheux granitiques: étude structurale de la fracturation du 3 - 17
- graphite) in steels and irons - Gravimetric method after combustion in a stream of oxygen/Chemical analysis of ferrous materials: Determination of non-combined carbon (3 - 11
- Gravimetric method after combustion in a stream of oxygen/Chemical analysis of ferrous materials: Determination of non-combined carbon (graphite) in steels and irons - 3 - 11
- Gravimetric method/Chemical analysis of ferrous materials: Determination of sulphur in steels and irons - 3 - 12
- Greek agriculture with special reference to agronomic research/Prospective inventory of the requirements of 2 - 31
- I**
- Index: Bulletin des Communautés européennes - 1979 1 - 3
- 1980 1 - 4
- industrial enterprises of the member countries of the European Communities 1975-1981/Annual investments in fixed assets in the - 1983 1 - 21
- Information circular no. 2/Weldable fine-grained structural steels: Recommendations for processing, in particular for welding - 1 - 11
- information society/Power and participation in an 3 - 19
- Intégration européenne/L'Europe aujourd'hui - État de l' - 1982-1983 1 - 2
- Introduction et bases méthodologiques [Enquête communautaire sur la structure des exploitations agricoles 1979/1980: - n.1] 3 - 23
- iron and steel products - Information Circular No 1/European Certified Reference Materials (EURONORM-CRMs) for the determination of the chemical composition of 2 - 14
- Iron and steel yearbook 1983 - 1983 1 - 25
- irradiation with special emphasis on late effects/Effects of prenatal 3 - 16
- Italie - État actuel de la situation et perspectives évolutives/Le personnel de formation professionnelle en 1 - 17
- J**
- Japan: Adgang til markedet/Statslige indkøb i 1 - 29
- Juristes/Linguistes du Conseil des Communautés européennes/Formulaire des actes mis au point par les groupes 2 - 10
- L**
- Labour costs 1981 - n.1. Principal results 3 - 25
- n.2. Results by size classes and by regions 3 - 26
- labour market in Europe/Educational leave and the 3 - 5
- lawyers/Court of Justice of the European Communities: Information for 3 - 4
- M**
- Main results [Structure and activity of industry - 1979/1980: - 1984] 3 - 27
- manganese in steels and irons - Electrometric titration method/Chemical analysis of ferrous materials: Determination of 3 - 10
- mass fractions (contents) of cadmium, cobalt, copper, manganese, mercury, nickel, lead and zinc in a sewage sludge - BCR No 145/The certification of the 2 - 21
- mass fractions (contents) of cadmium, cobalt, copper, manganese, mercury, nickel, lead and zinc in a sewage sludge of mainly industrial origin - BCR No 146/The certification of the 2 - 22
- Monetair Stelsel - Ontstaan, werking en perspectieven/Het Europees 2 - 2
- N**
- nuclear power plants. Third annual progress report (year 1982)/The Community's research and development programme on decommissioning of 2 - 23
- O**
- Outline programme of the Commission for 1984 2 - 3
- Overeenkomsten, gesloten in het kader van de Europese samenwerking op het gebied van het wetenschappelijk en technisch onderzoek/COST-Acties: Verzameling van - n.2 1981-1982 3 - 3
- overzicht der werkzaamheden van de Raad (1 januari - 31 december 1982)/Dertigste - 1982 1 - 1
- P**
- personale specializzato nel settore dei servizi - Relazione sulle risultanze di ricognizioni bibliografiche e di inchieste con esperti: Repubblica Federale di Germania, Francia, Regno Unito/Tecnica informatica e formazione di 3 - 8
- Le personnel de formation professionnelle en Italie - État actuel de la situation et perspectives évolutives 1 - 17
- Le personnel enseignant chargé de la formation professionnelle en Belgique (Leur statut, leur préparation, leurs perspectives) 1 - 18

pigs/Atrophic rhinitis in	1 - 12	The structure of public limited companies	1 - 7
La planification des initiatives de préparation professionnelle en faveur des jeunes chômeurs	1 - 9	Studies of national accounts - No 2: Stock of fixed assets in industry in the Community Member States: towards greater comparability - 1983	1 - 28
plates and wide flats/Delivery conditions for surface finish of hot rolled	3 - 14	Studies of national accounts - No 3: Trends in the public finances of the Member States (1970-1981) - 1983	2 - 39
Portugal/The employment of women in	3 - 6	sulphur in steels and irons - Gravimetric method/Chemical analysis of ferrous materials: Determination of surface finish of hot rolled plates and wide flats/Delivery conditions for	3 - 12
Power and participation in an information society	3 - 19	3 - 14	
primary raw materials programme (1978-81)/Selected papers arising from the EEC	2 - 32	Systèmes de formation professionnelle dans les pays membres de la Communauté européenne	1 - 19
Principal results [Labour costs 1981: - n. 1]	3 - 25		
professionnelle en faveur des jeunes chômeurs/La planification des initiatives de préparation	1 - 9	T	
Le programme européen de fusion nucléaire contrôlée	1 - 15	Tantalum pentoxide on tantalum foil - BCR No 261	2 - 33
Programme of the Commission for 1984 - 1984	3 - 2	Tecnica informatica e formazione di personale specializzato nel settore dei servizi - Relazione sulle risultanze di ricognizioni bibliografiche e di inchieste con esperti; Repubblica Federale di Germania, Francia, Regno Unito	3 - 8
Prospective inventory of the requirements of Greek agriculture with special reference to agronomic research	2 - 31	Textes relatifs à la politique européenne de l'éducation, 1974-1983	2 - 36
public finances of the Member States (1970-1981)/Studies of national accounts - No 3: Trends in the - 1983	2 - 39	Thermische und mechanische Trennverfahren für Beton und Stahl	2 - 34
public limited companies/The structure of	1 - 7	Third international seminar - Results of EC research and demonstration projects in the field of geothermal energy - European geothermal update	2 - 35
Pulp, paper and board industry in the European Economic Community/Energy audit No. 3 -	1 - 13	Towards the European Union	1 - 6
		training and prospects/Vocational training personnel in Belgium - Situation,	1 - 20
R		Trennverfahren für Beton und Stahl/Thermische und mechanische	2 - 34
Raad (1 januari - 31 december 1982)/Dertigste overzicht der werkzaamheden van de - 1982	1 - 1	U	
The rates of value-added tax in agriculture - 1984	2 - 38	Übereinkünfte 1980/Sammlung der von den Europäischen Gemeinschaften geschlossen - n.10	2 - 4
Rechenverfahren und Durchführung von Modellrechnungen zur thermomechanischen Wechselwirkung des Salzes mit der Bohrlöschauskleidung bzw. mit eingelagerten Abfallblöcken/Entwicklung von	2 - 27	unemployment: Methods and measurement in the European Community/Duration of - 1983	1 - 23
Regional accounts ESA: Detailed tables by branches 1979/1980 - 1981	1 - 26	unemployment/Employment and - 1984	3 - 22
Regional Development Fund: Eighth annual report/European - 1982	3 - 15	V	
Reports of the Scientific Committee for Animal Nutrition - Fourth Series	2 - 8	value-added tax in agriculture/The rates of - 1984	2 - 38
Results by size classes and by regions [Labour costs 1981: - n.2]	3 - 26	Vocational training personnel in Belgium - Situation, training and prospects	1 - 20
		W	
S		Weldable fine-grained structural steels: Recommendations for processing, in particular for welding - Information circular no. 2	1 - 11
Sammlung der von den Europäischen Gemeinschaften geschlossen Übereinkünfte 1980 - n.10	2 - 4	Wind energy evaluation for the European Communities women in Portugal/The employment of	3 - 6
The second energy R & D programme - Energy conservation (1979-83) - Survey of results	2 - 13	Y	
Selected papers arising from the EEC primary raw materials programme (1978-81)	2 - 32	Yearbook of iron and steel 1952-1982 - 1983	3 - 28
Seventeenth General Report on the Activities of the European Communities - 1983	2 - 5	Yugoslavia agreements, signed in Belgrade on 2 April 1980/EC-	2 - 9
sewage sludge of domestic origin - BCR No 144/The certification of the contents (mass fractions) of cadmium, cobalt, copper, manganese, mercury, nickel, lead and zinc in a	2 - 17		
social security/Compendium of Community provisions on	1 - 8	Ε	
soil - BCR No 141/The certification of the contents of cadmium, copper, mercury and zinc in a calcareous loam	2 - 18	Ευρωπαϊκό Ταμείο Περιφερειακής Ανάπτυξης: Εβδομη ετήσια έκθεση - 1981	2 - 15
soil - BCR No 143/The certification of the contents of cadmium, copper, nickel, lead and zinc in a sewage sludge amended	2 - 20	Π	
spouses of owners of small and medium-sized enterprises/Equal opportunities and vocational training - Qualifications and educational needs of co-working	3 - 7	Η περιβαλλοντική πολιτική των Ευρωπαϊκών Κοινοτήτων	2 - 16
Stahl/Thermische und mechanische Trennverfahren für Beton und	2 - 34		
Statstlige indkøb i Japan: Adgang til markedet	1 - 29		
Structure and activity of industry - 1979/1980 - 1984. Main results	3 - 27		
Structure of earnings 1978-79 - Principal results - n.2. FRANCE	1 - 27		

Series index

A

Agriculture

- Atrophic rhinitis in pigs 1 - 12
- Prospective inventory of the requirements of Greek agriculture with special reference to agronomic research 2 - 31
- Reports of the Scientific Committee for Animal Nutrition - Fourth Series 2 - 8

Agriculture, forestry and fisheries (green cover)

- Enquête communautaire sur la structure des exploitations agricoles 1979/1980
 - n. 1. Introduction et bases méthodologiques 3 - 23
- Forestry statistics 1976-1980
 - 1984 2 - 12
- The rates of value-added tax in agriculture
 - 1984 2 - 38

B

BCR-Information

- The certification of the contents (mass fractions) of cadmium, cobalt, copper, manganese, mercury, nickel, lead and zinc in a sewage sludge of domestic origin - BCR No 144 2 - 17
- The certification of the contents of cadmium, copper, mercury and zinc in a calcareous loam soil - BCR No 141 2 - 18
- The certification of the contents of cadmium, copper, mercury, lead and zinc in a light sandy soil - BCR No 142 2 - 19
- The certification of the contents of cadmium, copper, nickel, lead and zinc in a sewage sludge amended soil - BCR No 143 2 - 20
- The certification of the mass fractions (contents) of cadmium, cobalt, copper, manganese, mercury, nickel, lead and zinc in a sewage sludge - BCR No 145 2 - 21
- The certification of the mass fractions (contents) of cadmium, cobalt, copper, manganese, mercury, nickel, lead and zinc in a sewage sludge of mainly industrial origin - BCR No 146 2 - 22
- Tantalum pentoxide on tantalum foil - BCR No 261 2 - 33

Biological sciences

- Effets biologiques des champs magnétiques 2 - 24
- Bulletin of the European Communities : Supplement
 - The structure of public limited companies 1 - 7

D

Document

- The employment of women in Portugal 3 - 6

E

Energy

- Energy audit No 2 - Aluminium industry in the European Economic Community 2 - 25
- Energy audit No. 3 - Pulp, paper and board industry in the European Economic Community 1 - 13
- Energy conservation by energy storage - Advanced batteries and fuel cells 2 - 26
- Geothermal energy - R & D Programme 2 - 30
- The second energy R & D programme - Energy conservation (1979-83) - Survey of results 2 - 13
- Third international seminar - Results of EC research and demonstration projects in the field of geothermal energy - European geothermal update 2 - 35
- Wind energy evaluation for the European Communities 3 - 20

Environment and quality of life

- Selected papers arising from the EEC primary raw materials programme (1978-81) 2 - 32

EURONORM

- Chemical analysis of ferrous materials: Determination of manganese in steels and irons - Electrometric titration method 3 - 10

Chemical analysis of ferrous materials: Determination of non-combined carbon (graphite) in steels and irons - Gravimetric method after combustion in a stream of oxygen 3 - 11

Chemical analysis of ferrous materials: Determination of sulphur in steels and irons - Gravimetric method 3 - 12

Chemical analysis of ferrous materials: Determination of total carbon in steels and irons - Gravimetric method after combustion in a stream of oxygen 3 - 13

Delivery conditions for surface finish of hot rolled plates and wide flats 3 - 14

European Certified Reference Materials (EURONORM-CRMs) for the determination of the chemical composition of iron and steel products - Information Circular No 1. European Certified Reference Materials (EURONORM-CRMs) prepared under the auspices of the European Coal & Steel Community (ECSC) - Information Circular No 1 2 - 14

Weldable fine-grained structural steels: Recommendations for processing, in particular for welding - Information circular no. 2 1 - 11

European documentation

- EEC Competition rules: Guide for small and medium-sized enterprises 1 - 10
- Statslige indkøb i Japan: Adgang til markedet 1 - 29
- Η περιβαλλοντική πολιτική των Ευρωπαϊκών Κοινοτήτων 2 - 16

European perspectives

- Het Europees Monetair Stelsel - Ontstaan, werking en perspectieven 2 - 2

I

Industrial processes

- Flat glass for building 2 - 29

Industry and services (blue cover)

- Annual investments in fixed assets in the industrial enterprises of the member countries of the European Communities 1975-1981
 - 1983 1 - 21
- Iron and steel yearbook 1983
 - 1983 1 - 25
- Structure and activity of industry - 1979/1980
 - 1984. Main results 3 - 27
- Yearbook of iron and steel 1952-1982
 - 1983 3 - 28

N

National accounts, finance and balance of payments (violet cover)

- Balances of payments - Geographical breakdown 1977-1981
 - 1983 1 - 22
- Balances of payments - Global data 1971-1982
 - 1983 2 - 37
- General government accounts and statistics 1970-1981
 - 1982 1 - 24
- Regional accounts ESA: Detailed tables by branches 1979/1980
 - 1981 1 - 26
- Studies of national accounts - No 2: Stock of fixed assets in industry in the Community Member States: towards greater comparability
 - 1983 1 - 28
- Studies of national accounts - No 3: Trends in the public finances of the Member States (1970-1981)
 - 1983 2 - 39

Nuclear science and technology

- The Community's research and development programme on decommissioning of nuclear power plants. Third annual progress report (year 1982) 2 - 23

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Études de corrosion des matériaux de conteneurs pour le stockage des déchets radioactifs en sites granitiques 3 - 18

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2 - 34

P

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fatigue 2 - 28

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- 1984 3 - 22

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- n.1. Principal results 3 - 25
- n.2. Results by size classes and by regions 3 - 26

Structure of earnings 1978-79 - Principal results
- n.2. FRANCE 1 - 27

R

Radioprotection

Effects of prenatal irradiation with special emphasis on late effects
3 - 16

S

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programme (1976-80) 1 - 14

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