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# ANNUAL REPORT 1986



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## **Foreword**

In October 1986 the Economic and Social Committee of the European Communities began a new term of office. Building on the achievements of previous years, representatives of a wide variety of interest groups from the 12 Member States are working together – whilst in no way compromising the interests they represent – on a common approach to the problems confronting Europe and the world.

### **The challenge**

And the problems are extremely serious. The industrial and social changes we are living through have once again given rise to an economic crisis which shows no sign of abating.

The decline of traditional sectors – for which restructuring and rationalization offer the only hope of survival – stagnating demand, the sluggish growth of purchasing power and the constraints affecting public finances in most countries have combined to produce a rise in unemployment which has been virtually impossible to control.

An ageing European population raises questions as to the future financing of pensions and sickness and invalidity benefits. At the same time youth unemployment – in addition to the plight of the older unemployed – is creating despondency and despair. Such a social climate is a breeding ground for discontent and indifference and for worrying phenomena such as crime, drug abuse, racism, terrorism and the re-emergence of poverty.

Lack of coordination in our research and development effort and administrative barriers to trade mean that Europe is falling behind more dynamic economies in new technologies and the sunrise industries.

Spectacular environmental disasters have dramatically highlighted the need for a Community environmental policy.

The cost of the common agricultural policy, on the other hand, – agriculture being the only area where policy is largely in the hands of the Community authorities – has risen

well above what is necessary to safeguard farmers' incomes. The massive surpluses are an intolerable financial burden, and this at a time when in other parts of the world there is hunger and malnutrition.

For all those involved in building the European Community these problems are a challenge which call for unified action.

### **Our task**

Although it is clear that no country can hope to surmount the crisis on its own, a Community approach to the problem is still impeded by the fact that the Member States give priority to their own national concerns. National governments and parliaments still believe that a European policy has little or no electoral appeal.

The Economic and Social Committee, a forum for European and national interest groups, can play a major role in increasing public awareness of Community issues. The Committee must be placed in a position to play this role and it must exploit every opportunity to the full.

The completion of the internal market can and must make the Community a tangible reality for Europeans.

The promotion of employment by means of Community aid to job creation projects, active promotion of small firms, the stepping-up of vocational training, an effective regional policy, a harmonized transport policy and greater cooperation on research and innovation will help convince the people of Europe that united we can achieve more than individually, and that a job-creating European growth strategy is needed to combat unemployment and offer families a better standard of living and better prospects for the future.

The Committee is a suitable forum where producers and consumers can engage in a frank dialogue with a view to solving the delicate problems of the CAP and where employers and workers can pave the way for social consensus.



This much needed Community policy will require cooperation between all the Community institutions. The Economic and Social Committee will therefore continue to develop its fruitful working relationships with the Commission, the European Parliament and the Council.

The improvement in the Community decision-making process that is to be expected from the Single European Act must enable the Committee to influence policy decisions and contribute valuable inputs in the shape of the views and proposals of the socio-economic interest groups.

But the Committee does more than merely produce Opinions and Reports. The Committee must be – as it has repeatedly been in the past – a forum where the main thrust of Community policy can be discussed and publicized. In November 1986 the Committee sponsored a conference on the cooperative, mutual and non-profit sector, and in 1987, the European Year of the Environment, it will be holding a conference on environmental problems.

The Committee will also continue to play its part in the external relations of the Community. The annual meetings with the EFTA Consultative Committee and the socio-economic representatives of the ACP countries, along with the Opinions and Reports produced on relations with third countries, clearly demonstrate the importance which the Committee attaches to an 'open Europe', which must continue to play its unique role in a 'world without frontiers'.

Finally, it is up to the members of the Committee, backed up by an efficient secretariat, to tell their countries and their organizations what issues are being dealt with in Brussels and to put across the message that the building of a true European Community is an enterprise that holds out high hopes for the people of the Community and their children.

Fons Margot  
Chairman

1986 was an important and, in my opinion, positive year for the Economic and Social Committee. Firstly, however, it should be mentioned that the general economic climate improved markedly for the first time since the onset of the recession. The fall in oil prices and in the dollar rate, in conjunction with a marked decline in inflation, brought about an appreciable revival of the Community economies. There was no decisive improvement, however, on the jobs front, where unemployment continues at a high level, especially youth and long-term unemployment. In my capacity as ESC Chairman I have repeatedly voiced the concern that we are underestimating the economic, social and political consequences of youth unemployment in particular, and that in time this could undermine our economic and social system.

In the Committee itself, 1986 brought some major changes. Mention should first be made of the arrival of the Spanish and Portuguese delegations which, apart from a few technical hitches, went off remarkably smoothly. The ESC's lengthy preparatory work, beginning with the enlargement conference in 1980 and continuing with regular visits to the acceding countries by the Chairman and Vice-Chairmen, paid off here. The Committee has now acquired what will probably be its definitive shape for the foreseeable future.

1986 was also marked by the signature of the Single European Act. The ESC was involved in the preparatory work carried out by the Dooge and Adonnino Committees, and I think I can say that its standing as an institution was not merely maintained, but rose. Whether or not the ESC uses the chances afforded it, especially in connection with the cooperation procedure between the Council and the Parliament, will depend on the Committee itself; the institutional requirements for this have, however, been met.

Less interesting for the general public, but of great importance for the Committee itself, was the thorough revision of its Rules of Procedure and Bureau Standing Orders. The purpose of the exercise, besides incorporating the new delegations, was mainly to tighten up working methods and so enable the ESC to make an adequate response to the numerous tasks devolving upon it as a result of proposals such as the completion of the internal market.

Finally, mention should be made of two points connected with the Committee's own-initiative work. Firstly I would like to refer to three information reports which tried to take stock of the problems arising in the Community from the introduction of new technologies, looked at from the angles of research and development, industry and social aspects. These reports form a foundation stone for future work on the new technologies, which represent one of the greatest challenges for the future of the Community.

The other point I wished to mention as one of the priorities of my term of office was the Committee's external relations: on the one hand with the Member States, their leading national organizations, and with the European umbrella associations. On the other hand, I also thought it necessary to hold talks with representatives from third country organizations, to plead the Community's case and thus try to avoid possible friction between the Community and its most important trading partners before political decisions are taken.

Gerd Muhr  
ESC Chairman 1985/86



## **Role and influence of the Committee**

The installation-in-office of the 21 new Spanish members and 12 new Portuguese members of the Economic and Social Committee of the European Communities was one of the major events of 1986. As a result of this enlargement the number of Committee members increased from 156 to 189.

The year under review also saw the expiry of the existing Committee members' four-year term of office – started in 1982 – and the appointment of the new members. The Committee consequently also elected a new Chairman and new Vice-Chairmen. It was on 15 September 1986 that the Council of the European Communities 'renewed' the Committee for the period 21 September 1986 to 20 September 1990. The inaugural session of the new Committee was held on 21, 22 and 23 October 1986 at the Committee building in Brussels. Mr Fons Margot (Belgium – Various Interests Group) was elected Chairman and Mr William G. Poeton (UK – Employers' Group) and Mr José María Zufiaur Narvaiza (Spain – Workers' Group) were elected Vice-Chairmen. The previous Chairman had been Mr Gerd Muhr (Germany – Workers) and the previous Vice-Chairmen Mr Philip H. Noordwal (The Netherlands – Employers) and Mr Umberto Emo Capodilista (Italy – Various Interests). Of the 189 members of the 1982–86 Committee 126 were re-elected and there were 63 new members appointed.

The other important event in the period under review concerns the adoption of the Single European Act at the European Council in Luxembourg. The Committee welcomes the fact that under the Single European Act it is to be consulted in the following fields:

- (i) internal market;
- (ii) economic and social cohesion;
- (iii) social policy;
- (iv) the environment, and
- (v) technological research and development.

The Single Act gives encouragement to the Committee by underlining its important and acknowledged role in Community decision-making.

When assessing the formal action taken on Committee Opinions by the EC institutions account must be taken of the endeavours made by the Committee and its Secretariat

to draw the attention of the various institutions, economic and social organizations and the press to the Opinions.

The Committee's influence can no longer be measured merely by the action taken on its Opinions. Over the last few years the Committee has assumed, in addition to the function assigned to it under the Treaties, the function of acting as a forum for representatives of economic and social organizations. This helps to enhance the value of its Opinions and make the Committee known to a wider audience. Attention should therefore be paid to the following points:

- (i) the Committee's impact on the EC decision-making process;
- (ii) the promotion of Committee Opinions.

### **Impact of Committee Opinions**

Although the drafting of its Opinions constitutes the essential activity of the Committee, it is still difficult to assess the Committee's work on the strength of criteria which do not attach sufficient importance to all the action it undertakes. This assessment will therefore go beyond the confines of the action taken on Opinions and cover the results obtained in other fields of the Committee's activity and, all the various measures initiated in the process, such as:

- (i) comparisons between the Committee's Opinion and the decisions ultimately taken by the Council or the Commission;
- (ii) media coverage of Committee Opinions;
- (iii) press conferences;
- (iv) the individual dispatch of Opinions with covering letters, either to the relevant ministers or administrative departments, or to the trade organizations and economic and social interest groups concerned;
- (v) the circulation of Opinions, e.g. in the form of a brochure;
- (vi) talks between the Rapporteur for the Opinion and the Chairman of the Council Working Group;
- (vii) contact with MEPs, particularly with the Rapporteur involved;
- (viii) further activities.

It is difficult to assess the Committee's direct influence on the EC legislative process in view of the fact that certain of the proposals on which it issues an Opinion are not adopted by the Council until several months later. In the meantime the original draft proposals may have been modified by the Commission.

One example of the impact of the Committee's Opinions may be provided by the Opinion on farm prices for 1986/87 which was submitted to the Council in good time to be taken into account. The Council's decision included a number of the proposals made by the Committee in its Opinion. The Committee's call for socio-structural measures designed to bring about a stricter policy on prices was, for example, taken into consideration by the Commission.

If the Committee's Opinions are able to influence decisions one of the prerequisites is that they should be delivered in good time and should tie in with the matters currently under review in the Community. For this to be possible the timetables and the work schedules of the institutions to which the Opinions are addressed have to be coordinated. Recent examples confirm that the Committee's Opinions have to meet the requirements of the institutions requesting Opinions by tying in with the priorities set by these institutions.

A further way in which the Committee may influence Community decision-making is by issuing Opinions on its own initiative. These Opinions may be that much more effective in that the subjects dealt with go beyond the confines of a single sector or industry and the views expressed by the Committee relate to a matter of general concern and therefore continue to be of topical interest for a longer period. The Own-initiative Opinions issued during the reference period include those on European Road Safety Year and the impact of the common agricultural policy on the social situation of farmworkers in the Community.

### **The promotion of the Committee's Opinions**

The promotion of the Committee's Opinions is becoming more and more a continuous process carried out by the Committee in a variety of fields. The Committee is developing its relations with the institutions, in particular via Section members' and with economic and social interest groups, via the Committee's Employers' Group, Workers' Group and Various Interests Group.

The most noteworthy results in this field have been obtained by the Committee in its relations with the Commission. The Committee has a long tradition of confidential contacts with the Commission in respect of the preparatory work carried out by the various Committee Sections. This collaboration has been underscored at the highest level with the participation of the President of the European Commission in the Committee's work. In February 1986 Mr Delors attended the Committee's Plenary Session at which he presented the Commission's work programme to Committee members. Several Members of the Commission have also addressed the Committee's plenary sessions either on specific occasions or in debates on sectors for which they are responsible. One of the Spanish Members of the Commission, Mr Abel Matutes, for example, attended the Committee's special session in March at which the new Spanish members of the Committee were installed in office. Mr Matutes also took part in the debate at the Committee's plenary session in September on the importance of technological research and development in respect of small and medium-sized enterprises.

The Portuguese Member of the Commission, Mr Antonio Cardoso e Cunha, attended the Committee's Plenary Session in May at which the new Portuguese members were installed in office.

Mr Alois Pfeiffer, Member of the Commission, took part in two debates held by the Committee on the economic situation in the Community – one on the situation in the first half of 1986 which was held in July and the other on the situation in the second half of the year which was held in November.

Mr Carlo Ripa di Meana, Member of the Commission, attended the Committee's inaugural session in October 1986.

The Committee has also maintained close contacts with the European Parliament, both as regards relations between the Committee Chairman and the President of the Parliament and as regards cooperation between the Committee's Sections and the corresponding Committees of the European Parliament. To quote an example, Mrs Cassanmagnano-Cerretti, an official representative of the European Parliament, delivered an address to the Committee at its special session to install in office the new Spanish members. In her address Mrs Cassanmagnano-Cerretti drew attention to the excellent relations existing between the two institutions. She went on to say: 'There is a field in which henceforth we (the European Parliament) must be able to count on even greater support from the Committee and the economic and social interest groups with their remarkable powers of influencing public opinion. The task to which I am referring is the achievement of European union.'

The Committee's relations with the Council have been pursued and strengthened. The Committee's Chairman, Mr Muhr, met Sir David Hannay, the Permanent Representative of the UK, the country holding the Presidency of the Council from July to December 1986, on two occasions.

The Committee Chairman also met Mr H.J. Ch. Rutten, the Permanent Representative of the Netherlands, the country holding the Council Presidency for the first half of 1986. Speaking at the Committee's special session at which it installed in office the Spanish members, Mr Rutten pointed out that the accession of Spain and Portugal to the European Community was one of the major events of 1986. Mr van Eekelen, the Netherlands' State Secretary for Foreign Affairs, addressed Committee members on the occasion of the installation-in-office of the new Portuguese members and told them: 'As expert advisors to the Community the reports and Opinions which you issue are the essential link which keeps the EC institutions in touch with the real living and working conditions in the Member States.'

At the inaugural session of the new Committee in October, Mr David Elliott, speaking on behalf of the UK President of the Council, warmly congratulated the members on their appointment and read a message of congratulation from Sir Geoffrey Howe, the President of the Council. Mrs Lynda Chalker, UK Minister of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, has recently completed an appraisal of the UK's six-month tenancy of the Presidency of the Council.



In his parting address to the Committee the retiring Chairman, Mr Muhr, pointed out that although the Committee's relations with the Council had improved, a number of problems remained. In Mr Muhr's own words: 'We, (the Committee members) must recognize the respective powers of our two institutions and recognize that, even if the Council makes a formal request to the Committee for an Opinion, the Committee none the less has no legal right to insist that its Opinion be taken into consideration.'

Mr Muhr went on to say that: 'In spite of all our efforts, there is as yet no official procedure for keeping the Committee informed of the action taken by the Council on its Opinions, nor is information on this matter provided to the Committee on a regular basis. The cultivation of our relations with the Council must therefore be our number one priority. We have been pleased to see that various States which have recently held the Presidency of the Council, namely Italy, Luxembourg, The Netherlands and the UK, have been particularly helpful to the Committee by informing us in good time of their respective work programmes and permitting us to make observations on a number of points.'

'I should make special mention of the Single European Act about which we have been kept informed both by the preparatory committees and by the Council Presidents themselves, both prior to and directly after its adoption.'

'I think I can now say that this Act not only confirms the existing rights of the Committee but even extends them and it is now up to us to use the opportunities created. This will, however, require some changes on our part.'

During the period under review the Chairman and Vice-Chairmen made a number of official visits, several meetings of Committee working parties were held away from Brussels and the Committee had a number of contacts with other socio-economic organizations.

One of the official visits made during the year was that undertaken by the Chairman, Mr Gerd Muhr, to the Hague, (The Netherlands) in April. On that occasion the Committee's delegation included the Vice-Chairmen, Mr Noordwal, and Mr Emo Capodilista, and the Committee's Secretary-General, Mr Louet.

During his visit Mr Muhr held talks with the following Ministers: Mr H.E. de Koning, Minister for Social Affairs and Employment, Mr O.M.U. van Aarden, Minister for Economic Affairs, Mr H. van der Broek, Minister for External Relations and President of the Council, and Mr W.F. van Eekelen, Secretary of State for European Affairs.

Mr Muhr also had discussions with the President of the Netherlands' Economic and Social Council, Mr Quene, and other members of the Council.

The main subjects discussed were the completion of the internal market, agriculture, relations between the EC and the USA and institutional matters.

In September the Committee's Chairman, and Secretary-General, made a fact-finding visit to Israel. The Committee's delegation held talks with the leaders of the Trade Union Confederation, Histadrut the Association of Israeli Industrialists, leading offi-

cialists from the Ministries of Foreign Affairs and Agriculture and members of the Israeli Economic and Social Committee.

Mr Muhr also attended the formal session of the Council in Luxembourg on 17 February 1986 at which the Single European Act was adopted. In September 1986 he attended the 22nd Congress of the International Social Security Association in Montreal.

The Committee held joint meetings with the Consultative Committee of the European Free Trade Association (EFTA) in Brussels and Bruges on 10 and 11 April 1986. Both committees comprise representatives of employers' organizations, trade unions, farmers associations, cooperatives, consumer associations, professional organizations and other economic interest groups in the respective States.

The joint meeting dealt primarily with the positions to be adopted by the EC and EFTA at the forthcoming GATT multilateral negotiations. The delegates also considered ways of achieving concrete cooperation between the EC and EFTA in the field of technology, in particular as part of the various existing or future research programmes.

The Committee's delegation was led by the Committee Chairman, Mr Gerd Muhr, and the Chairman of its Section for External Relations, Mr Maurice Zinkin (UK – Employers Group).

The EFTA delegation was led by the Chairman of the EFTA Consultative Committee, Mr Jürg Zeller (Federation of Swiss Importers and Wholesalers).

On 2 and 3 December 1986 the Committee hosted the annual meeting between representatives of the economic and social interest groups in the African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) States and the EC. The discussions focused on the role and contribution of the economic and social interest groups in the ACP and EC States as regards the implementation of the third Convention of Lomé, and in particular as regards rural, industrial and social development.

On 10 and 11 November the new Committee Chairman, Mr Fons Margot, accompanied by the two new Vice-Chairmen, Mr William Poeton and Mr José Maria Zufiaur Narvaiza and the Secretary-General, Mr Roger Louet, made an official visit to the UK Government.

The Committee's delegation met the Rt. Hon. Mrs Lynda Chalker, Minister of State at the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, Mr Michael Howard, QC, MP, Under-Secretary of State at the Department of Trade and Industry; Mr Ian Stewart, MP, Economic Secretary at the Treasury and Mr John Lee, MP, Under-Secretary of State at the Department of Employment.

The visit included meetings with top representatives of the Trades Union Congress, the Confederation of British Industry, Small Business Organizations, the National Economic Development Office, the professions and local government.

On an earlier occasion, on 3 November, Mr Margot had held a meeting with the UK Permanent Representative to the EC, Sir David Hannay.

On 27 November 1986 the Chairman and Mr Poeton and Mr Zufiaur, the two Vice-Chairmen, along with Committee Bureau Members and the Secretary-General, Mr Louet, were invited to a luncheon held by members of Coreper (Committee of Permanent Representatives) in Brussels.

On the occasion of the annual meeting of the Chairman and Secretaries-General of the national Economic and Social Councils, hosted by the Committee, Mr Margot was received in audience by His Royal Highness, King Baudouin of the Belgians on 28 November.

On 20 and 21 November a conference entitled 'The cooperative, mutual and non-profit sector: Contributions to the building of Europe' was held at the Committee building. The conference was organized jointly by the Coordinating Committee for Cooperatives in the European Community and the Economic and Social Committee.

Finally, it should be noted that the Committee's external relations are conducted not solely by its Chairman, Vice-Chairmen and Secretary-General. A very active role is also played by the Committee's members in publicizing the European ideal and the work of the Committee in their local areas or regions and at international level. A very considerable amount of work is carried out by members in this respect which it would be impossible to list. The Committee's members do, however, clearly make a very notable contribution to the construction of Europe and to spreading the Committee's reputation throughout the world.



## **Work of the Committee**

### **1. AGRICULTURAL POLICY**

CAP issues which directly affect the interests represented on the ESC and therefore acquire a special significance for them, loomed large in 1986. The Committee adopted Opinions, either unanimously or by a large majority, on the Commission's proposals for adapting the CAP.

A recurring theme in these Opinions was disappointment at the Commission's failure to give adequate substance to the radical CAP reforms proposed in its 1985 Green Paper.

The Committee's disappointment at the failure to implement the Green Paper properly undermined its guarded approval of the 1986/87 farm price proposals, the proposals for reforming the cereal and beef market regimes, and the socio-structural proposals. The various measures for revising the CAP cannot be effective, according to the Committee, unless they are part and parcel of a well-knit overall strategy and are conceived and implemented as a package.

Without a clear definition of the objectives to be pursued, it is difficult to link market and structural measures, or assess their effectiveness.

The Committee's concern at the lack of an overall strategy is borne out in the unanimously adopted Own-initiative Opinion on the CAP's effects on the social situation of farmworkers in the Community.

The aim of this Opinion, which was a sequel to the 1985 Information Report on the same subject, was to highlight the danger of paying insufficient attention to the interests of farmworkers and workers engaged in the first stage of food processing. This had been the case in the past, and in the new CAP guidelines. The measures which the Committee considered vital included aid for workers hit by the CAP's reform, the creation of alternative employment, vocational training and rehabilitation and early retirement schemes, as well as a Community programme ensuring all-the-year round employment for seasonal workers.

The Community's blueprint for forestry fits in with the Commission's thinking on reforming CAP in order to cut production.

In its Opinion on this subject the Committee reiterated the need for an independent common forestry policy which was not simply aimed at solving agricultural problems. This point of view was borne out by the findings of the Section for Agriculture when it met in the Landes region of France to draw up its Opinion on the socio-structural proposals, in which the forestry sector occupies a prominent place.

### **Fisheries policy**

In its initial appraisal of the Commission's move to provide a uniform set of provisions aimed at improving and adapting structures in the fisheries and aquaculture sectors, the Committee approved the principle and general approach.

Though the proposed measures largely satisfy the wishes expressed by the Committee in February 1985 in its Information Report and Opinion on the situation and medium-term prospects for the Community fisheries sector, there are still several shortcomings that need to be rectified. In particular, the set of measures planned for the next decade makes no allowance for the social measures which, in the Committee's view, should form part and parcel of the structural policy required in such a rapidly changing sector, especially after the accession of Spain and Portugal.

## **2. TRANSPORT POLICY**

### **General comments**

During the period in question the Committee was asked by the Council to deliver 12 Opinions; three of these (cabotage, access to the market in the road haulage sector and interregional air services) were still pending at the end of the year. The Committee also delivered an Opinion on its own initiative on European Road Safety Year (1986), and an Information Report on stocktaking and prospects for a Community rail policy was submitted by the Section. The Committee's work on these 14 subjects falls into five main areas:

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| 1. The easing of checks and administrative formalities on the carriage of goods between Member States | 1 |
| 2. Infrastructure (financing)   | 2 |
| 3. Transport by rail (1), road (6) and inland waterway (1)  | 8 |
| 4. Sea transport  | 1 |
| 5. Air transport  | 2 |

Any assessment of the Committee's role in the consultative process, and in particular its influence on the Council and the Commission, must make allowance for the time lags involved in this process. Only very rarely does the Council decision on any given subject come in the same year as the Committee opinion, especially if the Commission

amends its original proposal. This report will, therefore, not be based on a chronological treatment of the Opinions adopted by the Plenary Session in 1986 but instead will attempt to take a look at matters dealt with at Transport Council meetings during the period in question, even where the relevant Committee work dates back to previous years.

A third point must also be made in advance to explain the background to transport policy in 1986. In 1985 two events occurred which put Transport Ministers on the spot – the European Court of Justice's judgment of 22 May in Case 13/83 (failure to act) and the Milan Summit of the European Council in June (White Paper on completion of the internal market). The effects of these events were also felt at the Economic and Social Committee. On 28 February 1986 the European Act was also signed by the last three Member States which had participated in the Milan Summit. Article 8(a) of the European Act requires the step-by-step creation by 31 December 1992 of an internal market 'without frontiers'. In practical terms this means the establishment of an area without internal frontiers in which free movement of persons, goods, services and capital is ensured in accordance with the provisions of the EEC Treaty. In order to make it easier to achieve the objectives set out in Article 8(a), the new rules brought into force by the Single Act provide for qualified majority voting (though the principle of unanimity has been retained in Article 99 for tax harmonization). As far as land transport is concerned, the legal basis for decision-making remains unchanged, as majority decisions are already possible under Article 75 except in matters concerning taxation. None the less, there is now greater pressure for integration in the field of transport, as the majority voting principle is also to apply to maritime and air transport (Article 84(2)).

### **The Committee's consultative work in the light of the decisions of the European Transport Ministers**

On 30 June 1986 the Council looked at important road haulage issues and reached certain decisions on the future organization of the (internal) road haulage market. The phased establishment of this market is to be completed by 1992, by which time all quantitative restrictions will have been abolished. As part of this process the Council announced that with effect from 1 January 1987 the annual rate of increase of the Community quota would be raised from 15 to 40%. In November the Commission submitted a proposal for a regulation on this subject, but this was rejected by the Committee on the grounds that no action had been taken to put competition on an equal footing. The ESC based its argument on the Council decisions of 30 June 1986. At its meeting on 15/16 December 1986 the Transport Council fell into line with the Committee's Opinion and postponed its decision until its next meeting on 24 March 1987. A Commission Communication on tax harmonization, which was to be submitted by the end of 1986, should have been given a first reading by then. This was in accordance with the Council's decision that during the transitional period the moves to eliminate distortions of competition should be carefully pursued and that by 1 January 1987 the Commission should submit a study on motor vehicle and mineral oil taxation and road tolls.

On 15/16 December 1986 the Council also adopted a Directive amending Directive 83/643/EEC on the facilitation of physical inspections and administrative formalities in respect of the carriage of goods between Member States. This measure, which was welcomed in the Committee's Opinion of February 1986, is an important step towards the establishment of the internal European market.

During the period covered by this report air transport was also tackled for the first time by the Council. In accordance with the Committee's Opinion on the Second Air Transport Memorandum and the decisions of the European Council of 26/27 June 1986, the Transport Council reached the general conclusion at its meeting of 30 June 1986 that there had to be greater competition in air transport as regards tariffs, capacity and access to the market in accordance with the Treaty's rules on competition. At the Council meetings on 10/11 November and 15/16 December 1986 the discussions on the subject were pursued and a closer measure of agreement was reached.

After protracted negotiations in Council, progress was also made at the 15/16 December meeting on maritime transport and agreement reached on four out of five issues. A decisive contribution here was made by the Committee's exhaustive Opinion of November 1985 (details of which can be found on pages 22 to 25 of the 1985 Annual Report). The Council agreement covers: the principle of the freedom to provide services<sup>1</sup> which is to be introduced in three phases on 31 December 1989, 31 December 1991 and 1 January 1993 respectively; coordinated action to safeguard free access to cargoes (liner, bulk and passenger traffic); application of the competition articles of the EEC Treaty; and unfair pricing practices (Annexes II.2, II.1, II.5 and II.6 of the Memorandum).

A demand concerning ports, contained in the ESC's Opinion of 21 May 1986 on the Marine Transport Memorandum (Part 2), was also favourably received by the Transport Council at its meeting on 15/16 December 1986. The Council instructed the Commission to prepare a report by 31 December 1987 on financial relations between the port sector and governments.

At its final meeting of 1986 the Council adopted a Regulation on the granting of financial aid to certain infrastructure projects in Community countries. The urgency procedure was used for the adoption of the Committee's Opinion on this *ad hoc* measure, to which 90 million ECU was allocated from the 1985 budget. In its Opinion the Committee welcomed the promotion of the projects in question, but sharply criticized the Council for lacking the will to adopt a medium-term financial instrument.

Finally, it should not be forgotten that the Council has seemingly reached agreement on the basis for a Community rail policy. A 1984 Commission document proposing the amendment of Directive 75/327/EC has been discussed in this connection. The primary aim is to put railways on an equal footing with other forms of transport as regards the charging of infrastructure costs. The Council has expressed its approval of an ESC Opinion adopted in early January 1985 which welcomed this proposal, but has not yet itself adopted the proposal.

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<sup>1</sup> Except for cabotage in other Member States and off-shore services.



### 3. SOCIAL POLICY

The Committee's annual Opinion on social developments in the EC, compared the positive economic indicators registered in the Community in 1985 with key developments on the social front, such as the maintenance of wage moderation for the Community as a whole, the failure of social spending rates to keep pace with the growth in GDP, increased poverty, social conflict and unemployment.

Particular attention was drawn to the uneven geographical distribution of unemployment, the still worrying rate of youth unemployment (37,1%), the increasing rate of registered female unemployment (12,1%), the highly disadvantaged situation of the disabled and older workers, and the resultant problems for social security systems.

The Committee once again stressed the interdependence of economic and social policy, and in particular the need to preserve social cohesion and solidarity as essential elements in the type of sustained economic growth which can create jobs and constructively reduce the inequalities in living conditions.

Community legislation in the social field made no significant advances in 1985, while the Commission's 1986 programme showed no sign of an overall strategy for combating unemployment.

The Committee called on the Commission, together with the European Investment Bank, to consider the feasibility of setting up an EC-wide Employment Fund, based on new facilities for job-creating investment credit.

The Committee also stressed the importance of the dialogue between the two sides of industry in the Community, but felt that progress could not be made without the appropriate commitment and legal instruments.

The recent Single European Act confirmed and gave new vigour to the fundamental values of the Community. Such revitalization must be encouraged so that a genuine European political, social and economic union can be created with a better chance of resolving the major international problems currently disrupting the social and economic life of the entire Community.

In a follow-up to previous Committee work and, in particular, the November 1984 conference, the Section for Social Questions produced an Information Report on the Social Aspects of New Technologies. After stating that technological change was not possible unless priority was given to the social aspects, the report discussed these aspects (employment, training, working conditions, etc.). New technologies were considered to be neither good nor bad in themselves. It all depended on how they were applied. In the Section's view, greater attention had to be paid to the social acceptability aspect.

In view of the second medium-term Community programme 1986-90 on equal opportunities for women, the Committee unanimously declared that equal opportunities for women was a fundamental principle and a right whose implementation should not be postponed until the economic climate improved especially when it was the present

economic climate which had exacerbated female unemployment and discrimination. This was also why the Committee had endorsed recent relevant draft Directives on equal occupational social security schemes, on parental leave and on measures to help self-employed women. More political will and majority voting in Council were needed if these issues were to be satisfactorily unblocked.

In approving the Commission programme, the Committee went on to stress the need for a tighter series of dates and deadlines for the completion and intensification of measures proposed, and for the specific setting of female training and employment participation rates, especially in scientific, technical and managerial sectors. Recruitment, employment conditions and fair career structures for women should be monitored by independent panels and worker-management consultative committees.

The Committee unanimously endorsed the Commission proposal for moves to reverse the burden of proof as applied to equal opportunity cases brought before the law. This would encourage and stimulate good employment practice and modern personnel techniques, both of which were in the interests of forward-looking management.

Considerable media coverage was given to the Opinion, following a major press conference held in Munich.

In an Opinion on the Commission's employment of the disabled proposal, the Committee pointed out that the concerted implementation of an overall economic and social policy aiming at more qualitative growth and fuller employment was the precondition for the adoption of measures capable of improving disabled people's employment prospects in practice and in depth. The Committee reiterated that everyone should have an equal right to work, and shared the Commission's view that the disabled have the same right as all other workers to equal opportunity in training and employment.

In response to the Commission's proposed raising of the anti-poverty programme budget from 25 million ECU to 29 million ECU in order to take into account the accession of Spain and Portugal to the Community, the Committee supported the amending proposal, but still considered the programme's budget as a whole to be too limited.

The Committee also discussed two proposals with regard to health and safety at work. The proposal amending the Directive on major accident hazards was regarded as a satisfactory compromise between the need to effectively limit hazards in the light of current scientific knowledge and practical experience, and the need to take account of the constraints and economic realities actually faced by the firms and competent authorities concerned. The criteria used by the Commission in its choice of substances and quantities showed that efforts had been made to satisfy this dual requirement. The Committee nevertheless called upon the Commission to continue its efforts to acquire a better knowledge of different industrial processes so that it could better establish criteria which were as objective and scientific as possible, thereby making it possible to bring the Annexes into line with scientific and industrial developments.

In its Opinion on the protection of workers from the risks related to exposure to benzene at work, the Committee accepted the limit values proposed by the Commission.

However, it expressed regret that it was not possible to eliminate exposure completely. The Committee added that priority had to be given to workers' health, though firms' competitiveness and the needs of economic growth should not be prejudiced.

The Committee adopted two Opinions in favour of European youth exchanges. The first, on the proposed 'Erasmus' scheme drawn up by the Commission in order to increase to 10% by 1992 the number of students who spend a period of study in another Member State, stated the need to encourage such mobility throughout the entire higher education curriculum via appropriate selection, course credit transfer facilities and the development of streamlined common 'core' topics. The second Opinion, on the proposed 'YES for Europe' youth exchange scheme, urged the Commission to develop from the start of the programme appropriate European machinery, in addition to the national agencies foreseen, for the implementation especially of multi-lateral exchanges. The Committee also called for a European advisory committee and a European Agency.

The Committee argued in its Opinion on Consumer Education that a draft directive would have been more suitable rather than a resolution. Endorsing, none the less, the Commission's proposals to undertake specific actions to promote consumer education in school curricula at primary and secondary levels, the Committee stressed the need for a multi-disciplinary approach rather than the introduction of a specific new subject. It further emphasized the beneficial civic and cultural aspects of consumer education, especially in terms of developing critical awareness, involvement, responsibility and social solidarity.

Finally, the Committee gave its further support to the adaptation and updating of Regulations 1408/71 and 572/82 with regard to social security for Community migrant workers and members of their families. This time, the Committee called for the publication of documentation setting out the Community provisions applicable in this field in simple terms.

### **Local employment initiatives**

In its Own-initiative Opinion on local employment initiatives, the Committee concluded that:

- (i) LEIs can generally be identified as being advantageous and socially desirable, but they cannot be seen as a panacea to mass unemployment and their aggregate job-creative impact remains unclear;
- (ii) these initiatives tend to be induced and helped along as part of a local climate of community commitment, involvement and collective self-reliance, and prime-mover groups are often crucial;
- (iii) sustainable jobs and the improvement of local social conditions ought to remain the essential focuses for supporting LEI development;
- (iv) such support needs to be based on a partnership of understanding between LEI prime movers, the statutory public bodies and local authorities and the social partners;

- (v) Member States and the European Community need to put together a more comprehensive and less inhibiting legal framework conducive to the promotion of varying forms of LEIs;
- (vi) LEI development must not lead to a diversion into the 'black' economy.

The Committee puts forward the following specific proposals:

- (i) Member States ought to calculate and provide the Community with reliable data on the net job-creative impact of LEIs and how more sustainable jobs might be promoted in our local economies;
- (ii) Member States should encourage local groups, communities and regions to secure an appropriate participation in the distribution of funds available;
- (iii) a new, credit-based, European Employment Fund ought to be given consideration;
- (iv) 'up-front' financing of viable LEIs could be facilitated by the use of substantial single grants and guarantees;
- (v) the Community ought to promote the setting up of professional advisory services for LEI development, and build on and further encourage the useful 'networking' and information role of ELISE;
- (vi) all persons employed or self-employed in LEIs ought to have access to State support in the form of unemployment benefit and other social insurance benefits both in case of failure and of temporary inactivity;
- (vii) workers' take-overs of insolvent or bankrupt enterprises could be facilitated by formally involving them in the liquidation procedures;
- (viii) the role of the social partners in stimulating LEIs and ensuring proper working conditions could be organized through the setting up, Europe-wide, of local and regional tripartite councils.

#### 4. ECONOMIC AND FINANCIAL POLICY

The Committee's Opinions on general economic policy are issued according to a set pattern: around the middle of the year the Committee delivers an Opinion on the economic situation in the Community, and this is followed in the autumn by an Opinion on the Commission's Annual Economic Report. The first Opinion assesses the current economic situation and fixes the economic priorities that are called for in the view of the economic and social groupings represented on the Committee. The economic policy programme proposed in this Opinion forms the basis for the discussion of the appraisals and proposals contained in the Commission's Annual Economic Report.

Each year the Committee also produces reports on the economic situation in the two countries holding the Presidency of the Council in the two successive six-month periods.

In its Own-initiative Opinion on the economic situation in the Community in mid-1986, the Committee points out that, in spite of the improvement in basic economic conditions in 1986, the need to adopt a medium-term cooperative strategy designed to bring about a noticeable fall in the level of unemployment by means of an improved social dialogue remains just as strong.

The first part of the Opinion, which is based on Commission statistics, gives a brief description of economic growth, inflation, employment trends and the medium-term outlook.

The Committee then gives its views on the implementation of a cooperative strategy for growth and employment. The success of such a strategy does not in the Committee's view depend solely on the attitudes of, and relations between employers, workers and governments in the Member States. It is also contingent on the coordination of their economic and financial policies and on a reduction of the serious trade imbalances in the Community.

The Committee thus proposes the enlargement of the EMS and improvements in its operation, the moderation of real wage increases, demand support, a neutral monetary policy, a reduction in working time, the adoption of policies for employment, energy policies and completion of the Community's internal market.

The Committee believes that pay moderation will contribute towards a continuous improvement in return on capital, the volume of investment and the viability of labour-intensive production.

Lower interest rates, stable prices and an upturn in private and public investment could also stimulate demand.

If the employment situation is to be improved, the cooperative growth strategy should be backed up by the reorganization and reduction of working time. The latter may take a variety of forms.

Finally, the Committee considers that the preconditions for, and effectiveness of, the cooperative strategy for growth and employment will undoubtedly be improved by removing residual barriers to trade within the common market and by implementing an energy policy that avoids erratic movements in the price of oil.

The Committee's Opinion on the Commission's Annual Economic Report 1986-87 bases itself on the abovementioned economic policy guidelines, dealing in particular with the problems involved in implementing the cooperative growth strategy adopted by the Council in December 1985. The Committee shares the Commission's view that there is still a discrepancy between potential growth opportunities and the actual growth rates achieved. This can probably be put down to the failure to properly apply the cooperative growth strategy. The Commission should not, therefore, confine itself to promoting social dialogue at Community level. It should rather develop machinery for evaluating and promoting the implementation of the cooperative growth strategy at national level. The interim report on the implementation of the Community strategy due out in July 1987 is thus an absolute necessity. It is to be hoped that national governments will take up the Commission's invitation and present submissions on the strategy's implementation.

In principle, the social dialogue should cover all aspects of the cooperative growth strategy. It should take place at both sectoral level and the level of the economy as a whole. As the body empowered by the basic EC Treaties to advise the other Commu-

nity institutions – and hence as the foremost platform for social dialogue – the Economic and Social Committee advocates social dialogue at all levels and in all forms.

Fiscal policy must play a key role in implementing the cooperative growth strategy since the current trend in private investment is not keeping pace with the improvement in supply-side conditions, improved profitability in particular. Since unemployment is abnormally high in all Member States except Luxembourg, the Committee has no objection to the proposal that the rise in real labour costs and real wages should remain below productivity growth, provided that (a) the other components of the cooperative growth strategy are systematically implemented, (b) investment is further increased and (c) extra jobs are created.

In view of the present situation, particularly the disappointing results in combating unemployment in 1986 and the prospects for 1987, the Committee considers that the cooperative strategy should lay greater emphasis on the reorganization and reduction of working time. The introduction of shorter working hours within the framework of a cooperative strategy must not be confined to meeting the desires of individual workers as this would mean that the jobless would lose out. Employers' interests should be accommodated by ensuring that cuts in working hours do not push up their costs. The Commission correctly points out that this can be achieved by longer production plant runs which often require a more flexible use of labour. The aim of the social dialogue is to identify mutually acceptable ways of deploying the workforce. The Committee also endorses the Commission's proposal to review superfluous or distorting provisions which hinder the creation or expansion of small and medium-sized firms and to devise a policy for overcoming such hindrances.

In 1986 the reports on the economic situation of individual EC Member States drawn up in connection with the Opinions on the EC economic policy were devoted to the Netherlands and the UK. Members of the Study Group held meetings in The Hague and in London to discuss the economic problems of these two States with representatives of the respective economic and social interest groups.

In its report on the economic situation in the Netherlands, the Committee examines the country's economic policy objectives, e.g. full employment, balance-of-payments equilibrium, growth, acceptable distribution of incomes, stable prices, reduction of the PSBR, and a healthy environment.

The report on the economic situation in the UK describes economic trends and prospects in the country, examining in particular economic policy concepts and unemployment problems.

The second important issue dealt with by the Committee during the year, after its consideration of general economic strategy, was financial integration in the Community. In the Own-initiative Opinion which it issued on this subject the Committee notes that the Community measures designed to bring about financial integration have not kept pace with the development of monetary and financial relations between the various economic and geographical areas of the world, a factor which could have adverse implications for the process of Community integration as a whole. The Committee

feels that the right conditions now exist to take action in this field and to bring about the financial integration of the EC Member States.

In order to create a European financial area, instruments to remove the present legal and institutional barriers will be needed. The Committee therefore advocates that, at the same time as seeking closer economic integration, the Community take swift decisions to bring about the gradual but complete liberalization of capital markets. It makes a number of suggestions to this end.

In the fields of financial innovation, monetary policy and market stability, the Committee urges the Community institutions to press ahead with financial integration, but draws attention to the possible effects of innovation on the national authorities' management of the money markets and on market stability. It is essential to create the right conditions for effective competition in the field of financial services if satisfactory financial integration is to be attained. Legislative, administrative and technical measures will therefore need to be taken to harmonize financial services in the Member States (banks, stock exchanges, collective investment funds and insurance companies).

With respect to the European Monetary System and the role of the ECU, the Committee urges the Commission and the Council to make a more determined effort to bring about economic convergence amongst the Member States and to tighten the coordination of credit mechanisms. Lastly, the Committee feels that the process of monetary and financial integration would be accompanied by a parallel process of fiscal harmonization with a view to the alignment of conditions within a single European market. It would be appropriate to align levels of company taxation, so that companies are not influenced by the tax systems of the Member State when deciding on their location. The Committee also draws the attention of the Commission and the Council to the problems of fraud, tax evasion and tax havens.

The Committee delivered a further Opinion in the field of finance relating to the information to be published when major holdings in a listed company change ownership. The Committee notes that this proposal is part of a general programme for listed companies and agrees in principle with its main thrust. The Committee considers that the adoption of this proposal will make stock exchange operations more transparent for shareholders and investors, and will encourage savers to acquire shares in listed companies.

The Committee also delivered Opinion on four taxation proposals (excise duties and VAT) referred by the Commission.

The first of these Opinions concerns the extension of the second stage of harmonization of taxes other than turnover taxes affecting the consumption of manufactured tobacco. In its Opinion the Committee states that it is not opposed to the extension, simply because it is mindful of the need to safeguard what has already been achieved at Community level. The Committee urges the competent Community bodies to implement the third and last stage of harmonization at the earliest possible opportunity.

The second Opinion is concerned with a one-year deferment of the introduction of the common system of value-added tax in the Hellenic Republic. The Committee approves the proposal, whilst expressing the hope that Greece will not apply for any further deferment. The Committee recommends that the EC Commission provide Greece with every possible assistance in introducing the VAT system.

The third Opinion deals with VAT rules for a cross-channel fixed link. The Committee finds this proposal simple, logical and fair. It urges the Commission to press ahead with work on eliminating residual discrepancies in indirect taxation on passenger services in general.

Finally, the Committee delivered an Opinion on the Commission's proposal for a standstill on VAT and excise duties. The Committee in principle approves the proposal but feels that it is too modest for the goal being pursued, i.e. harmonization of Member States' VAT and excise duties systems. The Committee regrets that the proposal leaves a very large number of problems unsolved.

## 5. REGIONAL POLICY

During the period under consideration, the Committee delivered five Opinions on regional development matters.

### **National regional development aid**

This Opinion encompasses the main guidelines and conclusions of the lengthy Information Report compiled in 1985 with the assistance of a number of internationally renowned experts.

This Opinion points out that, compared to the large sums spent in national aid, the impact of Community funding seems relatively small. Operational arrangements and criteria for selection differ significantly but all national aid has to take heed of Articles 92 and 93 of the Treaty of Rome, which permit State subsidies only in certain exceptional and carefully recorded cases.

The Opinion concludes that aid systems should preferably be aligned but, in particular, that Articles 92 and 93 need to be interpreted more flexibly and be more closely tailored to the economic difficulties of the region concerned. For this purpose, account must be taken of Community norms but also of national norms, failing which some Member States would cease to be free to do something about their under-development.

### **Tenth Report from the Commission on the European Regional Development Fund**

The Committee welcomes the improved presentation of this Report, which can now serve as a proper reference work.



As far as the impact achieved, it regrets the persistent disturbing gap in development and the continuing lack of coordination with other financing instruments and the general budget appropriations.

It welcomes the implementation of the new ERDF regulation, the continuation and expansion of integrated development operations and growing recognition of the role played by small businesses in creating jobs.

It recommends information campaigns at local and regional levels, a drive to promote new technologies and the doubling of ERDF resources.

### **Valoren**

The Valoren and STAR programmes (see point 4) are the first two major attempts by the Commission to implement coherent regional development 'programmes' as envisaged in the new ERDF Regulation and consistently advocated by the Committee.

The Valoren programme aims to boost energy potential in certain less-favoured regions of Ireland and southern Europe. The Committee keenly supports these schemes but stresses the need to stop wastage of traditional energy resources and to concentrate solely on well-proven technologies without succumbing to the heady temptations of experimentation at any cost. Full information and close cooperation with local and regional authorities should make it possible to steer clear of these pitfalls.

### **STAR**

The second of these programmes aims at promoting access to advanced telecommunications services.

The Committee supports this programme too on the grounds that it should provide the qualitative impetus needed to offset the years when the Community lagged behind. Its reservations mainly concern the accessibility and liberalization of supply markets dominated by State monopolies and giant concerns. To remedy this situation, encouragement should be given to a number of agencies or other cooperative bodies grouping several firms.

### **Integrated operations**

The Committee has in the past produced a number of studies and reports on the use of the 'integrated approach', i. e. simultaneous coordinated use of several structural funds to speed up the development of a clearly defined region with specific problems.

The Committee has now issued an Own-initiative Opinion on the subject, which gives a clear picture of the pros and cons of the integrated approach and draws up recommendations on its future application. The Committee stresses that it is up to the Com-

mission to improve coordination within the various Directorates responsible, but also calls for action from the national authorities involved in the integrated operation, which is a special sort of instrument.

The procedures and the criteria for intervention need to be clearly defined in order to avoid waste. Lastly, the success of an integrated operation should be measured by the number of lasting, additional jobs created.

### **Disadvantaged island regions**

The report of the Committee's regional section on this subject aroused considerable interest, and the Committee has decided to turn the report into an Own-initiative Opinion which is due to come out in the spring of 1987.

The report gives a clear picture of the special problems facing disadvantaged islands, as regards communications, supplies of raw materials and foodstuffs, and the standards of living of their inhabitants – limited access to culture, education, medical and hospital services, and little opportunity to diversify their economic activities. The report suggests a number of priority measures and hopes that the Community will draw up a specific action programme.

## **6. INDUSTRIAL POLICY**

### **Competition policy**

The Committee once again gave its views on the Annual Report on Competition Policy drawn up by the Commission.

The Committee made its appraisal of the XV Report in the light of the changes taking place in the economy of the Community and the international economy.

In its Opinion, the Committee pointed out that an active, realistic competition policy had to take account of two factors of particular importance: the advent of world-wide markets, and innovation.

The success of the Community competition policy would depend on the extent to which it bore in mind those two factors, which were the true challenges of our time.

The changed scale of the markets and the phenomenon of innovation meant that rigid analyses of behaviour should be abandoned. In applying and interpreting the rules, the Commission had to adopt new criteria which were better geared to the changed situation.

Turning to the question of State aid, a very important issue regularly dealt with in the Commission's Reports and ESC Opinions, the Committee noted that the problems of international competitiveness were so serious that they were unlikely to be resolved

by firms acting alone. It would be wrong to look at State aids in isolation when assessing whether they were compatible with the Treaty. They had to be considered in their overall context, bearing in mind other considerations such as the respective tax burdens and tax patterns applicable to firms or sectors in the different countries.

## **People's Europe**

The Committee adopted a key Opinion in this important area of Community activity which has a tangible bearing on the everyday life of millions of people. The Committee's Opinion concerned the mutual recognition of higher education diplomas. The Committee approved the proposed measures which would (a) facilitate the free movement of EC citizens who wished to practise their profession in a Member State other than that in which they had obtained their higher education diploma and (b) enable holders of diplomas obtained in one Member State to pursue the profession for which they were qualified in another Member State (host country), subject to certain conditions. The system did not involve prior harmonization of education/training and made provision for compensation through relevant professional experience or a period of supervised practice in cases where diplomas were not equivalent.

## **Completion of the internal market**

The Committee has played a part in the EC preparations for completing the internal market by the end of 1992 and, by producing a notable series of Opinions dealing with subjects which though dissimilar are all connected with the completion of the internal market. They include technical standards for products, public supply contracts and customs harmonization.

The Committee's Opinion on simple pressure vessels was a landmark as the Commission's proposal on the matter was the first concrete application of the new strategy on harmonization and standardization adopted by the Council in its Resolution of 7 May 1985.

The Committee's Opinion on public supply contracts took a critical line, following the example of the Commission which, in one of its communications, pointed out that in spite of the various measures taken it had still not proved possible to do away with the compartmentalization of the various national markets.

The Committee welcomed the candid nature of the Communication's criticism of the non-functioning of the Community's internal market in respect of public purchasing and agreed with its analysis of the reasons for the lack of progress in that area. The Committee also put forward a series of concrete proposals. Particularly noteworthy is its recommendation that a public procurement unit be set up within the Commission with clearly defined terms of reference and adequate financial resources. The unit would be responsible for establishing and communicating key statistics and monitoring public purchasing in the Community. The Committee also called for the setting up of an effective system of redress.

The Committee was in favour of extending the coverage of Directive 77/52/EEC to the whole public procurement area, i.e. including the telecommunications, transport, energy and water sectors hitherto excluded. However, a preliminary study of the widely differing characteristics of those sectors within each Member State was essential.

In the customs field, too, the Committee showed its firm resolve to promote the completion of the internal market by 1992. In the Opinions which it issued on this, such as the Opinion on customs warehouses and free zones, the Committee called on the Commission and the Council to speed up their work so that the Customs Code could be adopted by 1992.

### **New technologies**

The Committee issued Opinions on a number of proposals from the Commission in specific fields, such as the MAC/Packet standards for television, the common information market, legal protection of semiconductor topographies, integrated services digital network (ISDN), etc.

The Committee's basic views on the new technologies were, however, set out in an information report drawn up by its Section for Industry. The report focused on small and medium-sized firms' access to and participation in the information technology market, and on ways to improve the industrial environment (internal market, competition policy, the common market for industry).

This keynote report, together with those drawn up by the Committee's Energy and Social Sections, has been published in the form of a brochure. In essence, the Committee felt that Europe had the potential (as it had demonstrated in some cases) to be as innovative and efficient as the USA and Japan: European industry could beat the challenge of the new technologies. Promotional action at international and Community level did, however, need to be tightened up. It was thus essential to:

- (i) ensure that scientific and technological knowledge kept fully abreast of developments;
- (ii) encourage the creation of continent-wide demand with a high innovative content, particularly by means of large-scale projects;
- (iii) encourage the creation of true European supply capability.

### **Small firms in the services sector**

What is the role of the services sector in the European economy and what is its importance in socio-economic terms?

This is the question which the Committee's Section for Industry, Commerce, Crafts and Services endeavoured to answer in its information report on Small Firms in the Services Sector.

The Section observed that the economy was in the throes of major change. The move towards services was changing supply and demand patterns. There was a greater emphasis on services and goods with a higher technology/service content. Market outlets and trade relations were also changing, along with work content and organization.

The growth of the services sector had been made possible by a number of other factors affecting economic development. Those included technical progress, e.g. development of information technology; changes in the composition and organization of the workforce (large number of working women), growth of part-time work, increase in per capita income, and State intervention in the economy. Lastly, higher production, with a small labour content and using capital intensive technology, had increased the demand for many types of services (sales, marketing, distribution, transport, etc.).

The report assessed the impact of services on the Community economy, considering each sector and country individually. Reference was also made to the imbalance between the regions of the Community. The report stressed the major part which the Community should play in helping the service sector to grow, and in encouraging the setting-up and development of small firms in the sector.

### **Shipbuilding**

Shipbuilding is an industry to which the Committee has paid particular attention both because of its importance to the Community economy and because of the implications for EC competition policy of Member States' aid to the industry.

In its Opinion on the guidelines for a Community policy in the shipbuilding sector the Committee pointed out that, more than 10 years after the onset of the shipbuilding crisis, the situation justified a concerned appraisal of both the industry's future and, by definition, the effectiveness of the policies pursued hitherto in an attempt to halt the decline.

The greatest cause for alarm was the absence of any sign of relief. Capacity utilization rates were still too low despite constant and continuing efforts to trim capacity to fit demand.

In the Committee's view, the Community could no longer drag its feet in identifying the minimum level of capacity to be defended to the best of our ability. The Member States should join with the Community in framing a clearcut policy for safeguarding the shipbuilding sector by concluding agreements, possibly along the lines of the steel industry market quota arrangements.

The fate of the shipyards (including ship-repair yards) also determined that of ancillary activities (which accounted for over half the total cost of building a ship). Consequently, firms supplying components, which would have to rationalize and specialize, would ultimately receive a substantial share of the aid nominally earmarked for shipbuilding. Such aid was in point of fact only the counterpart of the customs protection enjoyed by other manufacturing sectors.

The scale, and hence the 'admissibility' of such aid – ensuring total comparability and 'transparency' – had to be assessed in relation to the Community's overall maritime sector, which registered a substantial profit.

The Committee's position on the matter has recently been confirmed in an Opinion on the Proposal on aid for shipbuilding. The Committee did not approve the Proposal because it would lead to serious consequences for much of the European shipbuilding industry.

The common ceiling of 26% fixed by the Commission, based on the differences between the cost structures of the most competitive Community yards and the prices charged by their main international competitors, should be raised to at least 35%.

The Committee feels however that extension of the fifth Directive is necessary in order to provide time to map out a realistic policy for the sector which, whilst recognizing the need for restructuring, would establish once and for all the basic requirements for the safeguarding and proper operation of this vital industrial activity.

## 7. EXTERNAL RELATIONS

In 1986 a start was made on getting a new Round of Multilateral Trade Negotiations within GATT off the ground. The momentum came from a number of contracting parties, disturbed by the increasingly protectionist stance being adopted by some countries as a means of coping with prevailing economic difficulties.

The Economic and Social Committee is convinced that free, fair world competition stimulates economies and will make it possible to gradually pull out of a recession which is having disastrous repercussions on employment. It is therefore opposed to any form of bilateralism which could restrict trade between industrial partners; liberalization formulae must be sought in a multilateral context. In its view, GATT should continue as the forum for negotiation between the partners.

The Committee also recommends – in tandem with the multilateral trade negotiations – that the Community join with its partners in talks aimed at achieving an ordered monetary system, primarily to avoid currency fluctuations potentially disruptive to trade flows. It is happy to see that its comments to this effect have at last met with a favourable response not just within the Commission secretariat but also in the Council and outside the Community.

In its Opinion on the forthcoming round of GATT negotiations the Committee tries to pinpoint the goals to be pursued by the Community during the future negotiations, bearing in mind that the first objective must be to consolidate the results achieved during the previous Rounds, particularly the Tokyo Round. Such consolidation determines the credibility of the new targets to be set. The Committee therefore insists that the tariff and non-tariff matters already discussed within GATT must be examined in further detail, especially as not all contracting parties have consistently lived up to their commitments and the newly industrialized countries must gradually be induced to comply with GATT rules.

Agriculture, which was treated as a separate chapter in the previous Rounds, should be included this time since the increasing imbalance on world markets for farm products is jeopardizing supplies to the developing countries as well as farmers' incomes in both the developing and the industrialized countries. However, in this connection, the Community should abide by the key principles underpinning the common organization of markets, where Community preference and export refunds are integral components.

The Committee notes that both the United States and the Community are anxious to include liberalization of services in the forthcoming Round. It observes the growing importance of services (in terms of generating new jobs) as economies become wealthier; they account for an increasing share of international trade and any protectionist measures in this sector would directly affect trade in commodities. The Committee therefore concludes that GATT should reiterate the contracting parties' firm determination to refrain from introducing, or tolerating, new barriers to trade in services.

As international trade in both industrial products and services is increasingly influenced by the technological policies being pursued by the contracting parties to GATT, especially the large trade partners, the Committee advocates the framing of a new technologies code encompassing, for instance, tariff and non-tariff problems connected with trade in high technology goods or services (including public purchasing policy, promotion of exports, strategic aspects and registration and testing standards and procedures).

On international trade in the textile and clothing sector – to date governed by the Multifibre Arrangement (MFA) – the Committee is in favour of gradually bringing trade in such products within the scope of normal GATT rules. However, this sector is particularly vulnerable, especially in terms of employment, and both the Committee and the Commission are agreed that account has to be taken of demand trends and the situation of the various producer countries, some of which are among the poorest in the world. This makes the renewal of the MFA and the accompanying bilateral agreements all the more desirable. The Committee stresses the importance of greater reciprocity (market access) on the part of all partners, and of respect for proprietorial trademarks, designs and models. In addition, it calls for improvements in working conditions in the textile industry in the developing countries.

The Committee wholeheartedly backs the Community's move to reactivate GATT work on counterfeit goods. This issue was not tackled at the Tokyo Round as the negotiators did not have time to discuss the draft code presented by the United States delegation. Counterfeit goods have become an increasingly grave worldwide phenomenon, which is causing heavy losses for producers (with dire effects on employment) and sometimes seriously endangers health and safety as well as being potentially detrimental to economic growth in the developing countries.

The Committee remains convinced that the contracting parties should avoid, wherever possible, having recourse to the safeguard clause provided for in Article XIX of GATT; in any event, safeguard measures should be of limited duration, supervised by the GATT authorities and applicable to one and all – unless the difficulties of a parti-

cular country stem from unfair commercial practices on the part of another country, in which case selective measures may be taken. The Committee regrets that the Commission seems unwilling to pursue this line.

Finally, the Committee is surprised that the Community's negotiating brief gives no indication of any intention to take effective steps to bring the developing countries gradually back within the scope of normal GATT rules (set out in the first three chapters), even though such an approach is apparent in the Commission's proposals on the fixing of generalized tariff preferences for 1987. In its Opinion on these proposals the Committee welcomes the Commission's wish to make the scheme more effective in terms of development by maintaining cross-selectivity (exclusion of certain products from certain particularly competitive countries) and by benefiting the poorest countries in certain respects. The Committee therefore stresses the need to introduce as soon as possible a system for selecting beneficiaries according to their level of economic and social development.

Stressing once again the need to ensure that the application of the system is as clear and automatic as possible, the Committee welcomes the improvements proposed regarding the publication of target ceilings and statistical data. On the other hand, it wonders whether it is appropriate to give the Commission discretionary powers where a Member State calls for the reintroduction of duties for a non-sensitive product; it is also opposed to the introduction in the GSP of a clause enabling the Commission to assess whether a quota should be opened in the petro-chemicals sector.

The prospect of a new Round makes it imperative to weigh up the various parties' relative influence and attendant responsibilities. The European Community, Japan and the United States, which are the largest trade forces on the world market, must take joint stock of the responsibility they bear, by virtue of their economic strength, for the operation of the international monetary and trade system and employment and economic growth seen in a world perspective. Each partner must shoulder its individual share of responsibility but work together to achieve the necessary balance in trade relations. That is the thrust of the Committee's Opinion on Relations between the EC, Japan and the European Communities, in which it calls for cooperation on the economic, trade and monetary fronts among the three largest trade forces in the free world.

The Committee is adamant that Japan must take appropriate economic measures at national level as well as in matters of monetary policy so as to reduce its trade surplus and hence avoid retaliation by its trade partners. Should Japan fail to increase its imports from the Community, the latter will be obliged to take the requisite measures (e.g. the introduction of a special tariff or other trade sanctions) to curb Japanese exports. The Japanese economy needs to be integrated more fully into the world economy as regards not only imports of manufactures, services and certain raw materials, but also exports of technology and capital.

In its Opinion on relations between the European Community and the Member States of the Association of South-East Asian Nations (Asean), the Committee warmly welcomes the establishment of this grouping in 1967. Closer integration has made the association, whose member countries are remarkable for their rapid economic



growth, an even more attractive trade partner. The Community's scope for action in this region is particularly encouraging on account of its excellent political relations with the Asean countries. These, in their turn, are keen to diversify their external trade and stress their eagerness to attract Community investment and thereby vary their sources of foreign capital.

The Committee considers that the cooperation agreement concluded in March 1980 between Asean and the Community has consolidated economic links between the two groupings and must therefore be regarded as a broadly positive step. However, it points out that exports (especially of manufactures) from the Asean countries to the Community have increased steadily, whereas Community products account for only a modest share of these countries' imports, of which Japan and the United States provide the lion's share.

In tandem with other measures, the Committee recommends State financial incentives to small and medium-sized businesses to step up investment in Asean. The comparatively small degree of cooperation between the Community and Asean seems largely to be due to the lack of interest so far displayed by Community SMEs in investing in this region, despite the fact that the economies of the Asean countries favour trade and cooperation.

Access to some Asean markets is still very limited, and even restricted (shifting trade policies; quid pro quo arrangements). For European investors, closer cooperation among the Asean member countries (total population: 280 million) and a coordinated development strategy are therefore as important as a favourable investment climate. The Committee also points out that tendering procedures in the Asean countries must respect competition rules and urges these countries to scrap existing restrictions on foreign banks.

The Committee encourages Asean countries, which are still heavily dependent on agriculture and compete on raw materials markets, to stimulate concerted industrialization tailored to individual national conditions. It also supports technological development and promotion in Asean, while again making it clear that the individual requirements of each country must be borne in mind.

Lastly, in all its Opinions relating to international trade, the Committee reiterates its commitment to the respect of human rights and, more specifically, to compliance with fair working conditions as laid down by the International Labour Organization. The Community must work for both economic and social improvements in the world.

### **Contacts with socio-economic organizations in non-member countries and groupings of non-member countries**

The 13th joint meeting between delegations from the Economic and Social Committee and the Consultative Committee of the European Free Trade Association (EFTA) was held in Brussels under the joint chairmanship of Mr Jürg Zeller, Chairman of the Agenda Committee of the EFTA Consultative Committee, and Mr Maurice Zinkin, Chairman of the Economic and Social Committee's Section for External Relations.

Discussion focused on the forthcoming GATT Round and the importance, for both the Community and EFTA countries, of adopting a joint stance at these talks. Both delegations confirmed their wish to retain GATT as a multilateral framework and to continue to apply the most-favoured nation clause. They stressed the need to consolidate the achievements of the Tokyo Round and to scrap protectionist barriers to freedom of trade. They expressed support for strengthening the GATT institutional framework, the inclusion of agriculture and service in the negotiations and the framing of a high technologies code.

The participants all agreed on the need to establish a stable monetary system so as to avoid sharp exchange rate fluctuations and to bring the newly industrialized countries gradually within the scope of normal GATT rules. In contrast, there were differences of opinion as to the criteria to determine 'developing country' status.

The introduction of a social clause into multilateral trade agreements was, in theory, just, but care had to be taken to ensure that this was not used as a protectionist ploy by the rich countries in the face of competition from countries with low labour costs.

Another topic of discussion was the opportunities for practical cooperation between the Community and the EFTA countries in the technological sphere. This matter had already been touched on at previous joint meetings and had lost none of its topical relevance since it was closely intertwined with the major challenge currently confronting all European countries: industrial change and its implications for employment. Stress was laid on the importance of coordinating research policies within the Community and throughout Western Europe and the promising new prospects opened up by the creation of an internal Community market and a 'dynamic economic area' in Europe.

The 10th annual meeting of the representatives of ACP and EEC socio-economic organizations was held at ESC headquarters in Brussels and was chaired jointly by Mr Giovanni Bersani and Mr Emile Mworoha, Co-Chairmen of the ACP/EEC Joint Assembly. Within the framework of the general theme 'The role and contribution of socio-economic organizations in the implementation of the various sections of Lomé III', the debates at the meeting – the first since the new convention came into force – centred more particularly on the impact of river fishing on the Senegalese economy, industrial rehabilitation in the developing countries, cooperation between economic and social interest groups in the training sector.

The 'Final Communiqué' adopted at the end of the meeting stressed the importance of the Lomé Convention as an instrument of cooperation in the development of the ACP countries and the need for a structured role for the economic and social interest groups; this would require:

- (i) continued and improved consultation of socio-economic groups within the institutional framework of Lomé;
- (ii) the organization for the socio-economic groups of contacts with the ACP authorities responsible for the implementation of ACP-EEC cooperation programmes.

with Commission delegations, and with the departments of the Commission in Brussels. Such contacts would be on the basis of subjects of specific interest to the groups concerned and would be designed to make a practical contribution to the objectives and the implementation of Lomé.

## 8. ENERGY POLICY AND RESEARCH

### **Energy**

The drop in oil prices during 1986 should not have any significant short-term effects on the Community energy situation or jeopardize the energy restructuring drive on which the Community embarked 10 years ago. The Community remains faithful to its two main goals: cutting back overall energy consumption and diversifying its sources of supply.

The Committee endorses the above Commission appraisal. In its Opinion of 21 May 1986 on the Community orientation to develop new and renewable energy sources it welcomes the continuation of the R&D and demonstration programmes in this sector. It also supports the Commission's determination, to improve coordination in the development of these energy sources by introducing appropriate liaison instruments and, if need be, coordinating national action as well as taking possible Community measures.

### **Technological research and development (TRD)**

The launching in 1985 of a European Technological Community and the Eureka project bear witness to Europe's resolve to frame a genuine TRD strategy in which the Single European Act, adopted in December that year, serves as a new legal and political pillar. The Committee, for its part, has already made repeated appeals for a proper Community strategy in this sphere.

In its Information Report on new technologies – European Community R&D, adopted in January 1986, the Committee's Section for Energy and Nuclear Questions expressed wholehearted support for the creation of a European Technological Community and called for a larger share of the Community budget to be earmarked for TRD activities.

The Section also endorses the philosophy underlying the Eureka project – which aims to encourage cooperation among European firms – but wishes the Commission to be fully empowered to coordinate all TRD activities at European level so as to ensure complementarity between Eureka and other Commission proposals and to facilitate more evenly balanced technological development within the Community.

The Commission sees Community TRD strategy as focused on three key objectives: strengthening the scientific and technological bases of European industry and developing its international competitiveness, consolidating economic and social unity within the Community and generally improving quality of life.

The Committee approved the basic objectives of the proposed new framework programme of Community activities in the field of research and technological development (1987-91) in the Opinion it issued in November 1986. It considered that the proposal for a new framework programme submitted by the Commission represents an important step towards a veritable European scientific and technological community, which the Heads of State or Government committed themselves to in Milan and Luxembourg in June and December 1985. Adoption of the new framework programme by the Council would show that the Member States intended to give concrete form to these commitments.

Notwithstanding this support for the new framework programme, which forms the pivot of Community R & D policy, the Committee considered that the proposals lacked a proper social dimension and did not really take account of the social impact of technological change and the potential of the new technologies.

In the above Information Report, the Section underlines the importance of socio-cultural factors in any policy focused on innovation, encouragement for marketing of TRD results and, more broadly, stimulation of a process leading to the creation of a European Technological Community. Bearing in mind the tensions generated by the development of new technologies, special attention has to be given to the potential side-effects on workers and consumers, the environment and society at large.

In advocating the development of a Europe, pursuing the 'well-being' of its citizens through a judicious TRD policy, the Committee repudiates the idea of a technological Community blind to cultural and human considerations.

The Committee therefore feels that the Commission's proposals for future Community TRD activities take insufficient heed of the link between R & D, the social dimension of technological change and consumer problems.

This state of affairs is particularly apparent in the case of TRD activities associated with quality of life, which are confined to the health and environment spheres. Here the Commission is overlooking such important areas as the problems faced by dependent people such as the long-term unemployed and the elderly, inner city decay and new patterns of recreation activities linked with technological progress.

In the Committee's view, the development of information technologies should not aim solely to equip European industry to recover its competitive edge on the world market but also to make allowance for social and individual needs.

In its Opinion the Committee reiterates the point made by the Section in its Information Report on New Technologies – European R & D, namely that the development of an effective innovation policy and speedy commercialization of TRD results are a *sine qua non* in sharpening Community competitiveness on world markets. With this in mind, policies and action must be geared to pinpointing market requirements speedily and efficiently – requirements that the new technological hardware and software generated by research can help to meet.

Any Community TRD strategy aiming to strengthen the technological bases of European industry and increase competitiveness must give due recognition to the major role played by small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) in the Member States' socio-economic fabric and their key contribution to job and wealth creation in the Community – a point repeatedly stressed by the Committee.

Increasing the technological effectiveness of SMEs would help them to maintain and improve their competitiveness. This in turn would lead to an increase in trade and level of employment which would not merely benefit the SMEs themselves but have a spin-off effect on the Community as a whole.

Consequently SMEs should be closely involved in technological innovation and the creation of new products and processes, which presupposes that the special conditions and needs of these businesses are taken into account.

In its Own-initiative Opinion, adopted in May 1986, on EC-shared cost research, development and demonstration projects, the Committee stressed that the Commission must take the specific conditions of SMEs into consideration for purposes of involving them in this type of research, and tailor its approach accordingly.

Among the recommendations set out in this Opinion, the Committee particularly urged the Commission to allocate SMEs a fair and appropriate proportion of shared-cost research programmes and to keep them informed of the findings of such research.

'The importance of technological research and development to small and medium-sized enterprises' was the subject of an in-depth study by the Section for Energy and Nuclear Questions in its Information Report adopted in July 1986.

The Section sees both the individual Member States and the Community as playing a key role in ensuring a more effective flow of technological information to SMEs and in providing technological and innovation back-up.

The vast majority of SMEs operate in traditional sectors. By adopting simple technologies these firms could improve their viability and strengthen their competitiveness. However, these SMEs need not only to recognize the potential of new technologies for sharpening their competitiveness but be actively encouraged to make use of such technologies.

The Section suggests a set of measures such as the setting up of national standards organizations, the introduction of technology data banks and the establishment of innovation assistance schemes, which could also improve the flow of technological information to SMEs.

The Section observes the emergence of close relations between the universities and the minority of small businesses active in high technology thereby reflecting a common concern to achieve the highest levels of research and to make progress in technology using procedures geared to the SMEs' needs.

The Section points out, however, that it will not be possible to maintain and develop the university technology system that has grown up in recent years to increase the transfer of state-of-the-art technology to industry unless an interest in technology and industry is kept alive from the very earliest stages of education.

The Community, particularly the Commission, cannot act as substitute for the Member States. The Commission's main task must be that of a catalyst, stimulating, promoting the cross fertilization of ideas and helping to remove the barriers which impede joint action by the Member States.

In many areas the Community can assist in fostering an environment more favourable to SMEs, thereby responding to the wishes so often expressed by the Committee: completion of the internal market; competition and its rules; Community monitoring of State R & D aids; matters relating to industrial property.

As innovation depends on adequate funding, especially in the case of SMEs, the Commission should be provided with the requisite resources to help finance innovation. Similarly, the Commission should be in a position to inform interested SMEs about existing financing facilities ('seed' development and venture capital).

At the same time the Section considers that the Commission should review the opportunities for establishing a credit guarantee association at Community level to promote R & D by SMEs in certain advanced technologies.

The Commission should also look into the provision of 'soft' loans to encourage SMEs to invest in the latest technologies. This could be done either by a system of loans through the European Investment Bank or in the shape of a Community subsidy channelled through to banks at Member State level.

For research policy purposes the Community draws on the Joint Research Centre (JRC) with its independent research and technology capacity, enabling it to discharge the specific tasks assigned to it, especially in areas, where Treaties vest special responsibilities in the Commission. This is particularly true in the nuclear sector, under the Euratom Treaty.

In 1986 the Commission, decided to reappraise the JRC's role and tasks and to adapt its activities, structure and management to the new Community research strategy and the priorities of the TRD framework programme 1987-91.

Before proposing a new multi-annual research programme for the JRC the Commission decided, as a first step, to confine attention to a review of the last year of the ongoing four-year programme 1984-87, adopted by the Council in December 1983 and approved by the Committee in September that year.

Supporting the generally positive Commission appraisal of the role and work of the JRC, which is a lynchpin of Community research strategy, the Committee adopted an Opinion in November 1986 endorsing the Commission's tactics since work could start at once on an initial review of JRC activities.

The Committee felt that this review was particularly urgent in the wake of the Chernobyl nuclear power plant accident on 26 April 1986, which had created a 'state of emergency' in the nuclear safety field – a field in which the JRC was very active.

The Committee therefore welcomes the proposed adjustments to JRC nuclear safety activities (plant safety; protection of the population and environment). It also advocates that the JRC be reinforced by a department with responsibility for public health protection against radiation hazards.

Though approving this shift of emphasis in the JRC's nuclear activities, the Committee criticizes the decrease in research into new renewable energy sources and the vagueness of certain Commission proposals, particularly the programme for materials and structures. The Committee regards these proposals as generally no more than an half-answer to the question of rational and efficient deployment of JRC resources and more effective exploitation and dissemination of its research findings.

The Committee pinpoints the main obstacles to be overcome by the JRC as follows: uncertainty and delays in adopting Community decisions; lack of independence and delegated responsibility; rigid staff management; inadequate or inappropriate deployment of staff; insufficient funding.

The Committee criticizes the general trend apparent in the Commission proposals, namely to cut back direct JRC research in relation to other Community research arrangements. The restrictions on JRC funding and recruitment are practical illustrations. The Committee regards this trend as inconsistent with the Community's undertaking to breathe new life into European research.

## 9. PROTECTION OF THE ENVIRONMENT, PUBLIC HEALTH AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS

During the year the Committee continued its work within the overall guidelines laid down in the Community's environment and consumer action programmes and within the framework of the emerging Community public health policy.

The Committee issued several Opinions on aspects of water pollution:

- (i) it approved an amended procedure for the exchange of information between the Member States on the quality of surface water,
- (ii) it also approved a proposal for the reduction in the aquatic environment of chromium, a metal which in certain forms is toxic and a danger to fish life.

### **Dumping of waste at sea**

The Committee was critical of a proposed directive providing for measures at Community level to reduce marine pollution caused by the deliberate dumping of waste at sea by ships and aircraft and by the incineration of waste at sea.

The Committee pointed out that this proposal should be administered in a flexible manner as in certain cases it may be difficult to find means for the disposal on land of the waste that would otherwise be dumped at sea (e.g. non-toxic sewage sludge).

The Committee also foresaw that the proposed directive might need to be amended in the future in accordance with technical progress.

### **Atmospheric pollution – emissions from diesel engines**

In the field of atmospheric pollution the Committee adopted an Opinion (supplementary to that issued by the Industry Section) endorsing the imposition of controls on emissions from diesel-engined vehicles.

The Committee took the view that environmental, public health and safety factors should take priority over technical and commercial considerations, but felt that these conflicting interests could be reconciled with the development of diesel engines with improved performance.

On the subject of dangerous substances which can be both pollutants and a health hazard (e.g. pesticides, solvents, paints), the Committee approved a major Commission initiative to consolidate in one directive existing Community legislation on the classification, packaging and labelling of dangerous preparations – a problem which is highlighted by the fact that so far only 1 200 substances have been classified while there are an estimated 95 000 in existence.

A dangerous substance which is both an environmental pollutant and a possible cause of cancer is asbestos, but in this case the Committee was divided in its views – a majority favoured not only the Commission's proposal to reduce the use of asbestos as much as possible, but called for a total ban on its use, mainly because of the health risks involved. The Employer's Group, however, opposed the proposed total ban as unrealistic.

As far as cancer in general is concerned, the Committee lent its full support to the Commission in respect of its proposal for a Community-wide action programme on cancer prevention, which the Committee estimates could well reduce cancer mortality by 10 to 15% if determined preventive measures were taken.

The Committee recognizes that 'life style', including diet and environment, plays a major role in the development of cancer, and comes out strongly against tobacco, the main cause of lung cancer. Better consumer education, coupled with continued research, is necessary.

As regards consumer affairs, the Committee's main concern during the year was food-stuffs legislation within the framework of the programme for the completion of the internal market by 1992.

In particular, the Committee examined the somewhat controversial proposal by the Commission for the introduction of a new simplified procedure (called the 'Advisory



Committee' procedure) under which implementing legislation, as distinct from basic framework legislation, would no longer be referred to the Council, but be adopted by the Commission itself, without voting in the Standing Committee for Foodstuffs (a body of experts nominated by the Member States).

The Committee took the view that the proposed simplified procedure would give too much power to the Commission, and its recommendation was that the qualified majority voting in the Standing Committee be retained, and that the Economic and Social Committee itself be consulted on legislative proposals.

The Committee also examined four proposals for basic legislation in respect of (1) foodstuff labelling, (2) food additives, (3) materials in contact with foodstuffs and (4) food for particular nutritional uses (dietary foods). The Committee accepted all four proposals subject to its overriding observations on procedure explained above, and certain observations of a technical nature.

In addition, the Committee only agreed a proposal to extend the deadline beyond 1986 for the use of the antioxidant EDTA (used in mayonnaise and similar products) on condition that it be considered a temporary measure pending the introduction of the new food additives legislation referred to above.

Still on the subject of foodstuffs, the Committee examined a proposal to protect human health from the possible ill effects of certain residues mainly of a pharmacological (including hormonal) nature which may be found in animals and hence in fresh meat. While agreeing the proposed control and sampling procedures, the Committee felt the proposal did not go far enough and suggested more stringent and wide-ranging monitoring methods.

On a different topic of consumer interest – tourism – the Committee, which had issued a major Opinion and Report on Community tourism policy in 1983, delivered another Opinion during the year on the follow-up action now proposed by the Commission. This referred in particular to the seasonality problem, standardized information on hotels and coordination with the Member States. While welcoming developments to date in tourism policy, the Committee would have preferred to have a precise programme with set implementation deadlines along the lines of the Commission's proposals on the completion of the internal market.

The Committee took a firm stand in its opposition to Commission proposals for administrative reforms in the European Foundation for the Improvement of Living and Working Conditions, an EEC body established in Dublin which carries out research and studies into the subjects mentioned in its title. The Committee noted that although the Commission's proposals did not call into question the tasks, objectives and purpose of the Foundation, they did contain policy implications that would bring sweeping changes to the role played by the social partners and could pose a serious threat to the democratic basis on which the Foundation operates, to its autonomous status and to the effectiveness and coherence of its work.

The Committee then went further by maintaining that environmental, health-related and consumer issues were not being adequately dealt with in the Community and that a new European Foundation should be set up to study these topics.

Turning to the problem of animal protection, the Committee agreed a proposal that the EEC should adhere to the international Convention for the protection of animals for experimental purposes, but recommended that proposed Community legislation on this subject should be brought into line with the provisions of this Convention. Finally, under the heading of wild fauna and flora, the Committee approved a proposal on the protection of three endangered species of butterflies.

## **Press relations and outside echo**

The echo given to the activities of the Economic and Social Committee, the Community's Consultative Assembly, in the media is closely related to what editors consider its news value. As the outgoing President, Mr Gerd Muhr, never failed to emphasize, the Assembly is judged by the quality of the advice it proffers to the Council and the Commission and the stimulus it can give to the European Community by introducing new ideas. These often originate from the professional associations and the trade union organizations from which the Committee members have been chosen. Thus the journals of these associations are one of the Committee's obvious targets for obtaining publicity for its Opinions.

Another group, a most important one, which the Committee must reach is the corps of journalists accredited to the Community in Brussels. Then there are the specialized press, the specialist journalists on the national newspapers and radio networks, the television programmes on specific subjects, regional and local newspapers and scientific journals which we try to interest. In the national newspapers, it is the individual Committee member who can best get a hearing through placing an article or giving an interview.

As far as the press echo of the Economic and Social Committee is concerned, two events dominated the period under review: the arrival of new members from Spain and Portugal and the formal opening session of the Committee's new four-year mandate in October. On that occasion, the Council appointed new members for roughly one third of the Assembly and elections took place for the presidency and all the leading posts.

These happenings were widely reported both in the national, regional and trade newspapers and also in the papers specializing in European affairs. The Committee's Opinions to further the completion of the common market gained attention in the press as did those relating to farm prices and agricultural subjects, where the Committee's expertise is particularly valued.

In the transport field, there was wide press coverage for the opinions on air transport policy and on maritime transport policy, the latter having repercussions beyond the European Community. The Committee's views on the introduction of new technologies, resulting from the Conference organized by the Committee at the latter end of 1985, and the Opinion based on it were also well reported.

Own-initiative Opinions of the Committee are usually apt to interest the press. Among them were those on GATT, on relations between the EEC, Japan and the USA, and on the Asean countries, as well as on integrated operations in the field of regional development. The Opinions on the economic situation and the social situation always have their echo as these subjects are considered by the public as the Committee's very own themes.

The Information Report on the demographic situation of the Community, approved in July 1985, when it obtained good publicity, was issued as a brochure in May 1986. The distribution of this publication occasioned a second wide press coverage. It was followed soon afterwards by a debate on the subject in the European Parliament which again caused a small flood of requests for the brochure. The Opinions on equal opportunities for women, and on the fight against cancer, both at the workplace and in general, were well reported.

Press interest was also enhanced by the participation in Committee meetings of Government Ministers representing the Council, and members of the Commission. The former included Mrs Lynda Chalker, British Minister of State at the Foreign and Commonwealth Office; Mr Segismundo Crespo Valera, Under Secretary at the Spanish Ministry of Labour and Social Security; and Mr Fernando Marques, Portuguese Secretary of State for Labour and Employment. The Commission was represented in the first instance by its President, Mr Jacques Delors, and by Commissioners Matutes, Varfis, Cardoso da Cunha, Pfeiffer and Marín.

Another media event, for the British public, was the occasion when the Committee acted as host to the well-known BBC programme 'Any Questions' in March.

The Secretariat arranged 30 press conferences in the period under review, almost a third more than in 1985, generally given by the rapporteur of an Opinion or the Committee's President. The press echo obtained from such conferences in member countries, particularly if linked to an official visit or a study group meeting, is greater on the average than that obtained at the Committee's seat in Brussels, where our pronouncements have to compete with those of the other Community institutions.

In addition to Brussels, press conferences were organized in Ludwigsburg, Munich, Frankfurt, Cologne, Göttingen and Bonn in Germany, in Paris and Bordeaux in France, in London and Belfast in the UK, in The Hague in the Netherlands, in Naples and Rome in Italy, in Athens in Greece and in Dublin in Ireland.

As a new venture, the Committee provided a stand with posters, brochures and staff at the International Fair in Metz, France, and at a French works councils forum (Forum des Comités d'entreprises) in Paris.

The Conference on the Cooperative, Mutual and Non-Profit Sector, organized by the Committee in November 1986, also had its repercussions in the press, much of it spilling over into the new year.

Another method for publicizing the Committee's role and activities is the use of visiting groups. In the period under review there has been a considerable upsurge in the

number of visitors, the highest yet, namely 5840 who came in 165 groups. They included students, teachers, trade unionists, managers, farmers, journalists, lawyers, civil servants and representatives of political parties and of women's organizations. Most of the groups came from Germany, followed in order of numerical importance by the United Kingdom, Spain, France, Denmark, Italy, Ireland, Belgium and Greece. Among the groups from non-EC countries, the largest contingent came from the USA; there were also groups from Yugoslavia, Austria, Israel, India, Kenya and Brazil.

The Committee's publications, many of which are now being sold and distributed by the Publications Office of the Communities, provide a further means of propagating the Committee's work. The following have been published in 1986: eight editions of the *Bulletin*; the *Annual report for 1985*; the *Economic and social situation of the Community*; *Europe and the new technologies* (all these in nine languages); the *GATT – new negotiations* (3 languages); *National aids to regional development* (4 languages); *Maritime policy* (so far in English only) and the massive, one-thousand page compendium entitled *The cooperative, mutual and non-profit sector* (in 3 languages). Other brochures in preparation are a new edition of *The ESC: The other European Assembly* and one on the Community's rail transport policy.



## *Chapter IV*

### **The Groups**

#### GROUP I – EMPLOYERS

The members of the Employers' Group (Group I) represent private and public industries, commerce, transport and its users, banking and insurance activities, wholesale and retail trade and agriculture.

1986 was marked by the arrival of seven Spanish and three Portuguese members, which increased the membership of the Group from 43 to 53. Proportionally the Group is notably smaller than Groups II or III, which after enlargement had 68 members each at the end of the 1982-86 term of office.

1986 also saw the end of one term of office and a pause of one month before the appointment of members for the Committee's new term of office (1986-90). There are now 57 members in the Employers' Group, of whom 27 are new appointments. All the Belgian, Danish and Luxembourg members are new. At the inaugural Plenary Session on 21 October, Mr William Poeton was elected one of the Committee's Vice-Chairmen. His Group I colleagues in the Bureau are Mr Aparicio Bravo (Spain), Mr Arena (Italy), Mrs Bredima (Greece), Mr Broicher (Germany), Mr Ceyrac (France), Mr Neto Da Silva (Portugal), Mr Noordwal (The Netherlands), Mr Pearson (Ireland) and Mr Springborg (Denmark).

The three Section Chairmen proposed by the Employers' Group and elected by the relevant Sections are Mr Romoli (Energy, Nuclear Questions and Research), Mr Kenna (External Relations) and Mr. Kazazis (Industry, Commerce, Crafts and Services).

Mr Alberto Masprone was unanimously elected Chairman of the Group. He succeeds Mr Hans-Werner Staratzke, Group Chairman from 1978 to 1986. Three Vice-Chairmen (Mr Löw (Germany), Mr Noordwal (The Netherlands) and Mr Riera-Marsa (Spain)) will assist Mr Masprone, since the Group has created an additional Vice-Chairmanship for either of the new Member States.

In 1986 there were 10 ordinary meetings of the whole Employers' Group in order to prepare new work and arrive at a consensus on the Group's positions on the Opinions submitted to each Plenary Session.

To enable Group I to act effectively, brief preliminary meetings of all the members and experts in one Section or Study Group are held every time questions of political importance justify special preparation.

Contacts with the many socio-occupational organizations at European, national and sectoral level intensify every year, and they provide valuable assistance to Rapporteurs and members when drawing up Opinions. Cooperation between Group members and officials of these organizations is enhanced on the occasion of a reception which makes interesting exchanges possible.

The members of Group I took an active part in the general effort to achieve a consensus among the socio-occupational groups, since 25 of the 33 Opinions prepared by a Group I Rapporteur were adopted with no votes against. Among these Opinions and the Information Reports the most important were those on new technologies, GATT, maritime policy, rail policy, promotion of research and development in SMEs and the chapter on the USA in the Opinion on the EEC's relations with the USA and Japan.

In addition, Group members contributed to the promotion of the Committee's Opinions and work by participating in press conferences, by granting interviews and by representing the Committee in European Road Safety Year.

At their annual meeting, held from 3-5 December, the representatives of ACP and EEC economic and social groups examined the implementation of the third Lomé Convention. The conference was preceded by a meeting between the ACP and EEC employers at which Mr G. Egnell, Chairman of the North-South Centre of the Enterprise Institute (F) presented his document on the *Rehabilitation of firms in developing countries*. Given the success of the discussions, the participants would like to have more time for the employers' meeting in the context of the next conference. They will make a proposal that important questions for investors be followed up in a pragmatic way.

Throughout the year the Group firmly expressed its commitment to respect for the rules of free initiative and free trade.

## GROUP II – WORKERS

Group II comprises representatives of the various trade unions throughout the EEC. Spanish and Portuguese Trade Unionists first joined the Committee in March/May 1986 and since the beginning of the latest four year term in October they have begun to play their full part in all areas of the Committee's work. Group II's strength rose to 66 in October and a new Group Chairman was elected (Mr F. Staedelin – France) assisted by two Vice-Chairmen (Mr Curlis – Ireland and Mr Guenich – Germany).

Group II has 10 members on the Committee's 30-man Bureau:

Mr Zufiaur – Spain – Committee Vice-Chairman  
Mr Houthuys – Belgium



Mr Vercellino – Italy  
Mr Glesener – Luxembourg  
Mr Muhr – Germany  
Mr van Greunsven – The Netherlands  
Mr Proença – Portugal  
Mr Rouzier – France  
Mr B. Nielsen – Denmark  
Mr Jenkins – UK

Group II also holds three posts of Section Chairman

Mr Carroll – Ireland – Social Section  
Mr Delourme – Belgium – Transport Section  
Mr Dassis – Greece – Regional Section

In 1986 Group II Rapporteurs dealt with several major topics including:

- (i) The repercussions of Chernobyl;
- (ii) Health protection (Euratom);
- (iii) Action programme for small business;
- (iv) Protection of workers from chemical, physical and biological agents;
- (v) Road haulage quotas;
- (vi) Cabotage;
- (vii) Social aspects of new technology and the common information market;
- (viii) Farm prices and farmworkers;
- (ix) Asbestos pollution;
- (x) Protection of workers against benzene;
- (xi) R&D work on the environment;
- (xii) Equal opportunities for women;
- (xiii) Renewable energy sources;
- (xiv) Maritime transport;
- (xv) Amendment to the regulation establishing the Dublin-based European Foundation for the Improvement of Living and Working Conditions;
- (xvi) Relations between the EEC, Asean, the USA and Japan;

(xvii) Transport infrastructure;

(xviii) The economic situation.

At a time when politicians are portraying social dialogue as a *sine qua non* for relieving mass unemployment, for promoting technological change, for securing competitiveness and safeguarding social protection, the Economic and Social Committee could become a clearing-house for proposals on all areas of economic and social activity.

In the debate on the Opinion on the social situation, Group II was therefore obliged to defend its corner, *inter alia* on the analysis of unemployment, (unequal distribution, regional breakdown, youth unemployment, female unemployment, handicapped workers, elderly workers, a European programme to combat unemployment, resources and structures for employment, a European Employment Fund, the role of the social partners, qualitative growth etc.).

Similarly in the Opinion on the Economic Situation, Group II delegates emphasized the need for shorter working hours whereas the Employers' Group concentrated on strengthening the economy. Group II continues to set its sights on a job-creation policy but notes that despite the pick-up in growth, wage restraint still apparently takes priority over employment and investment. Group II also noted that while the Commission has no scruples about proposing curbs on workers' pay, it neglects measures to stimulate job-creating investment.

On the international front, Group II sent a delegation to the annual conference with the EFTA Consultative Committee in April last. The agenda included multilateral negotiations in GATT, and concrete EC-EFTA cooperation on technology.

The Annual Conference of the ACP-EEC representatives on economic and social activity was held in December. The main theme was the role and contribution of ACP/EEC economic and social forces to the implementation of Lomé III, with particular reference to rural, industrial and social development. Group II sent a 12-man delegation which contributed significantly to drafting the key issues in the final Conference declaration.

Finally some Group II members attended the ESC sponsored Conference on Cooperatives in November. A Group II member chaired the Working Party on Technological Change, Economic Growth, and the Achievement of a Better Social Balance. The closing Session on the Future of Cooperatives, Self-Help Organizations and Associations in Europe was also chaired by a Group II member.

### GROUP III — VARIOUS INTERESTS

Group III includes within its membership representatives of agriculture, SMEs and the craft sector, the liberal professions, family, consumer and environmental protection organizations. In addition to these socio-economic interest groups, Group III also brings together members representing regional, scientific and cultural interests.

The consistency of intellectual approach which gives the Various Interests Group its identity is ensured by members' awareness of their special role, alongside employers and workers representatives, in reflecting within the ESC the diversity of contemporary European society.

Following the nomination of Spanish and Portuguese members to the Committee in 1986, Group III comprised 68 members. The Rapporteur-General for the modification of the ESC's Rules of Procedure required as a consequence of the increase in size and number of languages in use at the ESC was appointed from within Group III.

Members of Group III have made effective contributions to Committee work on many different subjects. Rapporteurs from Group III were appointed for a considerable number of opinions of major importance: cancer prevention, risks of major accidents, internal market for foodstuffs, public purchasing, equal opportunities for women, employment for disabled people, action against poverty and local employment initiatives. For the Opinion on Social Developments in the EC, the Group III Rapporteur-General played a key role in reconciling divergent views between employers and workers.

Contacts with relevant European interest groups have continued and developed in 1986. A considerable number of experts from these groups have been used by Group III with positive effect on a number of opinions. The Group's monthly newsletter, Europe III, to which an editorial has recently been added and whose distribution has become still wider, provides the means by which a two-way exchange of information takes place. Further steps towards developing information exchange has been taken by arranging meetings between the Group III Presidency and their counterparts in recognized organizations and by inviting these organizations to give short presentations about themselves at Group III meetings.

In September, a Group III dinner was held to mark the end of the 1982-86 mandate and to allow Group III members to take leave of members who would not be reappointed, in particular their long-serving Vice-Chairman Mr de Bruyn and Chairman Mrs Käte Strobel.

In October Mr Roger Burnel was elected Chairman of Group III. Mrs Alma Williams and Mr Pietro Morselli are the two Vice-Chairmen.



## Participation in meetings outside the Committee

This year the Committee received a flood of invitations to attend various congresses, symposia and meetings of one sort or another arranged by European organizations. It was not possible to accept them all but the Chairman, other members and representatives of the secretariat between them did manage to attend the following:

- Seminar organized by the Ministry of Labour and the National Agency for the Improvement of Working Conditions with the theme 'The new technologies and their effects on wage-earners' 13 and 14 January in Strasbourg
- Conversation between professionals on the theme 'Cooperative structures and legal frameworks for cooperatives' activities in the EEC countries' 17 and 18 January in Münster (Germany)
- Colloquium organized by the European League for Economic Cooperation on the theme 'Reform of the common agricultural policy and its repercussions on international trade' 21 January in Paris
- European conference on 'New technologies, European Union jobs: A role for the regions' organized by the Puglia Region and the AICCRE 30 January – 1 February in Bari (Italy)
- XIIth European Week of the Central School of Paris on 'The Unification of Europe' 3 – 7 February in Châtenay-Malabry
- Third National Congress of the Italian Confederation of Farmers 18 – 20 February in Rome
- Inaugural ceremony of the 38th International Light Industry and Crafts Fair 8 March in Munich

- International Colloquium on cereals organized by the National Agricultural Exhibition and Competition Centre (Ceneca) on the theme 'National experiences in organizing cereal markets' 11 and 12 March in Paris
- National colloquium organized in liaison and collaboration with the Ministry of Agriculture, Farm Mutuals and the ADIMEP by the General Council of the Haute-Garonne and the Research Institute for the Improvement of Working Conditions on the theme 'Life, work and wealth in agriculture' 20 and 21 March in Toulouse
- Conference organized by the Union Industries of the European Community (Unice) on the theme 'The single European market: From promise to commitment' 10 April in Brussels
- 40th National Congress of the National Federation of Farmers' Unions 9 and 10 April in Brest
- XIth National Assembly of the Chambers of Commerce of Spain 8 – 10 April in Madrid
- Sixth Congress of Basque Workers' Solidarity (ELA/STV) 11 and 12 April in Bilbao
- Symposium on 'Work and the environment in Europe' by the Friedrich Ebert Stiftung in the Alfred Nau Heimvolkshochschule 11 – 13 April in Bergneustadt (FR of Germany)
- International meeting organized by Intersind in collaboration with the Italian Section of the European Centre of Public Enterprises (CEEP) on the theme 'From national to European enterprises' 17 and 18 April in Rome
- Information seminar organized by the Friedrich Ebert Stiftung in collaboration with the Government of the Republic of Guinea on the theme 'The role of ACP/EEC relations for Guinea' 21 – 25 April in Conakry
- European seminar of the independent professions organized by the Federal Association of the Independent Professions on the theme 'Freedom of Establishment and the freedom to provide services in Europe' 24 – 26 April in Munich
- Colloquium organized by the European Foundation for the Improvement of Living and Working Conditions in Dublin on 'New forms of work and activity' 25 April in Brussels
- Study day on the problems of fisheries organized by the Spanish Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food 29 and 30 April in Santander

- XVth General Assembly of the Municipalities and Regions of Europe organized by the Council of the Municipalities and Regions of Europe

30 April – 3 May  
in Berlin
- Fact-finding meeting organized by the European Centre for the Development of Vocational Training in Berlin on the theme 'Social and working conditions of the long-term unemployed and their educational and training needs'

7 May  
in Brussels
- International colloquium organized by the European Institute for Advanced International Studies on the theme 'Television tomorrow: European networks of the future'

8 – 10 May  
in Nice
- Fourth Conference of Mediterranean regions concerned by integrated Mediterranean programmes, organized by the Corsican Assembly

22 – 24 May in  
Ajaccio (Cor-  
sica)
- Formal sitting to mark the 10th anniversary of Sephis (European Secretariat for the Liberal, Learned and Social Professions)

22 May  
in Brussels
- XIIIth Ordinary National Congress of the German Trades Union Federation (DGB)

25 – 31 May  
in Hamburg
- Congress of the French National Confederation of Agricultural Mutuals, Cooperatives and Credit Institutions (CNMCCA) on the theme 'The stakes in the agri-food Sector'

27 – 29 May  
in Grenoble
- Seminar on 'Financial supermarkets' organized jointly by the EC Cooperative Banks Group and the European Cooperative Insurers Association

27 and 28 May  
in Brussels
- Presentation and demonstration of the EJOB (European Joint Optical Bistability Programme) project organized by the European Commission and Heriot-Watt University

2 June  
in Edinburgh
- XXth Congress of the IRU (International Road Transport Union)

2 – 6 June in  
Frankfurt  
(FR of Germany)
- 40th anniversary of the Italian National Crafts Confederation

5 June  
in Rome
- 22nd annual meeting of EPMA (European Proprietary Medicines Association)

11 – 13 June  
in Copenhagen

- Third International Study Meeting on the Health Service organized by the CNEL (National Economic and Labour Council)

9 and 10 June  
in Rome
- Conference on the Commission's White Paper on the creation of a single market in the European Community organized by the Centre for European Policy of the European University Institute of Florence

24 – 27 June  
in Florence
- European conference on occupational cancer organized by the European Trades Union Conferation

8 and 9 July  
in Lisbon
- 118th Trades Union Congress

1 – 5 September  
in Brighton
- 22nd General Meeting of the International Social Security Association

3 – 9 September  
in Montreal
- 1986 Assembly of the Deutscher Raiffeisenverband eV, Bonn

10 – 12 September  
in Karlsruhe  
(FR of Germany)
- 58th Exhibition Fair of Savoy with a EUROPE stand organized by the Jena Circle – Committee responsible for Relations with the European Communities

12 – 22 September  
in Chambéry (France)
- International Conference for Families organized by the International Union of Family Associations (German National Committee) and by COFACE (Confederation of Family Organizations in the European Community)

25 – 28 September  
in Bonn
- Workshops on training priorities for members of Co-operatives organized by the European Committee of Production Cooperatives (CECOP)

2 and 3 October  
in Brussels
- Metz International Fair

2 – 13 October  
in Metz
- Colloquium on 'The social and economic consequences of rheumatic illnesses' organized by the Institute of Health Sciences

3 and 4 October  
in Paris
- European space at the Forum of the Works Committees organized by the French Democratic Labour Confederation (CFDT)

15 – 18 October  
in Villette (France)
- Second National Sitting of the Physiotherapy Sector organized by the French Federation of Masseurs, Physiotherapists and Re-educators

18 and 19 October  
in Paris



- Conference of EEC outlying maritime regions

28 – 30 October  
in Killarney (Ireland)
- Colloquium on industrial and technological Cooperation under the EEC's Mediterranean policy organized by the EC Commission and the Marseilles Chamber of Commerce and Industry with the help of the Chambers of Barcelona, Genoa and Piraeus

29 – 31 October  
in Marseilles
- Conference on home safety research and accident prevention organized by the Consumers in the European Community Group (UK) jointly with the Department of Trade and Industry

4 and 5 November  
in London
- Conference of European port regions and towns organized by the Council of Europe – Standing Conference of European Local and Regional Authorities

5 – 7 November  
in Vigo (Spain)
- Colloquium on north-south relations: a challenge for European Christians organized by the foundation 'Christians for Europe'

8 November  
in Brussels
- Visit to DAG training centres

Aachen and Cologne,  
11 and 12 November
- Colloquium on 'The Chambers of Commerce: Locomotives of innovation in Europe' organized by Eurochambers (Association of European Chambers of Commerce and Industry)

13 and 14 November  
in Luxembourg
- 40th anniversary of Confartigianato (Italian General Crafts Confederation)

13 November  
in Rome
- Meeting organized by the International Confederation of Free Trade Unions (ICFTU) on 'The perception of trade unionism by the media'

17 – 19 November  
in Brussels
- Day commemorating the 10th anniversary of the European University Institute

21 November  
in Florence
- Conference on the prevention of burns and scalds organized by the European Consumer Product Safety Association

27 and 28 November  
in Brussels
- Conference on a financial service Europe – organized by the European League for Economic Cooperation (ELEC)

Brussels,  
12 December



## Reappointment of the Committee

On 21, 22 and 23 October 1986, the Committee held the inaugural session of its eighth four-year term of office. Representatives of the Council and Commission attended. For its Chairman, the Committee elected Mr Fons Margot, and for its Vice-Chairmen, Mr William G. Poeton and Mr José Maria Zufiaur Narvaiza, all to serve for two years.

The following were appointed for the Committee Bureau:

Mr Aparicio Bravo	Mr Glesener	Mr Bazianas
Mr Arena	Mr van Greunsvan	Mr Bento Gonçalves
Mrs Bredima	Mr Houthuys	Mr Berns
Mr Broicher	Mr Jenkins	Mrs Elstner
Mr Ceyrac	Mr Muhr	Mr Emo Capodilista
Mr Neto Da Silva	Mr B. Nielsen	Mr Margalef Masia
Mr Noordwal	Mr Proença	Mr Marvier
Mr Pearson	Mr Rouzier	Mr Roseingrave
Mr Springborg	Mr Vercellino	Mr Storie-Pugh

A full list of members of the Economic and Social Committee may be obtained from the Committee's General Secretariat.



## Internal affairs of the General Secretariat

### 1. STAFF

In 1986 the General Secretariat had 448 permanent posts, including 44 posts obtained as a result of the accession of Spain and Portugal. This represented an increase of 43 posts, or slightly more than 10%, over 1985.

### 2. BUDGET

Appropriations for 1986 totalled 32779900 ECU, 26.8% up on the 1985 figure of 25856522 ECU. This exceptional increase was largely due to the accession of Spain and Portugal, as the result of which the number of members rose from 156 to 189 (up 21%) and the number of working languages went up from 7 to 9 (up 29%).

### 3. MEETINGS

There were 10 Plenary Sessions and 12 Bureau meetings in 1986.

The breakdown of other meetings was as follows:

Sections	75
Study Groups	238
Groups I, II and III	82
Other	321
Meetings of sub-groups sponsored by Groups I, II and III	157

There were also 133 parties of visitors.

#### 4. STRUCTURE OF THE GENERAL SECRETARIAT 1986

##### **Chairman**

- Private office
- Group secretariats
- Financial control

##### **Secretary-General**

- Secretariat
- Adviser
- Division for the Registry, the Assembly and the Bureau
- Mail/records/library/documentation
- Press, information and publications division
- Studies and research division

##### **Directorate A – Consultative work**

- Secretariat of the Section for Economic and Financial and Monetary Questions
- Secretariat of the Section for Social, Family, Educational and Cultural Affairs
- Secretariat of the Section for Protection of the Environment, Public Health and Consumer Affairs

##### **Directorate B – Consultative work**

- Secretariat of the Section for Regional Development and Town and Country Planning
- Secretariat of the Section for Industry, Commerce, Crafts and Services
- Secretariat of the Section for Transport and Communications

##### **Directorate C – Consultative work**

- Secretariat of the Section for Energy and Nuclear Questions and Research

- Secretariat of the Section for Agriculture
- Secretariat of the Section for External Relations

**Directorate-General for Administration, Translation and General Affairs**

- Secretariat
- Personnel directorate
- Specialized financial service
- Translation
- Division for document production, coordination and internal affairs





**List of opinions, studies and information reports  
issued during 1986**

233rd PLENARY SESSION ON 29 AND 30 JANUARY 1986

- Examination of animals and fresh meat for the presence of residues  
(Rapporteur: Mr Peter Storie-Pugh) (CES 89/86)
- General system for the recognition of higher education diplomas  
(Rapporteur: Mr Clément De Bievre) (CES 90/86)
- Taxes other than turnover taxes which affect the consumption of manufactured tobacco: Sixth extension of the second stage of harmonization  
(Amendment to Directive 72/464/EEC)  
(Rapporteur: Mr Stylianos Bazianas) (CES 91/86)
- National Regional Development Aid  
(Rapporteurs: Mr Paul Broicher and Mr Luigi Della Croce) (CES 92/86)
- Turnover taxes – deferment of the introduction of the common system of value-added tax in the Hellenic Republic (21st Council Directive)  
(Rapporteur-General: Mr Apostolis Dassoulas) (CES 93/86)
- The new technologies – corporate environment (Information Report)  
(Rapporteur: Mr Romolo Arena) (CES 732/85 fin)
- The new technologies – Community R&D (Information Report)  
(Rapporteur: Mr Tomás Roseingrave) (CES 851/85 fin)
- The new technologies – social aspects (Information Report)  
(Rapporteur: Mr Herbert Nierhaus) (CES 671/85 fin)

234th PLENARY SESSION ON 26 AND 27 FEBRUARY 1986

- Programme of action of the European Communities on cancer prevention  
(Council Resolution)  
(Rapporteur: Mr Edouard Brassier) (CES 233/86)
- Consumer education in primary and secondary schools  
(Draft Council Resolution)  
(Rapporteur: Mrs Beatrice Rangoni-Machiavelli) (CES 231/86)
- European Regional Development Fund – Tenth Report from the Commission to the Council  
(Rapporteur: Mr Athanassios Kamizolas) (CES 232/86)
- European Road Safety Year  
(Own-initiative Opinion)  
(Rapporteur: Mr Alberto Masprone) (CES 229/86)

- Directive 82/501/EEC Major-accident hazards of certain industrial activities (Amendment to Directive 82/501/EEC) (Rapporteur: Mr Edouard Brassier) (CES 230/86)
- Adoption of multiannual R&D programmes in the field of the environment (1986-90) (Rapporteur: Mr Michel De Grave) (CES 226/86)
- Introduction of Community export and import declaration forms (Amendment to Regulation (EEC) No 1900/85) (Rapporteur: Mr Paul Broicher) (CES 227/86)
- Facilitation of physical inspections and administrative formalities in respect of the carriage of goods between Member States (Amendment to Directive 83/643/EEC) (Rapporteur: Mr Kurt Plank) (CES 228/86)

235th PLENARY SESSION ON 13 AND 14 MARCH 1986

- Fixing of prices for agricultural products and related measures (1986-87) (Rapporteur: Mr Paul Flum) (CES 298/86)
- Adjustment of the market organization for cereals (Commission Memorandum and Amendment of Regulation (EEC) No 2727/75) (Rapporteur-General: Mr Maurice Zinkin; Co-Rapporteurs: Mr Renato Ognibene and Mr Jean Rouzier) (CES 300/86)
- General rules for single premiums for specialist beef/veal producers and common organization of the beef/veal market (Amendment to Regulation (EEC) No 805/68) (two proposals) (Rapporteur-General: Mr Maurice Zinkin; Co-Rapporteurs: Mr Renato Ognibene and Mr Jean Rouzier) (CES 299/86)
- Common measure for the acceleration of agricultural development in certain less-favoured areas of France where beef cattle are reared; Common action for the promotion of agriculture in certain less-favoured areas of Northern Italy and common action for the promotion of agriculture in the Scottish Islands off the northern and western coasts, with the exception of the Western Isles (three proposals) (Rapporteur-General: Mr Andrea Amato) (CES 301/86)

236TH PLENARY SESSION ON 23 AND 24 APRIL 1986

- Equal opportunities for women – medium-term Community programme – 1986-90 (Rapporteur: Mrs Ursula Engelen-Keefer) (CES 402/86)
- Employment of disabled people in the Community draft Council Recommendation (Rapporteur: Mr Roger Burnel) (CES 397/86)

- Adoption of Erasmus: the European Community action scheme for the mobility of university students  
(Rapporteur: Mr David P. Schwarz) (CES 396/86)
- Protection of workers from the risks related to exposure to benzene at work  
(Rapporteur: Mr George Dassis) (CES 401/86)
- Guidelines for a Community shipbuilding policy  
(Supplementary Opinion)  
(Rapporteur: Mr Romoli Arena) (CES 400/86)
- Adoption of common technical specifications of the MAC/Packer family of standards for direct satellite television broadcasting  
(Rapporteur: Mr Paul Broicher) (CES 393/86)
- Public supply contracts – Conclusions and perspectives  
Communications by the Commission to the Council  
(Rapporteur: Sir George Sharp) (CES 399/86)
- Legal protection of original topographies of semi-conductor products  
(Rapporteur: Mr Philippus H. Noordwal) (CES 394/86)
- Seed (Amendment to Regulations (EEC) No 2727/75 and (EEC) No 950/68)  
(Rapporteur: Mr Rudolph Schnieders) (CES 398/86)
- Health problems affecting intra-Community trade in meat products  
(Amendment to Directive 77/79/EEC)  
(CES 403/86)
- Protective measures against the introduction into the Member States of harmful organisms of plants or plant products (Amendment to Directive 77/93/EEC in view of the accession of the Kingdom of Spain and the Portuguese Republic)  
(Rapporteur: Mr André De Tavernier) (CES 395/86)
- Classification, packaging and labelling of dangerous preparations  
(Rapporteur: Mr Aldo Romoli) (CES 391/86)
- Common procedure for the exchange of information on the quality of surface fresh water in the Community  
(Amendment to Decision 77/795/EEC)  
(Rapporteur: Mr Gian Carlo Zoli) (CES 392/86)

237TH PLENARY SESSION ON 21 AND 22 MAY 1986

- Towards a common transport policy – maritime transport  
(Communication and Proposals from the Commission to the Council)  
(Rapporteur: Mr Mols Sørensen) (CES 511/86)

- Forthcoming round of GATT negotiations – Renewal of the Multifibre Agreement (Own-initiative Opinion)  
(Rapporteur: Mr Finn Breitenstein) (CES 512/86)
- The effects of the CAP on the social situation of farmworkers in the Community (Own-initiative Opinion)  
(Rapporteur: Mr Willi Lojewski) (CES 513/86)
- Amendment to Regulation (EEC) No 1408/71 on the application of social security schemes to employed persons, to self-employed persons and to members of their families moving within the Community and Regulation (EEC) No 574/72 laying down the procedure for implementing Regulation (EEC) No 1408/71  
(Rapporteur: Mr Gordon Pearson) (CES 508/86)
- EC shared-cost research, development and demonstration programmes (Own-initiative Opinion)  
(Rapporteur: Mr John A. de Normann) (CES 506/86)
- Community orientation in the development of new and renewable energy sources (Communication from the Commission to the Council and Draft Council Resolution)  
(Rapporteur: Mr Paul Flum) (CES 504/86)
- Community programme for the development of certain less-favoured regions of the Community by exploiting indigenous energy potential (Valoren programme)  
(Rapporteur: Mr Michel Saiu) (CES 510/86)
- Prevention of environmental pollution by asbestos  
(Rapporteur: Mr René Bleserd) (CES 507/86)
- Water quality objectives for chromium  
(Rapporteur: Mr John A. de Normann) (CES 503/86)
- Protection of animals used for experimental and other scientific purposes  
(Rapporteur: Mr Peter Storie-Pugh) (CES 502/86)
- Implementation in the Community of the convention on International trade in endangered species of wild fauna and flora (Amendment to Regulation (EEC) No 3626/82)  
(Rapporteur: Mr Gian Carlo Zoli) (CES 509/86)
- Turnover taxes – VAT rules applicable to the operation of a future cross-Channel fixed link  
(Rapporteur: Mr Carlo Hemmer) (CES 501/86)
- Standstill on VAT and excise duties  
(Rapporteur: Mr Luigi Della Croce) (CES 500/86)

- Research and development programme for a machine translation system of advanced design  
(Amendment to Decision 82/752/EEC on account of the accession of Spain and Portugal)  
(Sole-Rapporteur: Mr Edouard Brassier) (CES 505/86)

238TH PLENARY SESSION ON 2 AND 3 JULY 1986

- The economic situation in the Community (mid-1986)  
(Own-initiative Opinion)  
(Rapporteur: Mr Michael Geuenich) (CES 636/86)
- Relations between the European Community and Asean  
(Own-initiative Opinion)  
(Rapporteur: Mr Herbert Nierhaus) (CES 637/86)
- Small firms in the services sector (Information Report)  
(Rapporteur: Mr Giacomo Regaldo) (CES 627/85 fin + Appendix)
- Community programme for the development of certain less-favoured regions of the Community by improving access to advanced telecommunications services (STAR programme)  
(Rapporteur: Mr Paul Broicher) (CES 638/86)
- Amendment to Regulation (EEC) No 1408/71 on the application of social security schemes to employed persons, to self-employed persons and to members of their families moving within the Community, and Regulation (EEC) No 574/72 laying down the procedure for implementing Regulation (EEC) No 1408/71  
(Rapporteur: Mr Gordon Pearson) (CES 639/86)
- Community action in the forestry sector  
(Discussion paper and a complementary memorandum)  
(Rapporteur: Mr Rudolf Schnieders) (CES 635/86)
- Specific Community action to combat poverty (Amendment to Decision 85/8/EEC)  
(Rapporteur-General: Mr E. Brian Roycroft) (CES 634/86)
- Provisions applicable to goods brought into the customs territory of the Community  
(Rapporteur: Mr Paul Broicher) (CES 631/86)
- Information to be published when major holdings in the capital of a listed company are acquired or disposed of  
(Rapporteur: Mr Jean Rouzier) (CES 628/86)
- The reorganization and the winding-up of credit institutions  
(Rapporteur: Mr Jacques De Bruyn) (CES 633/86)

- Work programme for creating a common information market  
(Communication from the Commission to the Council)  
(Rapporteur: Mr Herbert Nierhaus) (CES 632/86)
- Customs warehouses and free zones and free warehouses  
(Rapporteur: Mr Paul Broicher) (CES 630/86)
- Creation of a European Foundation for the Improvement of Living and Working  
Conditions (Amendment to Regulation (EEC) No 1365/75)  
(Rapporteur: Mr Vittorio Meraviglia) (CES 629/86)
- Common measure to improve vine-growing structures in Portugal  
(Rapporteur-General: Mr Bento Gonçalves) (CES 640/86)

#### 239th PLENARY SESSION ON 17 AND 18 SEPTEMBER 1986

- Social developments in the Community in 1985  
(Rapporteur-General: Mr Jacques De Bruyn) (CES 760/86)
- Relations between the European Community, Japan and the USA (Own-initiative  
Opinion)  
(Rapporteurs: Mr Henry Curlis and Mr Hans-Werner Staratzke) (CES 764/86)
- Stocktaking and prospects for a Community rail policy  
(Information Report)  
(Rapporteur: Mr. Jean Querleux) (CES 348/86 fin + Appendices)
- The importance of technological research and development to small and  
medium-sized enterprises  
(Information Report)  
(Rapporteur: Mr John A. de Normann) (CES 896/86 + Appendices)
- Agricultural structures and the adjustment of agriculture to the new market  
situation and the preservation of the countryside  
(Amendment to Regulations (EEC) Nos 797/85, 270/79, 1360/78 and 355/77)  
(Rapporteur: Mr Maurice Zinkin) (CES 766/86)
- Exemption from value-added tax on the final importation of certain goods  
(Amendment to Directive 83/181/EEC determining the scope of Article 14 (1) (d) of  
Directive 77/388/EEC); Standardization of provisions regarding the duty-free  
admission of fuel contained in the fuel tanks of commercial vehicles (Amendment  
to Directive 68/297/EEC) (two proposals for Directives)  
(Rapporteur: Mr Horst-Hermann Binnenbruck) (CES 759/86)
- YES for Europe – 1987-89 – Action programme for the promotion of youth  
exchanges in the Community  
(Rapporteur: Mr David P. Schwarz) (CES 769/86)

- Community action in the field of tourism  
(Commission Communication to the Council)  
(Rapporteur: Mr Edouard Brassier) (CES 753/86)
- Jurisdiction in disputes arising from the marketing of units of undertakings for collective investment in transferable securities (UCITS)  
(Amendment to Directive 85/611/EEC)  
(Rapporteur: Mr Jacques De Bruyn) (CES 758/86)
- Conditions under which non-resident carriers may transport goods or passengers by inland waterway within a Member State  
(Rapporteur: Mr Roeland J. H. Fortuyn) (CES 765/86)
- Coordinated introduction of the Integrated Services Digital Network (ISDN) in the European Community  
(Council Recommendation)  
(Rapporteur: Mr Herbert Nierhaus) (CES 757/86)
- Completion of the internal market: Community legislation on foodstuffs  
(Communication from the Commission to the Council and to the European Parliament)  
(Rapporteur: Mr G. H. E. Hilken) (CES 762/86)
- Food additives authorized for use in foodstuffs intended for human consumption  
(Rapporteur: Mr Michel De Grave) (CES 754/86)
- Labelling, presentation and advertising of foodstuffs for sale to the ultimate consumer  
(Amendment to Directive 79/112/EEC)  
(Rapporteur: Mrs Christiane Dore) (CES 763/86)
- Materials and articles intended to come into contact with foodstuffs  
(Rapporteur: Mr Poul Antonsen) (CES 755/86)
- Foodstuffs intended for particular nutritional uses  
(Rapporteur: Mrs Alma Williams) (CES 756/86)
- Simple pressure vessels  
(new principle designed to eliminate trade barriers)  
(Rapporteur: Mr Paul Flum) (CES 761/86)
- Annual accounts and consolidated accounts as regards the scope of those directives  
(Amendment to Directives 78/660/EEC and 83/349/EEC)  
(Rapporteur: Mr Fausto d'Elia) (CES 768/86)
- Medium-term programme for transport infrastructure  
(Commission Communication to the Council and Draft Regulation on financial support)  
(Rapporteur: Mr Jean Rouzier) (CES 767/86)



240TH PLENARY SESSION ON 21, 22 and 23 OCTOBER 1986

- XVth Report on competition policy  
(Rapporteur-General: Mr Edoardo Bagliano) (CES 848/86)
- Roadworthiness tests for motor vehicles and their trailers  
(amendment of Directive 77/143/EEC)  
(Rapporteur-General: Mr Francisco Corell Ayora) (CES 849/86)

241ST PLENARY SESSION ON 26 AND 27 NOVEMBER 1986

- Annual report on the economic situation 1986-87  
(Rapporteur: Mr Michael Geuenich) (CES 969/86)
- Financial integration in the Community  
(Rapporteur: Mr Francesco Drago) (CES 970/86)
- Dumping of waste at sea  
(Rapporteur: Mr Klaus Benedict von der Decken) (CES 964/86)
- Emission of gaseous pollutants from diesel engines and particulate emissions from diesel engines (two proposals)  
(Rapporteur: Mr William G. Poeton) (CES 965/86)
- Undertakings for collective investment in transferable securities (UCITS)  
(amendment of Directive 85/611/EEC)  
(Rapporteur: Mr P. A. A. Spijkers) (CES 962/86)
- Revision for 1987 of research programme (1984-87)  
(Rapporteur: Mr Enrico Vercellino) (CES 972/86)
- Framework programme of Community activities in the field of research and technological development 1987-91  
(Rapporteur: Mr Tomás Roseingrave) (CES 971/86)
- Application of Article 85(3) of the Treaty to categories of agreements, decisions and concerted practices  
(amendment of Regulation (EEC) No 2821/71)  
(Rapporteur: Mr Javier Velasco Mancebo) (CES 968/86)
- Application of generalized tariff preferences for 1987 in respect of certain industrial products originating in developing countries (three draft Regulations and a draft Decision)  
(Rapporteur-General: Mr Gian Battista Cavazzuti) (CES 963/86)
- Access to the market for the carriage of goods by road between Member States (Article 2)  
(Rapporteur: Mr Lawrence J. Smith) (CES 966/86)

- Improvement and adaptation of structures in the fisheries and aquaculture sectors (Rapporteur-General: Mr Jesus Muñiz Guardado) (CES 967/86)

#### 242ND PLENARY SESSION ON 16 AND 17 DECEMBER 1986

- Local employment initiatives (Own-initiative Opinion) (Rapporteur: Mr Tomás Roseingrave) (CES 1061/86)
- Criteria and efficiency of integrated operations (Own-initiative Opinion) (Rapporteur: Mr Luigi Della Croce) (CES 1062/86)
- Coordination of procedures on the award of public supply contracts and deletion of certain provisions of Directive 80/767/EEC (amendment of Directive 77/62/EEC) (Rapporteur: Mr Paul Kaaris) (CES 1058/86)
- Aid to shipbuilding (Rapporteur: Mr Romolo Arena) (CES 1059/86)
- Granting of financial support to transport infrastructure projects (Rapporteur: Mr Jean Rouzier) (CES 1057/86)
- Antioxidants authorized for use in foodstuffs intended for human consumption (fourth amendment of Directive 70/357/EEC) (Rapporteur: Mr Kenneth J. Gardner) (CES 1053/86)
- Health problems affecting intra-Community trade in fresh meat (amendment of Directive 64/433/EEC); health and veterinary inspection problems upon importation of bovine animals and swine and fresh meat from third countries (amendment of Directive 72/462/EEC) (two draft Directives) (Rapporteur: Mr Hans-Jürgen Wick) (CES 1054/86)
- Eradication of brucellosis, tuberculosis and leukosis in cattle (Rapporteur-General: Mr Peter Storie-Pugh) (CES 1060/86)
- Common organization of the market in wine (amendment of Regulation) (Rapporteur: Mr Joseph Yverneau) (CES 1055/86)
- Common organization of the market in sheep and goatmeat (11th amendment of Regulation (EEC) No 1837/80) (Rapporteur: Mr Jean-Claude Clavel) (CES 1056/86)
- Community action in the field of telecommunication technologies (RACE) (Rapporteur-General: Mr Herbert Nierhaus) (CES 1063/86)

**List of opinions  
drawn up by the Committee  
on its own initiative (1980-86)**

A full list of the opinions issued by the Committee since 1973 can be found in the 1985 Annual Report.

- Report on some structural aspects of growth  
(Rapporteur: Mr Querini)
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- Regional programmes  
(Rapporteur: Mr Hall)
April 1980
- Use of medicine and its effects on public health  
(Rapporteur: Mr De Grave)
April 1980
- The report on European institutions  
(Rapporteur-General: Mr Friedrichs)
May 1980
- Development cooperation policy and the economic  
and social consequences of the application of certain  
international standards governing working conditions  
(Rapporteur: Mr Soulat)
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- Distribution of the total catch possibilities of stocks or  
groups of stocks occurring in the Community fishing  
zone  
(Rapporteur: Mr Leo)
November 1980
- Community accession to the European Convention on  
Human Rights  
(Rapporteur: Mr Williams)
December 1980
- Protection of investment in less-developed countries  
(Rapporteur: Mr Breitenstein)
December 1980
- European Regional Development Fund (Fifth Annual  
Report 1979)  
(Rapporteur: Mr Curlis)
December 1980
- The Community competition policy in the light of the  
current economic and social situation  
(Rapporteur: Mr Bagliano)
April 1981
- Revision of the ERDF Regulation  
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April 1981
- Implementation of the Second Lomé Convention  
(Rapporteur: Mr Clavel)
May 1981
- Economic and commercial relations between the Com-  
munity and Japan  
(Rapporteur: Mr Évain)
July 1981
- The automobile sector  
(Rapporteur: Mr Laval)
July 1981

- The present situation in the Community's construction sector and the most appropriate measures by which the EEC can promote growth and employment in this sector  
(Rapporteur: Mr Évain)

July 1981
- The situation and problems of the handicapped  
(Rapporteur: Mr Davies)

July 1981
- The Community's food aid policy  
(Rapporteur: Mr Williams)

September 1981
- The agricultural aspects of the enlargement of the Community to include Spain  
(Rapporteur: Mr Lauga)

September 1981
- Review of energy policy objectives for 1990 and Member States' investment programmes  
(Communication from the Commission)  
(Rapporteur: Mr Margot)

September 1981
- Prospects for the Communities' policies in the 1980s  
(Rapporteur: Mr De Bruyn)

October 1981
- Reform of the common agricultural policy  
(Rapporteur: Mr Zinkin)

November 1981
- European Regional Development Fund (Sixth Annual Report 1980)  
(Rapporteur: Mr Zoli)

December 1981
- The situation and prospects of the textile and clothing industries in the Community  
(Rapporteur: Mr Masucci)

January 1982
- The coordination of labour market instruments  
(Rapporteur: Mr Vannin)

February 1982
- The development of the European Monetary System (EMS)  
(Rapporteur: Mr Évain)

April 1982
- The 1982 programme for the attainment of the customs union  
(Rapporteur: Mr Broicher)

April 1982
- The promotion of the small and medium-sized enterprises sector in the European Community  
(Rapporteur: Mr Kolbenschlag)

May 1982

- Communication from the Commission to the Council on the development of an energy strategy for the Community and energy pricing – policy and transparency (Rapporteur: Mr Zünkler) May 1982
- The economic situation in the Community (mid-1982) (Rapporteur: Mr Loccufier) July 1982
- Commission report to the ACP-EEC Council of Ministers on the administration of financial and technical cooperation in 1980 under the Lomé Convention (Rapporteur: Mr Cremer) July 1982
- Transport policy of the European Community in the 1980s (Rapporteur-General: Mr Rouzier) October 1982
- European Regional Development Fund – Seventh Annual Report (1981) (Rapporteur: Mr Broicher) February 1983
- Youth employment (Rapporteur: Mr Burnell) June 1983
- Young people and their role in the development of the European Community (Rapporteur: Mr De Bruyn) June 1983
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- Community policy on oils and fats (Rapporteur: Mr Lauga) October 1983
- Enlargement of the Community to include Portugal and Spain (Rapporteur: Mrs Strobel) November 1983

- EEC-EFTA relations  
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March 1984
- Dialogue and cooperation between representatives of consumers, producers and distributors  
(Rapporteur: Mr Hilkens)

May 1984
- European Community action programme on the management (prevention, recycling disposal of waste) European waste management programme  
(Rapporteur: Mr Kólblé)

May 1984
- Economic situation in the Community in the first half of 1984  
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July 1984
- Spanish and Portuguese and accession to the Community  
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July 1984
- Industrial medicine  
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September 1984
- EC-Yugoslav relations  
(Rapporteur: Mr Stahlmann)

September 1984
- Current social security problems in the EEC  
(Rapporteur: Mr Engelen-Kefer)

October 1984
- Migrant workers  
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October 1984
- Current situation and medium-term prospects of the Community fisheries sector  
(Information report and own-initiative opinion)  
(Rapporteur: Mr Pietro Morselli)

February 1985
- Priorities for Community research initiatives: the next revision of the framework programme for Community scientific and technological activities  
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March 1985
- Occupational cancer  
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May 1985
- Economic situation in the Community (mid-1985)  
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July 1985

- Green Paper on the establishment of the common market for broadcasting, especially by satellite and cable  
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September 1985
- National Regional Development Aid  
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- The effects of the CAP on the social situation of farm-workers in the Community  
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May 1986
- EC shared-cost research, development and demonstration projects  
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May 1986
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July 1986
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July 1986
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September 1986
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November 1986
- Local employment initiatives  
(Rapporteur: Mr Tomás Roseingrave)

December 1986
- Criteria and efficiency of integrated operations  
(Rapporteur: Mr Luigi Della Croce)

December 1986



**Tables indicating the extent  
to which opinions led to proposals  
being amended**

These tables, which cover more than the year under review, update the follow-up given to the Committee opinions. In view of the fact that there is a certain timelag between the adoption of an opinion and the Council decision, the present tables are meant to complete the Committee's previous annual reports.

Subject	Referred on	Referred by	Committee Opinion	Act published	Opinion taken into account			EP Opinion
					To a small extent	In several respects	To a large extent	
Protection of workers from the risks related to exposure to chemical, physical and biological agents at work: noise	28. 10. 1982	Council	23. 11. 1983 OJ C 23 of 30. 1. 1984	OJ L 137 of 24. 5. 1986	X			OJ C 46 of 20. 2. 1984 OJ C 127 of 30. 4. 1984
Implementation of the principle of equal treatment for men and women in occupational social security schemes	23. 5. 1983	Council	14. 12. 1983 OJ C 35 of 9. 2. 1984	OJ L 225 of 12. 8. 1986			X	OJ C 117 of 21. 5. 1983
Granting of financial support for demonstration projects relating to the exploitation of alternative energy sources, energy saving, the substitution of hydrocarbons and the liquefaction and gasification of solid fuels	6. 3. 1985	Council	3. 7. 1985 OJ C 218 of 29. 8. 1985	OJ L 350 of 27. 12. 1985	X			
Adoption of an action programme of the Community for education and training for technology - Comett (1986-92)	27. 8. 1985	Council	27. 11. 1985 OJ C 344 of 31. 12. 1985	OJ L 222 of 8. 8. 1986		X		OJ C 345 of 31. 12. 1985
Tasks of the European Social Fund in view of the accession of Spain and Portugal (amendment of Regulation (EEC) No 2950/83 implementing Decision No 83/516/EEC and amendment of Decision No 83/516/EEC)	13. 11. 1985	Council	27. 11. 1985 OJ C 344 of 31. 12. 1985	OJ L 370 of 31. 12. 1985	Committee Opinion endorsed Commission proposal			

Subject	Referred on	Referred by	Committee Opinion	Act published	Opinion taken into account			EP Opinion
					To a small extent	In several respects	To a large extent	
Consumer education in primary and secondary schools (Draft Council Resolution)	27. 8. 1985	Council	26. 2. 1986 OJ C 101 of 28. 4. 1986	<i>Resolution</i> OJ C 101 of 28. 4. 1986		X		
Employment of disabled people in the European Community (Draft Council Recommendation)	7. 2. 1986	Council	23. 4. 1986 OJ C 189 of 28. 7. 1986	OJ L 225 of 12. 8. 1986		X		OJ C 148 of 16. 6. 1986
Equal opportunities for Women - Medium-term Community Programme (1986-90)	24. 4. 1986	Council	24. 4. 1986 OJ C 189 of 28. 7. 1986	<i>Resolution</i> OJ C 203 of 12. 8. 1986		X		



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