

Commission

Temporary measures

2.3.20. On 1 August Mr Dalsager returned to his post as Commissioner responsible for agriculture, which had been taken over during his absence by Mr Thorn, President of the Commission.

Activities

2.3.21. The Commission held five meetings in July, each lasting for several sittings.

Decisions, communications and proposals

2.3.22. The Commission adopted two communications on economic matters, one containing its proposed guidelines under the fifth medium-term economic policy programme (1981-85) and the other dealing with the principles of indexation, and a recommendation to the Belgian Government pursuant to the Council Decision of 18 February 1974. It also adopted communications on pluriannual supplies of agricultural products, the situation and prospects of the textile and clothing industry and new guidelines and priorities for regional policy, a report on passenger airfares and a proposal for a regulation applying Articles 85 and 86 of the Treaty to air transport. The Commission also determined how the scheme of generalized tariff preferences would operate in 1982, as it does at the same time each year.

On 15 July the Commission sent two proposals for decisions to the Council concerning the Insis and Caddia projects, as part of its general programme of developing its activities regarding the new information technologies. These proposals are for the establishment of an information link between the Community institutions and the national authorities most directly concerned and for a new Community information system on imports and exports and the management and financial control of common organizations of agricultural markets.

Bull. EC 7/8-1981

Discussions, policy debates and work in hand

2.3.23. The Commission's main concern was the procedure for the follow-up to its report on the 30 May 1980 mandate and the content and timetable of formal proposals on the various sections of the report. The Commission also discussed the position paper on interinstitutional relations which it had undertaken to submit to Parliament in October; it adopted procedural arrangements for drawing up the paper. Lastly, it began considering a proposal for a Regulation applying Articles 85 and 86 of the Treaty to sea transport.

Relations with workers' and employers' organizations

2.3.24. The President of the Commission and Mr Richard met a delegation from the European Centre for Public Enterprises (CEEP) to discuss (a) the part played by publicly-owned undertakings and undertakings in which the State has a holding in the Community economies and (b) arrangements for consultation of the CEEP by the Commission.

2.3.25. Senior appointments

Directorate-General for External Relations

Inger Nielsen

Born 23 October 1923

Unmarried

Universities of Aarhus and Copenhagen

1952-73 Danish foreign service officer, serving in Paris (Delegation to OECD) and Geneva (Mission to UN)

May 1973 Joined the Commission as Chief Adviser (relations with Mediterranean countries)

April 1976 Director, Delegation for the accession negotiations with Greece

June 1979 Director, Delegation for Enlargement (with special responsibility for the negotiations with Spain)

22 July 1981 Appointed Deputy Director-General for External Relations, with special responsibility for the Delegation for Enlargement

Directorate-General for Transport

John R. Steele

Born 22 February 1929

Married, four children

Queen Elizabeth Grammar School, Wakefield, and The Queen's College, Oxford

1951-54 Principal, Ministry of Civil Aviation

1957-64 Principal, Ministry of Transport and Civil Aviation

1967-71 Counsellor (Shipping), British Embassy, Washington

1971-73 Assistant Secretary, Civil Aviation Division, Department of Trade and Industry

1973-76 Under Secretary, Department of Trade and Industry (successively Space Division, Shipping Policy Division, General Division)

1976-81 Deputy Secretary, Department of Trade (successively responsible for bilateral trade relations and commodities policy; shipping, marine and civil aviation questions; industrial sponsorship)

1 July 1981 Appointed Director-General for Transport at the Commission

ration that a Community regulation is void on the validity of applications for the refund of amounts previously paid (as security) by traders in accordance with the provisions of that regulation.

As regards the first point, the Court pointed out that the main purpose of Article 177 of the Treaty is to ensure the uniform application of Community law by national courts, in respect of both the interpretation of a rule of Community law and the assessment of the validity of an act of the institutions, and, in addition, with regard to the latter type of action, the particularly vital requirement of legal certainty. The Court therefore held that a judgment given under Article 177 of the Treaty declaring a measure adopted by an institution, in particular a Council or Commission regulation to be void, although directly addressed only to the national court which submitted the matter to the Court, is sufficient reason for any other national court to regard that measure as void for the purposes of a judgment which it has to give.

This pronouncement does not, however, result in national courts being deprived of the power given to them by Article 177 of the Treaty; it rests with those courts to decide whether there is an interest in raising once again a question which has already been settled by the Court where the Court has previously declared an act of a Community institution to be void. There may be such an interest, in particular if questions arise as to the grounds, the scope and possibly the consequences of the nullity previously established.

Court of Justice¹

Examination of judgments delivered between 1 April and 30 June 1981

General

2.3.26. In Case 66/80² concerning agriculture, the Court was asked to rule on the *erga omnes* or *inter partes* effects of its preliminary rulings declaring a Community regulation to be void³ and on the consequences, under both the Community legal system and the Member States' legal systems, of a decla-

¹ For more detailed information, see the texts published by the Court of Justice in the *Official Journal* and the *European Court Reports*, and the publications of its Information Office (e.g. the annual synopsis of the work of the Court or the information quarterly).

² Case 66/80 *International Chemical Corporation v Amministrazione delle Finanze dello Stato*: not yet reported.

³ The judgments of the Court on 5.7.1977 in Cases 114/76, 116/76 and 119/76, *Bela Mühle and Others*, [1977] ECR 1211 declaring Council Regulation No 563/76 of 15 March 1976 to be void.

24.VII.81

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Mlle Inger NIELSEN a été nommée directeur général adjoint (grade A 1) à la Direction Générale des Relations extérieures. Elle est la première femme à être nommée directeur général par la Commission.

Inger Nielsen est née le 23 Octobre 1923 à Copenhague, elle a fait ses études aux universités de Aarhus et de Copenhague où elle a obtenu la licence en Sciences Politiques avant de rentrer au Ministère des Affaires Etrangères danois en 1952. Elle a fait partie successivement des représentations danoises auprès de l'OTAN, l'OCDE, le GATT, l'EFTA.

Dès l'adhésion du Danemark à la Communauté, Mlle Inger Nielsen fait partie des services de la Commission, où elle est actuellement chef de la Délégation de la Commission pour l'Elargissement.

