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BULLETIN OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES

European Coal and Steel Community
European Economic Community
European Atomic Energy Community

Commission of the European Communities
Secretariat-General
Brussels

No 9
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PART ONE

SPECIAL FEATURES

1. The Community: Bearings and prospects

The Commission's thoughts

1.1.1. With the Community again having to tackle the problem of enlargement (following three new applications for membership) at a time when its internal development is clearly fraught with difficulties, the Commission felt the need to think things over. The idea was not to take decisions, approve documents or map out practical and detailed solutions, but to consider and discuss the general course which should be followed in the months and years ahead on the two basic matters of enlargement and internal development.

It was therefore decided that the Commission would meet informally near La Roche-en-Ardenne on 17 and 18 September.

Three issues were discussed:

- (i) the institutional aspects and enlargement;
- (ii) the economic consequences of enlargement, especially in the Mediterranean regions;
- (iii) the prospects for economic and monetary union.

Enlargement and the institutions

1.1.2. The main point to emerge from the discussions was that the Community has no need at present to change course, but does need to re-define its principles and its commitments in the light of change, both past and future.

One of the matters which the Commission considered, therefore, was the choice of the right occasion, of a signal event—for instance, the direct election of the European Parliament—to reaffirm the basic element in the construction of Europe which has always been and still is pluralist democracy. The Community was created on this identity of political principles, which is reflected in the Preamble to the Treaty of Rome and which emphasizes its dedication to the democratic freedoms.

The Community's first enlargement revealed the benefit of enriching the democratic tradition of the Six with that of the new Member States: the United Kingdom, Denmark, Ireland. The second enlargement, too, would also have a deep political purpose: the strengthening of democracy in the new applicant countries.

This is why the Commission is going to consider presenting a political declaration to the Nine, which could be formally incorporated into the Preamble of the new Treaty of Accession, thus binding the new Community together.

The Commission emphasized that a more searching analysis had to be made of certain institutional changes which might prove necessary, in some areas, to maintain the efficiency of the institutions after enlargement. On this score, it was felt that the new Commission should not be too large and that Parliament's political 'endorsement' should have more weight.

Other avenues should also be further explored: for instance, giving the Commission a more substantial role in managing Community policies, making the Council's decision-making process more efficient or employing the legal instruments now in use with more flexibility.

Economic aspects of enlargement

1.1.3. Much of the informal discussion focused on the economic aspects of enlargement, with particular reference to the Mediterranean regions. The question was not whether the Community was to enlarge or not, but rather how it should be accomplished, bearing in mind three kinds of problems:

- (i) those involving the Mediterranean regions of the Community countries;
- (ii) questions concerning the adaptation of the applicant countries;
- (iii) policies which an enlarged Community would need.

Some of the problems which are now besetting certain regions in the member countries are not directly related to enlargement although this may increase the need for rapid solutions.

In this general context a number of guiding considerations emerged.

(a) The Commission feels that enlargement must never be regarded as something which would cause the Community to abandon its objectives: economic and monetary union and political union. But a greater effort will be needed to attain them.

(b) No Community can advance if it is marked by disparities which are already excessive or likely to get worse. There is a big difference in per capita incomes between the new members and the Community average: US \$ 1 500-2 000 in the applicant countries as against a Community average of US \$ 4 100. Without meaningful solidarity, there can be no political response to enlargement. And it must be remembered that the problem of disparities exists throughout the Community, and not merely between the north and south.

(c) Agriculture remains the key sector requiring aid (about a third of all workers in the applicant countries are employed on the land compared with 9% in the Community); but it is not the only one. A substantial effort will have to be made in respect of infrastructures, vocational training and industrialization.

The idea of an *ad hoc* financial instrument for the applicant countries was suggested as a possibility to be explored.

(d) As regards what is to be done to assist Mediterranean agriculture, surpluses are already in evidence for a number of products.

The situation may well deteriorate upon enlargement. If surpluses are to be reduced, even in the northern countries, the problem is therefore not merely one of transposing the support mechanisms used in the northern countries to assist those in the south.

Action to be planned for the Mediterranean regions must aim to make agriculture more efficient and more competitive with quality produce. Consideration must also be given to irrigation, infrastructure and industrial processing programmes, none of which have any problem of surpluses.

(e) The Commission examined whether a political commitment should be made with the applicant countries so that subsequent action—on the basis of the Commission's Opinions on the applications for membership—would have the meaning of a joint venture, whose characteristics should be carefully analysed.

(f) Lastly, the Commission intends to study in more detail the repercussions of enlargement on the other Mediterranean countries with which it is linked either by an Association Agreement (Turkey) or by preferential agreements, in order to ensure that these agreements continue to work effectively.

Economic and monetary union

1.1.4. Here we have a very definite appointment; in December the European Council is to assess the prospects for progress towards economic and monetary union.

The main points made at La Roche were as follows:

The setbacks suffered by economic and monetary union and its lack of credibility must not lead to the conclusion that this goal, however remote it may appear, is now vain or utopian.

Political union in Europe will never come about until substantial progress has been made towards economic and monetary union. This aim must therefore be reaffirmed, elucidated and adapted to present circumstances, since it is now even more imperative and for two reasons.

(i) Enlargement is going to widen existing disparities. Without the bond of economic and

monetary union, the new Community may well not just stand still, but even slip backwards. The disparities themselves will not prevent economic and monetary union. A glance at history or economics, at, say, the disparities between Pennsylvania and Alabama, is enough to see that this is not the core of the problem.

(ii) National policies have not produced satisfactory results in dealing with the present crisis. The strong currencies have discovered the responsibilities and disadvantages which go with their strength; the weak currencies have seen the shortlived benefits of floating.

The Commission's approach in preparing for the European Council meeting in December will be to restate the ultimate objectives, more clearly defining what should be accomplished in the medium term and spelling out the immediate commitments. In the light of our present difficulties, restating the validity of economic and monetary union must not be allowed to be construed as a 'flight forward'.

One vital factor here is that the supporting policies referred to in the final communiqué of the Paris Summit in October 1972 should today become the very essence of progress towards any objective. This means the industrial policy, energy policy, regional policy, social policy and the fight against unemployment, a programme for European infrastructure and a policy of assistance for investment in the developing countries.

Economic and monetary union will, of course, require a gradual transfer of resources and powers to the Union. There will, of course, have to be a qualitative advance at some time. But to look at the problem of resources, for example, it can be seen that the magnitude needed to make them significant is neither dramatic nor unbearable. The McDougall Group reckoned them at between 2.5 and 4% of gross domestic product.

In the talks in La Roche, it was acknowledged that the monetary aspects cannot be singled out. But it was also emphasized that we must not

wait for everything to be done in the sphere of economic convergence in order to advance on this front.

Lastly, drawing on past experience, the Commission intends to give added point not only to the constraints of economic and monetary union, but also to the advantages it carries for rich and poor alike.¹

1.1.5. Since the meeting in La Roche, the Commission has finalized the procedures and work programme to follow up its conclusions.

¹ Extracts from statements made to accredited representatives of the press on 19 September by the Spokesman of the Commission following the informal meeting in La Roche-en-Ardenne on 17 and 18 September.

2. EEC-CMEA relations

Visit to Brussels of the Chairman of the CMEA Executive Committee

1.2.1. Negotiations will begin during the first half of 1978 with a view to concluding an agreement defining the forms of and the procedures for the relations to be established between the Community and the Council for Mutual Economic Assistance (CMEA).

This is the main outcome of talks which took place on 21 September in Brussels between a CMEA delegation¹—led by the Chairman of its Executive Committee—and a Community delegation. It is an important stage in the development of relations between the Community and the CMEA.²

Relations between the Community and the CMEA

1.2.2. These relations took a new turn in 1974 with an invitation from the CMEA Secretariat to the Commission,³ following which a delegation of top-level officials visited Moscow from 4 to 6 February 1975.⁴

Meanwhile, in November 1974, the Community had sent to the State-trading countries an outline bilateral trade agreement to be negotiated with each one of them to replace the Member States' bilateral agreements.⁵ A measure of progress was recorded at the 1975 talks in Moscow and delegations from the Commission and the CMEA Secretariat agreed that discussions should be continued at a subsequent meeting.

On 16 February 1976 in Luxembourg, Mr Gerhard Weiss, Chairman of the Executive Committee of the CMEA delivered a message from the CMEA to the President of the Council, at that time Mr Gaston Thorn, proposing the conclusion of an agreement between the two organizations.⁶

In November of the same year,⁷ the Council adopted the terms of a draft agreement defining

the forms of and the procedures for the relations to be established between the Community and the CMEA. In a letter accompanying the draft agreement—sent to Mr Olszewski, then Chairman of the CMEA Executive Committee—the Community stated its readiness to open negotiations on the basis of this draft. Following a further exchange of letters, in which the Community agreed to take part in a preliminary meeting, it was decided that a CMEA delegation would pay a visit to Brussels in September.

Declaration by the Community

1.2.3. Mr Wilhelm Haferkamp, Vice-President of the Commission with responsibility for external relations, made the following statement on behalf of the Community at the meeting in Brussels on 21 September:

'The Commission welcomes the fact that today's meeting marks a new step forward in relations between the Community and the CMEA Member States. This meeting represents a continuation of the dialogue which started in Moscow in February 1975 and the result of a substantial exchange of letters that has enabled the practical arrangements for the negotiations desired by the two parties to be settled.

These negotiations, the aim of which is to achieve a consensus between the Community and the CMEA, are an important factor in the efforts to bring back to normal the whole fabric of relations between the Community and the CMEA and between the Community and each of the CMEA Member States, with which we offered to sign bilateral trade agreements as early as 1974. The progress we are hoping to make here will constitute an important contribution towards *détente* in Europe.

Today over one hundred States have normal relations with the Community. Two years after the signing of the Final Act of the Helsinki Conference the present state of the CMEA member countries' relations with the Community must ap-

¹ Also known as Comecon.

² Bull. EC 2-1976, point 1202.

³ Bull. EC 9-1974, point 1201.

⁴ Bull. EC 2-1975, point 1301.

⁵ Bull. EC 11-1974, point 1301.

⁶ Bull. EC 2-1976, point 1203.

⁷ Bull. EC 11-1976, point 1301.

pear anomalous. In this respect, the fact that we are meeting today represents a positive development.

In our proposal of November 1976, we announced that the Community was ready to start negotiations immediately. In response to a wish expressed last April by the Chairman of the CMEA Executive Committee, however, we stated we were ready to take part in exploratory talks. We considered that such a meeting might help to speed up the opening of negotiations proper.

It is very important that this meeting should be a success, for the negotiations could be delayed considerably in the event of failure.

Three conditions have to be fulfilled for our meeting to have a successful outcome:

(i) We shall of course have to examine the matters we agreed to discuss in the exchange of letters of 18 April and 25 July.

In our reply to Mr Olszewski's letter we stated our readiness to exchange views on the continuation of the discussions. Thus, preparations for the negotiations come very much to the fore.

(ii) We must not go beyond our brief; that is, we must not start discussing matters that should be left for the negotiations proper.

(iii) We must see that we keep our aims moderate. We can hardly hope to settle all the outstanding questions during this meeting since the dialogue has been in abeyance for many years.

We should, therefore, concentrate on those matters which could be settled at our level despite the fact that the fundamental issues dividing us have not been discussed by experts in advance. These matters—on which public opinion too is expecting us to reach agreement—concern the practical arrangements for the negotiations. If we can decide on the place, the date and the level of the negotiations we shall have made real progress which, in view of our past relations, will be of great practical importance.'

Communiqué issued after the Brussels meeting

1.2.4. The following communiqué was published after the meeting on 21 September between delegations of the CMEA and the Community:

'On 21 September, Mr Marinescu, Deputy Prime Minister of Romania and Chairman of the Executive Committee of the CMEA, assisted by Mr Velkov, Assistant Secretary of the CMEA, met the Belgian Minister of Foreign Affairs, Mr Simonet, President of the Council of the European Communities, who introduced him to Mr Haferkamp, Vice-President of the Commission, which will be conducting the negotiations on behalf of the Communities. Mr Haferkamp presented the Community's point of view during the ensuing discussions.

The talks produced a constructive exchange of views on the future negotiations and the way in which they were to be held. A better understanding of the respective positions was gained and it was agreed that the negotiations for the conclusion of an agreement could begin early in 1978.

Reports will be made to the respective authorities and the necessary arrangements for entering into negotiations will be announced at a later date.'

3. Continuation of the North-South Dialogue

1.3.1. Although the Conference on International Economic Cooperation (CIEC), which ended in Paris on 2 June, already belongs to the past, the developing and industrialized countries are to continue the North-South Dialogue.

The developing countries now intend to revive the debate in the United Nations system. So much can be gathered from the round of international meetings, statements and talks which made September a busy month in Geneva, New York, Washington and Brussels.

United Nations Conference on Trade and Development

1.3.2. The UNCTAD Board, which met in August and September, touched upon the results of the Paris conference—preferring to leave it to the UN General Assembly, the most appropriate forum, to assess its outcome—and prepared the ground for the various meetings that are scheduled.

The first part of the UNCTAD Board's 17th session, which lasted from 23 August to 2 September, was sandwiched between the end of the Paris Conference and the beginning of the 31st session of the United Nations General Assembly, itself followed by the 32nd session, one of the main tasks of which is to review the proceedings of the CIEC. This session is also the forerunner of a number of other international gatherings such as the meeting of the Development Committee (IMF-IBRD) at the end of September, part of the Negotiating Conference on a Common Fund in November and the UNCTAD ministerial meeting scheduled for March 1978. In view of the number and importance of these meetings, the UNCTAD Board did not deal with the outcome of the CIEC from the substantive angle, concerning itself instead with preparations for its other activities which will naturally have a bearing on the North-South Dialogue in its broadest sense.

At the first part of its 9th special session (from 5 to 10 September) the Board, meeting at senior

officials level, fixed the draft agenda for the ministerial meeting in March 1978. This meeting, which comes midway between UNCTAD IV and UNCTAD V, will deal with developing countries' debts, the problems of the least advanced, insular and land-locked developing countries and other priority matters still to be settled by the senior officials in January 1978.

Lastly, it was under the auspices of UNCTAD that the last stage of the conference on the negotiation of a new International Sugar Agreement took place. After various new developments, the conference ended early in October with the adoption of a draft Agreement.¹

United Nations General Assembly

1.3.3. In its turn the UN General Assembly focused its attention on the results and consequences of the Paris Conference.²

Resumption of the 31st session

1.3.4. Before the end of its 30th session in December 1975, the UN General Assembly invited the Conference on International Economic Cooperation to report to it at its 31st session in 1976 on the conclusions of the Paris meeting.³ Since the CIEC had not yet ended when that session ought normally to have finished, the General Assembly decided on 22 December 1976 to resume the session in 1977 in order to complete discussion of the item on its agenda devoted to development and international economic cooperation and, more specifically, to discuss the report on the CIEC.

At the very beginning of the session, which lasted from 13 until 19 September, the Group of 77 tabled the draft resolution which was to serve as

¹ Point 2.2.10.

² Bull. EC 7/8-1977, point 2.2.10.

³ Bull. EC 12-1975, point 2325.

a basis for the debate, thereby clearly showing that it regarded the United Nations as the most representative and suitable forum for the continuation of the Dialogue, the objective of those countries still being the rearrangement of structures that is required in order to establish a new world economic order. The Group of 77 felt that the results of the CIEC have fallen far short of the targets set and have caused concern and regret among the developing countries, especially since, during the Conference, the pace of negotiations within the United Nations system slowed down considerably.

After stating that the CIEC had produced only certain limited agreements, the draft resolution called for systematic recourse to the United Nations in the case of all world negotiations—with UNCTAD, whose role the 77 wanted to see strengthened and broadened, being singled out for this purpose—and the convening of a special session of the General Assembly at ministerial level by 1980 at the latest. This session would review the progress made and agree upon a new international development strategy.

Having taken part as an entity at the Paris Conference, the Community adopted the same approach during the resumed session. The opening statement made on its behalf was indicative from the outset of a different appraisal of the CIEC, which it considered as an important stage in the dialogue between developing countries and industrialized countries, in that it had led to a greater understanding by both sides of the problems involved and to positive results in a number of important fields, in particular the US \$1 000 million special action programme, the Integrated Programme for Commodities (Common Fund) and the increase in public development aid and infrastructures in Africa. The Community also stated that it would carefully consider any proposal on energy, including the one from Mr Waldheim, the UN Secretary-General, concerning the founding of an international energy institute.¹ On the whole, it felt it had made clear in Paris

its political resolve to contribute towards positive results.

This assessment, which reflects the views of the eight industrialized countries which took part in the CIEC was evidently widely shared by the other western industrialized countries. It is not surprising, therefore, that the week of negotiations on the draft resolution of the 77 stumbled over the interpretation to be given to the results of the CIEC and that the concrete measures proposed in the document could not be discussed properly. However, the 32nd session of the General Assembly which was about to open enabled the discussion to continue. The socialist countries stated that, for their part, they did not consider themselves bound by the conclusions of the CIEC.

Having reached a stalemate, the Second Committee reported back to the Assembly without taking a vote. The Chairman, Mr Amerasinghe, concluded that it was impossible to negotiate 'against time', but he also stressed that such a vitally important issue as international economic cooperation should be discussed by the United Nations.

It emerged from this brief session that, although a uniform assessment of the results of the CIEC was impossible, the talks did not give rise to a confrontation between developed and developing countries. Both sides stressed the need for a renewed effort. As far as the developing countries are concerned, the CIEC belongs to the past, and the question of its assessment is now less important than the need to intensify discussions and negotiations within the United Nations on the establishment of a new world economic order.

¹ Bull. EC 7/8-1977, point 2.2.44.

Community position at the 32nd session

1.3.5. The general discussion of relations between the North and the South was to be resumed, therefore, during the 32nd session of the General Assembly, which opened immediately afterwards. In a speech he gave before the General Assembly on 26 September, Mr Simonet, the President of the Council, outlined the Community's position as follows: 'The Community feels that real progress has been made recently in the field of international economic cooperation. In this respect, the Paris Conference has yielded positive results in several important areas. The Community will see to it that the Paris agreements are implemented in the near future. I do not want to express feelings of unmitigated satisfaction, for we must remain realistic, and recognize the aspirations of the international community for a new international economic order. The European Community remains convinced of the need to bring about a fundamental improvement in the position of developing countries in the world economy, taking into account the problems of the least-developed countries. If I am not pessimistic, then it is because the international community has made significant efforts in important sectors with the aim of narrowing down differences and reconciling diverse interests. A case in point are the many ongoing negotiations this year, such as those on an integrated programme for commodities and on a Common Fund. In those areas, solutions are within reach and the Community will continue to participate in those discussions with an open mind, seeking tangible solutions.'¹

International Monetary Fund and World Bank

1.3.6. The issues raised by relations between the industrialized countries and the developing world—including the Paris Conference on International Economic Cooperation—were discussed at the annual meeting of the Governors of the IMF and the International Bank for Reconstruc-

tion and Development (IBRD) held in Washington from 26 to 30 September,² and at the meeting of the Development Committee (Joint Ministerial Committee of the Boards of Governors of the Bank and the Fund on the Transfer of Real Resources to the Developing Countries).

As far as the results of the CIEC are concerned, the Community's position was reaffirmed by Mr Gaston Geens, the President of the Council, when he stated:

As you know, the European Economic Community has spoken with a single voice in the North-South Conference. This has often allowed the Community to take the initiative with proposals, some of which met with general agreement. This was the case for the establishment of a Common Fund with purposes, objectives and other constituent elements to be further negotiated in UNCTAD. Moreover the Community originated the Special Action Programme for individual low-income countries facing general problems of transfer of resources. In this framework, the Community has committed itself to transfer to a special account of the IDA US\$385 million, equal to more than one-third of this special aid.³

A non-governmental international commission to restart the North-South Dialogue

1.3.7. While the UN General Assembly and the annual meetings of the IMF and the IBRD were being held, the setting up of a non-governmental international commission with the task of framing proposals on how to restart the North-South Dialogue was announced in New York on 28 September by Mr Willy Brandt, the Chairman of the Socialist International. This was largely an idea of Mr Robert McNamara.

¹ Extracts from Mr Simonet's speech to the General Assembly are published in Part Three (Documentation).

² Points 1.4.1 to 1.4.6.

³ Point 1.4.5.

The international commission, which will be chaired by Mr Willy Brandt, will consist of 15 prominent personalities from the industrialized countries and the Third World. It will be assisted by a secretariat composed of experts from all over the world including the East-bloc countries. It will have a budget of US\$2 million made up of voluntary contributions.

The report that will be drawn up by the international commission, which will remain free from government interference, on the renewed debate on development problems and on the follow-up to the North-South Dialogue will be sent to the UN Secretary-General and will be made available to governments and international organizations.

The work of the commission will in no way interfere with the negotiations on relations between developing and industrialized countries which will be held in the UN General Assembly's Second Committee or at bilateral level.

The Community and preparations for negotiations on a Common Fund

1.3.8. On 23 September the Commission sent to the Council a Communication concerning international negotiations on a Common Fund for Commodities in preparation for the resumed session of the United Nations Negotiating Conference on a Common Fund—which is part of the Integrated Programme for Commodities adopted by the Nairobi Conference—to be held in Geneva from 7 November to 2 December 1977.

This Communication should provide the basis for discussions to work out a common position before the Conference resumes. The need to establish such a Common Fund was one of the two areas of agreement reached by the CIEC in its final report.¹

The purpose of the communication concerning the Common Fund is to translate the commitment entered into by the Community into prac-

tical measures which will enable it to make its contribution to the preparation of a proposal which could be presented on behalf of all the industrialized countries.

¹ On the other point — special action to aid the poorest developing countries, the Commission presented to the Council in July a Communication concerning the implementation of this action involving a total of US\$ 1 000 million, including US\$ 385 million by way of the Community's contribution: Bull. EC 7/8 1977, point 2.2.8.

4. Annual meeting of the IMF and the World Bank

1.4.1. The 32nd Annual Meeting of the Governors of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD) was held in Washington from 26 to 30 September, with Mr George Colley, Ireland's Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Finance, in the chair. The meeting was held at a time when the world economy was recovering with difficulty from the serious recession of 1974-75, when countries were still facing serious balance of payments difficulties, when inflation and unemployment rates were still too high in many countries and when there was constant pressure on governments to resort more frequently to trade and payments restrictions.

Mr Francois-Xavier Ortoli, Commission Vice-President, was present at the meeting, and Mr Gaston Geens, the Belgian Finance Minister, opened his address with a statement on behalf of the Community,¹ in his capacity as President of the Council—as he had done when addressing the Interim Committee of the IMF. The statement was prepared at the Council meeting (Economic and Financial Affairs) on 19 September, which had agreed a common position² on the main matters raised; i.e. the supplementary financing facility in the IMF to assist Fund members whose balance of payments difficulties are large in relation to their quotas and the allocation of Special Drawing Rights (SDRs) and their strengthening with a view to making them the principal reserve asset in the international monetary system.

Community representatives also participated in meetings of other bodies in Washington during the week from 24 to 30 September, including the Interim Committee of the Board of Governors of the IMF³ and the Joint Ministerial Committee of the Board of Governors of the Bank and the Fund on the Transfer of Real Resources to Developing Countries (Development Committee).

We may note the following points about the various meetings held in Washington, notably those

of the Interim Committee and the Development Committee.

Economic topics

1.4.2. The speeches by the Managing Director of the IMF, the Director-General of GATT and the Secretary-General of the OECD to the Interim Committee, which met before the IMF Annual Meeting, dealt with the issues that were to dominate discussions throughout the week: the shortfall of demand, the aggravation of unemployment, payments imbalances, and the revival of protectionism. These speeches sounded a new note of concern, marking a change of tone in the discussions this year as compared with previous years.

The new trend may be resumed as follows:

- (i) because of the need to combat inflation, a strategy recommended at the 1976 Annual Meeting, held in Manila,⁴ the governments had adopted cautious attitudes in the management of their economies, and this was having repercussions on employment;
- (ii) this was particularly true of those countries with relatively strong external positions, including Japan and Germany, and pressing appeals were made to these countries to reflate;
- (iii) various other countries whose situation was considered 'good' (Netherlands, Belgium, Switzerland) were also urged to take action to stimulate their economies;
- (iv) it was suggested that countries like France, the United Kingdom and Italy should be ready to launch or support a revival as soon as there were results from the recovery measures implemented or to be decided by the strong countries;

¹ Point 1.4.5.

² Point 2.1.5.

³ Point 1.4.6.

⁴ Bull. EC 10-1976, points 1301 to 1306.

(v) there was reason to fear that the increase in protectionism would aggravate the present situation, particularly the position of developing countries producing industrial products, whose markets were seriously affected or threatened.

There was still the problem of determining how far the different countries, whose positions varied, could contribute to the recovery:

- (i) countries with a fairly strong external position, but not large enough to revive the world economy—Japan and Germany;
- (ii) dynamic countries with vulnerable balances of payments—United States;
- (iii) other major trading countries whose economies were in varying states of health, or 'convalescing'—France, United Kingdom, and Italy, etc.

There was also a good deal of disagreement as to the best ways to achieve recovery (stimulation of consumption or of investment through tax concessions).

IMF liquidity problems

1.4.3. There is a general feeling that the IMF is suffering from a shortage of liquidity. The 50% increase in quotas under the Sixth Review has been delayed by work on the second amendment to the Articles, now in the process of ratification by the member countries' parliaments. However, there is general agreement that this will not be enough to satisfy the Fund's needs, in spite of the new US\$ 10 000 million financing facility (the 'Witteveen facility'), which it was hoped to introduce early in 1978, if and when ratified by the parliaments, in particular the United States Congress.

Consequently, it has been recommended that the Board of Governors of the Fund submit as soon as possible the draft of a Seventh General Review of the quotas, to be introduced rapidly. However, it might take some time to settle the various questions arising in connection with this matter

(amounts, general principle, and quota increase method).

Problems of development

1.4.4. The Development Committee continued its discussions on the transfer of resources, the main general theme with which it is concerned. In collaboration with other IMF and World Bank bodies, it is examining and studying public development aid and progress on eliminating restrictions to access to capital markets, international action concerning the stabilization of export earnings, and the role of private direct foreign investment.

Negotiations on the fifth reconstitution of the resources of the International Development Association (IDA) ended successfully and should enable the IDA to take on commitments for some US\$ 8 000 million during the next three fiscal years.

A consensus also emerged in favour of an increase in the capital of the World Bank, to enable it to maintain growth in real terms of its loan operations over the next few years.

There was some concern over the scale of the indebtedness of developing countries, particularly towards the commercial banks. There was reason to hope that the implementation of the 'Witteveen facility' and the increase in the World Bank's loan possibilities would go some way to solving these problems; in this respect, the negotiation of standbys between the IMF and the developing countries concerned, and the implementation of general economic stabilization programmes, were likely to throw some light on the position of the commercial banks' potential debtors.

In his closing speech, the Managing Director of the IMF affirmed once more that the measures adopted by the countries running surpluses to revive their economies had fallen short of needs; however, those countries with a weaker external

position must also continue their fight against inflation and payments deficits. He announced that the Interim Committee and the Development Committee would be meeting on 21 March next in Mexico to discuss, in particular, the Seventh Review of Quotas, supplementary allocations of Special Drawing Rights and action to make the SDR the principal reserve asset in the international monetary system.

Documentary annex

Statement by Mr Gaston Geens

1.4.5. Mr Gaston Geens, Belgian Minister of Finance, made the following statement to the Annual Meeting of the IMF and the World Bank, in his capacity as President of the Council of the Communities:

'Before speaking on behalf of Belgium, I have the privilege of addressing you on behalf of the European Economic Community since my country currently holds the presidency of the Council of Ministers.

Despite certain encouraging signs, the world economic situation continues to provide cause for concern.

The Community notes that some progress has been made towards reducing inflation but further efforts will be required in order to ensure sustained and lasting growth.

The Community is seriously concerned by the upward trend in unemployment, in particular of young people. The Community is exploring the possibility of speeding up lasting economic recovery without rekindling inflation. To this end, it considers that closer cooperation both at the world level and within the Community is essential in order to promote sustained expansion of activity which should reduce unemployment without running the risk of a further upsurge of inflation.

There are two prerequisites. First, the industrialized countries with a satisfactory payments position must act so as to pursue an appropriate expansion of domestic demand within limits fixed by effective anti-inflationary policies. Secondly, the deficit countries must pursue effective stabilization policies and thus allow resources to be transferred to the external sector.

The Community recognizes the important role of the Interim Committee in encouraging such an adjustment policy and in ensuring that the funds and facilities available to members of the IMF are adequate to support orderly adjustment.

In this regard, the Community welcomes the agreement to set up a supplementary financing facility in the IMF designed to assist those member countries whose balance of payments difficulties are large in relation to their quotas. We regard it as a positive step that, in order to promote international monetary stability, the major surplus countries have agreed to participate in this international action. We are satisfied that this facility contains an adequate degree of conditionality and it is particularly welcome that standbys under the facility will allow a rather longer period of adjustment than has been usual in the past. This will help ensure that the resources will be used in the best interests of the international community.

The Community believes that the work on the Seventh Quota Review, which should be finished by 9 February 1978 at the latest, should result in proposals for an increase for quotas of a size suited to the world situation.

The Community thinks that a decision on new allocations of SDRs would be premature at least as long as the IMF Executive Board study on all aspects of the SDR is not completed. It does not appear that financing problems for the next two or three years will arise from a general shortage of liquidity as such. On the contrary, liquidity held in reserve currencies has recently further increased. This uncontrolled expansion of unconditional liquidity raises also the problem of the composition of liquidity.

The Community considers that the SDR must be strengthened in order to progress towards the objective of making it the principal reserve asset of the international monetary system. It hopes that the study being carried out in the IMF on the characteristics and use of the SDR can progress sufficiently for constructive decisions to be taken in this field right from the first meeting of the Interim Committee in 1978.

I will now deal with development problems. As you know, the European Economic Community has spoken with a single voice in the North-South Conference. This has often allowed the Community to take the initiative with proposals, some of which met with general agreement. This was the case for the establishment of a Common Fund with purposes, objectives and other constituent elements to be further negotiated in UNCTAD. Moreover the Community originated the Special Action Programme for individual low-income countries facing general problems of transfer of resources. In this framework, the Community has committed itself to transfer to a special

account of the IDA US\$ 385 million, equal to more than one-third of this special aid.

This decision highlights the importance which the Community attaches to concentrating its financial aid on the poorest countries and confirms the confidence it has in IDA, with whom the use of these funds is being discussed. In addition, on several occasions, the Community countries have expressed their willingness to see the World Bank and its affiliates granted increased resources for meeting the needs of the Third World.'

Interim Committee

1.4.6. The following press communiqué was released after the eighth meeting of the Interim Committee, held on 24 September in Washington:

'1. The Interim Committee of the Board of Governors of the International Monetary Fund held its ninth meeting in Washington, DC, on 24 September 1977, under the chairmanship of Mr Denis Healey, Chancellor of the Exchequer of the United Kingdom, who was selected by the Committee to succeed Mr Willy De Clercq of Belgium as Chairman. Mr H. Johannés Witteveen, Managing Director of the International Monetary Fund, participated in the meeting. The following observers attended during the Committee's discussions: Mr G.D. Arsenis, Director, Division for Money, Finance and Development, UNCTAD; Mr René Larre, General Manager, BIS; Mr Emile van Lennep, Secretary-General, OECD; Mr F. Leutwiler, President, National Bank of Switzerland; Mr Olivier Long, Director-General, GATT; Mr Robert S. McNamara, President, IBRD; Mr François-Xavier Ortoli, Vice-President, CEC; Mr Cyrus Sassanpour, Market Research Analyst, OPEC; and Mr Cesar E.A. Virata, Chairman, Development Committee.

2. The Committee discussed the world economic outlook and the policies appropriate in the current situation.

While welcoming progress made in many countries in achieving stabilization and growth objectives, the Committee expressed concern about the faltering of economic activity during recent months in a number of industrial countries. Sluggishness in private investment demand, the Committee stated, continued to be a major feature of the current economic situation.

The Committee noted that the slower expansion of the economic activity had been accompanied by a deceleration in the

growth of world trade. The impact of this on the export earnings of developing countries was a matter of concern to the Committee, which noted that these earnings had also been adversely affected by the marked declines in primary commodity prices during recent months.

The Committee paid considerable attention to the special problems that affect the economies of the developing countries. It was particularly concerned to ensure that adjustment measures by developed countries should not reduce the transfer of real resources to the developing world.

The Committee expressed concern about the persistence of high unemployment, noting that the overall rate of unemployment for the industrial countries as a group remained close to the recession peak reached in the latter part of 1975.

Although progress has been made in many countries in countering inflation, the Committee remained concerned about current rates of inflation noting that in almost all countries these were still much too high to be considered acceptable.

The Committee reaffirmed its view that tendencies toward protectionist trade policies are unacceptable from an international point of view and should be strongly resisted. In this connection, it stressed the importance it attached to the successful outcome of the current Multilateral Trade Negotiations in Geneva, and to the early conclusion of agreements that would benefit all countries, in particular developing countries.

With respect to national economic policies, the Committee agreed on the following conclusions:

(a) All countries in relatively strong external positions should make every effort to ensure adequate growth of domestic demand compatible with containing inflation; this would not only be in the interest of those countries themselves, but also would help to ensure achievement of a satisfactory rate of growth in world trade, supporting and facilitating external adjustment efforts by deficit countries. The Committee expressed regret that growth of domestic demand in some of the larger industrial countries had lagged behind the targets and expectations of their authorities, and it welcomed the expansionary measures recently announced by several governments. Also, the Committee expressed the belief that, as the results of adjustment action become progressively more evident, an increasing number of countries will be able to bring their inflation and balance of payments problems under control and thus will be strong enough to make their contribution to growth of the world economy.

(b) Demand policies in countries with relatively high inflation or seriously weak external positions should place primary emphasis on combating inflation and improving the balance of payments. The Committee reaffirmed its belief that for

these countries this was not only necessary in present circumstances but over time would yield the best results for growth and employment.

(c) The Committee noted the importance of structural problems in the economic situation of many countries and the need to develop appropriate energy policies.

(d) Policies in all countries should be directed as a minimum to avoiding a resurgence of inflation and in many countries to reducing inflation rates which are clearly excessive.

3. An important requirement of the international adjustment process relates to the provision of official financing to deficit countries. Such finance should be provided in sufficiently large amounts, and under appropriate conditions which take account of the specific problems of the borrowing countries, and permits adequate time for necessary adjustment.

The Committee welcomed the completion by the Executive Directors of their work on the establishment of a supplementary financing facility that will enable the Fund to expand substantially the resources it can make available to members facing payments difficulties that are large in relation to their quotas, and the adoption of the decisions of 29 August 1977 on the facility and related arrangements. The Committee noted that a number of members and official institutions have expressed their willingness to make available to the Fund resources for the financing of the facility of about SDR 8.6 thousand million, equivalent to approximately US \$10 thousand million, but that the facility will not become operative until agreements have been entered into for a total amount of financing of not less than SDR 7.75 thousand million, including at least six agreements each of which provides for an amount not less than SDR 500 million. The Committee welcomed the prospect that some of the initial amounts made available might be increased and noted that it would be possible for other members in strong positions to make resources available to the facility. In view of the need of some members for prompt financial assistance on the scale envisaged under the new facility, the Committee urged all potential participants in the financing of the facility to complete as soon as possible the necessary action that will bring the facility into operation at the earliest date possible. At the same time, the Committee agreed to request the Executive Directors to pursue their consideration of the possibility of a subsidy, perhaps through voluntary contributions, that would be related to the charges payable by members determined by the Fund to be in difficult circumstances.

4. The Committee noted the report of the Executive Directors on the Seventh General Review of Quotas and their intention to give priority to this matter in their work after the

Annual Meeting. It asked the Executive Directors to submit appropriate proposals to the Committee for its consideration, at its next meeting, together with draft recommendations to the Board of Governors.

5. The Committee reaffirmed its request to the Executive Directors to report on the question whether a further allocation of SDRs would be advisable at the present time and to report to the Committee at its first meeting in 1973.

The Committee also reaffirmed its request to the Executive Directors to review the characteristics and uses of the SDR so as to promote the purposes of the Fund, including the objective of making the SDR the principal reserve asset in the international monetary system.

6. The Committee expressed concern at the delay in the entry into force of the Proposed Second Amendment of the Fund's Articles of Agreement and in the increases in quotas under the Sixth General Review of Quotas. In this connection the Committee noted that it has been eighteen months since the Board of Governors completed its action on both these matters and that, although progress had been made in recent months, acceptances and consents from many more members will be needed to attain the required majorities. In view of the importance for members and the international monetary system of the entry into force of the Amendment and the increases in quotas, the Committee once again urged all members that have not yet accepted the Amendment or consented to the increases in their quotas, to do so at the earliest possible date.

7. The Committee agreed to hold its next meeting in Mexico on 21 March 1978.'

5. Simpler customs documents

A major advance in implementing the Community programme

1.5.1. A further stage in the process of simplifying Community customs documents was completed on 20 September,¹ when the Council adopted a Regulation introducing a standard Community export declaration form modelled on a Community layout key, itself largely derived from the one worked out in Geneva under the auspices of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (ECE).

Since the form is based on the same key and it is set out in the same way as the documents used in applying the Community transit system, exporters will now be able to obtain the necessary export and transit documents at the same time and with no trouble.

In 1963, the ECE's Committee on the Development of Trade adopted a layout key for commercial documents. It was designed to condense, simplify and standardize the documents required in external trade; such documents were many in number, of different sizes and of varying layouts.

Since it was adopted, the ECE's Geneva layout key has in many countries and international organizations served as the model for numerous documents used for administrative, commercial, manufacturing and distributive activities in international trade.

Advantages

1.5.2. The purpose of the layout key is to provide a single matrix for the various documents used for international trade operations. It thus simplifies work considerably for the users and will substantially reduce their costs.

It can serve as the basis not only for commercial forms proper but also for documents required by laws, regulations or administrative provisions, such as export declarations, certificates of origin,

movement certificates and, more generally, any certificates required in international trade.

Application by the Community

1.5.3. For some years now, the Commission has been introducing forms modelled on the layout key. One example is the EUR. 1 movement certificate used in most of the preferential trading transactions with non-member countries.

For intra-Community trade, the Commission, with the active collaboration of Member States' simplification organizations, has standardized, on the basis of the layout key, all the forms used in the field of Community transit.²

With Community transit declarations made out in the Community totalling some seven million a year, it can be seen how far introduction of the standardized forms goes towards simplifying the work involved for users, especially since they already have, for their particular needs, a number of internal forms modelled on the layout key.

¹ OJ L 246 of 27.9.1977.

² OJ L 182 of 12.7.1977.



PART TWO

**ACTIVITIES
IN SEPTEMBER 1977**

1. Building the Community

Economic and monetary policy

Present economic situation and medium-term outlook

2.1.1. On 14 September, the Commission laid before the Council a report on the present economic situation and the medium-term outlook. This document sets out the results of the work carried out by the Commission's staff with the Economic Policy Committee in accordance with the mandate given by the Council on 14 March 1977¹ when it adopted the Fourth Medium-term Economic Policy Programme.² The Council had singled out a number of topics for detailed scrutiny, including employment, investment and external payments.

A strategy for overcoming the crisis

2.1.2. The report summarizes the technical work carried out, provides an overall picture of the present economic conditions, emphasizes the growing awareness of the harm being done by the severe and protracted crisis, and suggests an appropriate strategy.

Broadly, the document notes that unemployment is at a very high level at the present time and could again rise sharply if faster growth is not achieved. The present outlook is a serious threat to the successful implementation of the Fourth Programme, not only by 1980, but even beyond. Indeed, it is doubtful whether the rate of unemployment can be reduced to around 3 to 4% by the beginning of the 1980s.

The report stresses that slack economic activity entails a severe waste of human and technical resources although these resources are vital to future employment, structural change (energy being the prime example here) and to prevention of the gradual depletion of the productivity sources which are vital if a steady improvement in living standards is to be obtained.

Ways and means of reviving the economy

2.1.3. These reasons—the report argues—justify a major effort to ensure that the Community does not get bogged down in the crisis. Measures to stimulate the economy are necessary, but they must be taken with special regard for a difficult economic climate—one which is still seriously affected by the distortions of the last few years.

Inflation, more than any other problem, must be approached with caution, which is why there can be no question of a generally expansionary monetary policy or of laxness on the wages front.

The report then deals with the 'time-path', outlined in the Fourth Programme, for bringing external payments and public finance back into equilibrium. The present situation, it says, is such that the objectives set for 1980, while they remain valid in the medium term, cannot now be achieved on time. The Fourth Programme itself had approached the problem on a conditional basis, i.e. by suggesting that the attainment of these objectives should rather be linked to other objectives, such as those relating to growth and employment. But the public finance position had improved much more rapidly than expected, given the economic situation, while the surpluses of the OPEC countries, which to some extent must constitute Community deficits, were being reduced more slowly than anticipated.

Against this general background, the document considers what instruments should be used. The key to the recovery, it says, can only be investment. Steps should be taken:

- (i) to increase public investment;
- (ii) to stimulate investment in public or semi-public enterprises and in firms in which the government has holdings;
- (iii) to improve the outlook as regards the profitability of private investment.

¹ Bull. EC 3-1977, point 2.1.2.

² OJ L 101 of 25.4.1977 and Bull. EC 9-1976, points 1101 to 1103.

The report stresses that investment cannot make a lasting recovery unless the level of overall demand and, therefore, the rate of capacity utilization, improves. Consumption expenditure by households, at least in some member countries, must be stimulated without causing too sharp an increase in incomes, i.e. preferably through tax concessions or measures designed to reduce the savings ratio.

In view of the constraints with which it must comply, the recovery programme cannot resolve the problem of unemployment in the short term. Consequently, specific measures must be adopted, although strict account should be taken of their consequences.

Finally, the report argues that action taken at Community level, carefully coordinated to take account of national interests, is the only means of minimizing the risks (particularly as regards external equilibrium) of adopting such a course of action and of giving full effect to national efforts through the use of strengthened and developed Community instruments.

Statement by Mr Ortoli on the economic situation

2.1.4. Addressing Parliament¹ on 14 September, Mr François-Xavier Ortoli, Vice-President of the Commission, amplified his statement, made on 11 May, on the economic situation in the Community.²

After stressing that the figures for the first half of the year did not yet show any substantial improvement in inflation (indeed, the rate for the Community as a whole was still a good deal too high), Mr Ortoli stated that the rate of price increases had slackened somewhat during recent months, particularly in those countries in which inflation had been sharpest. Other factors were contributing: stabilized and, in some cases, lower prices for basic products (reinforced in several countries by exchange rate developments), lower

interest rates and the slower upward movement of wages and salaries. A further encouraging point, Mr Ortoli added, was the continued improvement in the balance of payments positions of the countries which had run heavy deficits in 1976.

The less encouraging aspects of the general picture were still growth and employment. The relatively sharp expansion in industrial production in most member countries during the fourth quarter of 1976 and at the beginning of 1977 had not been maintained, and in some countries this supply component had actually fallen. Between January and June 1977, industrial production (adjusted) had declined by 3% in the Community as a whole. Parallel with this development, unemployment had again started to increase, once more reaching 5% and as much as 5.4% at the end of the school year.

Mr Ortoli therefore considered it very unlikely that the Community would achieve an annual rate of growth of more than 3% in 1977. Not only would the Community not achieve its medium-term objective; it would also fail to achieve the figure fixed, reluctantly, as the likely outcome for 1977. If this trend continued, the average rate of growth in 1978 would be appreciably lower than the 4.5% norm suggested in the Fourth Programme.

Under these conditions, Mr Ortoli argued, our course of action during the months ahead was clear. Immediate measures were needed to ensure that actual development in 1978 were different from the outlook for the coming year as extrapolated from the present trend. A determined effort must therefore be made to recapture the percentage point (or point and a half) of growth which would enable a start to be made on solving employment problems.

In Mr Ortoli's opinion, the Community must continue to concentrate on the problem of invest-

¹ Point 2.3.5.

² Bull. EC 5-1977, point 2.1.1.

ment. Priority must be given to public investment. This meant that in those countries which had drawn up programmes to reduce substantial budgetary deficits, such programmes would have to be postponed; in other words, it would have to be accepted that the budget would continue to bolster economic activity through public investment, while complying with the constraints imposed by the need to combat inflation. The public investment programmes must be implemented rapidly. Secondly, support must be given to private investment. The encouragement given by governments (particularly in the field of taxation) would be all the more effective if the economic climate were such as to inspire confidence and stability and if the prospects for domestic consumption and export demand were satisfactory. Measures to bolster domestic consumption (particularly in surplus countries) would form part of the strategy designed to support economic activity. The Community could help to coordinate the measures taken by making full use of existing coordination procedures.

'We must act quickly—with the means at our disposal—and, above all, we must act at Community level, since we must not forget our interdependence and our consequent need for better coordinated, collective action.'

Following the debate, Parliament¹ adopted a Resolution on the economic situation in the Community.

Economic and monetary matters discussed by the Council

2.1.5. At its meeting on 19 September, the Council dealt with matters preparatory to the Annual Meetings of the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank² to be held in Washington at the end of September. It approved the statements to be made on behalf of the Community at these meetings by the Council President.

At the same meeting, the Council considered the latest economic developments in the Communi-

ty, and in particular the economic policy measures recently taken or currently under examination in the different countries. It agreed to continue these discussions when it considered the draft annual report on the economic situation in the Community on 17 October.

Monetary Committee

2.1.6. The Committee held its 233rd meeting in Brussels on 9 September, with Mr Pohl in the chair. It carried out a thorough examination of international monetary problems in preparation for the meeting of the IMF Interim Committee and Annual Meeting of the IMF due to be held in Washington at the end of the month. In accordance with the tasks assigned to it by the Council on 18 July,³ the Committee also held a preliminary discussion on the proposals for improving Community credit machinery put forward by the Council President and on the Commission Communication to the European Council entitled 'Investment and Borrowing in the Community'.⁴

The Working Party on Securities Markets met in Brussels on 19 and 20 September. In accordance with its normal practice, it reviewed developments in the second quarter of 1977 on national and international capital markets.

Economic Policy Committee

2.1.7. The Economic Policy Committee held two meetings in Brussels in September:

(i) the 51st, on 5 September, with Mr Maldague in the chair; this meeting was devoted mainly to an examination of a draft report on the present economic situation and the medium-term out-

¹ Point 2.3.5 and OJ C 241 of 10.10.1977.

² Points 1.4.1 to 1.4.6.

³ Bull. EC 7/8-1977, point 2.1.3.

⁴ Bull. EC 6-1977, point 1.4.2.

look. The Committee also discussed the draft Dutch law on investment and economic measures recently adopted in Denmark and the Federal Republic of Germany;

(ii) the 52nd, on 26 September, in its reduced 'budgets' composition, with Mr Middelhoek in the chair; this meeting was devoted to an examination of the triennial financial forecasts (1978-80) for the Communities' budget and to a review of the budgetary policies pursued by the Member States.

Internal market and industrial affairs

Free movement of goods

Removal of technical barriers to trade

2.1.8. On 29 September¹ the Commission approved a proposal for a Directive to amend the Council Directive of 19 December 1974² on the approximation of the laws of the Member States relating to the making-up by volume of certain prepackaged liquids.

The proposal was prepared at the Council's request and the object is to reduce the number of volume multiples since, when they are too close to each other, they are likely to mislead the consumer. It should enable the market for the relevant products to be understood more clearly and reflects the development of international trade in recent years.

2.1.9. On 27 September³ the Council formally adopted a Directive on the approximation of the laws of the Member States relating to the field of vision of motor-vehicle drivers, approved on 28 and 29 June.⁴

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2.1.10. At its meeting on 28 and 29 September the Economic and Social Committee⁵ gave its Opinion on a Commission proposal for approximation of the laws of the Member States relating to boats and their fittings.

Industrial structures and problems

Iron and steel

Structure of the steel industry— the Rodange-Athus affair

2.1.11. On 2 August the Belgian and Luxembourg Governments asked the Commission to carry out a rapid study on structural changes and conversion in the steel industry in the light of the difficulties met by Société métallurgique et minière de Rodange-Athus.

The Commission put its study to the two governments in August and since then has been closely involved in all the talks on this affair. -

The record of the agreement reached between the two governments on 4 September states that the Commission will give its full assistance in giving effect to the agreed solutions.

At their request the Commission will remain involved in subsequent stages and will be giving its opinion on the compatibility of the planned measures with the Community programme for the steel industry.

The Commission will be acting on four fronts to help put the agreement into effect. On the social front it will be giving ECSC allowances, as near as possible to the maximum figure, in the event of any closures. Then, the steel industry will have to make investment and this will be assisted with loans and on the most favourable terms.

¹ OJ C 250 of 19.10.1977.

² OJ L 42 of 15.2.1975 and Bull. EC 12-1974, point 2114.

³ OJ L 267 of 19.10.1977.

⁴ Bull. EC 6-1977, points 2.1.9 and 2.1.10.

⁵ Point 2.3.50.

Table 1 — *Supply and demand forecast for steel products in the Community**(million tonnes of crude steel)*

	I 1974	I 1976	II 1976	III 1976	IV 1976	I 1977	II 1977	IV 1977
Real consumption	34.59	30.38	30.36	28.02	29.85	30.27	28.76	28.9
Stock changes	-0.26	+0.68	+2.49	+3.15	-0.20	-0.19	—	-0.30
Imports	2.06	2.72	3.32	3.26	3.06	2.99	3.16	2.50
Exports	7.09	4.48	4.77	5.89	6.38	5.37	6.72	5.90
Production	39.35	32.82	34.50	33.80	32.97	32.46	32.32	32.00

As for diversification and structural change, the Commission will also be giving loans and interest relief grants to help assure the success of new projects.

Forward programme for steel

2.1.12. On 28 September the Commission, subject to the Opinion of the ECSC Consultative Committee, approved the draft forward programme for steel for the fourth quarter of 1977.

Actual steel consumption in that period is estimated at 28.9 million tonnes of crude steel, 4% above the level for the corresponding period last year.

The Commission is urging the steel industry to comply as strictly as possible with the proposed reductions in deliveries so as to restore quantitative equilibrium and improve the price situation on the Community market.

Table 1 sets out forecasts of supply and demand for steel products in the Community.

OECD ad hoc Working Party on the Iron and Steel Industry

2.1.13. The OECD *ad hoc* Working Party on the Iron and Steel Industry met in Paris on 29 and 30 September.

It considered papers prepared by the OECD Secretariat on the development of supply, the outlook for demand and trends in international trade in steel. It noted reports by the member countries present on the situation and problems of their steel industries. It recognized that governments are more and more aware of the need for structural adaptation of the steel industry. Several governments expressed concern at the substantial deterioration in steel prices. The Working Party agreed on priorities for future work (the development of international trade, the problem of steel prices and long-term structural changes in the world steel industry).

Industrial loans

2.1.14. Acting under Article 54 of the ECSC Treaty the Commission gave a loan of FF 150 million to Société des aciéries et tréfileries de Neuves-Maisons-Châtillon, Paris, and a loan of FF 125 million to Société des aciéries et laminoirs de Lorraine, Sacilor SA, Hayange.

The first of these loans will help to finance an oxygen steel works and the second is for a programme to modernize pig iron infrastructure and plant.

Investment in the steel industry

2.1.15. The Commission's annual investment survey carried out among producers¹ has revealed that despite their growing financial problems steel companies in the Community invested 3 150 million EUA at current prices in 1976 compared with 3 330 million EUA in 1975.

This level of investment remains high in view of the financing requirement it represents, but recent rises in capital goods prices have reduced the effective purchasing power of funds available for investments in the steel industry. Measured in terms of constant 1970 prices, investment declined from 2 100 million EUA in 1975 to 1 700 million EUA in 1976.

In 1977 investment is expected to decrease further to 2 700 million EUA in current prices and to 1 440 million EUA in constant 1970 prices.

Crude steel production potential in 1976 was 198 million tonnes. The estimates of crude steel production potential in 1980 in last year's survey have been reduced from 220 million to 214 million tonnes. Hence over the four-year period production potential will grow by an average 2% p.a.—reflecting some slowdown compared with the 2.7% average increase of actual production between 1960 and 1976.

The estimates of expected capital expenditure and production potential given by the steel companies in the survey scarcely reflect the plans for major restructuring in the traditional steelmaking regions which are currently being discussed at regional, national and Community level. The overall impression given by the replies to the survey is of consolidation of existing capacities, combined with a hesitation by the companies, in view of uncertain demand forecasts, even to proceed with modernization investments. However, a number of further closures of obsolete plant have been announced since the date of the survey, especially in France.

Data processing

2.1.16. On 27 September² the Council formally adopted a series of decisions on priority data processing measures approved on 25 July.³

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2.1.17. On 15 September Parliament⁴ passed a Resolution on the Commission's proposals for a four-year programme to develop Community data processing.⁵

On 28 September the Economic and Social Committee⁶ gave its Opinion on industrial change and employment—a review of the Community's industrial policy and future prospects.

Customs union**Tariff measures***Suspensions*

2.1.18. In order to combat the sharp increase in the price of dessert apples following bad weather conditions and so ensure that consumers in the Community get regular supplies, the Commission proposed to the Council on 30 September⁷ that it should totally suspend customs duties on these products until the end of the year.

During this period apples are likely to be available for export from North America and some European countries, such as Hungary.

¹ Bull. EC 7/8-1976, point 2261.

² OJ L 255 of 6.10.1977.

³ Bull. EC 7/8-1977, point 2.1.18.

⁴ Point 2.3.10 and OJ C 241 of 10.10.1977.

⁵ OJ C 39 of 16.2.1977 and Bull. EC 10-1976, points 1201 to 1205.

⁶ Point 2.3.43.

⁷ OJ C 243 of 11.10.1977.

Customs arrangements for the free movement of goods

2.1.19. On 20 September,¹ the Council adopted a Regulation introducing a Community export declaration form.² The adoption of this Regulation marks a new stage in the implementation of a Community programme for simplifying customs documents.

Origin and methods of administrative cooperation

2.1.20. On 20 September³ the Commission adopted a Regulation concerning the determination of the origin of slide fasteners. It stipulates that the forming and placing of the scoops or other interlocking elements onto the tapes and the manufacture of the slider by processes such as stamping or moulding, when considered together, constitute a substantial process or operation within the meaning of Article 5 of the Council Regulation of 27 June 1968 concerning the common definition of the concept of the origin of goods.

Competition

Restrictive practices, mergers and dominant positions: specific cases

Commission finds against agreements between paper manufacturers

2.1.21. On 8 September³ the Commission issued a decision formally finding that agreements between manufacturers accounting for the production of 80 to 90% of Belgian and Dutch printing paper and stationery infringed the EEC Treaty rules on competition. The manufacturers are

members of the Association des Fabricants de Pâtes, Papiers et Cartons de Belgique (Cobelpa) and the Vereniging van Nederlandsche Papierfabrikanten (VNP).

The agreements, which have now been terminated following the Commission's intervention, required the firms involved to exchange details of their prices and general sales terms and to respect set distribution circuits. The agreements also provided for the exchange of output and sales figures between certain firms.

The Commission's decision, which finds that these practices infringed Article 85(1) of the EEC Treaty, is in line with earlier decisions⁴ and cases⁵ and takes account of the judgment in the sugar case given by the Court of Justice on 16 December 1975.⁶

The Commission thus reaffirms and clarifies its opposition to open price systems which have the object or effect of distorting competition and so affect trade between Member States.

Authorization of a joint buying agreement in the coal trade

2.1.22. In the solid fuels industry the Commission has approved an agreement strictly analogous to a joint buying agreement between five independent German coal wholesalers with the right of direct access. The right of direct access is available only to firms achieving specified sales volumes, which vary from one colliery to another. Unlike wholesalers that are or have been linked with the collieries (integrated wholesalers),

¹ OJ L 246 of 27.9.1977.

² Points 1.5.1 to 1.5.3.

³ OJ L 242 of 21.9.1977.

⁴ IFTRA-Glass containers: OJ L 160 of 17.6.1974 and Bull. EC 5-1974, point 2109; IFTRA-Aluminium: OJ L 228 of 29.8.1975 and Bull. EC 7/8-1975, point 2122.

⁵ Dutch sporting cartridges: Bull. EC 7/8-1973, point 2111; Non-ferrous semi-manufactures: Bull. EC 2-1975, point 2107; Ships' cables: Bull. EC 9-1975, point 2107; Paper-machine wires: Bull. EC 12-1976, point 2127.

⁶ OJ C 43 of 25.2.1976 and Bull. EC 12-1975, point 2434.

independent coal merchants are finding it increasingly difficult to comply with this requirement as a result of the constant decline in demand for solid fuels. By the agreement at issue each of the wholesalers concerned transfers one or more of his direct access rights to the other firms and then obtains supplies from them; this raises the annual purchases of the individual firms from individual collieries and enables them to continue complying with the sales thresholds. The system is on a reciprocal basis and will enable any bulk discount to be passed on in full.

There is no doubt that this agreement restricts or distorts competition between the firms concerned and between them and their competitors. But by enabling the firms involved to retain their direct access status at the collieries, this status being under structural rather than competitive pressure, it helps to preserve competition between independent and integrated wholesalers. Considering that this aspect of the agreement along with the falls in prices which should result from it constituted a substantial improvement of distribution, the Commission decided that the tests of the second paragraph of Article 60 of the ECSC Treaty were satisfied.

State aids

General aid schemes

Italy

2.1.23. On 23 September the Commission decided to continue the proceeding under Article 93(2) of the EEC Treaty commenced in December 1976¹ against a Bill which would, among other things, set up an industrial restructuring and conversion fund.

The main point of this decision is to get the Italian Government to give the Commission notice, before giving aid from the fund, either of its in-

dividual industry programmes or of significant individual cases. The various amendments made to the original Bill have not removed the Commission's grounds for initiating the procedure of Article 93(2) of the Treaty.

Industry aids

Shipbuilding

France

2.1.24. On 30 September the Commission decided that it would raise no objections to implementation by the French Government of a scheme to aid nine small shipyards. The object of the scheme is to help these shipyards face up to the current crisis and get adequate orders on to their books by the end of this year.

Correction

Bull. EC 7/8-1977

Point 2.1.36

The third sentence in this paragraph should read as follows:

'As a result the countervailing duty on spirits from the other Member States was lifted, the exclusive right to import ethyl alcohol from the other Member States was ended and the additional payment, which hitherto was calculated on the basis of various factors including the raw material employed, was made non-discriminatory.'

¹ Bull. EC 12-1976, point 2130.

Employment and social policy

Employment

2.1.25. In September the Commission concerned itself in particular with three of the urgent employment problems mentioned in the statement on growth, inflation and employment¹ adopted by the European Council at the end of its meeting in London on 29 and 30 June.

The Commission presented two proposals to the Council—one to enable the Social Fund to make assistance available for specific measures in favour of women,² and the other to enable it to apply a higher rate of intervention to operations carried out in those regions of the Community with a particularly serious employment imbalance.²

The Commission also once again devoted its attention to the problems of unemployment amongst young people. Its particular concern now is to translate into action the statements made in June this year by the Commission itself, the third Tripartite Conference, the Council (social affairs) and the European Council.³ The latter had attached particular importance to this question and had asked the Council (social affairs) to meet in early autumn to consider, in the light of the results of national measures and work carried out at a Community level, what common action might be necessary.

In preparation for this meeting (scheduled to take place in late October), the Commission has begun to prepare a communication including both a report evaluating action taken by the Member States and a consideration of the various possibilities for Community action in this field.

The Commission has also begun consultations to ensure the implementation of the work programme suggested at the third Tripartite Conference,⁴ concentrating on the following four topics,

which it had been agreed would form the object of cooperative study:

- (i) the consequences of different methods of work sharing;
- (ii) the role of the tertiary sector in job creation;
- (iii) the consequences of recent changes in the world economy for the pattern of employment in the Community;
- (iv) the development of suitable instruments to ensure employment-creating growth (in particular: the effects of public and private investment on employment).

Vocational training

2.1.26. The Advisory Committee for Vocational Training gave its opinion in September on new guidelines for the implementation of the common vocational training policy.

These new guidelines—which take into account both economic and technological developments—have the following seven main objectives:

- (i) to help those responsible for vocational training to improve, develop or, where necessary, alter existing systems;
- (ii) to facilitate the solution of problems involved in the transition from school to work;
- (iii) to promote the development of continuous training;
- (iv) to promote vocational guidance and training for women, with the aim of helping to achieve equality of opportunity for men and women in the Community;
- (v) to promote vocational training for migrant workers;

¹ Bull. EC 6-1977, point 1.1.12.

² Points 2.1.27 to 2.1.29.

³ Bull. EC 6-1977, points 1.1.1 to 1.1.12.

⁴ Bull. EC 6-1977, point 1.1.7.

(vi) to promote vocational training and rehabilitation for the handicapped, so as to facilitate their integration into society;

(vii) to develop technical assistance provided by the Community to developing countries in the field of vocational training.

After considering the Committee's opinion, the Commission will make formal proposals to the Council later this year or early next year.

European Social Fund

Social Fund

2.1.27. After the Council, at its meeting on social affairs on 28 June,¹ had endorsed certain aspects of the review of the rules governing the operation of the European Social Fund, the Commission presented two proposals to the Council on 27 September.² They concern intervention by the European Social Fund in favour of women and operations qualifying for a higher rate of intervention by the Fund.

Action in favour of women

2.1.28. The first of these proposals is to ease the conditions governing Fund operations which at present prevent it from providing effective support for specific measures in favour of women. This proposal also meets the European Council's desire to see measures taken, with unemployment amongst women rapidly increasing, to resolve certain problems specifically affecting the employment of women. The intention is to confine assistance from the Fund to operations for the benefit of women over 25, and to support specific vocational training programmes preceded and followed by measures to promote the access of women to employment in conditions which will give them equality of opportunity with men.

Aid for certain regions

2.1.29. The other proposal concerns qualifying for a higher rate of intervention by the European Social Fund and identifies those regions with a particularly serious and prolonged employment imbalance for which, by applying a higher rate of intervention, the Fund will provide an additional financial incentive to promote opportunities for employment and vocational training.

The Commission proposes that the higher rate be applied to operations carried out in Greenland, the French Overseas Departments, Ireland, Northern Ireland and the Mezzogiorno—regions which have also been accorded priority in the Guidelines on Community Regional Policy³ sent to the Council on 3 June.

Living and working conditions

Housing

2.1.30. Under the first instalment of the eighth programme of aid towards the financing of low-cost housing for workers in the coal and steel industries, the Commission has approved the following projects:

Netherlands

steel: 133 dwellings (Fl 665 000)

France

coal: 7 dwellings (FF 56 000)

Germany

coal: 47 dwellings (DM 695 000).

¹ Bull. EC 6-1977, point 1.1.9.

² OJ C 250 of 19.10.1977.

³ Bull. EC 5-1977, points 1.1.1 to 1.1.9 and Supplement 2/77—Bull. EC.

Industrial relations

2.1.31. On 30 September the Commission decided to set up a Joint Committee for the Footwear Industry. The Committee will have 38 members, divided equally between representatives of workers' organizations and representatives of employers' organizations. Its duties will be to assist the Commission in studying the footwear industry, which is affected by industrial recession, and in working out and implementing the Community's social and industrial policy for this sector.

Social protection

Fight against poverty

2.1.32. A seminar entitled 'Working Together' organized by the Commission in conjunction with the French Ministry of Health and Social Security to review the progress of the European programme of pilot schemes and studies to combat poverty¹ was held at Chantilly, France from 18 to 22 September. The seminar was opened by Mr Vredeling, Vice-President of the Commission, and Mr Lenoir, State-Secretary in the French Ministry of Health and Social Security.

It provided an opportunity to consider how the projects carried out in the various countries complemented each other and how they collectively contributed to the development of the social situation in the Community as a whole. Project leaders were able to report on the practical and administrative problems which they had encountered in the field and, thanks to the comparisons they were able to make, to assess more accurately the effectiveness of their work.

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2.1.33. At its plenary session on 28 and 29 September, the Economic and Social Committee de-

livered its Opinion² on the Commission's proposal to the Council on the protection of the health of workers occupationally exposed to vinyl chloride monomer.

Regional policy

2.1.34. At its session on 28 and 29 September, the Economic and Social Committee³ adopted opinions on the guidelines for the Community regional policy⁴ and the second annual report (1976) on the European Regional Development Fund.⁵

Environment and consumer protection

Environment

Waste management and the fight against wastefulness

Progress towards a Community clearing system for waste

2.1.35. One of the schemes envisaged in the European Communities' second environment action programme, which was adopted by the Council on 17 May,⁶ was launched by the Commission in September. It deals with one of the aspects of recycling and re-utilization of waste as part of the

¹ Bull. EC 7/8-1975, point 2231 and 6-1976, point 2.1.58.

² Point 2.3.46.

³ Point 2.3.45.

⁴ Bull. EC 5-1977, points 1.1.1 to 1.1.9 and Supplement 2/77

— Bull. EC.

⁵ Bull. EC 6-1977, point 2.1.66.

⁶ OJ C 139 of 13.6.1977.

fight against wastefulness: the creation of a Community clearing system in this sector.

A meeting, the first of its kind, was held on 27 September between the Commission and representatives of the 'waste exchanges' existing in the Member States with a view to organizing permanent cooperation between them at Community level. These exchanges—which have a very special character and whose existence is often unknown to the public—are organizations which serve as 'clearing-houses' between the supply of and demand for re-usable or recyclable production residues and industrial waste products. They regularly issue lists of offers of production residues and industrial wastes which cannot be re-used by the undertakings which produced them, of calls for secondary raw materials and of plants for treating waste—along with their capacity. They also advise undertakings which have problems in disposing of wastes, so as to stimulate the recovery and re-utilization of these waste products.

The exchanges could make an important contribution towards reducing the quantity of wastes to be disposed of, upgrading waste products and improving the Community's supply of raw materials (75 to 90% of the 1 700 million tonnes of wastes produced annually in the Community is still being disposed of on rubbish dumps). At present this contribution is a limited one, since only 2 to 5% of these wastes is handled by the exchanges, whose activities are restricted to certain industries (the chemical industry, in particular) and regions. This is why the second environmental action programme called on the Commission to promote other activities, organize links between them and give a Community dimension to the market in waste products.

The meeting held on 27 September at the Commission's suggestion brought together for the first time representatives of the various waste product exchanges in the Community (private and public, general or specific) and a representative of waste product dealers. At this meeting they

had an initial exchange of information and experience and discussed the organization of regular cooperation at Community level.

They agreed to:

- (a) have regular exchanges of information and experience;
- (b) exchange lists of offers of and calls for production residues and industrial waste products;
- (c) draw up a list of waste treatment plants in the Community;
- (d) prepare, with the Commission's assistance, the regular publication of a Community-wide list of offers of and calls for production residues and waste products.

Treatment of sewage sludge

2.1.36. On 27 September, the Council adopted a Decision on concerted action by the Community in the field of the treatment and use of sewage sludge.¹

Consumer protection

2.1.37. On 14 September Parliament adopted a Resolution² on a Community consumer policy, in which it called on the Commission and the Council to implement within the assigned deadlines the preliminary Community programme on a policy for protecting and informing consumers—adopted by the Council on 14 April 1975³—and recommended the presentation and adoption of a series of measures.

The same day Parliament delivered its Opinion⁴ on the proposal sent to the Council by the Commission on 17 January on the protection of con-

¹ Point 2.1.75 and OJ L 267 of 19.10.1977.

² Point 2.3.12.

³ OJ C 92 of 25.4.1975.

⁴ Point 2.3.13.

sumers in respect of contracts concluded outside commercial establishments, i.e. doorstep selling.¹

Agriculture and fisheries

Measures connected with the monetary situation

2.1.38. On 13 September² the Commission decided to devalue the representative rate of the Danish krone for the agricultural sector by 5%, the same amount by which the central rate had been devalued on 29 August. With effect from 16 September the new green rate is therefore as follows:

DKr 1 = 0.116733 u.a.; 1 u.a. = DKr 8.56656.

There was therefore no need to introduce monetary compensatory amounts for Denmark.

2.1.39. In accordance with the decisions taken by the Council when it fixed the agricultural prices last spring,³ a new green rate has applied for milk and milk products in the United Kingdom since 16 September. The rate used in the milk sector will be brought fully into line with the rate applied in the United Kingdom for other agricultural products on 1 April next year.

Application of the common agricultural policy in the enlarged Community

2.1.40. On 27 September the Council took note of the report from the Commission on the application during 1976 of Protocol No 18 to the Act of Accession⁴ on imports of New Zealand butter and cheese into the United Kingdom.

The Council then held a discussion on the cif price to be observed for imports of New Zealand butter into the United Kingdom and adopted a Regulation⁵ raising the price from 107.16 u.a. to

117.88 u.a. per 100 kg with effect from 1 October. It was agreed that the Commission would continue its discussions with the New Zealand authorities on the basis of the provisions of Protocol No 18.⁶

Common organization of markets

2.1.41. The priority data-processing projects approved by the Council on 26 July⁷ and formally adopted on 27 September⁸ include a study of systems for processing data on imports and exports and on the management and financial control of agricultural market organizations.

2.1.42. In September, the Commission took intervention measures for cereals, sugar, olive oil, wine, tobacco, milk products and beef and veal.

2.1.43. In the cereals sector, on 27 September the Council discussed the transfer to the Italian intervention agency of 200 000 tonnes of common wheat held by the German intervention agency; it agreed in principle to this measure, which is intended to protect the Italian market against speculation prompted by supply difficulties.

Moreover, as a result of the particularly bad weather during this year's harvest and the consequences for the quality of cereals produced in certain regions of the Community, the Commission decided on 23 September⁹ to authorize the purchase of common wheat, rye and barley containing up to 12% of sprouted grains. So that this exception could apply to the conditions for the

¹ OJ C 22 of 29.1.1977 and Bull. EC 1-1977, point 2.1.36.

² OJ L 235 of 14.9.1977.

³ Bull. EC 4-1977, point 2.1.54.

⁴ Bull. EC 7/8-1977, point 2.2.72.

⁵ OJ L 250 of 30.9.1977.

⁶ Bull. EC 6-1976, point 2233.

⁷ Bull. EC 7/8-1977, points 2.1.18 and 2.1.26.

⁸ OJ L 255 of 6.10.1977.

⁹ OJ L 245 of 24.9.1977.

acceptance of cereals by intervention agencies, the maximum percentage of matter which is not basic cereal of unimpaired quality had to be increased to 15%.

On 28 September¹ the Commission also added further centres to the list of intervention centres for cereals to ensure that producers of barley in certain regions have access to intervention.

2.1.44. In the wine sector, on 27 September² the Council made certain technical adjustments to the basic Regulation on the organization of the market, following on from those adopted in July.³ They concern the fixing of weighted average prices and representative prices, the acidification and de-acidification of wine and relevant oenological practices.

The Council also noted that the Commission will shortly put forward a proposal for granting aid to certain producers to use concentrated must in the preparation of table wine in certain wine-growing regions affected by natural disasters.

On 12 September⁴ the Commission decided to apply the 'performance guarantee' provision of the basic Regulation⁵ in order to ease the wine market. It established the procedures for application of the additional measures applicable to holders of long-term storage contracts for table wines for the 1976/77 wine year, as the support measures employed this year have not in all cases given the desired results. The following arrangements were made:

- (i) a reference period was fixed for determining whether the conditions required for adoption of the measures are satisfied;
- (ii) holders of long-term storage contracts may now distil part of the wine;
- (iii) the wine which is not distilled may be covered by storage contracts concluded for certain periods which have still to be fixed.

The same day the Commission implemented similar measures in respect of table wines of types RI (red) and AI (white). After 16 September up

to 50% of the quantity under contract may be distilled and the remainder stored for four months.

2.1.45. On 29 September, the Commission adopted a report to the Council on the causes of fluctuations on the Community market in seeds in the last three years.

After retracing developments on the Community and world markets since 1973 (high prices, followed by over-production, a high level of stocks and a slump in prices, and finally the restabilization of the markets since early 1976) the report proposes a number of amendments to the basic Regulation (definition at Community level of multiplication contracts and the fixing of multi-annual aid).

2.1.46. On 27 September the Council again discussed the co-responsibility levy—of 1.5% of the target price—on milk delivered to dairies from 16 September.

Administrative difficulties have arisen in Italy in the implementation of the Council Regulation of 17 May 1977⁶ and solutions are at present being sought. Measures are also being prepared to help expand the markets in milk products; the proceeds of the levy are to be used to finance these measures.

The Commission also finalized proposals to increase consumption of butter in accordance with the decisions taken last spring on the agricultural prices for 1977/78.

2.1.47. In view of the quantities of beef being brought into intervention the Commission adopted various measures, notably amendments to the detailed rules for the sale, for processing in the

¹ OJ L 248 of 29.9.1977.

² OJ L 256 of 7.10.1977.

³ Bull. EC 7/8-1977, point 2.1.71.

⁴ OJ L 235 of 14.9.1977.

⁵ Bull. EC 5-1976, point 2236.

⁶ OJ L 131 of 26.5.1977.

Community, of frozen beef from intervention stocks.¹ Since storage capacities in Germany, Ireland and the Netherlands are exhausted, the Commission has also authorized these countries to store outside their territory for specific periods certain quantities of beef products held by intervention agencies.² For Germany and Ireland this storage began last August.

2.1.48. The situation on the pigmeat market continued to improve during September. Since the end of August the price of pig carcasses has risen to over 103% of the basic price, the level which activates intervention measures. Given the forecasts of a still firmer market in the months ahead, on 14 September³ it was therefore decided to terminate the granting of aids for private storage with effect from 30 September although current contracts may be extended for one or two months to prevent too sharp a change in market conditions.

Fisheries

Internal aspects

2.1.49. At its meeting on 26 September the Council merely extended by one month⁴—until 31 October 1977—the ban on herring fishing in the North Sea. This interim measure, decided on in February⁵ for two months in order to preserve the stocks of a species which was already severely endangered, had already been extended several times up until 30 September.⁶

During the discussion in the Council, the Commission maintained its argument in favour of a ban on North Sea herring fishing until the end of 1977 and throughout 1978. However, the Commission accepted the date of 31 October 1977 pending the general debate on internal fisheries policy which the Council has undertaken to hold at its special meeting on fisheries fixed for 24 and 25 October in Luxembourg. Several delegations

have, like the Commission, emphasized the vital need to put an end to the present practice of piecemeal, interim measures.

2.1.50. The Council also adopted a Regulation⁴ prohibiting for an indefinite period the direct fishing and landing of herring for industrial purposes other than human consumption.

This measure applies to fishermen from Member States and from non-member countries in all Community waters. It has proved necessary in view of the precarious state of herring stocks in Community waters and the imperative need to conserve these stocks for human consumption.

External aspects

Licensing system

2.1.51. At its meeting on 20 September the Council requested the Commission to take over responsibility for issuing fishing licences from 1 October and to check that the catch quotas are respected, a task which the Council had been performing.

Interim measures

2.1.52. At its meeting on 26 and 27 September the Council decided to extend until 30 November the autonomous arrangements for the conservation and management of fishery resources applicable to vessels flying the flag of Poland and the German Democratic Republic.⁷ As regards vessels from the Soviet Union—for which the auton-

¹ OJ L 251 of 1.10.1977.

² OJ L 224 of 2.9.1977, L 256 of 7.10.1977 and L 257 of 8.10.1977.

³ OJ L 235 of 14.9.1977.

⁴ OJ L 247 of 28.9.1977.

⁵ OJ L 48 of 19.2.1977, and Bull. EC 2-1977, point 1.2.9.

⁶ OJ L 186 of 26.7.1977 and Bull. EC 7/8-1977, point 2.1.75.

⁷ OJ L 250 of 30.9.1977.

omous arrangements also expired on 30 September—no extension has been granted because of the restrictions on catches imposed on Community vessels in the Barents Sea, except as regards quotas established by the International Commission for the North-West Atlantic Fisheries (ICNAF) in December 1976.¹

The Council also adopted Regulations extending for three months from 1 October 1977 the autonomous arrangements with Finland and Portugal.¹

On 27 September¹ the Council extended for three months the interim measures for the conservation and management of fishery resources applicable to vessels flying the flag of certain non-member countries in the 200-mile zone off the coasts of French Guiana.

It also adopted two Regulations improving the autonomous arrangements applied by the Community to Sweden and Spain. These Regulations apply up to the end of this year.¹

On 27 September¹ the Council agreed on the distribution among Member States of the catch quotas for cod, haddock and other minor species allocated by Norway. The compromise was difficult in view of the possible implications which certain delegations thought the distribution key might have on future criteria for sharing stocks under the general internal regime.

Finally the Council agreed on the distribution of a cod and haddock quota granted by The Faeroes¹ in return for retaining the right to fish in Community waters.

Fisheries Commission

2.1.53. The Baltic Fisheries Commission met in Warsaw from 13 to 20 September.²

Structural policy

2.1.54. The Commission is continuing work on a number of papers to serve as a basis for the

forthcoming discussions by the Council on the direction of the common structural policy, particularly in connection with Mediterranean agriculture. The Commission will also report to the Council in the very near future on the implementation of existing Directives concerning structural policy and will propose amendments to them. Additional proposals will be made later.

Conditions of competition

2.1.55. The Commission expressed a favourable Opinion under Article 93(3) of the EEC Treaty on the granting by Luxembourg of the remaining budget appropriations intended to compensate farmers for the effects of the drought in summer 1976.

2.1.56. It also recommended that the Italian authorities should not implement the measures of the draft Law of the Region of Sicily which provides for the establishment of a revolving fund to grant guaranteed loans at reduced rates to coffee importers on the island. This type of aid is not such as to improve production and/or marketing structures for the product concerned.

2.1.57. The Commission decided to initiate the procedure of Article 93(2) of the EEC Treaty with regard to a draft Law of the Region of Campania providing for aids combining grants and interest rebates for investment in agricultural buildings. The Commission contends that the combined rate of aid is too high.

Accountancy data network

2.1.58. On 23 September³ the Commission substantially amended the farm return for the agri-

¹ OJ L 250 of 30.9.1977.

² Point 2.2.27.

³ OJ L 263 of 17.10.1977.

cultural accountancy data network of the EEC (FADN). From 1978, data on about 30 000 returning holdings collected every year in the various regions of the Community will be collected at Community level in a new form and using even more specific definitions.

The changes made to the FADN farm return are based on the experience of the last ten years during which the original farm return was used; they meet the need to adapt this information on agricultural incomes to changes in the requirements of the common agricultural policy.

The new farm return is clearer, simpler and more functional than the previous one; it is in line with recent progress in data processing and reflects more accurately the effects of some factors whose importance has increased in the last few years (inflation, direct aids, farm businesses other than agricultural production in the strict sense, investment).

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2.1.59. At its meeting on 28 and 29 September the Economic and Social Committee adopted an Opinion on the Commission proposal providing for agricultural measures for soya seeds.¹

Transport policy

Market organization

2.1.60. On 13 September the Commission forwarded to the Council a report on the system for monitoring the markets for the carriage of goods by rail, road and inland waterway between Member States. The report, which was drawn up at the request expressed by the Council on 4 November 1976,² notes that the present monitoring system could be improved by promoting closer cooperation between the responsible national au-

thorities, carrying out a survey of road haulage firms and examining the possibility of introducing a system of reference tariffs.

Harmonization of structures

2.1.61. A meeting of government experts was held on 15 September by the Commission to prepare the technical annexes describing the layout and contents of the annual accounts of railway undertakings. These annexes are part of the Commission proposal of 18 March³ concerning the comparability of these accounts. This proposal is to be adopted by the Council before 1 January 1978.

2.1.62. On 29 September the Commission made some amendments to the proposals forwarded to the Council on 5 July 1976 dealing with the establishment of a consultation procedure and the creation of a committee for transport infrastructure and support for projects of Community interest in transport infrastructure.⁴ These amendments incorporate the changes which were requested by Parliament in its Opinion of 4 July.⁵

2.1.63. The Commission decided on 26 September to forward to the Dutch Government its Opinion on a draft law amending the law on the carriage of goods by road and on a draft decree amending the implementing decree for the law on the carriage of goods by road. In its Opinion, the Commission states that, since the Dutch Government's amendments are compatible with existing Community law and that their general content does not conflict with Community transport policy, the Commission raises no objections to them.

¹ OJ C 192 of 11.8.1977 and Bull. EC 7/8-1977, point 2.1.70.

² Bull. EC 11-1976, point 2282.

³ OJ C 91 of 15.4.1977.

⁴ Bull. EC 6-1976, points 1401 to 1404.

⁵ Bull. EC 7/8-1977, point 2.3.24.

Shipping, air transport and ports

2.1.64. On 13 September¹ the Council formally adopted a decision setting up a consultation procedure on relations between Member States and third countries in shipping matters and on action relating to such matters in international organizations which it had approved at its meeting on 28 and 29 June.²

Advisory Committee on Transport

2.1.65. A full meeting of the Advisory Committee on Transport was held in Brussels from 21 to 23 September. At this meeting the Committee adopted two opinions on the amendment of Community legislation on aids and public service obligations and discussed what further should be taken by the Community to implement the Community goods transport market.

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2.1.66. At its meeting on 28 and 29 September the Economic and Social Committee³ adopted an Opinion on the Commission proposal for a Community quota for the carriage of goods by road between Member States.⁴

Energy policy

Formulating and implementing a Community energy policy

World Energy Conference

2.1.67. The Commission was represented at the tenth World Energy Conference held in Istanbul from 19 to 23 September and attended by some 3 500 experts from 75 countries.

The conference concentrated on the following subjects: energy supply and demand; use of new sources of energy, conversion of the different types of primary energy, rational utilization of energy. The Commission reported on the Community action programmes on the rational utilization of energy and on research and development in this sector.

Energy saving

2.1.68. The Economic and Social Committee, meeting in plenary session on 28 and 29 September, issued Opinions on several of the proposals for concrete measures presented by the Commission to the Council in May⁵ with a view to reducing energy consumption to about 15% less than the pre-crisis forecasts.

The Committee expressed a favourable Opinion on the proposals concerning the granting of financial aids to demonstration projects in the field of energy saving and projects exploiting alternative energy sources, the performance, maintenance and regulation of heat-generating plant and the insulation of the distribution system in new buildings and the modernization of existing buildings in the Community.⁶

Sectoral problems

Coal

Financial aid granted by the Member States to the coal industry

2.1.69. On 23 September⁷ the Commission decided to authorize the aids proposed for 1976 by

¹ OJ L 239 of 17.9.1977.

² Bull. EC 6-1977, point 2.1.111.

³ Point 2.3.51.

⁴ Bull. EC 7/8-1977, point 2.1.92.

⁵ Bull. EC 5-1977, points 2.1.74 to 2.1.77.

⁶ Points 2.3.48 and 2.3.49.

⁷ OJ L 256 of 7.10.1977.

four Member States—Belgium, France, Germany and the United Kingdom—in accordance with its Decision of 25 February 1976 regarding the Community system of measures by the Member States to assist the coal-mining industry.¹ These aids were discussed in a memorandum of 18 April 1977² presented by the Commission to the Council which gave the required consultation on 14 June.³

In line with the decisions taken by the Commission and notified to the Governments concerned, the total amount of aid will be as follows: Germany: DM 568 million; Belgium: FB 5 688.2 million; France: FF 1 591.3 million; United Kingdom: £ 13.5 million.

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2.1.70. On 13 September⁴ Parliament gave its Opinion on the proposal presented to the Council in March⁵ concerning Community aid for financing cyclical stocks of hard coal, coke and patent fuel.

Investment in the coal industry

2.1.71. The results of the Commission's annual investment survey of ESCS undertakings show that in 1976 capital expenditure in the coal industry was 40% up on 1975; at current prices, it reached 771.4 million EUA as against 550.7 million EUA the previous year.

Despite rises in plant and equipment costs, which account for about half of this increase, investment spending for the first time approached the figure of 500 million EUA at 1973 prices, which was quoted in the Community's Medium-Term Guidelines for Coal⁶ as being necessary to achieve a stabilization of coal output in the long term.

Replies by coal undertakings to the survey indicate that coal extraction potential is now expected to decline at a slower rate than predicted in pre-

vious surveys. Based on projects in progress or decided, it should decline from 261 million tonnes in 1976 to 255 million tonnes—about 233 million tce—in 1980. If in addition all planned projects which have not yet been approved were carried out, extraction potential in 1980 could reach 262 million tonnes or 240 million tce—slightly higher than the 1976 level. However the implementation of these projects depends mainly on the assessment of the still very uncertain prospects of sales to the electricity and coking markets, and on the availability of finance for the large investments in new mines which will be needed to offset the anticipated exhaustion of workable reserves at a large number of collieries.

The same survey indicates that investment expenditure anticipated for 1977, relating to projects under way and already decided, will probably be less than the total for 1976, amounting to no more than 747.5 million EUA. These are only estimates, but, according to the Commission's report on the survey, after the marked increase over the last few years, expenditure is likely to level out at a high figure.

Industrial loans

2.1.72. Acting under Article 54 of the ECSC Treaty, the Commission has decided to contribute, by means of a FF 80 million loan to Charbonnages de France, towards the financing of an investment project by the Houillères du Bassin de Lorraine for the construction of 43 coke ovens and the installation of a preheating furnace for coke paste to replace the old coke ovens in the Carling II coking plant. This project will make it possible to keep coke production going in the Lorraine coalfield.

¹ OJ L 63 of 11.3.1977.

² Bull. EC 4-1977, point 2.1.80.

³ OJ C 147 of 23.6.1977.

⁴ Point 2.3.9 and OJ C 241 of 10.10.1977.

⁵ Bull. EC 3-1977, point 2.1.104.

⁶ Bull. EC 11-1974, point 2269.

Nuclear energy

2.1.73. Following the Commission Decision of 22 June¹ to organize hearings on nuclear energy before the end of the year, the timetable for the first debates has been adopted. The first meeting will take place from 29 November to 1 December and another meeting from 24 to 26 January 1978.

These hearings are meant to help inform the public on questions of nuclear energy, bearing in mind the Community's energy requirements, ensure the Community's participation in the public debate on nuclear energy and assist the Commission in defining priority areas of nuclear energy research, i.e. areas where new initiatives or a more concentrated effort might prove necessary.

The experts called to express their opinions will be chosen from a number of circles (energy producers, energy consumers, environment specialists, trade unionists, economists, sociologists and women's associations) and will be chosen for their knowledge of energy problems. The discussions will concentrate on the following subjects: energy demand and supply—a study of what the various energy sources may contribute between now and the end of the century; nuclear energy and society; the effects of energy supply on safety and the environment.

Research and development, science and education

Science, research and development

European public opinion on science and research

2.1.74. As part of its gradual implementation of the common policy on science and technology, the Commission has decided to devote special attention to the relations between science and so-

ciety. A number of projects have been undertaken on this theme² and, for the first time on a Community scale, an opinion poll has been conducted on the relations between research and public opinion. The poll was conducted simultaneously by eight national institutes to find out how the European public actually sees science and scientific research.

The results may be summarized as follows:

(i) Science is widely regarded by Europeans as one of the most important factors in the improvement of their daily life: this definition was chosen by 69% from a list of five definitions, three of which were negative.

(ii) The great confidence of Europeans in science is accompanied by an equally great interest in scientific information.

(iii) This confidence is tinged with apprehension since two-thirds of these same Europeans also believe that very dangerous repercussions can ensue from civilian applications of science. Nevertheless, that apprehension is not sufficient to make people doubt the importance of science. Not only do they recognize the important role of science in the improvement of living conditions in the last 25 years but the large majority believes that scientific research will have beneficial effects in the future.

(iv) Europeans regard it as self-evident that the State should subsidize scientific research and as equally self-evident that the research should be pursued by a pooling of effort between the Member States of the Community rather than in each country separately.

These various results clearly revealed a consensus in favour of science and Community research and the absence of any openly hostile attitudes.

The replies appear remarkably standard from one Community country to another. The consensus is practically independent of the variables which

¹ Bull. EC 6-1977, point 2.1.128.

² Bull. EC 6-1977, point 2.1.133.

usually influence the results of opinion polls, such as age, level of education, political views, socio-economic category and even social position or scales of values.

Concerted action project on sewage sludge research

2.1.75. On 27 September the Council adopted a Decision¹ on concerted action in the field of the treatment and use of sewage sludge for the three-year period 1978-80; this project is a follow-up on a wider scale to the work successfully carried out under COST project 68.² It forms part of the second environment programme of the European Communities adopted by the Council on 17 May.³

The programme will help to solve a problem of growing concern that is closely linked with the fight against water pollution. In the course of waste water purification, up to 700 kg of sewage sludge per inhabitant per year is produced, to which must be added biodegradable industrial sludge generated by the food industries, breweries, etc. The disposal of this sludge causes serious environmental problems which can only be overcome if improvements are made in sludge processing techniques to obtain products which can be used to improve and dress farm land at an acceptable cost.

The concerted action project comprises four main headings: sludge stabilization and odour problems, dewatering of sludge, sludge characterization (pollutants, microbiology) and environmental problems associated with agricultural use.

This Council Decision represents a new departure for the future Community research and development policy; the research programme adopted is the first example of concerted action involving coordination at Community level of research projects carried out by the Member States at national level.

This coordination is the responsibility of the Commission, which will be assisted by a concerted action committee consisting of those responsible for the projects at national level. The cost of the national research projects to be coordinated amounts to approximately 6 million u.a. over three years while the cost of the coordination operations financed from the Community budget has been set at a maximum of 140 000 u.a. for the same period.

In accordance with the recommendation by CREST,⁴ there are plans to open this Community concerted action project to participation by non-Community European countries within the COST framework in which it originated.

Scientific and Technical Research Committee

2.1.76. Meeting on 29 and 30 September, the Committee on Medical Research and Public Health (CRM), a CREST subcommittee, discussed research topics of importance to the Community relating to the prevention and early detection of disease and rehabilitation.

The CRM approved six priority research topics concerning chromosome analysis, cardiovascular diseases, mental illness and deafness. These subjects will be included in the proposal that the Commission is now drafting on a second research programme of concerted action projects in the field of medicine and public health. As it announced in June 1977⁵ when submitting its first set of projects in this field, the Commission plans to forward its new proposal to the Council at the beginning of 1978.

¹ OJ L 267 of 19.10.1977.

² Tenth General Report, point 387.

³ OJ C 139 of 13.5.1977 and Bull. EC 5-1977, point 2.1.40.

⁴ Bull. EC 1-1977, point 2.1.57.

⁵ Bull. EC 6-1977, point 2.1.136.

Scientific and Technical Committee (STC)

2.1.77. Meeting on 8 and 9 September, the Scientific and Technical Committee delivered a favourable opinion on the proposal concerning uranium prospecting and mining forwarded to the Council by the Commission on 29 July 1977.¹

The Committee concentrated on discussing the three Communications transmitted to the Council in July concerning the fundamental features of nuclear strategy and of Community projects on irradiated fuel reprocessing, radioactive waste and fast breeder reactors.² Most members of the STC agreed without significant reservations with the views expressed by the Commission in those three communications.

The STC also started to discuss a preliminary draft programme that the Commission intends to send shortly to the Council on the safety of light water reactors; the STC will shortly be delivering its formal opinion on this question which should be put before the Council at the end of the year.

Photovoltaic conversion of solar energy

2.1.78. An international conference on the photovoltaic conversion of solar energy was organized by the Commission in Luxembourg from 27 to 30 September. For four days, about 500 experts from some 30 countries discussed recent and original research and development findings relating to photovoltaic cells. Eighty papers were presented at plenary sessions and 46 at poster sessions; the latter type of presentation played an important part in stimulating discussion between experts.

The results indicate that, by using solar radiation concentrators, it may well be possible to reduce the capital cost of photovoltaic cells, currently about US\$ 15 000 per kW, to about US\$ 2 000 per kW by 1981 and about US\$ 500 per kW by 1986.

The conference was so successful that the Commission is considering holding specialized meetings of this type twice a year.

Joint Research Centre

2.1.79. The renewal of the contract making the ESSOR reactor (Ispra Establishment of the Joint Research Centre) available to Italy was signed in Brussels on 7 September by the Permanent Representative of Italy and the Director-General of the JRC. This contract extends to the end of 1980 the arrangements concerning the ESSOR reactor, its installations and staff, as part of the cooperation that has been under way since 1973.³

This decision to renew the contract forms part of the agreement reached in the Council on 18 November 1976⁴ concerning the new multiannual programme for 1977-80, which was formally adopted by the Council on 18 July 1977.⁵

Education

Education Committee

2.1.80. At its meeting on 14 and 15 September, the Education Committee considered the Commission's detailed plan to implement pilot projects concerning the preparation of young people for transition from school to work.⁶ It is expected that the first batch of projects will be decided in November, and the remainder in the early part of 1978.

The Committee noted progress in establishing cooperation between higher education institutions

¹ Bull. EC 7/8-1977, point 2.1.116.

² Bull. EC 7/8-1977, points 1.3.1 to 1.3.4.

³ Bull. EC 2-1973, point 2231.

⁴ Bull. EC 11-1976, point 2253.

⁵ OJ L 200 of 8.8.1977 and Bull. EC 7/8-1977, point 2.1.112.

⁶ Bull. EC 11-1976, points 1201 to 1204 and OJ C 308 of 30.12.1976.

and considered lines of future development. It was agreed in principle to launch a study visits programme in 1978 for school administrators.

The Committee further reviewed the pilot projects and research concerned with the education of migrant children, in the light of the Directive adopted by the Council on 25 July.¹

The Commission was invited to prepare a synthesis of the research in progress with a view to identifying action to complement the terms of the Directive.

Admission of students from other Member States

2.1.81. From 21 to 23 September the Commission organized a conference for some forty high-level experts and representatives of higher education institutions who met in Bonn—Bad Godesberg to discuss the possibility of developing a common policy within the Community for the admission to institutions of higher education of students from other Member States. This conference forms part of the actions undertaken in the framework of the Resolution adopted on 9 February 1976² by the Council and the Ministers of Education meeting within the Council.

Discussion covered questions of selection criteria, numerical restriction on admissions, fees policies and admission procedures; in the light of these discussions, a consultative document will be prepared containing specific proposals, to be circulated for comment by higher education bodies, prior to being brought before the Ministers of Education of the Community for consideration.

Scientific and technical information and information management

Automatic translation: preparation of a Community plan of action

2.1.82. On 19 September, the Committee of Experts for the Transfer of Information between Community languages (CETIL) held its first meeting in Luxembourg. The Committee was set up at the request of the Commission in order to help it in formulating and implementing a plan of action for improving the transfer of information between Community languages, the results of which will have their effect both in the mechanics and suppleness of translations within the Community institutions and throughout the Community.

The plan of action covers several areas other than automatic translation proper. It includes terminological data banks, multilingual thesauri and the technical infrastructure.

Once they have investigated the work being carried out in their own countries, the experts will be able to study the possibilities for cooperation in these areas and the ways in which such cooperation could be carried out.

European Data Bank on Medicinal Products

2.1.83. The status of the work being done to set up a system of exchange of information on medicinal products at Community level was discussed at a meeting in Luxembourg on 23 September at which high-level pharmacologists, doctors and scientists from the nine countries of the

¹ OJ L 199 of 6.8.1977 and Bull. EC 6-1977, point 2.1.149 and 7/8-1977, point 2.1.123.

² OJ C 38 of 19.2.1976 and Bull. EC 12-1975, points 1101 and 1102.

Community met under the aegis of the Commission.

Setting up this system, which is already at a very advanced stage, entails coping with technical problems, the nomenclature of the active principles of medicinal preparations, and terminological aspects of the pharmaceutical and therapeutic properties of the products concerned. It was for this reason that the government representatives of the various Ministries of Public Health (pharmaceutical departments) and those in charge of the selective information systems which play an active role in this project were invited to take part in the meeting.

The pharmacological data bank, which is expected to be in operation in 1980, should form one of the main elements in the future European telecommunications network, Euronet.

Industry and information transfer

2.1.84. A seminar attended by a hundred or so representatives of government departments, confederations of industry, industrial information services and the Commission was held in Luxembourg from 26 to 28 September at the initiative of the Committee for Scientific and Technical Information and Documentation (CIDST), in collaboration with the Commission. The aim of the seminar was to study requirements, machinery and policies as regards the effective transfer of information in industry and, in particular, in small- and medium-sized firms, throughout the Member States.

The conclusions reached by the participants at the seminar pointed to the essential nature of communication and of human beings both as a means and a vehicle for the transfer of technology: the computer, and other instruments used at present, can never, in spite of the potential and considerable help which they bring to the subject, replace human contact.

The most efficient way of improving the transfer of information is to train specialists and develop methods for market and sales surveys and psychological studies. On the basis of these conclusions, the Commission will propose recommendations for launching Community action and for encouraging projects at national level.

2. External relations

Enlargement

2.2.1. On 17 and 18 September the Commission held an informal meeting in La Roche-en-Ardenne to consider what lies in store for the Community in the years ahead. A good deal of the time was spent discussing the problems raised by a further enlargement of the Community to embrace the three new applicant countries. Two of the three topics discussed dealt with the institutional problems and economic consequences of an enlargement of the Community.¹

Accession negotiations — Greece

2.2.2. The eighth session of the accession negotiations with Greece at Deputy level took place in Brussels on 23 September.

The Community delegation made statements about capital movements and the procedure to be adopted for discussing substantive points arising in the secondary legislation examination. The Greek delegation made a statement about the institutional aspects of accession.

2.2.3. The Commission and the Greek delegation continued their examination of the Community's secondary legislation, covering the competition sector.

Political cooperation

2.2.4. The Ministers of Foreign Affairs, in Brussels for a Council meeting, held a political cooperation meeting on 20 September under the chairmanship of Mr Simonet, the Belgian Foreign Minister. The Commission was represented by Mr Jenkins, President, Mr Haferkamp, Vice-President, and Mr Cheysson, member.

The Ministers approved a code of conduct for companies with subsidiaries, branches or representation in South Africa. Here is the full text:

Code of Conduct for companies with subsidiaries, branches or representation in South Africa

1. Relations within the undertaking

(a) Companies should ensure that all their employees irrespective of racial or other distinction are allowed to choose freely and without any hindrance the type of organization to represent them.

(b) Employers should regularly and unequivocally inform their employees that consultations and collective bargaining with organizations which are freely elected and representative of employees are part of company policy.

(c) Should black African employees decide that their representative body should be in the form of a trade union, the company should accept this decision. Trade unions for black Africans are not illegal, and companies are free to recognize them, and to negotiate and conclude agreements with them.

(d) Consequently, the companies should allow collective bargaining with organizations freely chosen by the workers to develop in accordance with internationally accepted principles.

(e) Employers should do everything possible to ensure that black African employees are free to form or to join a trade union. Steps should be taken in particular to permit trade union officials to explain to employees the aims of trade unions and the advantages of membership, to distribute trade union documentation and display trade union notices on the company's premises, to have reasonable time off to carry out their union duties without loss of pay and to organize meetings.

(f) Where works or liaison committees already operate, trade union officials should have representative status on these bodies if employees so wish. However, the existence of these types of committee should not prejudice the development or status of trade unions or of their representatives.

¹ Points 1.1.1 to 1.1.4.

2. Migrant labour

(a) The system of migrant labour is, in South Africa, an instrument of the policy of apartheid which has the effect of preventing the individual from seeking and obtaining a job of his choice: it also causes grave social and family problems.

(b) Employers have the social responsibility to contribute towards ensuring freedom of movement for black African workers and their families.

(c) In the meantime employers should make it their concern to alleviate as much as possible the effects of the existing system.

3. Pay

Companies should assume a special responsibility as regards the pay and conditions of employment of their black African employees. They should formulate specific policies aimed at improving their terms of employment. Pay based on the absolute minimum necessary for a family to survive cannot be considered as being sufficient. The minimum wage should initially exceed by at least 50% the minimum level required to satisfy the basic needs of an employee and his family.

4. Wage structure and black African advancement

(a) The principle of 'equal pay for equal work' means that all jobs should be open to any worker who possesses suitable qualifications, irrespective of racial or other distinction, and that wages should be based on a qualitative job evaluation.

(b) The same pay scales should be applied to the same work. The adoption of the principle of equal pay would, however, be meaningless if black African employees were kept in inferior jobs. Employers should therefore draw up an appropriate range of training schemes of a suitable standard to provide training for their black African employees, and should reduce their dependence on immigrant white labour.

5. Fringe benefits

(a) In view of their social responsibilities, undertakings should concern themselves with the living conditions of their employees and families.

(b) For this purpose company funds could be set aside for use:

- in the housing of black African personnel and their families;
- in transport from place of residence to place of work and back;
- in providing leisure and health service facilities;
- in providing their employees with assistance in problems they encounter with the authorities over their movement from one place to another, their choice of residence and their employment;
- in pension matters;
- in educational matters;
- in improving medical services, in adopting programmes of insurance against industrial accidents and unemployment, and in other measures of social welfare.

6. Desegregation at places of work

In so far as it lies within their own competence, employers should do everything possible to abolish any practice of segregation, notably at the workplace and in canteens, sports activities, education and training. They should also ensure equal working conditions for all their staff.

7. Reports on the implementation of the code of conduct

(a) Parent companies to which this code is addressed should publish each year a detailed and fully documented report on the progress made in applying this code.

(b) The number of black Africans employed in the undertaking should be specified in the report, and progress in each of the six areas indicated above should be fully covered.

(c) The governments of the Nine will review annually progress made in implementing this code. To this end a copy of each company's report should be submitted to the national government.

Multilateral approaches

International economic cooperation

The follow-up to the CIEC

2.2.5. During September a number of international meetings and Community statements

showed that even if the Conference on International Economic Cooperation (CIEC) is now over the North-South Dialogue is still continuing.¹

As was envisaged at the end of the Paris Conference, the problems involved in relations between industrialized and developing countries are now being discussed in other forums. This was indeed the case at the meetings of the UNCTAD Board, the United Nations General Assembly, the Annual Meeting of the IMF (International Monetary Fund) and the IBRD (International Bank for Reconstruction and Development) and at the multilateral trade negotiations in Geneva.

The Community has not been silent, and its spokesmen at these various meetings² restated the Community policy towards developing countries. Lastly, the Commission has presented to the Council a Communication on the international negotiations for a Common Fund for Commodities, in preparation for the conference to be held on this subject in Geneva from 7 November to 2 December.

The presentation of this Communication must also be seen in the context of the implementation of the UNCTAD IV programme.

Multilateral trade negotiations

Talks between Mr Strauss and the Commission

2.2.6. On 21 and 22 September, Mr Robert Strauss, the United States President's Special Representative for Trade Negotiations, visited the Commission to discuss the multilateral trade negotiations taking place in Geneva within the framework of GATT. Mr Strauss was accompanied by his two assistants, Mr Alan Wolff and Mr Alonzo McDonald.

Mr Strauss had visited the Commission on 11 July,³ when a timetable was agreed for all the points to be negotiated during the final phase to

be determined clearly and precisely by January. There was considerable uncertainty regarding the tariff negotiations since the various proposals already put forward appeared difficult to reconcile. Some progress was made on this point at the September talks.

The following joint communiqué was published after Mr Strauss's talks with Vice-President Haferkamp, Vice-President Gundelach and Mr Davignon on 21 and 22 September:

'The two sides reconfirmed their political commitment following the agreement reached by Vice-President Haferkamp and Mr Strauss at their meeting on 11 July to complete the current phase of negotiations by 15 January 1978 so as to set the stage for the negotiations of the final package.

They confirmed their joint understanding of the need for a substantial tariff reduction with a sufficient degree of harmonization, parallel with substantial progress on agriculture.

They welcomed the progress made in the preparations for tabling, on 1 November, of requests in the sectors of agriculture and non-tariff barriers. They took note with satisfaction of the intensive discussions which it has now been agreed to start on customs valuation, subsidies and countervailing duties, standards, government procurement, and safeguard mechanisms.

In relation to the formula to be employed in the negotiations for tariff reduction there was agreement that means must be found of achieving a substantial tariff reduction and harmonization. Both sides stressed again the need for tariff reductions substantial enough to improve business confidence. From the discussion a joint working hypothesis emerged which, subject to approval, would enable the current difficulties in finding a definitive tariff formula to be overcome, while

¹ Bull. EC 7/8-1977, points 2.2.7 to 2.2.10.

² Points 1.3.1 to 1.3.8.

³ Bull. EC 7/8-1977, point 2.2.17.

ensuring the progress of the negotiations in order to meet the 15 January deadline.

It was further agreed to search for mechanisms which would permit progress towards long-term trade liberalization, in stages which would take full account of current economic and political realities.¹

The working hypothesis for the tariff negotiations (industrial products) involves an algebraic formula giving a harmonization curve for duties charged on entry, a substantial, but still to be specified, reduction of tariffs and the phasing of the reductions over a longer period than was adopted at the previous negotiations, with the possibility of making some of the reduction tranches optional on the basis of economic criteria to be determined.

The elements of this working hypothesis, which obviously includes a large number of variables, will have to be worked out in detail gradually with all the participants in the negotiations and in the light of the progress achieved in the other areas of the negotiations.

Trade Negotiations Committee

Non-tariff measures

2.2.7. The Technical Barriers to Trade Subgroup met from 22 to 28 September to continue its work on the elaboration of a draft Standards Code. In formal session a new proposal on special and differential treatment for developing countries was introduced by Brazil. Among the provisions discussed in the Subgroup, proposals for a permanent derogation for developing countries met with reservations on the part of developed countries, including the Community.

Development

2.2.8. Development questions were dealt with on several occasions in various organizations dur-

ing September.¹ More especially they were the subject of discussions at the sessions of the UNCTAD Board and the United Nations General Assembly, but they were also raised at the Annual Meeting of the International Monetary Fund (IMF), and the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD). These matters were also discussed at the multilateral trade negotiations in Geneva.

On 23 September the Commission sent a Communication to the Council on the international negotiations for a Common Fund for Commodities—in anticipation of the conference on the subject which will take place in Geneva from 7 November to 2 December.

Development cooperation policy

Relations with non-governmental organizations

2.2.9. By the end of September, the Commission had received 120 project applications since the beginning of the year from 24 non-governmental organizations (NGOs) specializing in development aid. So far 50 projects, representing a total of 1.8 million units of account have been approved under the cofinancing programme.

The third full meeting for 1977 of the NGO Liaison Committee² and Commission staff took place in Brussels on 29 September; the items on the agenda were cofinancing, the role of NGOs in the Community's food aid programme and the follow-up to the seminar on the ways and means of educating the public on development problems.

¹ Points 1.3.1 to 1.3.8.

² Bull. EC 2-1977, point 2.2.13 and 5-1977, point 2.2.11.

Commodities and world agreements

Sugar

Adoption of the draft of a new international agreement

2.2.10. The UNCTAD Conference in Geneva from 12 September to 7 October for the negotiation of a new International Sugar Agreement concluded with the adoption of a draft agreement containing economic provisions.

The new agreement is due to come into force on 1 January 1978, provided it has by that date been signed by sufficient importer and exporter member countries. It provides for stabilization of the market (within a price bracket of 11-12 US cents per lb) through a system of export quotas backed up by a special buffer stock of 2.5 million tonnes.

The stock is to be constituted by exporter members within three years, while the price remains below 15 cents per lb. It is to be released in three equal tranches to protect the upper end of the price bracket if the price should rise to 19, 20 and 21 cents. The stock is to be financed through a special fund, which will derive its income from a levy of between 0.25 and 0.33 cents per lb on all sugar traded in the free market, and which will pay out to exporters at the rate of 1.5 cents per lb per year for their respective shares of the stock actually held during the year in question.

The Community's original mandate to negotiate an agreement without an export quota element was modified by the Council on 27 September so as to permit Community participation in a new agreement of the type described above on the basis of 'undertakings similar or equivalent' to those which were entered into on export quotas by the other parties to the Agreement. The Community delegation at the Geneva Conference immediately submitted concrete proposals to this effect.

In view of the advanced stage already reached by the other negotiating partners in an extremely complex and finely balanced package in which the allocation of export quotas remained the most crucial element, the Conference decided not to adopt the Community proposal for acceptance of the principle of equivalence while leaving the precise criteria and details to be worked out in accordance with the procedural provisions set out in the Agreement.

The Conference decided instead to adopt an article providing for accession of the Community to the Agreement after its entry into force through the negotiation of special conditions.

The Commission will re-evaluate the position of the Community in the light of this situation and will decide in due course what proposals it will make to the Council.

Wheat

2.2.11. The Preparatory Group established by the International Wheat Council, to examine the possible bases of a new international agreement containing economic provisions, continued its work at a meeting held in London from 28 September to 3 October. It will meet again in early November to draw up recommendations for an International Wheat Council decision at the end of November regarding a timetable of negotiations for the first half of 1978.

Cocoa

2.2.12. The negotiations for the revision of the prices laid down in the 1975 International Cocoa Agreement ended successfully at the special session of the International Cocoa Council held in London on 19 and 20 September. At issue was more than the mere administration of the Agreement, for failure of the negotiations might jeopardize the very existence of one of the rare international agreements existing on commodities.

with funds amounting to \$120 million for the future stabilization of the market.

The price range of 39-55 US cents per lb laid down in the 1975 International Agreement was increased substantially to 65-81 US cents per lb.

Certain producer countries, however, considered that these figures were still inadequate, but a large majority of them (with more than two thirds of the votes), like the consumer countries, accepted the compromise. The Ivory Coast proposed suspending the economic clauses of the Agreement and renegotiating it immediately. These matters will be raised at a forthcoming session of the International Cocoa Council. In any event, the Agreement will probably be renegotiated during 1978 with the United States, for its duration is three years from 1 October 1976, unless extended for a further two years.

Throughout the price negotiations, which started in January 1977 on a proposal from the Commission, a common position has been defined and defended on behalf of the Community and the Member States, which—since the United States is not a party to this Agreement—have more than half of the importing countries' votes and therefore play a decisive role within the International Cocoa Organization.

Olive oil

2.2.13. Since the International Olive Oil Agreement is due to expire on 31 December 1978 a meeting of the Preparatory Group for the extension or renewal of the Agreement was held in Geneva from 19 to 23 September under the auspices of UNCTAD. The Member States and the Community took part in the meeting, the purpose of which was to discuss proposals from the Executive Secretariat of the International Olive Oil Council (IOOC) for strengthening the present Agreement; at this stage only the technical aspects of the various options were discussed and analysed, and there was no question of any com-

mitment being given regarding the form or content of a new agreement.

The suggestions put forward by the Executive Secretariat of the IOOC for strengthening the Agreement are principally concerned with incorporating in it technical measures for promoting and improving olive oil production, for implementing a buffer stock and other economic measures with a view to remedying the market imbalance, stimulating consumption (by stepping up the role of the Publicity Fund) and incorporating in the Agreement measures concerning table olives.

The discussions on these proposals have generally been confined to the adoption of a preliminary position regarding the advisability of the measures suggested. A more detailed examination will take place in Madrid at the end of November during the 37th session of the International Olive Oil Council.

Lead and zinc

2.2.14. The UN International Lead and Zinc Study Group met in Geneva from 12 to 16 September, with Mr Deithrich (France) as Chairman and with the participation of the Member States of the Community (and of the Commission as an observer) for the thirteenth year in succession. Ireland was admitted as a member of the Group, to which 31 countries now belong.

The session was held two months earlier than usual to study the situation in particular in the light of the deterioration in the zinc market since the Group's last session in November 1976. The Group noted with appreciation that many countries expected that until the zinc market recovered, producers would be maintaining zinc metal output at 1975-77 levels. In view of the seriousness of the current situation and in accordance with its terms of reference, the Study Group has decided that the Standing Committee should hold a special meeting in January 1978 to

review the latest statistics and if necessary consider calling a special session of the Study Group.

In contrast lead, with low stocks, full production and stable consumption, is in a relatively balanced position. The Study Group reviewed new mine and smelter projects. It noted that several new projects for zinc refineries had been deferred or cancelled. It also noted that the future supply of zinc seemed assured following the discovery of large new zinc ore deposits in several countries although no arrangements had yet been made to finance their development.

Commercial policy

Formulating and implementing the common commercial policy

Import arrangements

Easing of restrictive measures

2.2.15. Under the Council Decision of 27 March 1975 on unilateral import arrangements in respect of state-trading countries¹ the Commission took the following measures relaxing import restrictions:

Italy-USSR: exceptional opening of an additional quota for imports of tubes of steel;²

Benelux-Czechoslovakia: increase in the import quota for unworked hardboard;³

Germany-Poland: exceptional opening of additional quotas for imports of laminated wood panels and unworked screws and nuts;³

Italy-Hungary: opening, again as an exceptional measure, of an additional quota for imports of 'gas liquids';⁴

Germany-Poland: exceptional opening of additional quotas for forged bars of iron or steel and for footwear;⁴

Italy-USSR: exceptional opening of an additional quota for imports of ball bearings;⁴

Italy-Czechoslovakia: opening, again as an exceptional measure, of an additional quota for imports of synthetic organic dyestuffs;⁵

France-Poland: exceptional opening of an additional quota for sheep.

Investigation, surveillance and safeguard measures

2.2.16. On 14 April the Commission initiated an anti-dumping/anti-subsidy procedure concerning sisal twine for agricultural machines, originating in Brazil and Mexico.⁶ In the course of the investigations the Brazilian and Mexican exporters gave undertakings which satisfied the Commission that the introduction of protective measures was unnecessary. The Commission therefore decided to terminate the procedure in question.⁷

Trade agreements: tacit renewal or extension

2.2.17. On 27 September⁸ the Council authorized the tacit renewal or continued operation of certain treaties of friendship, trade and navigation treaties and similar agreements concluded between Member States and third countries and due to expire at the end of December 1978.

The agreements will be renewed or continue in operation until 31 December 1979. They were previously extended until 31 December 1978 by the Council Decision of 4 October 1976.⁹

¹ OJ L 99 of 21.4.1975.

² OJ C 209 of 1.9.1977.

³ OJ C 228 of 24.9.1977.

⁴ OJ C 236 of 4.10.1977.

⁵ OJ C 239 of 7.10.1977.

⁶ OJ C 89 of 14.4.1977.

⁷ OJ C 216 of 9.9.1977.

⁸ OJ L 267 of 19.10.1977.

⁹ OJ L 283 of 14.10.1976 and Bull. EC 10-1976, point 2308.

Specific measures of commercial policy

Textiles

Bilateral agreements

2.2.18. On 9 September the Commission sent to the Council a proposal concerning directives for the negotiation of bilateral agreements under the Arrangement regarding International Trade in Textiles (MFA). These directives would enable the Commission to enter into negotiations either for a formal agreement under the MFA or for suitable arrangements with supplier countries. The Commission's intention is that all agreements or arrangements should be concluded by the end of November.

The proposed negotiating directives are based on an overall approach designed to ensure a balance of advantages and concessions for the Community and each of the countries concerned. In terms of quantities, the Community would be prepared to offer the supplier countries an annual growth rate of 6% for their total exports to the Community. Where specific products are concerned, the growth rate would vary according to the sensitivity of the product and the position of the supplier country concerned on the Community markets. In exchange for this slowing down of growth in textile imports over the next four years the Community will be offering security in the administration and utilization of the ceiling and limits agreed on.

At its meeting on 20 September the Council held a general discussion which allowed delegations to express their views on the various points recommended by the Commission. The Council adopted certain guidelines for the continuation of the work on drawing up directives for the negotiations.

2.2.19. On 20 September the Council adopted a Regulation concluding the agreement negotiat-

ed between the Community and Romania on trade in textile products—the text of which was initialled on 10 November 1976¹—and an agreement in the form of an exchange of letters between the Community and Romania, also concerning trade in textiles.

Safeguard measures

2.2.20. Also on 20 September the Council adopted a Regulation² maintaining in force, with certain amendments, the safeguard measures adopted by the Commission on 10 August³ in the field of textiles, covering imports of woven fabrics of cotton, trousers, jerseys, dresses, skirts and men's suits originating in certain non-member countries. It was not considered necessary to maintain in force the provisional measures introduced in respect of imports of trousers originating in Morocco or Tunisia. Moreover, the quantitative limits on imports of jerseys originating in Singapore were increased following consultations held with that country. All these measures will apply until the end of the year.

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2.2.21. At its 14 September sitting, Parliament⁴ adopted a Resolution at the end of a debate on an Oral Question concerning the Multifibre Arrangement.

Iron and steel products

2.2.22. On 27 September the Commission requested consultations pursuant to Article 5 of the Decision of the Representatives of the Governments of the Member States of the ECSC meet-

¹ Bull. EC 11-1976, point 2309.

² OJ L 243 of 22.9.1977.

³ Bull. EC 7/8-1977, point 2237.

⁴ Point 2.3.22 and OJ C 241 of 10.10.1977.

ing within the Council on 21 April 1975 on the arrangements applicable to imports of iron and steel products covered by the ECSC Treaty, including pig iron and cast iron and high carbon ferro-manganese originating in State-trading countries.

The reason for this request was the increase in imports of ECSC iron and steel products from the East European countries (up by 70% in 1976 by comparison with 1975): in particular, wire rods, hot-rolled sheets, coils, strip, cold-rolled sheets and bars from Poland, the German Democratic Republic, Hungary, Czechoslovakia and Bulgaria. The prices charged by the East European countries are considerably below the guidance prices. The consultations requested by the Commission involved an initial examination of the economic and trade situation, including the probable trend of imports of the products in question.

International organizations

United Nations

General Assembly

2.2.23. The 31st session of the United Nations General Assembly ended on 19 September, after a brief one-week meeting (the session had resumed on 13 September) given over entirely to the results of the Conference on International Economic Cooperation (CIEC). It ended without a consensus being reached on the interpretation to be given to the results of the Paris Conference.¹

2.2.24. The 32nd session of the General Assembly opened immediately afterwards, on 20 September. Mr Simonet, President of the Council, made a statement² on the Community's external policy to the Assembly on 26 September.

UNCTAD

2.2.25. The UNCTAD Trade and Development Board met in August and September. During the first part of its 17th session, from 23 August to 2 September, the problems connected with the North-South Dialogue were raised, the discussion of the substance of these problems being left, however, to the UN General Assembly.

From 5 to 10 September at a special session held at senior-official level, the Board began preparations for the ministerial meeting scheduled for March 1978 to deal in particular with the problem of developing countries' debts.³

Food and Agriculture Organization

2.2.26. The FAO Commission on Fertilizers met in Rome from 27 to 30 September. It examined world policy concerning fertilizers (present situation and prospects, measures to stabilize prices, investments and production costs, natural phosphate resources and reserves) and activities relating to fertilizers. It also studied its programme of future work.

Baltic Fisheries Commission

2.2.27. On 6 and 7 September Mr Finn Olav Gundelach, Member of the Commission, took part, on behalf of the Community, in a meeting in Warsaw of the Fisheries Ministers of States bordering on the Baltic, which preceded the annual meeting of the Baltic Fisheries Commission, the administrative organ of the Gdańsk Convention, to which two Community States (Germany and Denmark) are contracting partners. This was

¹ Point 1.3.4.

² Extracts from this statement are published in Part Three (Documentation).

³ Point 1.3.2.

the first time that the Community as such was represented in this body, which groups certain socialist countries such as the USSR, the German Democratic Republic and Poland.

Mr Gundelach referred at this meeting to the main principles of the common fisheries policy, and in particular the conservation and rational management of resources.

The Commission participated in all the work of the Baltic Fisheries Commission at its meeting in Warsaw from 13 to 20 September. It was agreed that the Community would be represented in a working group of this Commission, which has been instructed to study possible amendments to the Gdańsk Convention.

Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development

2.2.28. The Commission was represented at the meeting of the OECD Working Party on Shipbuilding on 27 and 28 September and at the meeting of the OECD *ad hoc* Working Party on the Iron and Steel Industry¹ on 29 and 30 September.

Mediterranean countries

Cyprus

2.2.29. The Additional Protocol to the 1972 Agreement establishing an association between the Community and Cyprus and the Financial Protocol were signed by representatives of the Community and the Cypriot Government on 15 September in Brussels. These Protocols will be submitted to the internal procedures of both parties for conclusion. The Additional Protocol should come into force before the end of the year, whereas the Financial Protocol will have to be ratified by the Member States before its entry into force during the coming year.

Spain

2.2.30. Following Spain's application for membership presented on 28 July,² the Council decided on 20 September to initiate the procedure laid down in the Treaties and to request the Commission's Opinion. The latter immediately started on the necessary work for drawing up this Opinion.

2.2.31. The EEC-Spain Joint Committee met on 30 September in Madrid. The two delegations examined the functioning of the 1970 Agreement, with an eye to the negotiations planned for the autumn, which will restore a proper balance to the Agreement and widen its scope.³

At the beginning of the meeting, the participants had stressed the importance of Spain's application for membership and the prospects which this membership would entail in relations between the Community and Spain.

Portugal

2.2.32. On 16 September, Parliament⁴ passed a Resolution on economic and trade relations between the Community and Portugal.

Yugoslavia

2.2.33. Mr Haferkamp, Vice-President of the Commission with special responsibility for external relations, went on a fact-finding mission to Belgrade from 11 to 13 September.

He met Mr Djuranovic, President of the Federal Executive Council, Mr Sefer, Vice-President of the Federal Executive Council with responsibility for economic affairs, and Mr Smolé, Member of

¹ Point 2.1.13.

² Bull. EC 7/8-1977, points 1.1.1 to 1.1.5.

³ Bull. EC 4-1977, point 2.2.56.

⁴ Point 2.3.21 and OJ C 241 of 10.10.1977.

the Federal Executive Council with responsibility for relations with the Community.

The talks dealt with future relations between Yugoslavia and the Community. The two main topics were the implementation of the Joint Belgrade Declaration of 2 December 1976¹ and the nature and content of the agreement to be negotiated with Yugoslavia next year.

ACP States and the OCT

European Development Fund

New financing decisions

2.2.34. Following the favourable opinion given by the EDF Committee, the Commission took new financing decisions in September, bringing the total commitments under the fourth EDF to 912 320 000 EUA; the new decisions concern the following projects:

Upper Volta, Niger, Mali, Togo (regional project) — Study on the Fada N'Gourma-Niamey Road (section of the Ouagadougou-Niamey Highway): 1 000 000 EUA

Rwanda — Kigoma-Mururu high-tension line: 3 900 000 EUA

— Completion of the project for tea-growing on smallholdings and a tea factory at Mata: 3 500 000 EUA

Liberia — W.V.S. Tubman Technical Institute, Harper: 1 000 000 EUA

— Science/technology centre — Cape Palmas High School, Harper: 450 000 EUA

— Annual microproject programme: 3 000 000 EUA

Ivory Coast — Lake Kossou farming community: 3 600 000 EUA

Madagascar — Microproject programme: 2 060 000 EUA

— Micro water engineering programme: 4 480 000 EUA

— Multiannual training programme 1976-80: 1 900 000 EUA

Niger — Continuation of the rural development scheme in the Department of Badéguichéri: 2 954 000 EUA

Burundi — Production of timber: 2 151 000 EUA

Ghana — Twifo oil palm development: 6 800 000 EUA

— Weija irrigation pilot project: 3 125 000 EUA

Congo — Multiannual training programme 1976-80: 1 100 000 EUA

Ethiopia — Multiannual training programme 1976-80 (First part): 1 631 000 EUA

Senegal — Multiannual programme 1976-80: 3 527 000 EUA

Chad — Multiannual training programme 1976-80: 1 900 000 EUA

Togo — Multiannual training programme 1976-80: 4 924 000 EUA

ACP States and Overseas Countries, Territories and Departments — Fixing of a provisional overall amount for certain ACP States and Overseas Countries, Territories and Departments for the financing of scholarships and training grants for vocational and further training from 1976 to 1978: 4 300 000 EUA

Jamaica — Trade promotion: 1 650 000 EUA

Malawi — Liwonde sewerage scheme: 600 000 EUA

— First annual microproject programme: 420 000 EUA

Kenya — First annual microproject programme: 630 000 EUA

¹ Bull. EC 11-1976, point 2340.

Nigeria — Technical assistance for the First Lagos International Fair: 151 442 EUA

Mali — Launching of the Centre for Industrial Studies and Promotions (CEPI): 450 000 EUA

Guyana — Assistance to small and medium-sized national firms: 700 000 EUA.

2.2.35. The Commission also took another financing decision in September under the Third EDF, concerning the following project:

All AASM-OCT — covering an exceptional increase in the cost of executing projects caused by international monetary developments: 4 441 426 EUA.

Other countries

Fisheries¹

2.2.36. In September the Council extended the interim measures for the management and conservation of fish stocks applicable to ships from Poland, the German Democratic Republic, Finland, Portugal, Sweden and Spain.²

Industrialized countries

United States

2.2.37. Mr Strauss, the United States President's Special Representative for Trade Negotiations, visited the Commission on 21 and 22 September.³ He met Mr Haferkamp and Mr Gundelach, Vice-Presidents, and Mr Davignon, Member of the Commission.

Canada

2.2.38. The Premier of British Columbia, Mr W.R. Bennett, visited the Commission on

15 September. Mr Bennett's visit was part of a wider European tour, the 'British Columbian Economic Mission to Europe', marking the interest of British Columbia, one of the Canadian provinces richest in resources, in establishing a working relationship with the Community and its Member States in the context of the implementation of the 1976 Framework Agreement for commercial and economic cooperation.⁴

Mr Bennett met President Jenkins and Mr Davignon, Member of the Commission, and had discussions with senior Commission officials on the prospects for cooperation in various fields, including forestry products, non-ferrous metals and coal.

2.2.39. A Joint Working Group of the delegations from the European and Canadian Parliaments on nuclear energy had a meeting in Brussels on 21 September with Mr Brunner, Member of the Commission with special responsibility for energy questions, and with senior Commission officials. Their discussions centred on the problems of nuclear energy in the context of the Framework Agreement.⁴

EFTA countries

Austria

2.2.40. At the invitation of Mr Pahr, the Austrian Minister of Foreign Affairs, Mr Haferkamp, Vice-President of the Commission, paid an official visit to Austria from 13 to 15 September.

His talks with members of the Austrian Government centred on Austria's trade deficit with the

¹ Only the 'external' aspects are dealt with here. The fisheries policy in general is discussed more fully in the section 'Agriculture and fisheries'.

² Point 2.1.52.

³ Point 2.2.6.

⁴ Bull. EC 6-1976, points 1201 to 1206.

Communities, transport questions and the development of bilateral relations.

The possibility of an exchange of information between Austria and the Commission on the results of environmental studies was mentioned, and it was also agreed that the two sides' experts on transport matters would meet regularly.

New Zealand

2.2.41. On 27 September the Council took note of the annual report—presented by the Commission on 15 July¹—on the application, in 1976, of Protocol No 18 to the Act of Accession. This report deals with imports into the United Kingdom of butter and cheese from New Zealand.²

Developing countries

Asia

India

2.2.42. Mr Mohan Dharia, the Indian Minister for Commerce, Civil Supplies and Cooperation, was received by Mr Davignon, Member of the Commission, on 2 September. Their discussions covered the prospects for increased cooperation between India and the Community in the commercial field and for a new bilateral agreement on textiles.

State-trading countries

Community-CMEA

2.2.43. Mr Marinescu, the Deputy Prime Minister of Romania and Chairman of the CMEA Executive Committee, had a meeting in Brussels on 21 September with a Community delegation to consider the prospects for the negotiation of an agreement between the Community and the CMEA.³

Community-China

2.2.44. The Commission has requested the Council for authorization to open negotiations with a view to the conclusion of a trade agreement with the People's Republic of China. This decision follows the talks held in Peking from 4 to 13 July⁴ between a Commission delegation and the Chinese authorities.

Diplomatic relations

2.2.45. On 20 September,⁵ the President of the Council and the President of the Commission received Their Excellencies Mr Rashid Mohammed Al-Rifai (Republic of Iraq), Mr Roberto Herrera Caceres (Republic of Honduras), Mr Jérôme Ntungumburanye (Republic of Burundi) and Mr Luiz A.P. Souto Maior (Federative Republic of Brazil) who presented their letters of credence in their capacity as heads of their countries' missions to the European Communities (EEC, ECSC, EAEC).

The same day,⁵ the two Presidents received the credentials of His Excellency Mr Inonga Lokongo L'Ome (Republic of Zaire) as his country's representative to the European Economic Community (EEC).

The new Ambassadors replace Mr Ghaib M. Mukhlis (Iraq), Laurent Nzeyimana (Burundi) and Elebe ma Ekonzo (Zaire) who have been appointed to other duties and Mr Arnaldo Vasconcellos (Brazil) who has retired from the diplomatic service. The new head of the Honduras mission is his country's first representative with the rank of ambassador, the mission having been headed in the past by an interim chargé d'affaires.

¹ Bull. EC 7/8-1977, point 2.2.72.

² Point 2.1.40.

³ Points 1.2.1 to 1.2.4.

⁴ Bull. EC 7/8-1977, points 1.2.1 to 1.2.4.

⁵ OJ C 235 of 1.10.1977.

3. Institutional and political matters

Institutions and organs of the Communities

Parliament

Part-session in Luxembourg from 12 to 16 September

2.3.1. The main topics for discussion at the September sittings were the Community's 1978 budget, the economic situation and unemployment.¹

Many other items went to fill the agenda: European consumer policy, human rights in South Africa, Portugal and its economic relations with the Community, matters concerning migrant workers, summer time arrangements and energy policy. Question Time heard enquiries about whether the 1978 deadline for direct elections would be met and where Parliament was to have its seat.

As the proceedings opened, President Colombo paid tribute to the work of Mr Cornelis Laban (S/NL), who died on 5 September. Mr Laban took his seat in the House in June 1973 and had lately been the Vice-Chairman on the Committee on Agriculture.

Finance

The draft budget for 1978: a design for economy or just patchwork?
(13 September)

2.3.2. In a preliminary debate Parliament unanimously rejected the Council's draft for the 1978 budget.

The Council President and Belgian State Secretary, Mr Eyskens, said that in preparing the draft,² the Council had taken as its motto 'selective sobriety', meaning that it had constantly tried

to find the most purposeful use for the funds available. But inevitably the economic difficulties in the Member States had left their marks. As justification for deleting appropriations for some of the measures proposed by the Commission, Mr Eyskens said that the Council felt them to be premature. The economy measures were imbued with a 'spirit of realism' and accurately portrayed the situation in the Member States. Agriculture had been left untouched because the EAGGF allowed of no cuts. On the other hand, the Council had dealt severely with administrative expenditure.

For the Commission, Mr Tugendhat then unreservedly defended the Commission's estimates in the preliminary draft, stating that it was both 'responsible and realistic' to provide for expenditure for new sectors if we wanted to see the Community continue to develop. But it was 'shortsighted' policy if the principle of budget austerity was to be applied to those very actions which promised greater medium-term wellbeing for everyone. Addressing those governments which were seeking even more budgetary austerity, he urged that this be first and foremost applied to agriculture.

The budget rapporteur, Mr Shaw (C/UK), said that, after the talks between Parliament and the Council, his reaction to the draft was one of 'disillusionment and disappointment'. He renewed Parliament's demands for a better balance between the outlay on agriculture and the other ex-

¹ This report was prepared from 'Information' published by Parliament's Secretariat.

The complete texts of the Resolutions passed by Parliament are reproduced in OJ C 214 of 10.10.1977 and the report of proceedings is contained in OJ Annex No 220.

The political group and nationality of members are indicated in brackets by the following abbreviations: C-D = Christian Democrats, S = Socialists, L = Liberals and Democrats, C = European Conservatives, EPD = European Progressive Democrats, COM = Communists and Allies; B = Belgium, DK = Denmark, D = Federal Republic of Germany, F = France, IRL = Ireland, I = Italy, L = Luxembourg, NL = Netherlands, UK = United Kingdom.

² Bull. EC 7/8-1977, point 2.3.100.

penditures, on the lines of a comprehensive forward-looking policy and of appropriate estimates of expenditure in the energy, research and transport sectors, and in particular the further development of initial ventures in advanced technologies. He roundly condemned the practice of token entries and called for accurate estimates of funds required. In conclusion, Mr Shaw referred to Parliament's powers to reject the draft budget, not as a threatening gesture, but to underline the fact that the Council and Parliament had no choice but to try together to restore 'a degree of reasonableness' to the budget.

Lord Bruce of Donington (*S/UK*) quoted some budget figures to demonstrate that the Council was speaking with a double voice when it talked of economy. It had approved 195 million u.a. for storing sugar but only 186 million for research, 492 million for the skimmed milk mountain and only 300 million for the Social Fund, 521 million for butter storage and no more than 350 million for the Regional Fund.

Mr Aigner (*C-D/D*) pointed to the modest proportions of the Community budget compared with the size of national budgets. It came to only 0.75% of the gross national products for the entire Community and 2.5% of the sum of all public budgets in the Community. Like Mr Lange (*S/D*), the Chairman of the Committee on Budgets, who spoke later, Mr Aigner stressed that the revenue side of the budget should also fall within Parliament's competence. He pointed out that already some 60% of the budget was financed from own resources and urged the Council to achieve complete financial autonomy for the Community by 1978. Mr Lange emphasized that Parliament would already be discharging its responsibilities in ensuring that there was revenue to meet expenditure. Speaking for the Liberals and Democrats, Mr Bangemann (*D*), climaxed his remarks by saying that if it had been possible to bring a motion of censure against the Council, the Liberals and Democratic Groups would have done so.

More criticism came from the Group spokesmen, Mr Yeats (*EPD/IRL*), Lord Bessborough (*C/UK*) and Mr Spinelli (*COM/I*), who all described the draft budget as a political misjudgment and an example of the Council's indecision.

At the close of the debate, the President of the Commission, Mr Jenkins, strongly maintained that the Council should restore what he called the 'damaging, undiscriminating, illogical and consequently unacceptable cuts'.

Institutional matters (14 September)

Direct elections

2.3.3. Answering two questions in Question Time from Mr Feit (*L/F*) and Mr Patijn (*S/NL*), the President of the Council, Mr Simonet, said that if direct elections could not take place in one country in spring 1978 as planned, the other eight Member States were to go ahead. Both members had enquired whether direct elections without the United Kingdom—failing agreement on the election procedure by spring 1978—did not contravene Article 138 of the EEC Treaty (uniform procedure) or Article 9 of the Direct Elections Act (same period).

Mr Simonet pointed out there was nothing so far to indicate that the elections would not be held at the appointed time.

President Colombo (*C-D/I*) said he was convinced that the elections would take place as planned in spring 1978. This target date had been formally decided by the Heads of State and Government. There had so far been no proposal to alter that decision. Nevertheless, in some countries delays had occurred in ratifying the Direct Elections Act and passing the necessary legislation and this was causing some justified apprehension. Parliament, however, would take all appropriate and effective steps so that everything would

be ready in time for the elections to take place in May or June 1978.

Parliament's seat

2.3.4. To another question from Mr Hamilton (S/UK) in Question Time, who asked whether the Council was going to set a final date by which Parliament could have an established seat in Brussels, the Council President, Mr Simonet, replied that it was the Member States' Governments and not the Council which were responsible for determining the seats of Community institutions. The question should be put to the national Governments in the national Parliaments.

Economic situation (14 September)

2.3.5. The economies of the Member States are still tending to move in divergent directions, and this is preventing the development of Community solidarity now needed more than ever in overcoming the economic crisis. In the face of this danger, the House urged the Member States to adhere to the economic policy guidelines accepted by the Community for 1977. This was the only way to remove the disparities and imbalances as swiftly as possible and revitalize the Community economy.

The prime objective, as stated in the Resolution, was to substantially reduce the high level of unemployment. An anti-inflation policy could help to do this.

Parliament felt that the responsibilities of the various countries in solving the economic problems differed according to whether their trade balance was in surplus or in deficit. The countries with surpluses should stimulate internal demand to encourage exports from deficit countries; those in deficit should try to raise their exports by lowering production costs and boosting productivity.

Employment policy measures at national and Community level must be brought in as a back-up to economic policy measures.

Parliament emphasized the value of the incentives offered by public and private investment in creating a favourable climate for investment. On economic and monetary union, the House found to its regret that the economic disparities were hampering the creation of a European monetary structure.

The rapporteur, Lord Ardwick (S/UK), stressed that in any case the Community institutions commanded only very modest financial resources and instruments to combat the economic crisis. Viewed against the size of the problems, the resources of the European Social Fund were barely what might be called modest. The House again urgently appealed for more funds, but warned that Community contributions should not prompt any neglect of national aid programmes.

Mr Ortolí, Vice-President of the Commission, described the present situation: an unemployment rate in the Community of 5.4% before the summer, and an actual rate of only 3% against the forecast of 4.3%. This was below both the medium-term objective and the figure for 1977 that the Commission had reluctantly accepted. A growth rate of less than 4.5% for 1978, however, would aggravate the problems on the labour market. The Commission would therefore make full use of the margin available for action so that 1978 would turn out better than the present situation gave to indicate.

In practical terms, Mr Ortolí called for the maximum coordination in economic policy. To eliminate the present difficulties, the first area for action was investment, with arrangements concerning taxation to follow. Confidence was a key factor here. The whole approach must be slanted towards bolstering domestic demand without increasing costs.

Except for the Communist Group, which abstained, all the Groups endorsed the Resolution.

Social affairs

Unemployment among young people (15 September)

2.3.6. The disturbing trend on the European labour market (5.8 million unemployed, including some 2 million under-25s) prompted two oral questions from Socialist and Christian Democrat member on the subject of the young employed.

For the Socialist members, Mrs Dunwoody (UK) spoke of the disastrous consequences of unemployment for the subsequent careers of young people. Aid from the Social Fund was not enough by itself to solve the problem. Only through investment was it possible to create jobs. But this brought in the question of common economic programming for the whole Community.

For the Christian Democrats who had put the other question, Mr Granelli (I) also focused on the inadequate resources of the Social Fund. Over the many years since its inception, there had been no increase in the resources available, despite the developing social problems. Mr Granelli called for a radical reform of the Fund so that it could be used to promote the vocational training of unemployed young people. The questions were answered by Mr Vredeling, Vice-President of the Commission with special responsibility for social policy. He gave the House some facts and figures on the appropriations and operations of the Fund, which he agreed was inadequate. Since 1974, 280 million u.a. had been disbursed as aid for vocational training for young people. Against this, the applications for financing over the same period had amounted to 600 million u.a. For the 1978 budget, now before the House, Mr Vredeling was able to point to an increase of 3% in the proportion of funds to be used for vocational training. This brought it up to 50% and school-leavers would be allowed first call on it.

Discrimination against children of migrant workers from non-Community countries (14 September)

2.3.7. The Directive on education for migrant workers' children¹ distinguishes between the nationals of Member States and those of non-member countries. This prompted a question from Mr Albers (S/NL) to the Council as to whether children from non-Community countries were still victims of discrimination and whether the Directive was compatible with the principle of equal treatment for all migrant workers, repeatedly affirmed by the Council.

The President of the Council, Mr Simonet, explained that the provision in the Directive which laid down that foreign children were also to be taught their mother tongue entailed obligations not only for the host country but also by implication for the Member States from which the children came. Non-member countries would not be able to honour these obligations. The Council had, however, repeatedly confirmed its political resolve to ensure that the measures to help migrant workers and their families under the action programme were also applied to the children of migrant workers from non-Community countries.

Statute for migrant workers (15 September)

2.3.8. Mr Vredeling, Vice-President of the Commission, had his doubts about the practical value of a statute for migrant workers, which Parliament has called for again and again. He was answering a question from several Christian Democrat members and said that the living and working conditions of migrant workers in the Community could be constantly improved by means of the instruments provided in the EEC Treaty. He referred in particular to the Community programme for migrant workers of January

¹ Bull. EC 6-1977, point 2.1.149.

1976 and what had already been done pursuant to this programme.

Energy

Coal policy (13 September)

2.3.9. Parliament approved the Commission's proposals concerning Community aid for financing cyclical stocks of hard coal, coke and patent fuel.¹ The rapporteur, Mr Osborn (C/UK) said it was frightening that despite steadily mounting oil prices and the insecurity of other sources, especially nuclear energy, Community coal production had fallen by 9% since 1973.

The Chairman of the Committee on Energy, Mrs Walz (C-D/D) took issue with the Council for doing nothing about energy policy and said it was ludicrous that it had inflicted its heaviest cuts (32%) in the 1978 budget in that very sector.

Industrial policy

Data processing (14 and 15 September)

2.3.10. Parliament warned the Council and Commission that because of its already weak position on the world market, the chances of developing the European data-processing² industry would soon be lost unless a Community policy was promptly put in hand.

Speaking of the Commission's proposed four-year programme to promote data-processing, Mr Cousté (EPD/F) said that though data-processing was more frequently to be seen serving nearly all industrial, commercial and social activities in the industrialized countries, it was, like the aerospace industry, 80 to 90% under the sway of American companies. In this ominous context for the development of the European industry, the rapporteur urged the Council and Commission to do

their utmost to ensure that the objective of creating a viable and competitive European data-processing industry by the early 1980s did not remain a dead letter.

For the Committee on Budgets, Lord Bessborough (C/UK), had certain misgivings about whether these Commission proposals were practicable. He particularly regretted that the companies concerned and their associations had not been consulted. He therefore urged the Commission to withdraw the proposals and present new ones.

The Chairman of the Economic and Monetary Affairs Committee, Mr Glinne (S/B), would not go as far as Lord Bessborough. But to overcome the objections of the Committee on Budgets and at the same time not delay the data-processing programme any longer, he joined the rapporteur, Mr Cousté, in pressing the Commission to bring its programme up-to-date and, after appropriate consultations with all the industrial and commercial associations, to present a supplementary multiannual programme. This approach was supported by an overwhelming majority in the House.

2.3.11. In a question to the Council, Mr Cousté (EPD/F) said he was horrified by the Council's delaying tactics, which were seriously holding up approval of the Commission's second data-processing programme.³ This would ultimately jeopardize the chances of developing the European industry and he therefore urged the Council to indicate when it would approve the programme.

The Council President, Mr Simonet, replied that an initial series of joint data-processing projects had been approved in July 1976 and were now under way.⁴ On 26 July 1977 the Council had approved a second series.⁵ They would go to

¹ Bull. EC 3-1977, point 2.1.104.

² Bull. EC 10-1976, points 1201 to 1205.

³ Commission proposal of 22 September 1975, Bull. EC 9-1975, point 2236, approved by Parliament on 12 January 1976, Bull. EC 1-1976, point 2405.

⁴ Bull. EC 7/8-1976, point 2263.

⁵ Bull. EC 7/8-1977, point 2.1.18.

meet the needs of the users by helping them to use data-processing more economically and effectively and by boosting the capacity of the European industry.

Consumer protection
(13 and 14 September)

Proposals for a common consumer policy

2.3.12. Endorsing the recommendation of the rapporteur, Mr Brégégère (S/F), Parliament asserted that the Community consumer was entitled to have his say as a fully equal economic partner and was to participate in the Community law-making process. On the strength of the results of the consumer symposia in Montpellier (1975), Brussels (1976) and Berlin (1977), the House wanted more efficient procedures for informing and guiding consumers and more effective measures to protect them.

Parliament advocated, in particular, that Community measures be drawn up and implemented to improve, simplify and harmonize judicial procedures in legal disputes on consumer matters. The Commission was also asked to propose measures which would lengthen the life-span of certain products, ban the use of excessively large packages and unduly costly packaging materials and encourage more recycling of waste.

Doorstep selling

2.3.13. Despite reservations by some of the Groups on matters of detail, Parliament endorsed the arguments of the rapporteur, Mr Spicer (C/UK), to the effect that the consumer should be better protected against the dangers of buying from doorstep salesmen. Mr Spicer pointed out that whether the consumer was approached at home, at work or when travelling, he was generally unprepared to buy.

Nor did he have the time or opportunity to compare quality and prices of competitive offers before signing a contract. The aim of the Commission's draft Directive is to ensure that the consumer is not hurt by the surprise element in this kind of selling; he would have the right to cancel any such contract within a set period.

Floods in France and Italy
(13 September)

2.3.14. In a Resolution moved by several Groups, Parliament unanimously urged that the Community should promptly help the victims of the disastrous floods in south-west France and Tuscany. This would be a token of active solidarity towards the distressed.

Environmental protection

Why no agreement in the Council?
(14 September)

2.3.15. At the last Council meeting on the environment on 14 June, a number of Directives on wood-pulp and titanium dioxide waste, other toxic and dangerous wastes and the quality of drinking water were all referred back to the Permanent Representatives Committee.¹ This prompted the question from Mr Ajello (S/I) and Lord Bethell (C/UK) to the Council asking why it had failed to agree on the Directives, which had already been discussed in December 1976. The questioners felt that such an attitude would detract from Europe's credibility at a time when Community citizens were taking more notice of the quality of their life and environment.

The Council President, Mr Simonet, said that there were various reasons to explain why the Council had been unable to agree. The two Directives on wood pulp and titanium dioxide, di-

¹ Bull. EC 6-1977, point 2.1.68 *et seq.*

rectly affected two branches of Community industry and had stranger economic repercussions than other Directives concerning the environment. The dates on the Directive concerning the quality of drinking water had, however, afforded the Council an opportunity to clarify certain viewpoints. Most of the outstanding points relating to the Directive on toxic and dangerous wastes had been settled. It could therefore be assumed that they would shortly be approved.

The Ministers responsible for the environment had as yet set no date for their next Council meeting. But Mr Simonet assured the House that he would do what he could to ensure that the meeting took place before Belgium's term as Council President ended.

Fisheries

Ban on herring fishing (16 September)

2.3.16. As a result of constant overfishing in recent years, herring stocks in Community waters are in immediate danger of extermination. Parliament therefore saw no other alternative but to support the Commission's proposals which would impose a total ban on herring fishing in the North Sea until the end of 1978 and severe restrictions in some of the other Community waters.

Referring to the debate under urgent procedure during the July sittings,¹ when Parliament had approved the total ban on North Sea herring fishing, the rapporteur, Mr Hughes (S/UK), nevertheless urged that the expected serious social consequences should be alleviated as far as possible by appropriate measures. Thus the regions which were heavily dependent on herring fishing should receive catch quotas for other fish. Then the current restrictions on imports of herring from non-member countries should be relaxed in order to obviate supply problems for the fish-processing industry.

Mr Früh (C-D/D) and Mr Klepsch (C-D/D) were both against extending the ban until the end of 1978 because of the serious social problems this would cause in the regions dependent on herring fishing. Instead, limited catch quotas ought to be issued on the basis of experience gained in 1977. Three of the Danish Members, Mr Jensen (EPD), Mr Setter (C) and Mr Andersen (S) felt, however, that catch quotas should be established with due consideration for respective historical fishing rights in the North Sea.

This was contested by the non-attached Scottish Nationalist, Mrs Ewing, who pointed out that the proximity of the North Sea fishing grounds was Scotland's 'only natural advantage' and that the historical rights of the Danes could only work to the disadvantage of the average Scottish fisherman. Concluding the debate, Vice-President Vredeling said that the Commission too was dismayed that the Community still had no common fishing policy.

Transport

Summer time (14 September)

2.3.17. The introduction of summer time on different dates in the various Member States had led to a chaotic situation, which seriously disrupted transport and communications within the Community. Mr Seefeld (S/D) therefore asked the Council what progress had been made in establishing uniform summer time for the Community and when could appropriate arrangements be expected to come into force.

The Council President, Mr Simonet, protested that the Council, too, wanted uniform summer time for the Community. All the same, the administrative, economic, social and legal complications were not to be underestimated. The intentions of other non-Community countries also had

¹ Bull. EC 7/8-1977, point 2.3.23.

to be considered, some of which, like Austria and Switzerland, occupied a key position in the European transport network.

Telex lines in the Community: higher charges for international connections
(16 September)

2.3.18. A telex message between Hamburg and Paris costs considerably more than a message over the same distance inside Germany. Mr Fellnermaier (S/D) therefore asked when the Commission was going to take action to ensure that international telex messages were no dearer than internal ones. This problem was particularly important in view of the impending direct elections.

Mr Vredeling, Vice-President of the Commission, agreed that it was a pity that the Community had so many different telex rates. The Commission would endeavour to present proposals for harmonization in the near future and would raise the matter at the next conference of the directors of postal and telegraph authorities.

Common transport policy
(14 September)

2.3.19. What impression did the Council think it would make on the public, when its Press Release of 29 June¹ stated: 'the debate gave the delegations the opportunity to express their satisfaction or concern at developments in the common transport policy' and did it believe that this message represented a sound basis for investment decisions? Answering this question from Mr Seefeld (S/D), the President of the Council, Mr Simonet, said that a press release was not a basis for future decisions by the Council. That debate in the Council on the common transport policy would be continued and amplified in the second half of this year. At the time, no decision had been reached, and that was why the statement had to be vague.

External relations

Southern Africa
(14 September)

2.3.20. The question of the disregard of human rights and basic freedoms in South Africa was the focus of a brief debate on the basis of a resolution motion tabled on behalf of the Liberal and Democratic Group by Mr Bangemann (D). He urged that in their relations with South Africa and Rhodesia, Community firms should adopt a stance which supported the application of democratic principles in those countries; both the South African and Rhodesian Governments should, moreover, extend basic democratic principles to cover all groups of the population. Mr Bangemann did not think there was any need for sanctions in the form of economic discrimination.

All the Groups agreed in their analysis. The alarming development in the political situation in South Africa due to the persistent violation of human rights and fundamental freedoms of individuals and groups was generally denounced. Opinions varied somewhat on particular aspects of the problem, such as what form of sanctions could make the southern African governments more clearly understand or how the Community could influence the course of events.

After various Group spokesmen, including Mr Glinne (B) for the Socialists and Mr Blumenfeld (D) for the Christian Democrats had described the problem as too complicated, many-sided and controversial to be dealt with post-haste, the motion was referred to the competent Parliamentary Committee for further consideration. Mr Glinne, in particular, wanted the problems of Namibia to be considered at the same time.

¹ Bull. EC 6-1977, point 2.1.111.

Economic relations with Portugal
(15 and 16 September)

2.3.21. The Community is by far Portugal's biggest supplier and biggest customer, but Portugal's trade balance is heavily in deficit.

Against this background the rapporteur, Mr Bayerl (S/D), represented by Mr Price (S/UK), welcomed the signature on 20 September 1976 of the Additional and Financial Protocols. The resulting cooperation should help to speed up Portugal's economic and social development and strengthen the existing ties to mutual advantage. Both parties to the Agreement therefore bore a responsibility in establishing the necessary conditions for Portugal to gain full membership of the Community.

Commercial policy

Multifibre Arrangement
(14 September)

2.3.22. In view of the serious disruption of the textile sector caused by the massive imports of sensitive products a Resolution tabled by Mr Cousté (EPD/F) strongly urged the Commission to take particular care in the negotiations for renewal of the Multifibre Arrangement.

The Council was requested to ratify the Commission's proposals on the method of fixing overall quotas and give the Commission a mandate to negotiate realistic bilateral agreements with supplier countries which would include a periodic revision clause in an attempt to ensure stabilization of imports of textile products. The agreement should be based on selective criteria which would ensure priority assistance for the development of truly national industries in developing countries.

Mr Cousté, on behalf of the European Progressive Democrats, had put an oral question before the Resolution motion was tabled.

Council

2.3.23. The Council met four times in September. The meetings dealt with agriculture, economic and financial affairs, foreign affairs, and agriculture and fisheries.

467th meeting — Agriculture
(Brussels, 13 September)

2.3.24. *President:* Mr Humblet, Belgian Minister of Agriculture.

From the Commission: Mr Gundelach, Vice-President.

Green krone: Following the devaluation of the Danish krone, the Council altered the rate for the green krone.¹

Wine: The Council took note of statements by the French and Italian Delegations concerning the wine market situation and the measures to be taken to alleviate difficulties as a result of the 1977 harvest. One measure requested was the granting of aid for the use of concentrated musts to enrich wine.²

The Council also discussed milk and hops.

468th meeting — Economic and financial affairs
(Brussels, 19 September)

2.3.25. *President:* Mr Geens, Belgian Finance Minister.

From the Commission: Mr Ortoli, Vice-President.

Economic situation in the Community: The Council reviewed the latest developments in the econom-

¹ Point 2.1.38.

² Point 2.1.44.

ic situation, and in particular the economic policy measures recently taken or currently under examination in the member countries. It was agreed to continue the exchange of views at the meeting on 17 October.¹

Annual meetings of the IMF and the World Bank: The Council dealt with matters preparatory to the annual meetings of the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank. It approved the statements to be made on behalf of the Community at these meetings by the Council President.²

469th meeting — Foreign affairs (Brussels, 20 September)

2.3.26. *President:* Mr Simonet, Belgian Minister for Foreign Affairs.

From the Commission: Mr Jenkins, President, Mr Haferkamp, Mr Gundelach and Mr Natali, Vice-Presidents, Mr Cheysson, Mr Brunner and Mr Davignon, Members.

Spanish application for accession: The Council agreed to acknowledge receipt of the Spanish application for accession to the Community and asked the Commission to begin preparing its Opinion.³

Election of the European Parliament: The Council took stock of progress in legislative procedures in the Member States for holding the elections to the European Parliament. All Governments confirmed their determination to do their utmost to terminate these procedures in time for the elections to be held in May or June 1978. The Council agreed to return to this matter regularly.

Fisheries: The Council examined some of the external aspects of its fisheries policy. It agreed that as from 1 October licences for vessels from non-member countries would be issued by the Commission. The Council agreed to extend the *status quo* by two months to allow the negotiations on

the framework agreements with the Soviet Union, Poland and the German Democratic Republic to be concluded. It also agreed on the arrangements to be applied to The Faeroes for the remainder of 1977.⁴

Textiles: The Council held a general discussion which allowed delegations to express their views on the various parts of the Commission recommendation. It adopted the Regulation maintaining in force until the end of 1977 a series of provisional safeguard measures taken by the Commission on 10 August.⁵

470th meeting — Fisheries and agriculture (Brussels, 26 and 27 September)

2.3.27. *President:* Mr Humblet, Belgian Minister of Agriculture.

From the Commission: Mr Gundelach, Member.

Sugar: The Council agreed on additional directives for the Community's position during the second stage of the Negotiating Conference on a new International Sugar Agreement.⁶

Milk: The Council raised the cif price for imports of New Zealand butter and cheese into the United Kingdom.⁷ It also discussed the co-responsibility levy in the milk sector.⁸

Wine: The Council made certain changes to the wine regulations concerning the fixing of representative and weighted average prices and acidifi-

¹ Point 2.1.1.

² Points 1.4.1 to 1.4.6.

³ Bull. EC 7/8 1977, point 1.1.5.

⁴ Points 2.1.51 and 2.2.36.

⁵ Point 2.2.19.

⁶ Point 2.2.10.

⁷ Point 2.1.40.

⁸ Point 2.2.41.

cation.¹ It also approved the granting of aid for the use of concentrated must in making table wine in certain disaster areas.¹

Cereals: The Council agreed in principle to the transfer to the Italian intervention agency of 200 000 tonnes of common wheat held by the German intervention agency.²

Fisheries: The Council adopted in its final form the Regulation laying down interim measures for the conservation and management of North Sea herring,³ the Regulation prohibiting for an indefinite period the direct fishing and landing of herring for industrial purposes other than human consumption,⁴ and the Regulation laying down the distribution among the Member States of the catch quotas allocated by Norway to the Community in the waters situated north of 62° North.⁵ It also adopted Regulations laying down certain interim measures for the conservation and management of fishery resources applicable to vessels flying the flag of Finland or Portugal and to fishing vessels from The Faeroes,⁵ and the Regulations extending until 30 November 1977 the fishing arrangements applicable to the GDR and Poland.⁵

Commission

Community aid for two regions hit by natural disasters

2.3.28. On 21 September, the Commission decided to send immediate financial aid to help the two regions in France and Italy ravaged by natural disasters. The areas concerned are four departments of the Midi-Pyrénées in south-west France, where many people lost their lives or are still missing, several thousands were made homeless, whole villages were destroyed and crops ruined as a result of the torrential rain and floods in July, and the province of Massa Carrara in Tuscany hit in August by a cyclone which des-

troyed a large area of the forests, which are a major resource in the region.

At its 13 September sitting, Parliament asked the Commission to provide the stricken population with initial emergency aid and put proposals to the Council as soon as possible for Community aid commensurate with the damage sustained and the repairs necessary.⁶

The Commission has granted emergency aid amounting to 1.8 million u.a. for the four Midi-Pyrénées departments and 1.2 million u.a. for Tuscany.

The amount of aid was determined in the light of information from the French and Italian authorities; it will be charged to the chapter of the budget which provides for aid to disaster victims in the Community. Commission staff will supervise the use of the funds. The aid for Tuscany will be used to reconstitute the damaged forests.

A study is also to be made within the Commission to outline possible Community measures regarding the ecological restoration of these regions; a report will be submitted by the end of the year.

Commission staff are also to establish intervention criteria and rules of procedure to enable the Commission to take quick action when disasters occur.

Activities

2.3.29. The Commission held four meetings in September. Attention was focused on the economic situation of the Community, the problems

¹ Point 2.1.44.

² Point 2.1.43.

³ Point 2.1.49.

⁴ Point 2.1.50.

⁵ Point 2.1.52.

⁶ Point 2.3.14.

of European industry, particularly steel and textiles, and developments of the beef and veal market.

At an informal meeting in La Roche-en-Ardenne, Belgium, on 17 and 18 September, the Commission turned its attention to the general line of European integration, bearing in mind the possibility of a further enlargement. The institutional implications of enlargement, its economic aspects, particularly in the Mediterranean regions, and the prospects for economic and monetary union were very carefully considered.¹

La Roche meeting: The Commission approved internal arrangements for action on the guidelines which it defined over the weekend of 17 and 18 September in La Roche.¹

On the institutional implications of enlargement, the Commission instructed a group of senior officials to produce a draft declaration on pluralist democracy, which it will ask to adopt, to mark the first European elections. This group will also investigate various aspects of the working of the institutions in order to suggest improvements.

On the economic implications of enlargement, the Commission has listed a number of subjects calling for closer consideration:

- (i) the possibility of diversifying production in the Mediterranean regions;
- (ii) the improvement of communications between those regions and the rest of the Community;
- (iii) the possibility of creating a better balance between agriculture and industrial development in those regions;
- (iv) the possibility of establishing an *ad hoc* financial instrument to assist the applicant countries.

The Commission is planning to present an interim report on the economic aspects of enlargement during October.

Following the Commission's discussions at La Roche, a paper on the prospects for economic and

monetary union will be prepared for the European Council meeting in December. It will examine short-term measures (implementation of supplementary policies) and discuss medium- and long-term objectives.

Present economic situation and medium-term outlook: Prior to the Council meeting on 19 September devoted to economic and financial affairs, the Commission issued a working paper setting out the results of the work done by its staff with the Economic Policy Committee in accordance with the mandate given by the Council on 14 March.² The Council specified a number of subjects for further study, including employment, investment and external payments.

The report provides an overall picture of the present economic conditions and presents a strategy for overcoming the crisis.³

Forward steel programme: The Commission approved, at the first reading, the forward programme for steel for the next quarter.⁴

Negotiations on textiles: The Commission spent some time discussing and approving a proposal to the Council on textiles. Its immediate purpose is to ensure that by the end of September the Council will adopt a Directive on the bilateral negotiations with the textile supplier countries, which are to be held in October and November.⁵

Footwear industry: The Commission decided to set up a joint committee to advise it on measures to assist the footwear industry now experiencing difficulties.

1978 budget: The Commission adopted a letter of amendment to the preliminary draft budget for 1978.⁶

¹ Points 1.1.1 to 1.1.5.

² Bull. EC 3-1977, point 2.1.2.

³ Point 2.1.1.

⁴ Point 2.1.12.

⁵ Point 2.2.18.

⁶ Point 2.3.59.

Social Fund: The Commission approved a Communication to the Council calling for broader intervention by the Social Fund to promote training and retraining programmes for women over 25 and a higher rate of intervention (55% instead of 50%) in areas hard hit by serious and prolonged unemployment.¹

Devaluation of the Danish krone: Following the devaluation of the Danish krone, the Commission proposed a corresponding adjustment in the green rate.²

Opening of negotiations with China: The Commission approved a Communication requesting authorization from the Council to open negotiations for a trade agreement with the People's Republic of China.³

Common Fund for Commodities: The Commission adopted a Communication to the Council with a view to honouring the undertaking given by the Community at the North-South Dialogue to set up a Common Fund for Commodities.⁴

Negotiations on sugar: The Commission approved new recommendations to the Council on the approach to be taken by the Community at the Conference to negotiate a new International Sugar Agreement,⁵ since the Community's earlier proposal on the content of an agreement was rejected by all the parties at the consultative meeting between the main countries concerned at the end of July.

Natural disasters: The Commission decided to provide immediate financial aid to help the areas in south-west France and Tuscany devastated by floods and a cyclone.⁶

Relations with workers' and employers' organizations

2.3.30. Prior consultations were held with the trade unions in September on a number of matters.

As regards the European Trade Union Confederation (ETUC), the Committee on Collective Bargaining dealt with the development of the socio-economic situation of collective bargaining in the Member States; the group of female trade union leaders continued to prepare its action programme for eliminating discrimination against women; an *ad hoc* group looked at the problem of working conditions and the Standing Committee for Migrant Workers considered the application of the Community programme for migrant workers and their families.

The European Committee of Food, Tobacco and Hotel Industry Trade Unions had an information meeting on the harmonization of regulations concerning the brewing industry, with special reference to the problems of harmonizing excise duties.

Mr Davignon had a consultation meeting with representatives of the International Rayon and Synthetic Fibres Committee. This first meeting covered the problems besetting the synthetic fibre industry.

Court of Justice⁷

New cases

Case 108/77 — Kommanditgesellschaft in Firma H.O. Wagner GmbH, Agrarhandel, Bad Homburg v Hauptzollamt Hamburg-Jonas

2.3.31. In the course of proceedings concerning the calculation of the export refund on sugar ex-

¹ Points 2.1.17 to 2.1.19.

² Point 2.1.38.

³ Point 2.2.44.

⁴ Point 2.2.5.

⁵ Point 2.2.10.

⁶ Point 2.3.28.

⁷ For more detailed information see the material published by the Court of Justice in the Official Journal and in the European Court Reports.

ported to third countries, the Hamburg Finance Court submitted a reference to the Court of Justice, on 8 September, for a preliminary ruling concerning the interpretation of Article 4(3) of Regulation (EEC) No 1380/75 laying down detailed rules for the application of monetary compensatory amounts,¹ namely whether a particular refund determined in national currency must be multiplied by the coefficient fixed by the Commission for refunds expressed in units of account. The question is also asked, depending on the Court's answer, whether the provision is valid.²

Case 109/77 — Ebenseer Solvay — Werke Solvay & Cie KG, Vienna v Hauptzollamt München-West

2.3.32. The Munich Finance Court submitted a reference to the Court of Justice on 9 September for a preliminary ruling on the interpretation of the term 'stabilizer' in Note (1)(d) to Chapter 28 of the Common Customs Tariff.²

Case 110/77 — Commission official v Commission

2.3.33. A Commission official brought an action before the Court of Justice on 12 September for the annulment of the appointment of another official to a post of Head of Division.²

Case 111/77 — Bleiindustrie KG, vorm. Jung & Lindig, Hamburg v Hauptzollamt Hamburg-Walthershof

2.3.34. The Hamburg Finance Court submitted a reference to the Court of Justice on 19 September for a preliminary ruling on the tariff classification of melted down lead scrap in the form of foundry bars.²

Case 112/77 — Kommanditgesellschaft in Firma A. Töpfer & Co., Hamburg v Commission

2.3.35. A German firm specializing in the sugar trade brought an action before the Court of Justice on 15 September for a declaration that Regulation (EEC) No 1583/77 amending Regulation (EEC) No 937/77 laying down detailed rules for the application of Regulation (EEC) No 878/77 on the exchange rates to be applied in agriculture,³ is invalid in that it reduces the amount of compensation granted in Germany for sugar exported under certain tendering arrangements. In the alternative the applicant claims damages in respect of the loss it claims to have suffered as a result of the application of this Regulation to exports for which it possessed licences prior to the date of entry into force of the new exchange rate, but which were not carried out until after that date.²

Cases 113/77 and 113/77 R — NTN Toyo Bearing Co Ltd, Osaka v Council

2.3.36. The Commission imposed as part of its protective measures against dumping a provisional duty on ball-bearings and tapered roller bearings originating in Japan. The Council confirmed this measure by adopting Regulation (EEC) No 1778/77⁴ introducing a definitive duty of 15% on these products.

A Japanese undertaking affected by the rules applied to the Court of Justice on 20 September for the annulment of Article 3 of the Above Regulation and requested that the application of this provision be suspended pending a decision in the main action.⁵

¹ OJ L 139 of 30.5.1975.

² OJ C 237 of 5.10.1977.

³ OJ L 175 of 15.7.1977.

⁴ OJ L 196 of 3.8.1977.

⁵ OJ C 245 of 13.10.1977.

Case 114/77 — Commission official v (1) Commission (2) Council

2.3.37. A former Commission official brought an action before the Court of Justice on 22 September concerning the method used to calculate the severance grant to which he was entitled on resignation.¹

Case 115/77 — (1) Mr G. Laumann, Eupen (2) Miss A. Laumann, Eupen v Landesversicherungsanstalt Rheinprovinz, Düsseldorf

2.3.38. In a case involving the suspension by the competent German institution of a pension granted to orphans whose father, a German national, is dead and whose mother has remarried a Belgian national who receives in respect of such children a family allowance paid by a Belgian institution, the Higher Social Court for North Rhine-Westphalia submitted a reference to the Court of Justice on 27 September for a preliminary ruling on the interpretation of Article 79(3) of Regulation (EEC) No 1408/71² concerning simultaneous entitlement to family allowances granted under the laws of two Member States.¹

Case 116/77 — G.R. Amylum NV, Aalst v (1) Commission (2) Council

2.3.39. An isoglucose producer brought an action before the Court of Justice on 29 September 1977 for damages in respect of the loss which he claims to have suffered as a result of the implementation of a production levy system for this product pursuant to Regulations (EEC) Nos 1111/77³ and 1468/77.⁴

Case 117/77 — Bestuur van het Algemeen Ziekfonds Drenthe-Platteland Zwolle, Meppel, v Miss G. Pierik, Wapenveld

2.3.40. In a case concerning the reimbursement of expenses incurred in respect of cures taken at

a watering-place in another Member State, the Centrale Raad van Beroep submitted a reference to the Court of Justice on 30 September for a preliminary ruling on the interpretation of Article 22 of Regulation (EEC) No 1408/71 on the application of social security schemes to employed persons and their families moving within the Community.²

Judgments

Case 27/77 — Compagnie Cargill, Division Granax, Paris v Office national interprofessionnel des céréales

2.3.41. In a case involving the payment of monetary compensatory amounts in respect of exports of cereals for which the refund had been fixed in advance prior to 4 June 1973, but which was only paid after that date and which resulted in the compensatory amounts being reduced on account of the devaluations of the dollar and the adoption of floating exchange rates by certain countries, the Administrative Court of Paris submitted a reference to the Court of Justice on 23 February for a preliminary ruling on the validity of Regulation (EEC) No 2042/73⁵ on the basis that it discriminates between exporters according to whether they exported their goods before or after 4 June 1973.⁶

In its judgment of 29 September the Court held that the Regulation was valid.

Case 42/77 — (1) Agrico Aktiengesellschaft für Markenware aus Agrarerzeugnissen, Hamburg, (2) Josef Hoche Butterschmelzwerk, Speikern,

¹ OJ C 245 of 13.10.1977.

² OJ L 149 of 5.7.1971.

³ OJ L 134 of 28.5.1977.

⁴ OJ L 162 of 1.7.1977.

⁵ OJ L 207 of 28.7.1973.

⁶ Bull. EC 2-1977, point 2.3.40.

(3) A. Saumweber GmbH, München, (4) Tetzlaff & Wenzel Vertriebsgesellschaft mbH & Co KG, Bremen v Commission

2.3.42. Four German firms specializing in butter processing brought an action before the Court of Justice on 15 April for the annulment of Regulation (EEC) No 303/77 laying down general rules for the supply of skimmed-milk powder and butteroil as food aid¹ in so far as Article 10(1)(b) of this Regulation provides that butter shall not be handed over unless security for processing and delivery is lodged. In this connection, the applicants refer to the disproportionate character of this measure and to the distortions of competition which it can create between the undertakings of the various Member States.²

The Court, by order of 21 September, removed the case from the register.

Economic and Social Committee

151st plenary session

Opinions

Industrial change and employment

2.3.43. This own-initiative Opinion, adopted by 63 votes to 31 with one abstention, notes that recent years have seen extensive changes in conditions inside and outside the Community, in technology, in trade patterns, etc. Further rapid significant changes are on the cards. The industrialization of the developing countries for example will provide Community industry with major new production and, probably, employment opportunities. But it will also expose Community industry to greater competition in many sectors.

The coming changes will demand constant, extensive adaptation and restructuring in the indus-

trialized countries. The Community therefore needs an industrial policy which must:

(a) ensure that the social side—and in particular the purchasing power of wages and salaries, especially those of the lower-paid—improves for all employees and that better conditions of work, health and safety obtain in firms;

(b) include completion of the common market, including abolition of technical barriers to trade, and of barriers to a free Community market for public procurement;

(c) make for an optimum environment which fosters innovation, research and development;

(d) spell out the relevant, common guiding principles, when new or ailing production sectors are granted protection or assistance;

(e) be based on accurate knowledge of the impact of national aids on both the market and the employment situation;

(f) create an environment in which small and medium-sized businesses can be established and operate successfully;

(g) contribute to the creation of an optimum climate for industrial investment and its financing, by taking advantage of progress towards the co-ordination of economic, monetary, and tax policies in the Community;

(h) envisage suitable arrangements for mobilizing, at Community level, the resources needed for investments;

(i) contribute—on the basis of reasonable growth rates and reasonably stable economic and monetary conditions in the Community and the world at large—to the reduction of unemployment;

(j) put forward concrete measures to encourage a shift of emphasis towards viable firms that guarantee a high level of good-quality jobs, savings in raw materials and energy, the satisfaction of real individual and collective needs through

¹ OJ L 43 of 15.2.1977.

² Bull. EC 4-1977, point 2.3.50.

the production of high-quality goods and the provision of high-quality services at the lowest possible prices and the production of non-polluting products which can be recycled and which further the drive against waste.

Guidelines for regional policy

2.3.44. In this Opinion, adopted with no votes against and two abstentions, the Committee felt that in the absence of further progress towards political and—more particularly—economic integration in the Community, regional policy must be a driving force in this direction; it cannot, however, replace other integration measures.

The Committee once again presses for effective use of the ERDF's resources. This entails in particular setting realistic targets that can be revised, and using appropriate instruments to implement measures and monitor results.

The Committee approves the division of the Fund into a 'quota section' and a 'non-quota section'. The latter will come more specifically under Community control and will increase the scope for helping firms.

As far as budgeting is concerned, special attention should be paid to the ERDF's medium-term aims as an instrument of Community structural policy. It would therefore be more sensible to fix the ERDF's resources initially for a three-year period. Nonetheless, the European Parliament must have the right each year to decide on the use of the ERDF's resources in the light of practical necessity and financial possibilities.

Finally, the Committee considers that provision must be made in future for funds commensurate with the wider field of activity of regional policy.

European Regional Development Fund — Annual Report 1976

2.3.45. In a unanimously adopted Opinion, the Committee first deplors the failure of Member

States to use the interest rebate facilities for infrastructure projects and then welcomes the proposed extension of these facilities to industrial and service projects.

The Committee approves the vigilance of the Commission in ensuring that there is a visible impact of the Fund contributions on the extent of national regional development operations. Apart from usual project identification and budgetary acknowledgements, the Committee recommends that the Annual Report should provide a statistical summary of the annual national regional aid expenditure in each Member State over a number of years to show that there is no slackening of the national effort.

The Committee approves the priority which the Commission attaches to cooperative cross-border projects between the Member States and urges that appropriate applications be encouraged.

Lastly, noting that out of a total of 2 728 projects, only 131 were inspected on site, the Committee questioned the adequacy of this sample check, especially in the initial years of the Fund's operations.

Vinyl chloride monomer

2.3.46. This unanimously adopted Opinion first proposes that a European agency be established to investigate dangers associated with industrial materials prior to their use in industry and a data bank designed to record the effects of dangerous materials.

The Committee endorses the ultimate objective of the Directive, which is to achieve a level of exposure to vinyl chloride as close to nil as technically feasible. The Committee considers that the Directive should be reviewed not only every two years but so often as this is technically possible or is called for on account of major developments.

Demonstration projects in energy saving and in respect of alternative sources

2.3.47. This Opinion, which was adopted with no votes against and one abstention supports the objectives specified in the Commission's proposal.¹ The provisions must be of real benefit to society and individuals.

Financial support should, in the Committee's view, be allocated on a priority basis, taking into account:

- (i) the size of the probable energy savings;
- (ii) the speed with which the technique can be applied;
- (iii) the number of consumers who might benefit;
- (iv) the size of the Community's financial contribution.

The Committee endorses the scheme to grant financial support for projects on: exploitation of geothermal fields, gasification and liquefaction of coal.

It believes that efforts to develop new techniques and alternative sources, are vitally important but that they must be seen as part of a package of Community measures to develop and ensure an adequate level of energy production.

Heating and insulation in new buildings

2.3.48. The Committee generally approved the Commission's intentions² and made a number of pertinent recommendations.

It disagrees, however, with the obligation on industrial undertakings employing more than 100 persons to establish an adequate internal organization for drawing up and supervising an energy savings programme (e.g. Energy Manager) and devote a chapter of their annual report to their energy consumption.

Energy saving in existing buildings

2.3.49. This Opinion, adopted unanimously, endorsed the objective of the Commission's proposal.² It emphasized, however, that weather conditions varied considerably throughout the Community and that it would not be easy to check on any improvements.

Pleasure craft

2.3.50. The Committee unanimously approved the Commission's move to define Community provisions concerning pleasure craft and their fittings, since trade could be impeded by disparities between national standards.

This is an outline Directive, and specific Directives will follow laying down technical specifications for individual parts, features, fittings and methods of inspection. The Committee trusts that the scope of these specific Directives will be limited to certain types of boats, with particular attention being paid to the parameter 'length'.

Community quota for 1978 for road freight haulage

2.3.51. The Committee's Opinion, adopted by 51 votes to 10 with 12 abstentions approved the Commission's proposal to double the number of Community haulage permits for 1978 from 2 363 to 4 726.

It agreed with the Commission that the number of permits should progressively be stepped up to meet the increasing needs of the international road haulage industry.

It did not think that doubling the number of permits would have major repercussions on the mar-

¹ Bull. EC 5-1977, points 2.1.75 and 2.1.76.

² Bull. EC 5-1977, point 2.1.74.

ket since only between 4 and 7% of traffic was involved.

The Committee expressed reservations, however, about the manner in which the 1978 quotas had been allocated, on the basis of 1975 returns.

European Investment Bank

Loans raised

2.3.52. The European Investment Bank has launched a \$175 million bond issue on the United States capital market. The issue will be divided into two tranches: one for \$75 million worth of 7-year bonds and the other for \$100 million of 15-year bonds.

The issue has been underwritten by an American banking syndicate. It is the fifth EIB bond issue floated solely on the American capital market.

The 7-year bonds will carry a coupon of 7.75%, payable half-yearly. They were offered for public subscription at 99.75%, with a yield of 7.95%. They are redeemable at par at term. The EIB will be entitled, from 1 October 1983 onwards, to redeem in advance, at nominal value, all or some of the bonds in circulation.

The 15-year bonds will carry a coupon of 8.375%, payable half-yearly. They were offered for public subscription at 99.5%, with a yield, based on their average lifetime, of 8.63%. They will be redeemable in 10 annual instalments of \$10 000 000 as from 1 October 1983. The EIB will also be entitled, from 1 October 1987, to redeem in advance, at progressively reducing premiums, all bonds in circulation.

The issue has been admitted to quotation on the New York Stock Exchange.

Loans granted

Italy

2.3.53. A Lit 34 300 million loan (approximately 34.1 million EUA) has been made to the Cassa per il Mezzogiorno for 12 years at 7.9% per year and will go towards financing a major irrigation scheme in Calabria.

The work being financed covers offtakes from the rivers Tacina and Soleo, a supply and distribution network comprising over 1 000 km of pipelines, a drainage system and a 16 million m³ impounding reservoir.

Some 12 700 ha in the Tacina valley and the Isola Capo Rizzuto plateau will be equipped with sprinkler irrigation facilities which will help to turn the area over to produce offering a better return than present crops to local farmers and farm labourers, some 5 000 of whom depend on the land for their livelihood.

This scheme is estimated to cost about Lit 92 000 million. It forms part of a much larger programme for harnessing Calabria's water resources to serve a variety of needs in the energy, agricultural and industrial sectors.

2.3.54. To help finance construction of a polyethylene tubing factory in Sicily, the EIB has made the equivalent of Lit 3 500 million (approximately 3.5 million EUA) available to the Cassa per il Mezzogiorno for 10 years at 7.8% per year.

The loan will be paid over to IRFIS—'Istituto Regionale per il Finanziamento alle Industrie in Sicilia'—which will on-lend the proceeds to ITRES SpA, a member of the ENI (Ente Nazionale Idrocarburi) Group. The factory, which should employ 140 people, is at Caltagirone (Catania).

2.3.55. The Bank has granted Lit 3 600 million (approximately 3.6 million EUA) to ISVEIMER—Istituto per lo Sviluppo Economico dell'Italia Meridionale—with Lit 1 600 million of

this amount advanced through the Cassa per il Mezzogiorno.

The funds have been provided for 12 years at 7.9% per year and will be placed at the disposal of Italrame SpA (a firm owned by La Metalli Industriale SpA, Industrie Pirelli and CEAT) for financing construction of a copper wire rod production unit at Avellino in Campania. The factory should mean jobs for about 100 people.

United Kingdom

2.3.56. The Bank has granted the British Steel Corporation two loans totalling £11.4 million (17.3 million EUA).

For 12 years at 8 $\frac{7}{8}$ %, the loans will go towards the cost—estimated at around £23 million—of modernizing and rationalizing the Distington iron foundry in Workington, Cumbria, the Fullwood foundry near Motherwell and the Craigneuk steel foundry, also near Motherwell.

The object of the modernization is to make the iron foundries operate more economically and to enable them to respect the stricter anti-pollution standards which are to come into effect in 1978. The Craigneuk steel foundry will be extended and improved; action will also be taken to reduce atmospheric pollution.

Kenya

2.3.57. Under the Lomé Convention, the European Investment Bank has lent 12 million EUA (approximately 111 million Kenya shillings) to help to finance the establishment of a sugar factory at Awendo in South Nyanza Province, Kenya.

The loan has been made to the South Nyanza Sugar Company Ltd (SNSC) for a term of 15 years at an interest rate of 5.75%, after deduction of a 3% interest rebate drawn from the resources of the European Development Fund.

The factory will have a production capacity of 60 000 tonnes per year; it will be supplied with cane grown on a 3 400 ha nucleus estate now being developed by SNSC and on 9 000 ha of small-holdings.

The project will bring about sizeable foreign exchange savings through replacement of imports. It will also create a substantial amount of employment; including family labour on the small-holdings and seasonal work connected with harvesting, the total number of jobs to be created directly or indirectly is put at 8 000.

Mauritius

2.3.58. Again under the Lomé Convention, the Bank has granted a global loan of 3 million EUA (approximately 22.2 million Mauritian rupees) to the Development Bank of Mauritius (DBM).

The funds will be used to help to finance small and medium-scale industrial and tourism ventures selected by DBM, in agreement with the EIB.

The loan is for 12 years at an interest rate of 5 $\frac{7}{8}$ %, after deduction of a 3% interest rebate drawn from the resources of the European Development Fund.

A public body, its capital owned by the State and the Bank of Mauritius, DBM was established in 1963 and has had a key role in channelling the finance needed to develop industry and tourism and to diversify the Mauritian economy, long dominated by one crop, sugar-cane.

Financing Community activities

Budgets

Letter of amendment to the preliminary draft of the general budget for 1978

2.3.59. On 14 September the Commission issued a letter of amendment to the preliminary draft of the general budget for 1978 and sent it to the Budgetary Authority on 19 September.

In the preliminary draft budget for 1978,¹ the Commission had stated that if the need arose, it would present a letter of amendment. In addition, in the explanatory memorandum for the draft budget for 1978,² the Council took note that it would receive in September a letter of amendment in respect of the EAGGF Guarantee Section, the EAGGF Guidance Section, the Social Fund, and industry.

This letter of amendment deals with the following fields:

- (i) EAGGF Guarantee Section;
- (ii) EAGGF Guidance Section;
- (iii) Social Fund;
- (iv) Industrial policy;
- (v) Investment promotion;
- (vi) Estimates of own resources.

In addition, due allowance has been made for the decrease of 75 million EUA in the appropriations for payment in the Regional Fund in respect of the 1975-77 commitments following the conversion of these appropriations for payment from units of account into European Units of Account—325 million EUA to 250 million EUA; this conversion could not be done in the preliminary draft budget.

In addition, there has been a modification of the lump-sum refunds to Member States to cover the

costs of collecting own resources, following the upward revision (+403.4 million EUA) of agricultural levies, sugar and isoglucose levies.

The letter of amendment thus covers an overall net increase of 646.44 million EUA in appropriations for commitment and of 553.94 million EUA in appropriations for payment. The latter are covered by revenue totalling 403.4 million EUA from the increased estimates for own resources accruing from agricultural levies, sugar and isoglucose levies, the balance to be met by an increase in own resources accruing from VAT. The figures relative to own resources were submitted to the Consultative Committee for Own Resources at the meetings held on 9 and 23 September.

Despite this increase, the 0.76% VAT rate envisaged in the preliminary draft has been reduced to 0.63%, for the Commission now proposes that in 1978 the entire foreseeable tax base be taken into the calculation, whereas, in the preliminary draft budget, part of the tax base was 'slid over' into 1979.

The estimates of Community revenue and expenditure are given in Tables 2 to 5.

¹ Bull. EC 5-1977, point 2.3.81.

² Bull. EC 7/8-1977, point 2.3.150.

Table 2 — Revenue

Nature of revenue	Estimated revenue			
	1977 1	1978		
		Preliminary draft budget	Letter of amendment	New amounts
	u a	EUA	EUA	EUA
Own resources	6 297 841 642	11 690 565 545	(+) 553 331 503	12 243 897 048
Surplus available	39 129 353	21 010 937	—	21 010 937
Portion of proceeds of ECSC levies paid in pursuance of Article 20 of the Merger Treaty	18 000 000	5 000 000	—	5 000 000
Deductions from staff remunerations	63 300 101	91 218 110	(+) 8 805 600	100 023 710
Contributions 2	3 159 996 452	10 725 318	—	10 725 318
Miscellaneous revenue	8 726 660	22 109 745	(+) 928 296	23 038 041
European Parliament 3		9 741 148	(-) 9 741 148	—
Totals	9 586 994 208	11 850 370 803	553 324 251	12 403 695 054

¹ Including supplementary budget No 1.

² For 1978 this revenue represents only the contributions of the Member States intended to finance complementary programmes from research and investment appropriations

³ When the preliminary draft was established, the breakdown of Parliament's revenue was not available.

Table 3 — Estimate of own resources to be paid by each Member State — 1978

(in EUA)

	Agricultural levies		Common Customs Tariff duties	Value Added Tax	Total
	Sugar and isoglucose levies	Other levies			
Belgium	20 500 000	270 000 000	323 000 000	269 747 300	883 267 300
Denmark	19 900 000	36 000 000	170 000 000	144 283 439	370 183 439
Federal Republic of Germany	123 600 000	307 000 000	1 467 000 000	1 756 494 045	3 654 094 045
France	106 500 000	84 000 000	740 000 000	1 361 282 885	2 291 782 885
Ireland	4 500 000	12 000 000	47 000 000	42 030 343	105 530 393
Italy	44 100 000	352 000 000	485 000 000	570 860 565	1 451 960 565
Luxembourg		100 000	4 000 000	11 291 747	15 391 747
Netherlands	32 600 000	428 000 000	490 000 000	332 479 230	1 283 079 230
United Kingdom	25 200 000	197 000 000	1 107 000 000	859 427 444	2 188 627 444
Total	376 900 000	1 686 100 000	4 833 000 000	5 347 897 048	12 243 897 048

Table 4 — Expenditure by institution

APPROPRIATIONS FOR COMMITMENT

	Expenditure estimated in the preliminary draft budget	Modifications proposed by the letter of amendment	New amounts
I. Parliament	86 115 966	(-) 615 749	85 500 217
II. Council	96 931 900	—	96 931 900
III. Commission	12 294 613 608	(+) 646 440 000	12 941 053 608
IV. Court of Justice	17 680 920	—	17 680 920
V. Court of Auditors	token entry	—	token entry
Totals	12 495 342 394	(+) 645 824 251	13 141 166 645

APPROPRIATIONS FOR PAYMENT

	Expenditure estimated in the preliminary draft budget	Modifications proposed by the letter of amendment	New amounts
I. Parliament	86 115 966	(-) 615 749	85 500 217
II. Council	96 931 900	—	96 931 900
III. Commission	11 649 642 017	(+) 553 940 000	12 203 582 017
IV. Court of Justice	17 680 920	—	17 680 920
V. Court of Auditors	token entry	—	token entry
Totals	11 850 370 803	(+) 553 324 251	12 403 695 054

ECSC financial operations

The notes were issued at 100.50% of nominal value with an annual rate of interest of 8.25%.

Loans raised

2.3.60. In September, the Commission floated on the international capital market a \$ 150 000 000 bond issue comprising \$ 50 000 000 in twelve-year notes and \$ 100 000 000 in twenty-year bonds.

The bonds were issued at 100.75% of nominal value with an annual rate of interest of 8.75%.

These notes and bonds have been admitted to official quotation on the Luxembourg stock exchange.

Table 5 — Community expenditure — Trend by sector

Sector	1977 ¹						1978 Preliminary draft ²				Change			
	u a		EUA				EUA				Appropriations for commitment	col 5 col 3	Appropriations for commitment	col 6 col 4
	Appropriations for commitment	Appropriations for payment	Appropriations for commitment	%	Appropriations for payment	%	Appropriations for commitment	%	Appropriations for payment	%	Amount	%	Amount	%
	1	2	3		4		5		6		7		8	
COMMISSION														
<i>Intervention appropriations</i>														
Agriculture	7 261 603 500	7 094 403 500	7 254 203 600	70.45	7 087 003 600	73.80	8 882 822 600	67.60	8 822 822 600	71.13	+ 1 628 619 000	+22.45	+ 1 735 819 000	+ 24.49
Social	636 587 000	189 597 000	524 142 500	5.09	158 352 500	1.65	593 020 500	4.51	559 474 500	4.51	+ 68 878 000	+13.14	+ 401 122 000	+253.31
Regional	500 000 000	400 000 000	398 300 000	3.87	318 600 000	3.32	750 000 000	5.71	525 000 000	4.23	+ 351 700 000	+88.30	+ 206 400 000	+ 64.78
Energy, research industry and transport	320 690 197	237 053 188	305 237 900	2.96	223 631 700	2.33	521 912 608	3.97	400 291 017	3.23	+ 216 674 708	+70.99	+ 176 659 317	+ 79.00
Development cooperation	471 380 100	471 380 100	509 526 000	4.95	509 526 000	5.31	930 349 700	7.08	633 045 700	5.10	+ 420 823 700	+82.59	+ 123 519 700	+ 24.24
Miscellaneous	Token entry	Token entry	Token entry	—	Token entry	—	Token entry	—	Token entry	—	—	—	—	—
	9 190 260 797	8 392 433 788	8 991 410 000	87.32	8 297 113 800	6.41	11 678 105 408	88.87	10 940 633 817	88.20	+ 2 686 695 408	+29.88	+ 2 643 520 017	+31.86
<i>Administrative appropriations</i>														
Staff	284 107 500	284 107 500	343 939 900	3.34	343 939 900	3.58	401 731 300	3.06	401 731 300	3.24	+ 57 791 400	+16.80	+ 57 791 400	+16.80
Administrative expenditure	82 731 240	82 731 240	97 466 400	0.95	97 466 400	1.02	108 413 200	0.82	108 413 200	0.87	+ 10 946 800	+11.23	+ 10 946 800	+11.23
Informations	8 090 000	8 090 000	8 130 000	0.08	8 130 000	0.08	13 392 000	0.10	13 392 000	0.11	+ 5 262 000	+64.72	+ 5 262 000	+64.72
Aid and subsidies	31 976 100	31 976 100	35 729 700	0.35	35 729 700	0.37	44 811 700	0.34	44 811 700	0.36	+ 9 082 000	+25.42	+ 9 082 000	+25.42
	406 904 840	406 904 840	485 266 000	4.71	485 266 000	5.05	568 348 200	4.32	568 348 200	4.58	+ 83 082 200	+17.12	+ 83 082 200	+17.12
<i>Contingency reserve</i>	3 985 000	3 985 000	3 985 000	0.04	3 985 000	0.04	5 000 000	0.04	5 000 000	0.04	+ 1 015 000	+25.47	+ 1 015 000	+25.47
<i>Refunds to Member States</i>	629 784 164	629 784 164	629 784 164	6.12	629 784 164	5.56	689 600 000	5.25	689 600 000	5.56	+ 59 815 836	+ 9.50	+ 59 815 836	+ 9.50
Commission total	10 230 934 801	9 433 107 792	10 110 445 164	98.19	9 416 148 964	1.06	12 941 053 608	98.48	12 203 582 017	98.39	+ 2 830 608 444	+28.00	+ 2 787 433 053	+29.60
OTHER INSTITUTIONS³	153 886 416	153 886 416	186 295 000	1.81	186 295 000	0.94	200 113 037	1.52	200 113 037	1.61	+ 13 818 037	+ 7.42	+ 13 818 037	+ 7.42
Grand total	10 384 821 217	9 586 994 208	10 296 740 164	100.—	9 602 443 964	—	13 141 166 645	100.—	12 403 695 054	100.—	+ 2 844 426 481	+27.62	+ 2 801 251 090	+29.17

¹ Incorporating the first supplementary budget² Incorporating the first letter of amendment³ Only administrative appropriations



PART THREE

DOCUMENTATION

1. Additional references in the Official Journal

Additional references in Official Journal

3.1.1. This section lists the titles of legal instruments and notices of Community institutions or organs published in the Official Journal during the month under review but relating to items appearing in earlier issues of the Bulletin; the references were not available when the Bulletin went to press.

The number of the Bulletin and the point to which this additional information refers is followed by the title shown on the cover of the Official Journal, the number of the issue and the date of publication.

Bull. EC 12-1976

Point 2228

Council Decision of 25 July 1977 concluding the Convention for the protection of the Rhine against chemical pollution and an Additional Agreement to the Agreement, signed in Berne on 29 April 1963, concerning the International Commission for the Protection of the Rhine against Pollution.

Convention for the protection of the Rhine against chemical pollution.

Additional Agreement to the Agreement, signed in Berne on 29 April 1963, concerning the International Convention for the Protection of the Rhine against Pollution.

OJ No L 240 of 19.9.1977.

Point 2229

Council Decision of 25 July 1977 concluding the Convention for the protection of the Mediterranean Sea against pollution and the Protocol for the prevention of the pollution of the Mediterranean Sea by dumping from ships and aircraft.

Convention for the protection of the Mediterranean Sea against pollution.

Protocol for the prevention of pollution of the Mediterranean Sea by dumping from ships and aircraft.

OJ No L 240 of 19.9.1977.

Bull. EC 7/8-1977

Point 2.3.10

Decision of the European Parliament of 7 July 1977 on the discharge to be granted to the Commission in respect of the implementation of the budget of the European Communities for the 1975 financial year and on the report of the Audit Board.

OJ No L 229 of 7.9.1977.

2. The Community at the United Nations

Community at the UN

Extracts from the speech made on 26 September by Mr Simonet, Belgian Minister of Foreign Affairs and President of the Council of the European Communities and of European political cooperation, at the 32nd session of the United Nations General Assembly in New York

3.2.1. ... For 25 years now, certain countries of Western Europe have been trying to put into practice the lesson of history by establishing a durable peace among themselves and creating the conditions necessary for the improvement of the well-being of their peoples. This is the goal which the European Community has set for itself. Little by little, cooperation among the members of the Community continues to grow. But this task would be insufficient if the European Community did not participate, as efficiently as possible, in the safeguard of peace in the world and in the struggle against underdevelopment.

It seems to me that these objectives are absolutely fundamental and that beyond ideological conflicts there must exist ways and means of conducting fruitful dialogues that will bring these objectives nearer. The nations of the European Community have no intention of shrinking from their responsibilities and they intend to play their proper role in the international community. The Nine made their common views in this regard quite clear in the declaration published by the European Council on 17 July 1975.¹ A copy of this declaration was sent to all the members of the United Nations.

The Nine put their principles into practice in the Lomé Convention by establishing a balanced framework for cooperation and by instituting a dialogue on a new basis with a number of African, Caribbean and Pacific countries. Much still needs to be done. We are determined to continue along this path in order to find fair solutions.

In addition to this regional approach, the Nine intend to act on a more global scale by cooperating with all developing nations. Our system of generalized preferences is the first step in this direction.

We reaffirm our will to achieve a structural improvement in the position of developing countries in the world economy.

The European Community is fully aware of its particular obligations. It will continue, to the extent of its means, to give aid in the form of food and materials to countries suffering from extreme poverty and to peoples afflicted by war and natural catastrophes. Its Member States reaffirm their will to increase their aid to development, effectively and substantially, and better to balance their efforts in this respect.

In cooperation with developing countries, they are determined to devote increasingly greater efforts to programmes intended to satisfy the essential needs of man. In order that all developing nations benefit from this new orientation, they have also agreed to examine the importance and the attribution of the aid to development with a view to increase the volume and the effectiveness in the framework of an enlarged international effort.

At this point, I would like to address myself to certain current situations which deserve the special attention of this Assembly.

Middle East

3.2.2. Anything that affects the stability and prosperity of the countries of Africa and the Middle East is of the greatest interest to the Nine. We have close historical ties with these countries which are deepening in all fields of human activity.

With regard to the situation in the Middle East, over which the Nine continue to be gravely concerned, they remain convinced, as a matter of principle, that any solution must be based on Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338, as they affirmed on 29 July 1977,² and on the following fundamental principles:

- (i) acquisition of territory by force is unacceptable;
- (ii) Israel must end its occupation of territories it has held since the 1967 war;
- (iii) the sovereignty, territorial integrity and the independence of each State in the region must be respected, as well as the right of each State in the region to live in peace within secure and recognized borders;
- (iv) the establishment of a just and durable peace must give due consideration to the rights of the Palestinians.

The Nine also continue to believe that a solution to the conflict will be possible only if the legitimate right of the Palestinian people to give effective expression to its national identity is translated into fact. This would take into account the need for a homeland for the Palestinian people.

It remains the firm view of the Nine that all these aspects must be taken as a whole.

They consider that the representatives of the parties in the conflict, including the Palestinian people, must participate in the negotiations in an appropriate manner to be worked out in consultation between all the parties concerned. In the con-

¹ Bull. EC 7/8-1975, point 2333.

² Bull. EC 6-1977, point 2.2.3

text of an overall settlement, Israel must be ready to recognize the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people; equally, the Arab side must be ready to recognize the right of Israel to live in peace within secure and recognized boundaries.

Speaking practically, the Nine are prepared to collaborate, to the extent desired by the interested parties, in the search for a general and definitive solution, and to implement this, notably through participation in the context of the United Nations, in guarantees that the Nine consider of the greatest importance for a general solution of the problems of the Middle East.

One should recall that the Nine have publicly stated their concern over the illegal measures taken recently by the Government of Israel in the occupied territories, and which will be the subject of a new point on the agenda of our Assembly. These measures are contrary to the basic principles which I have just stated. Moreover, they constitute an additional obstacle in the process of negotiation which should lead to a peaceful solution

Looking forward to peace negotiations, the Nine reaffirm what they have expressed on many occasions, in that the parties to the conflict should refrain from making any declarations and adopting any measures, administrative, legal, military or other, which would constitute an obstacle to the process of peace.

Moreover, the Nine reaffirm their continuing support for Lebanon's independence and territorial integrity. They deplore that the south of the country should be the scene of bloodshed, endangering the efforts to establish peace in the Middle East, and they call upon all parties concerned to halt the fighting.

Cyprus

3.2.3. The efforts undertaken by the United Nations to find a solution to the question of Cyprus are well known. I should like to reaffirm the support of the Nine for the efforts which the Secretary-General puts forward in accordance with the mandate he received from our Organization. The Nine believe that everything must be done to search for a negotiated solution, both durable and fair, through consultations between the two communities.

In this respect, I recall that on 18 February 1977, the Nine stated their satisfaction on the subject of the Nicosia meeting of 12 February. They hope that conversations between the two communities will resume as quickly as possible in the same spirit which inspired that meeting. The Nine reaffirm

their support of the principle of territorial integrity of the Republic of Cyprus.

Through appropriate steps, the Nine continue to urge all parties concerned to pursue their consultations.

Apartheid

3.2.4. We remain firmly opposed to all forms of racial discrimination, wherever it exists. I had the opportunity to express the position of the Nine concerning apartheid at the Lagos Conference.¹ The Nine condemn apartheid and reject it as an insult to the dignity of man and as a form of institutionalized racism that deprives the majority of the population of their full civil and political rights.

Events in the past year have demonstrated the growing frustration of the black population and the intransigence of the South African Government.

As I stated at the Lagos Conference, apartheid cannot work: I then expressed the view of the Nine that the Bantustan policy, far from solving the problems posed by apartheid, was in fact a means of perpetuating it.

I should also point out that the Nine recently decided to examine a variety of different actions they could take to bring their collective influence to bear on South Africa to put an end to apartheid.

For instance the Nine have recently adopted a code of conduct for all their firms with subsidiaries, branches or representation in South Africa.² The publication of this code constitutes a first measure among others which are still being examined.

We will do everything possible to try to bring about a non-racial government in South Africa that will permit the peoples of that country to participate fully in the life of the nation.

Namibia

3.2.5. We declared at the Maputo Conference, as well as in the message issued on the occasion of Namibia Day, that we support the right of the peoples of Rhodesia and Namibia to self-determination, to independence, and to the enjoyment of the fundamental rights defined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.³

¹ Bull. EC 7/8-1977, point 2.2.6

² Point 2.2.4

³ Bull. EC 4-1977, point 2.2.4

Concerning Namibia, it is our position that the Namibians should be able to exercise these rights in a democratic fashion under the supervision of the United Nations, and that all political groups should be able to participate, including SWAPO. Any solution of the Namibian problem must be based on Security Council Resolution 385.

The Nine express the strong desire that efforts currently under way will lead to success. Some valuable progress has already been made. This may be a unique opportunity for securing a peaceful and early transition to independence and the Nine stand ready to assist in this process in any way they can.

Zimbabwe

3.2.6. Time is running out for settling the Rhodesia issue: it seems to us essential to use every possible means to bring to an end a conflict which could have repercussions throughout Africa and to bring about independence for Zimbabwe in 1978 on the basis of majority rule.

We commend the efforts being made at present to achieve an early settlement along these lines, whilst observing strictly the obligations resulting from the Charter in the field of sanctions.

In order for Zimbabwe to develop properly there will be a need for economic assistance to help provide a solution to the basic problems with which this new State will find itself confronted after the disappearance of the illegal minority regime.

Members of the Community are prepared to consider carefully and sympathetically proposals that have already been made for a Zimbabwe Development Fund.

Africa in general

3.2.7. The African continent is seeking stability. Africa must find this stability as well as its own identity. We know that this is the objective of all the peoples of Africa, which is why I am eager to reiterate the position of the Nine in this regard. The Nine strongly reject any intervention by any State which seeks to establish a zone of influence on the African continent. It is the African States, and the African States alone, who must find the solutions to their problems.

Recent events in the Horn of Africa underline the importance of this principle of non-intervention.

Any aid given to Africa must be aid that the nations of Africa desire, and it must be given under conditions that the Africans themselves have determined are in their best interest.

CSCE

3.2.8. As for the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe, the Community considers that the final declaration of Helsinki¹ is a very important constituent element of the broader question of *détente*. Therefore, it constitutes a capital contribution to the efforts aiming at the consolidation of peace within the international community. This document must be considered as a whole, and each of its parts must be correctly implemented, otherwise it will not answer the hopes it raised.

A precise and logical working plan defined during a preparatory meeting, should allow the meeting at Belgrade, which will examine the follow-up of the Conference in a few days' time, to look at each of the themes of the final declaration, both with respect to their implementation in the past and to the stimulation of this implementation in the future.

Economic problems

3.2.9. I would now like to deal with international economic relations. One of the tasks of the current General Assembly will be to evaluate progress made in international cooperation and to determine how this cooperation should evolve in the years ahead.

The same subject was debated extensively, here, a few days ago. But our work during the next three months is more ambitious and perhaps more difficult. The Community feels that real progress has been made recently in the field of international economic cooperation. In this respect, the Paris Conference has yielded positive results in several important areas.² The Community will see to it that the Paris agreements are implemented in the near future. I do not want to express feelings of unmitigated satisfaction, for we must remain realistic, and recognize the aspirations of the international community for a new international economic order.

The European Community remains convinced of the need to bring about a fundamental improvement in the position of developing countries in the world economy, taking into account the problems of the least-developed countries. If I am not pessimistic, then it is because the international community has made significant efforts in important sectors with the aim of narrowing down differences and reconciling diverse interests. A case in point are the many ongoing negotiations this year, such as those on an integrated programme for commodities and on a Common Fund. In those areas, solutions

¹ Bull. EC 7/8-1975, points 1201 to 1204

² Bull. EC 5-1977, points 1.2.1 to 1.2.12.

are within reach and the Community will continue to participate in those discussions with an open mind, seeking tangible solutions.

Sometimes circumstances or the economic climate tend to interfere with good intentions and hamper our lines of action. The Community is not immune to the difficulties currently facing many nations. It struggles with the problems of inflation and unemployment. The joint efforts which the Member States make to maintain an adequate level of economic activity, and even induce proper growth, meet with difficulties which are far from being solved. In some sectors of the economy, those problems have recently become exacerbated and no immediate or permanent cure is in sight.

None the less, if the Community must try to protect its own internal equilibrium—which has a considerable impact on harmonious worldwide economic relations—it does not choose to withdraw within itself. The concept of integration is the basis of the Community, as is its overture to the world.

We understand the problems resulting from the present economic climate, but we reject protectionism as a defence. Therefore, the Community will continue to contribute substantially to the multilateral trade negotiations within GATT and it hopes that these talks will yield concrete results, satisfying in particular the developing countries.

The Community has established a worldwide network of association and cooperation agreements. Some of those formulas for cooperation, which I have already mentioned, are innovations. But we intend to go beyond this. The Lomé Convention has been followed, in 1976, by the signing of a new series of agreements with Maghreb and Middle East countries. We also hope that during the meeting which is to be held in Brussels from 26 to 28 October, the dialogue between the Nine and the members of the League of Arab States will yield concrete results which are of a definite interest to all participants.

With regard to the Mediterranean countries, the Community has adopted a global approach. This has taken shape through a series of new contractual agreements, linking the Community to practically every Mediterranean country. This was done in the interest of all countries concerned, in the interest of development and, therefore, of the stability in this sensitive part of the world. This regional approach has been complemented by a global policy in favour of developing countries. In this regard, the generalized preferences scheme for 1977 has been substantially improved in comparison with last year. New orientations have been given to food aid. In general, efforts are being made to ensure the coordination and harmonization of policies of development cooperation by the Community.

I mention these accomplishments without conceit, fully aware that they can be perfected and may be deemed inadequate.

I am also pleased to note that contacts between the Community and the Council for Mutual Economic Assistance are developing.

We are also very satisfied with the recent progress towards negotiation of a commercial agreement with the People's Republic of China, which I hope will soon materialize.

We are convinced that the United Nations is bound to play a fundamental role in the efforts of the international community towards the restructuring of economic relations. The Community attaches great importance to the work done in United Nations forums. It will continue its efforts towards a positive contribution. It wants to reiterate its desire to cooperate and to avoid a climate of confrontation which could only harm the international community as a whole. In this respect, we have been able to witness, in particular during the 7th special session of this Assembly, how a spirit of dialogue can prevail over confrontation. We cannot make real progress by opposing each other or through formulas too far removed from the reality of our economic structures.

In this spirit of realism, and not precluding the will to redress any imbalances, we should turn our thoughts to the contents of the new strategy for development, which will unquestionably be one of the major future tasks in the realization of the objectives of a new international economic order.

Human rights

3.2.10. If the Nine are preoccupied with trying to establish peace in the world as well as with the quest for a more equitable society, they also want to make a contribution to the effective protection of human rights, both in civil and political, as well as economic, social and cultural fields.

The Members of the Community share the feelings that human rights comprise economic, social and cultural rights, as well as civil and political rights, and they are all interdependent and inseparable.

It is evident that peace, justice and equity are inconceivable without those guarantees in human rights against the abuses of arbitrariness and all forms of exploitation.

Our general public opinion knows that this is an essential question and it is the duty of governments and of the United Nations to provide adequate answers.

The Nine are pleased by the progress that has been made by the international community in the field of human rights.

Community at the UN

The United Nations plays a key role in this area. But the task is still far from being accomplished. During this session, the General Assembly will turn its attention to a number of initiatives directed toward further safeguarding and implementing human rights.

Some of these initiatives are concerned with specific rights and their particular implementation. This is notably the case with the initiative concerning the taking of hostages. We express the hope that a political will will inspire those who are participating in the work which may lead to the drafting of a Convention in this field. This is why we favour the continuation of the mandate of the *ad hoc* Committee which was created for this purpose by the 31st General Assembly.

Other initiatives aim at reinforcing the mechanisms by which human rights are implemented.

Finally, another category seeks to re-establish respect for human rights in special situations where these rights seem to be scoffed at.

It is the intention of the Nine to examine these initiatives according to their merits and the extent to which they are likely to achieve their aims.

We hope that, beyond differing doctrines and political systems, this General Assembly will find it possible to realize what must be our true objective. This is to give man his rightful place in the world and to ensure that terror, oppression and injustice will be mere curiosities to be found in the textbooks of history.

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Deens

D

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In deutscher Sprache
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Langue allemande
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Duits

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In englischer Sprache
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Frans

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Deense kroon

DM

Tysk mark
Deutsche Mark
German mark
Mark allemand
Marco tedesco
Duitse mark

FF

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Französischer Franken
French franc
Franc français
Franco francese
Franse frank

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Italienische Lira
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Lire

Fl

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£

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Pfund Sterling
Pound sterling
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(1977). pag. diff.

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Notes explicatives du Tarif douanier des Communautés européennes. 10^e mise à jour. (1.7.1977).

(1977). pag. diff.

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(1977). 48 p.

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Review of Studies carried out in the producer countries on the forecast consumption of the alloying elements Ni, Cr, Mo, V, W and Co for special steel production in the years 1980 and 1985. October 1976. Series : Raw material supply for the Iron and Steel Industry — Part No 1. (1977). 33 p.

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£ 4.65 US \$ 8

CA-22-76-035-6A-C
Indtjening inden for landbruget. 1975. Marts 1977. (1977). 146 p.

Verdienste in der Landwirtschaft. 1975. März 1977. (1977). 146 p.

Earnings in Agriculture. 1975. March 1977. (1977). 146 p.

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Verdiesten in de landbouw. 1975. Maart 1977. (1977). 146 p. (DK/D/E/F/I/NL)
FB 400,— DKr 65,50 DM 26,— FF 54,— Lit 9 500 Fl 27,—
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CA-22-77-031-2A-C
Befolkning og Beskæftigelse. 1950-1976. April 1977. (1977). 202 p.

Bevölkerung und Erwerbstätigkeit. 1950-1976. April 1977. (1977). 202 p.

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FB 400,— DKr 63,— DM 25,80 FF 53,40 Lit 9 550 Fl 27,—
£ 6.25 US \$ 10.70

CA-22-77-087-6A-C
Regionalstatistik. Fællesskabets økonomiske bistand til investeringer. 1975. Februar 1977. (1977). 218 p.

Regionalstatistik. Finanzbeiträge der Gemeinschaft für Investitionen. 1975. (Februar 1977). (1977). 218 p.

Regional Statistics. Community's financial participation in investments. 1975. February 1977. (1977). 218 p.

Statistiques régionales. Concours financiers de la Communauté aux investissements. 1975. Février 1977. (1977). 218 p.

Statistiche regionali. Contributi finanziari della Comunità agli investimenti. 1975. Febbraio 1977. (1977). 218 p.

Regionale statistiek. Financiële bijdragen van de Gemeenschap aan de investeringen. 1975. (februari 1977). (1977). 218 p. (DK/D/E/F/I/NL)
FB 400,— DKr 63,— DM 25,80 FF 53,40 Lit 9550 Fl 27,—
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CA-22-77-217-6A-C
Produktion af grønsager og frugt. 1965-1976. Juni 1977. (1977). 75 p.

Erzeugung von Gemüse und Obst. 1965-1976. Juni 1977. (1977). 75 p.

Production of Vegetables and Fruit. 1965-1976. June 1977. (1977). 75 p.

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Produktie van groenten en fruit. 1965-1976. Juni 1977. (1977). 75 p. (DK/D/E/F/I/NL)
FB 300,— DKr 49,20 DM 19,50 FF 40,30 Lit 7 100 Fl 20,35
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Économie, monnaie et finances
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Den økonomiske situation i Fællesskabet (kvartalsvis)
Die Wirtschaftslage der Gemeinschaft (vierteljährlich)
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Results of the business survey carried out among managements in the Community.

Résultats de l'enquête de conjoncture auprès des chefs d'entreprise de la Communauté.

Risultati dell'inchiesta congiunturale effettuata presso gli imprenditori della Comunità.

Resultaten van de conjunctuurenquête bij het bedrijfsleven in de Gemeenschap.

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Timelønninger. Arbejdstid

Stundenverdienste. Arbeitszeit

Hourly earnings. Hours of work

Gains horaires. Durée du travail

Retribuzioni orarie. Durata del lavoro

Uurverdiensten. Arbeidsduur

(DK/D/E/F/I/NL)

Abonnement annuel FB 540,— DKr 85,40 DM 35,30
FF 73,50 Lit 13 000,— Fl 36,60 £ 8.60 US \$ 14.70

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(halfmaandelijks)

(DK.D.E.F.I.NL)

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Industrie

Industry

Industrie

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Industrie

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maandelijks) (DK.D.E.F.I.NL)

Abonnement annuel FB 5 200,— DKr 800,— DM 338,—
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Bollettino mensile - Carbone
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Landwirtschaft
Agriculture
Politique agricole
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Landbouw

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a. *Vegetabilsk produktion*
Pflanzliche Erzeugung
Crop production
Production végétale
Produzione vegetale
Plantaardige produktie

(uregelmæssig · unregelmäßig · irregular · irrégulier ·
irregolare · onregelmätig) (DK/D/E/F/I/NL)
Abonnement annuel FB 1 750,— DKr 270,—
DM 114,— FF 210,— Lit 35 000,— Fl 121,— £ 25
US \$ 42.70

b. *Månedlig statistik for kød*
Monatliche Statistik von Fleisch
Monthly statistics of meat
Statistiques mensuelles de la viande
Statistiche mensili della carne
Maandelijkse statistieken van vlees
(månedlig · monatlich · monthly · mensuel · mensile ·
maandelijks) (D/E/F/I)

Abonnement annuel FB 2 300,— DKr 354,— DM 150,—
FF 276,— Lit 46 000 Fl 159,— £ 32.85 US \$ 56.10

c. *Månedlig statistik for mælk*
Monatliche Statistik von Milch
Monthly statistics of milk
Statistiques mensuelles du lait
Statistiche mensili del latte
Maandelijkse statistieken van melk

(månedlig · monatlich · monthly · mensuel · mensile ·
maandelijks) (D/E/F/I)
Abonnement annuel FB 1 400,— DKr 215,50
DM 91,— FF 168,— Lit 28 000,— Fl 97,— £ 20
US \$ 34.15

d. *Månedlig statistik for æg*
Monatliche Statistik von Eiern
Monthly statistics of eggs
Statistiques mensuelles des œufs
Statistiche mensili delle uova
Maandelijkse statistieken van eieren
(månedlig · monatlich · monthly · mensuel · mensile ·
maandelijks) (D/F)

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e. *Salgspriser for landbrugsprodukter*
Verkaufspreise landwirtschaftlicher Produkte
Selling prices of agricultural products
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Verkoopprijzen van landbouwprodukten
(10 hæfter pr. år/10 Hefte jährlich/10 issues yearly/10
numéros par an/10 fascicoli all'anno/10 nummers per
jaar) (DK/D/E/F/I/NL)

Abonnement annuel FB 2 000,— DKr 308,— DM 130,—
FF 240,— Lit 40 000 Fl 138,— £ 28.60 US \$ 48.80

f. *Landbrugets indkøbspriser*
Einkaufspreise der Landwirtschaft
Purchasing prices of agriculture
Prix d'achat de l'agriculture
Prezzi d'acquisto dell'agricoltura
Aankooprijzen van de landbouw

(kvartalsvis · vierteljährlich · quarterly · trimestriel ·
trimestrale · driemaandelijks)
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Abonnement annuel FB 750,— DKr 115,50
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US \$ 18.30

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EC—index of producer prices of agricultural products

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Indkøbspriser for driftsmidler

Einkaufspreise der Betriebsmittel

Purchase prices of the means of production

Prix d'achat des moyens de production

Prezzi d'acquisto dei mezzi di produzione

Aankooprijzen van de produktiemiddelen

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Schnellbericht — Pflanzliche Erzeugung

Gratis

Rapid information — Crop production

Gratis

Note rapide — Production végétale

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Nota rapida — Produzione vegetale

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Spoedbericht — Plantaardige produktie

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Schnellbericht - Agrarpreise

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Pflanzliche Erzeugung
Crop production
Production végétale
Produzione vegetale
Plantaardige produktie
(10-12 hæfter pr. år. 10-12 Hefte jährlich. 10-12 issues
yearly. 10-12 numéros par an. 10-12 fascicoli all'anno.
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US \$ 42.70

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Monthly statistics of meat
Statistiques mensuelles de la viande
Statistiche mensili della carne
Maandelijkse statistieken van vlees
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Monthly statistics of milk
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Statistiche mensili delle uova
Maandelijkse statistieken van eieren
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Selling prices of agricultural products
Prix de vente de produits agricoles
Prezzi di vendita dei prodotti agricoli
Verkoopprijzen van landbouwprodukten
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- f. Landbrugets indkøbspriser**
Einkaufspreise der Landwirtschaft
Purchasing prices of agriculture
Prix d'achat de l'agriculture
Prezzi d'acquisto dell'agricoltura
Aankooprijzen van de landbouw
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 EG—Index der Erzeugerpreise landwirtschaftlicher Produkte
 EC—index of producer prices of agricultural products
 Indice CE des prix à la production des produits agricoles
 Indice CE dei prezzi alla produzione dei prodotti agricoli
 EG—index van producentenprijzen van landbouwprodukten (tomånedlig . zweimonatlich . bi-monthly . bimestriel . bimestrale . tweemaandelijks) (D/E/F/I)
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Einkaufspreise der Betriebsmittel

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(kvartalsvis . vierteljährlich . quarterly . trimestriel . trimestrale . driemaandelijks) (D/E/F/I)

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Schnellbericht - Pflanzliche Erzeugung Gratis
Rapid information - Crop production Gratis
Note rapide - Production végétale Gratuit
Nota rapida - Produzione vegetale Gratuito
Spoedbericht - Plantaardige produktie Gratis
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Ekspresinformation - Landbrugspriser Gratis
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Rapid Information - Agricultural Prices Gratis
Note rapide - Prix agricoles Gratuit
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Spoedbericht - Landbouwprijzen Gratis
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