

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMITTEE
OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES

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Preface

When I agreed to take the chair of the Economic and Social Committee, I outlined two broad objectives.

First, to fight against the feeling of disenchantment which affects the Community far too often. Secondly, to continue to strengthen the role our Committee plays in the Community institutions.

Imagining Europe without the Community is enough to convince anyone of the Community's importance. Nationalism and protectionism would no doubt have already carried the day, as in the 1930s.

Even though we might not now be aware of it, we have come to look at our problems and, if possible solve them, in a European context. Perhaps one of the EEC's most effective creations is that which is least visible externally, namely a framework for cooperation and a custom of discussing problems together, whether between ministers, officials or both sides of industry (as we do here). Beyond that there is the spectacular development of trade between Member States and links between companies. The net result, which is beyond price, is that decisions by governments or companies in any of the Member States cannot now be taken without bearing in mind the existence of the Community and its ground rules.

For example, it is quite striking that in money matters, despite the weaknesses of the European Monetary System, it is quite normal now to negotiate changes in parity. This would have been unthinkable even less than 10 years ago. It is remarkable that throughout all the political changes, some quite dramatic, which we have seen recently in some Member States, the importance of Europe and belonging to the EEC has not diminished.

Our Committee plays a vital role in today's Community where cooperation and working together are the bywords. Here — without being disrespectful — it is not the 'professional Europeans' who meet together, but rather those who represent the economic and social forces in Europe. We represent Europe as it is, and we must speak out clearly and make our voices heard.

The fact that we belong to the socio-professional groups in our own particular countries makes us responsible, together with the European Parliament, which is a vital body in the Community's democracy, for off-setting any risk of a drift towards technocracy in Community decision-making.

This was what was in the minds of those who drew up the Treaty of Rome when they set up the ESC. The Commission is well aware of this because both Commissioners and officials regularly take part in our meetings.

But I feel that there is another reason why our Committee has a specific role among Community institutions. At a time when political swings in all our countries have become stronger as a result of the difficulties which we all know, we represent continuity in economic and social life, and its particular needs. This is why more than ever before, we can help maintain and strengthen European unity. Our Committee is now in an even better position to fulfil its task because my predecessors succeeded so well in improving the Committee's working methods, choosing the right issues to deal with and in better publicizing our opinions.

As you know, several recent opinions have attracted the attention of the Community institutions and economic and social interest groups. We must ensure that the same will be true in the future by, for example, expressing our views with particular emphasis on some major topics related to the most urgent matters of the day.

These will, I trust, form the substance of future annual reports.

François CEYRAC
Chairman

An assessment of the activities of the Economic and Social Committee can, of course, not be made without having regard to the general context of the situation in which the Community finds itself. This situation is very serious indeed. The most striking phenomenon during these last two years has been an ever-growing unemployment inside the Community, with all the hardship it means for the people concerned.

Many plans have been put forward, many words have been said in this respect and, yet, we are faced with a figure of unemployment which now goes beyond 10 million and there are no indications that any appreciable change is going to take place in the foreseeable future. We must be aware of the fact that unemployment at this scale produces social dislocation and poses a serious threat to the whole democratic basis and balance of society.

The current economic crisis has also made it clear that national governments and even major countries are not any longer able to cope with the crisis on their own. This is a global problem for which only a global solution will suf-

ficie. Is there any better proof in this respect than the example of one of the major Member States having a government which was elected democratically by the people of that country which endowed it with a mandate for a given economic policy and, yet, in spite of all this just after the Versailles Summit has had to alter the course it was taking as regards its set economic policy.

This experience raises the question of whether even a much greater economic entity like the European Community would be able to implement a genuine economic policy. But, as we all know, we are far from having such a joint approach. The absence of Community policies outside the common agricultural policy and the present inadequacy of the Community institutions are severely felt.

As far as the common complementary policies are concerned, our Committee has stressed, time and again, that there must be a qualitative change. We said particularly in our opinion on the prospects for the 1980s that the following policies must be emphasized:

- (i) the stimulation of the economy and the re-establishment of full employment;
- (ii) the need for a common industrial policy;
- (iii) social policy;
- (iv) energy policy;
- (v) regional and transport policies;
- (vi) the strengthening of the common agricultural policy;
- (vii) the improvement of the quality of life.

The feeling of the present inadequacy of Community policies and institutions also refers, of course, to the financial basis of the Community. It seems obvious indeed that there is no possibility to implement these complementary policies without additional resources and we have stated on many occasions that the 1% VAT ceiling is too low. It is a road block which must be removed if the European Community is to be enabled to emerge from the present impasse and to make further progress.

It is also important that the decisions taken in the above-mentioned area have to be conveyed to the citizens of Europe through an efficient Community information policy. The Community institutions and bodies must therefore provide the different media with a constant supply of information so that radio and television programmes can reproduce the viewpoints of the Community as such, along with the opinions of political, economic, and social groups. This is very necessary, I believe, in order to correct the image currently projected by the mass media, which is too often inadequate, sometimes inaccurate, and may make a misleading impact on the general public.

On the world scene, the Community is faced by substantial changes in the economic system, like the rise of new industrial countries and the redistribution of wealth, due to transfer of resources to oil and commodity-producing countries. This has meant the transfer of certain types of production to the Third World, which has made it more difficult for industry and agriculture in the Community to be competitive. Obviously, the changes in the world economy and the upheavals that have occurred in international relations have shown that existing policies will have to be revised.

In these difficult times, we are faced with very difficult choices and painful decisions. The members of the Economic and Social Committee — of that I am convinced — will not fail in the task with which they have been entrusted.

Tomás ROSEINGRAVE
outgoing Chairman

Role and influence of the Committee

Last year saw the end of the four-year term of office for Committee members which had begun in 1978; new members therefore had to be appointed, a new chairman had to be elected and the Committee's working bodies had likewise to be renewed. The Council of Ministers appointed the new members on 21 September 1982 and the new Committee held its inaugural meeting from 12 to 14 October 1982. Mr Ceyrac (France — Employers) was elected Chairman and Mr A. Pfeiffer (Germany — Workers) and Mr A. Margot (Belgium — Various interests) were elected Vice-Chairmen. Their predecessors had been Mr T. Roseingrave (Ireland — Various interests), Mr W. G. N. Miller (UK — Employers) and Mr A. Laval (France — Workers). The new Committee comprised 98 re-elected members and 58 newly-elected members.

In his final address to the Committee the outgoing Chairman praised the work of the Committee, concentrating his remarks mainly on institutional aspects. The role and influence of the Committee do indeed to a large extent depend on the Committee's relations with the other EC bodies.

In this context the question arises as to whether the EC institutions are still in fact able to do justice to the current pattern of relationships. The methods introduced in 1957 no longer have the same relevance. Furthermore, a number of developments have occurred in the intervening time which may well have been moves in the wrong direction. This is particularly the case with regard to the role of the European Council, which should not become a court of appeal as that would paralyse the Council of Ministers.

There are also some doubts over the current role of the Commission. Is this body still in a position to make full use of its right of initiative? The lack of overall objectives and the failure to define new objectives are very noticeable in the Community today.

What is worrying is the lack of initiative and the increasingly widespread conviction that the Community can limit itself to routine administration and to simply managing what has been acquired so far.

In its opinion on 'Prospects for the '80s' the Committee called upon the Council of Ministers to take decisions more quickly. Its authority is being weakened by its own sluggish procedures which are blocking decisions on a number of Community measures and which, if continued, can only get worse in the context of an enlarged Community of Twelve.

To retain or recover its decision-taking capacity, the Council ought as a general rule to decide by a weighted majority, as provided for in the Treaties; this would constitute a first step towards a new effectiveness within that institution.

At the same time, it is obvious that, for all questions of vital interest to individual Member States, the principle of unanimity should be upheld.

We may ask ourselves whether a new impetus has come from the European Parliament following direct elections. In the absence of additional parliamentary powers, one can be sceptical in this respect. For the time being, its role is somewhat ambiguous as its powers of control only cover the work of the Commission and not that of the Council and its control over the budget covers only a fraction of the overall Community budget. Furthermore, it has no legislative powers. These inconsistencies were highlighted by the Committee when it gave its views on European Union to the Institutional Committee of the European Parliament.

On that occasion the Committee once again strongly emphasized the fact that it had always supported the strengthening of the influence of the Parliament and that it had urged that Parliament be given the right to prepare the policy decisions of the Community and be given legislative powers. The Parliament would then be able to fulfil its role as a legislative body, leaving the Committee to take over the consultative role in the Community decision-making process. Between the two institutions there would then be a clear division of the respective tasks which, at the same time, would be complementary in that there would be an exchange of information which would enable the two institutions to benefit from each other's work.

For the time being we are still far from such a position and we cannot deny that we are faced with many misunderstandings, much misinformation and even a certain hostility on behalf of at least some members of the European Parliament who see both institutions in a situation of overlapping activities and of competition, with regard to the consultative element of the decision-making process. Such a view is not, however, justified. The Economic and Social Committee is the institutional body representing interest groups. Under the provisions of the Treaties of Rome the Committee is to serve as a consultative body to both the Council and the Commission. It thus has no mandate to be an advisory body to the European Parliament and, whilst always seeking better and more effective working relationships with the Parliament, especially within the framework of the Baduel Glorioso resolution on cooperation between the two bodies, it has no intention of deviating from its Treaty mandate to become an advisory body to the European Parliament. The

role and function of the Committee and the Parliament ought never to be seen as competitive or conflicting.

After this brief survey of the institutional framework, a few points have to be made with regard to the Committee itself. In this respect the priorities set by the outgoing Chairman were divided into two main groups: internal reforms and external relations. The reform of the Rules of Procedure has been carried out. This should make the Committee's work more transparent and lighten the workload of those members who find it difficult to take part in the preparatory stage of the drafting of the opinions.

The Standing Orders of the Bureau have been completed and even though some final touches may still be necessary they have basically proved to be adequate.

The objective of external relations is to increase the Committee's influence on the decision-making process of the Community. It is in fact regrettable that the work of the Committee, which is often praised by those to whom it is addressed, is undervalued by public opinion, a fact which ultimately undermines the Committee's position within the Community institutional framework. In order to enhance the impact of the Committee's work, three target areas for action were singled out: Firstly, the Community institutions, especially the Commission, the Council and the Parliament; secondly, the organizations represented at the Committee, i.e. associations organized at Community level and their affiliated national organizations; and, thirdly, the media.

Three aspects of the Committee's work were highlighted, namely: quality, presentation and 'marketing'. Some progress has been made, particularly with regard to the Committee's relations with the Council. More direct and more fruitful contacts have been made with Coreper with a view to making it easier to draw the Council's attention to opinions which are considered to be particularly important.

Committee rapporteurs have started to present ESC opinions to the working parties of the Council. We can assume that this procedure will become a permanent arrangement.

The necessity for close cooperation with the European Parliament has already been underlined and, here again, progress has been made. Guidelines for cooperation with the Parliament have existed ever since the Parliament adopted its resolution on relations with the Economic and Social Committee. These guidelines now have to be implemented and improved.

Over the last few years the Committee has endeavoured to develop its relations with the European Parliament on the basis of the existing guidelines. Meetings were held between both the outgoing and the incoming Committee Chairmen and the President of the European Parliament. The Committee also had contacts with the Chairmen of the EP committees on agriculture, econ-

omic affairs, the environment, regional policy, social affairs, energy and external relations. A joint meeting was held between the Committee's Section for Social Questions and its counterpart at the European Parliament and a delegation from the Committee took part in a meeting in Geneva in May of the Joint Committee of the ACP/EEC Consultative Assembly, of which the European Parliament is a member.

Endeavours were also made to achieve closer contacts with the organizations represented at the Committee. The Committee sent representatives to practically all the conferences of the European interest groups and to a large number of conferences at national level.

Furthermore the Committee endeavoured to strengthen its links with its counterparts in the Member States.

Finally, a number of official visits were made to Member States and to countries outside the Community, in order to exchange views with the respective governments and with representatives of the main interest groups. Special mention should be made in this context of the official visits to the Federal Republic of Germany, Denmark, France and Portugal.

Work of the Committee

1. AGRICULTURAL POLICY

Farm prices

Following a now well-established tradition, the farm price proposals aroused highly contrasting reactions within the Committee. It will be remembered that while Europe's farmers were calling for an average price increase of 16.3% for the 1982/83 marketing year, the Commission proposed only (i) an increase of around 9% for most farm products, and (ii) the introduction of production targets backed by measures to adjust price guarantees where these targets were exceeded.

Like the Commission, the Committee noted:

- (i) the continuance of an unfavourable trend in farm incomes compared with income trends in the economy as a whole;
- (ii) sharp differences in farmers' incomes from one Member State to another.

The Committee felt that the main cause of this adverse trend in farmers' incomes was the growing deterioration, throughout 1981, in cost/price ratios, and the slowdown in structural change. The Committee finally decided that the average level of the Commission proposals was acceptable, particularly considering the need to continue the drive begun by the Commission to give a new direction to the CAP. This appraisal also took into account the general economic recession and the resultant income drop in all sectors in the Community. The Committee regretted, however, that the Commission policy on common prices was still only concerned with the farmers' income. Other factors in the production costs of foodstuffs also influenced the consumer price formation and under the Treaty the CAP was required to ensure that the consumer prices were reasonable. Thus, to ensure that consumer interests were respected, the Committee invited the Commission to continue and perfect measures to improve the quality of farm products.

On production targets, the policy should be geared more to the restoration of market equilibrium; in this context it would also be possible to restrict the growth of EEC agricultural expenditure, which was the Commission's prime aim. This called for a combination of measures:

- (i) to promote sales in the Community;
- (ii) to expand exports;
- (iii) to promote adequate food aid;
- (iv) to adjust production, particularly through incentives for those spheres of production in which the Community had a deficit (vegetable proteins and forestry in areas less suitable for agriculture).

The proposed introduction of purely formal trigger mechanisms was not enough. What was needed was a comprehensive policy for regulating the volume of production and consumption.

Finally, the Committee stressed the need to restore unity of prices. In recent years this had been threatened by the divergences in the economic and financial policies of the Member States. The current different national economic situations meant that there was an urgent need to adjust the relationships between the 'green' rates of the national currencies.

It should, however, be noted that this opinion, which differed considerably from the proposals made by the Committee's Section for Agriculture (which were close to the arguments of the farmers) gave rise to a difficult debate and was adopted by a narrow majority: 60 votes to 50, with 9 abstentions.

More particularly, those members representing the farm sector opposed the opinion as being too accommodating to consumers. Furthermore, they felt that 1982/83 common agricultural prices, subsidies and premiums should be increased by 16.3% on average, in accordance with the 'objective method', and that the allowances for transport, storage and processing should be adapted in line with the increase in costs. Such an increase should make it possible to reduce positive MCAs substantially as long as this did not hinder an equitable development of farm incomes in the Member States concerned.

Categorically rejecting the Commission proposals, which would exert additional pressure on farm incomes, these Members called for:

- (i) the strict observance of Community preference in all sectors of production;
- (ii) the retention of the producers' guarantees under existing common regimes, and the strengthening of the guarantee system so as to give guarantees of equivalent effect to all sectors, including Mediterranean products; in the case of the latter, aids and premiums should be adjusted in line with the increase in production costs;

- (iii) the immediate implementation of a genuine, dynamic and on-going export policy for food and other agricultural products;
- (iv) specific temporary Community measures in keeping with the fundamental principles of the CAP to compensate those farmers who had suffered inflation and interest rates far above the Community average, due to the lack of economic and monetary harmonization.

Changes in the Community rules on Mediterranean products

During the reference period, the ESC devoted a good deal of work to the problems of Mediterranean agriculture, both in terms of its slow development and of the implications of the enlargement of the Community.

When Spain joined the Community, it would have to accept the body of regulations covering the common agricultural policy. As this time approached, amendments would be needed to cushion the impact of enlargement on the balance of those markets which would be most affected.

The Commission has made the following specific proposals:

- (i) reactivation of the restructuring programme for Community citrus groves;
- (ii) strengthening of the economic organization of fruit and vegetable producers;
- (iii) a curb on supply of wine through a reduction in the vine-growing area in unsuitable regions, and the introduction of compulsory preventive distillation at the beginning of the year;
- (iv) keeping Community olive oil consumption at its present level, by means of increased consumer subsidies resulting in an olive oil: seed oil price ratio of 2:1. This measure should come into force the year after Spain's accession.

All the opinions issued by the Committee on these proposals showed an awareness that the enlargement of the Community would have to be preceded by measures to safeguard market equilibrium for some especially sensitive products, so as to prevent expensive surpluses.

The Committee also stated categorically that measures could either involve amendments to the basic regulations or structural measures to improve the production chain and the economic organization of producers.

There was general agreement on guidelines for ensuring better management of common resources — with appropriate monitoring of aid allocation and proper enforcement of production standards — and an attempt to gear the instruments more closely to the aims being pursued.

The Committee felt that greater consideration had to be given to consumer relations: produce must satisfy the requirements of the consumer in terms of both variety and price.

Opposing views emerged within the Committee on the subject of Community preference or more vigorous defence of domestic products, some members considering the safeguarding of trade with non-Member States to be as important as the protection of farm incomes.

In the main, the Committee backed the Commission proposals, although in some cases there were conflicting views.

The Commission was sometimes reproached for not having paid sufficient attention to the economic aspects and budgetary implications of its proposals. On other occasions, it was decided not to support all the Commission proposals, in the interests of consistency with previous Committee opinions.

Community fats and oils sector

The Committee noted that, despite repeated requests in recent years, the Commission had not yet undertaken an in-depth review of the entire spectrum of problems relating to the Community oils and fats sector.

The Committee therefore instructed its Section for Agriculture to compile an information report on this difficult issue. This report was adopted by the Section for Agriculture in September 1982 and sent to the Community authorities in November of the same year after being discussed by the Economic and Social Committee. It contains an analysis of the situation and a list of current and longer-term problems.

The oils and fats sector was complex and varied by virtue of the various products and market organizations involved. More precisely, the economics and trends of the various sectors obviously interlocked to some extent and this was why the root causes of difficulties and imbalances besetting the oils and fats sector were often to be found in a neighbouring sector.

The European Economic Community, which produces only a small percentage of the oils and fats it consumes, introduced a special regime for vegetable oils and fats in the early days of the common agricultural policy.

The import arrangements for all vegetable oils and fats, with the exception of olive oil, were particularly liberal when compared with the general principle of Community preference and the threshold price policy. No customs duties at all were levied on oil seeds and the duties on oils were very low.

At the same time, Community oil seed producers had been granted aid to withstand competition from outside the Community.

Although preference was given by the Community to home-produced olive oil, it had also been necessary to subsidize production — and subsequently consumption — so as to keep olive oil competitively priced *vis-à-vis* other vegetable oils.

Over the years, the consumption of

- (i) animal fats;
- (ii) olive oil;
- (iii) other vegetable oils and fats;

had not followed the same pattern because of the different regimes applicable to them. As a result, some oil and fat sectors had been beset by market difficulties or financial difficulties.

Spanish accession to the Community might compound these difficulties, for if the present Community regimes for oils and fats were simply to be extended to Spain, a shift in the price of olive oil in relation to other vegetable oils and fats and Spanish consumption would fall considerably. This would in turn lead to the accumulation of surpluses which would be very costly to dispose of.

The information report did not offer any answers to the various problems posed by such a situation and the prospects for the fats and oils sector in the Community. However, the Economic and Social Committee decided to add the replies of the different economic and social interest groups represented on it in the form of an own-initiative opinion, which should be ready for forwarding to the Community authorities towards the end of the first half of 1983.

Veterinary matters

Various proposals in the veterinary field were referred to the Committee during 1982. The Committee's constant concern was to continue the Community drive for harmonization between Member States of measures in this sector. Thus, when adopting its opinion on the Commission proposal on the qualifications of the personnel responsible for carrying out health inspection, supervision and control tasks in respect of meat-based products, the Committee regretted the proliferation of proposals and legislation aimed only at certain Member States. Apart from this major problem, the Committee approved Commission proposals on measures to combat animal diseases, on hygiene in establishments producing fresh meat, and on health problems relating to residues of antibiotics.

2. TRANSPORT POLICY

During the year under review, the Committee drew up an own-initiative opinion and received nine requests for opinions from the Council. Of the 10 opinions requested during the year, only four had been adopted at Committee level by the year-end. This was due to a number of factors: work was held up by belated nomination of members for the 1982—84 term of office; in some cases the referrals were not made until the last quarter of the year; in some cases the complexity of the subject matter necessitated lengthy discussion. Subjects on which opinions were adopted at Committee level included an own-initiative opinion on the transport policy of the European Community in the 1980s, and opinions on ASOR, the granting of limited financial support in the field of transport infrastructure, the raising of the community quota for the carriage of goods by road in 1983 and implementing measures for the ASOR Agreement.

Prominent among the topics handled by the Section for Transport and Communications were the opinions on competition in sea and air transport and air transport tariffs. The Section is still working on the facilitation of formalities and inspections, the formation of rates for the carriage of goods by road, and authorizations for the carriage of goods by road.

The Annual Report will accordingly concern itself solely with a detailed review of the opinions which were adopted at Committee level.

In its opinion on the proposal for a Council regulation on granting limited financial support in the field of transport infrastructure, under which 10 million ECU is to be allocated for financial aid for transport infrastructure during the financial year, the Committee welcomes the commission proposal as the first major move towards the Community funding of infrastructure projects of common interest, although this is extremely limited.

The Committee feels that, in view of the relatively modest volume of resources available for 1982, these should be concentrated on one or two projects, if they are to be of some practical use (projects in southern regions of the Community, such as the marshalling yard in Domodossola). Although it takes an essentially favourable view of the Commission proposal, the Committee nonetheless still feels that what is needed is a fundamental regulation, based on the Commission proposal of 5 July 1976, embracing all transport infrastructure of relevance to the Community as a whole. In conclusion, the Committee urges the Council to take a decision on the 10 million ECU in hand before the year-end, to ensure that they are not forfeited or used for another purpose.

On the subject of the raising of the 1983 Community quota for the carriage of goods by road, the Committee for the first time rejected a Commission proposal to this effect, by a majority vote. Although it was in favour of extending quotas for a short time beyond 31 December 1982, it could go no further in supporting the Commission. The Committee took the view that the

Commission could quite easily have prepared the new method of calculating authorizations announced for the beginning of 1983, in time for this to be taken into account when discussing the proposal. In view of the difficulties encountered each year by the Council, the European Parliament and the Economic and Social Committee, when this subject came up for discussion, the Committee advised the Council to await the new Commission proposal before taking a decision. The Committee thus took due account of the fact that the Council did not adopt its last decision on this issue until the end of March 1982 — and then only after lengthy discussion — so that the increase in the quota for the year 1982 only became effective as from 1 April 1982. one fact which did emerge from the Committee's discussions, was its desire for future discussions on the quota to take account of the interests of the transport industry, the various modes of transport and the shipping industry, not to mention the economic situation.

In its opinion on measures implementing the ASOR Agreement, the Committee largely endorsed the Commission proposals, at the same time suggesting a number of ways in which they could be improved.

The most important and lengthy opinion which the Committee adopted in this sphere during 1982 was an own-initiative opinion concerned with the broad topic of the transport policy of the European Community in the 1980s.

This own-initiative opinion was promoted by a number of considerations. On the one hand, the Committee had not expressed its detailed views on the development of common transport policy since 1975, and accordingly needed to appraise the conclusions made at that time. On the other hand, there was no escaping the fact that, although the Council had issued various rules and regulations in the sphere of transport policy over the years, it had not adopted a consistent plan capable of being implemented by degrees, with the result that for years there had been complaints from all quarters about the lack of a common transport policy. Recently, the European Parliament even went so far as to allege that the Council had infringed the Treaty in this respect. For its part, the Committee began increasingly to feel that its function as an advisory body was being impaired, in that it was expected to issue opinions on piecemeal measures which it was finding increasingly difficult to view as part of a consistent overall plan. After the disappointing meeting of the Council of Ministers of Transport on 26 March 1981, when the Council merely drew up a list of questions which it proposed to discuss before the end of 1983, the Committee decided to join forces with the European Parliament. Thus, on 23 April 1983, the Committee's Section for Transport and Communications and the European Parliament's Transport Committee held a preliminary joint meeting at which they criticized the Council's conduct. Finding themselves in full agreement on this score, the two bodies decided to pursue the matter determinedly, with all the resources which they had at their disposal. In May 1982, the Parliament followed this up with a request for a resolution and the Carossino report. At the end of October the Committee issued an opinion based on the Loccufer report which aroused keen interest. At the plenary session, the Commission representative stressed that most of the Com-

mittee's recommendations were to be found in a new proposal which was to be officially adopted by the Commission in the near future.

In its opinion, the Committee first of all questions why so little progress has been made towards a common transport policy and attributes this primarily to the differing stances of the individual Member States on transport. While some of them are above all anxious for more liberalization at Community level, others are principally concerned with closer alignment of the terms of competition. Thus, the major stumbling-block has been the interpretation of the term 'free-market economy' in the context of the transport sector, particularly as transport policy has to be compatible with the requirements of other Community policies. Much emphasis is placed on what has frequently been alleged to be the peculiar nature of the transport sector (which in the final analysis means that this sector cannot 'stock' its services and is often viewed as a political instrument for purposes other than transport). The Committee accordingly concludes that, without State intervention, market mechanisms do not lead to an optimum allocation of resources, and that regional disparities have, with the passage of time, become even more pronounced.

If the lack of optimum basic conditions for transport has led to an uneconomic use of capital and labour, the Committee deduces that the situation can only be rectified by means of a common transport policy. Society is entitled to expect its transport needs to be met continuously, quickly and efficiently. In the Committee's view, the only way to ensure this is to create and promote conditions which are conducive to the formation and operation of financially-sound, commercially and socially well-equipped, and expertly managed undertakings. Although the common transport policy must allow the maximum possible scope for competition, the requisite degree of control must be exercised and restrictions imposed where wider considerations, and particularly the public interest, are at stake. The Committee defines the common transport policy's task in the terms of the Treaty:

'The task of transport policy is to create a framework for the different modes of transport so that passengers and goods can be carried between and within the various regions of the Community with optimum efficiency. Optimum efficiency is achieved when the transport sector contributes as much as possible to the common good and to the achievement of other policies (which may in turn have an impact on the transport sector and transport users) bearing in mind the overall costs of transport, and especially the cost of infrastructure, damage to the environment, accident risks, and the cost of social security.'

This redefinition of Community transport policy for the 1980s will have to be translated into action by the Commission and the Council in the coming years. However, if it is to be successful, a pragmatic approach will be needed. This does not mean working without a blueprint, but that the blueprint must be practicable. Not all transport problems within the Community need to be resolved at Community level. National and Community responsibilities will first of all have to be more clearly defined, so as to highlight the tasks which the Community still has to undertake.

Without advocating a multi-tier Europe, the Committee goes on to question whether Community-level solutions should always apply throughout all Member States, and whether, in some cases, specific national characteristics or circumstances warrant greater emphasis on one or other mode of transport. It is, for instance, quite illogical to harmonize social provisions in road transport at Community level, without taking steps to ensure that the methods of application and supervision adopted in Member States do not lead to distortions of competition. Common transport policy should accordingly concentrate on problems that are of Community-wide significance and can only be solved on a Community-wide scale. Given the considerable differences in the structure of transport enterprises and in the infrastructure they use, it is not necessary for the same measures to be adopted for all transport modes.

While the Community has to take account of its own internal sectoral policies (social, regional, energy, environmental and infrastructure policies, as well as the policy concerning the charging of infrastructure costs) it should also adopt a dynamic approach to transport problems in its external relations (East-West relations, flags of convenience, inland waterway transport, transit through non-Member States, harbour policy, sea and air transport, relations with international and supranational organizations).

The Committee makes the following practical recommendations:

The Council must once and for all be seen to assume the responsibility imposed on it by the Treaty, by implementing a European transport policy. The Commission is the guardian of the Treaty and, as such, it has a duty to submit proposals to the Council, as it has in fact done in the past. However, a lack of political will has to date prevented the emergence of a well-defined plan. The Council must accordingly urge the Commission to find practical new solutions. Then, once the Council has adopted a well-defined plan, existing proposals will have to be reviewed in the light of this, and new proposals made. In implementing this plan, a phased programme should be drawn up and reviewed from time to time, as necessary. If this pragmatic approach is adopted, it will ensure that gradual measures and Commission proposals can be given due consideration by the advisory bodies and appraised accordingly. The fact that the Council has issued some 180 individual transport measures, refutes the allegation that very little has so far been achieved in the transport sector. But, in the Committee's view, these measures do not constitute a 'European transport policy'.

The Committee has also issued opinions approving the Commission proposal concerning the Agreement on the International Carriage of Passengers by Road by means of Occasional Coach and Bus Services (ASOR) and the proposal for a Council decision on the collection of information concerning the activities of road hauliers participating in the carriage of goods to and from certain non-member countries (Eastern Bloc countries).

In this opinion, the Committee urged that when trade agreements were entered into by the Community with State-trading countries, steps should be taken to safeguard the legitimate interests of Community transport enterprises.

3. SOCIAL POLICY

Procedures for informing and consulting the employees of undertakings with complex structures, in particular transnational undertakings

In its opinion on this document, commonly known as the 'Vredeling directive', the Committee pointed out that it had always been in favour of employees being informed and consulted in an appropriate manner. In particular, all employees ought to be consulted about decisions which might affect them directly and the information which they were given should be objective and up-to-date.

The Committee therefore endorsed the objective of the proposed directive. It pointed out that current national legislation on information and consultation obligations differed considerably. Such legislation ought to be harmonized for several reasons, if only to ensure that the common market functioned properly, as divergences could lead to distortions of competition.

Moreover, it was the Committee's view that it was in any company's interest to find out what its employees thought and discuss their views with their representatives before the final decisions were taken, especially as the proposed directive would in no way undermine management's final powers of decision.

The Committee was pleased to note that the proposed directive did not call for a huge mass of information or an exhaustive analysis of every detail. All that was required was pertinent information which gave a clear picture of a group's activities. The proposed directive referred only to decisions which would substantially affect employees' interests. If it was necessary, for example, to decide to close down a plant or transfer production from one plant to another, or carry out mergers or rationalization plans, the Committee felt that in a socially-just and democratic society it was self-evident that those primarily affected should be informed and consulted in good time.

The Committee's Employers' Group issued a minority declaration in connection with this opinion.

Coordination of employment services

In this own-initiative opinion the Committee outlined the main changes which had taken place in the functions and structure of national employment services since 1976, when the first Committee opinion was drawn up.

The opinion paid particular attention to (i) the decentralization of employment services, (ii) the role of the two sides of industry in the administration of the various employment services, (iii) the predominant role of State-run employment agencies in the labour market, (iv) the computerization of employment services, (v) funding, and (vi) the various functions performed (unemployment services, guidance, training, placement, notification of vacancies, etc.).

The opinion closed with a number of concrete proposals designed to improve and expand coordination throughout the Community. The principal recommendations were:

- (i) Community-wide surveys of the major trends in the labour market should be drafted and disseminated;
- (ii) Community schemes for the continuous training of employment service personnel should be supported;
- (iii) Policies on specific issues (structure of services, notification of vacancies, illegal immigration, mass redundancies, etc.) should be coordinated;
- (iv) Sedoc should be improved and made more effective;
- (v) Cooperation procedures among the heads of employment services should be reviewed (establishment of an *ad hoc* committee backed by a small secretariat).

Social developments in the Community in 1981

In its annual opinion on social developments in the Community the Committee stressed the need for an active jobs policy. But any economies that were necessary should be based on the principle of social balance and social welfare measures should not be fundamentally undermined.

Unemployment was not only a financial but also a social problem. The Committee was deeply concerned at the large number of young people out of work and the increase in structural unemployment, which was causing more and more groups of people to be out of work for long periods.

As there was no simple solution to the unemployment problem, it was important to coordinate all measures which might affect jobs. As well as short-term cyclical programmes there should be a graduated employment strategy.

Greater encouragement should be given to private and public investment, especially in those sectors which directly affected jobs. Coordinated action would be easier if governments exchanged more information about individual measures they had taken.

The Committee thought that the scale and special nature of youth unemployment called for special action in the Member States and at Community level to back up general economic and employment policy. Special attention should be paid to preparing school-leavers for working life.

The opinion also contained a chapter devoted to the problems of migrant workers, in which the Committee declared that the current increase in xenophobia should be combated vigorously.

Equal opportunities for women

The Committee broadly welcomed the Commission's planned action programme as it proposed practical measures in areas where discrimination against women was most pronounced.

After recalling its earlier support for equal treatment for men and women in the field of employment, the Committee noted that the Community had to build on past achievements, since equal treatment for men and women could only be obtained through concrete measures over the long term, and welcomed the setting-up of the Advisory Committee on Equal Opportunities for Women and Men. But it also stressed that it was essential to consult the two sides of industry and such consultations could never be replaced by the advisory committee.

The Committee reiterated the view it had expressed in several previous opinions, namely that although discrimination against women could doubtless be eliminated by administrative measures, such as the setting-up of an advisory committee, a fundamental change in society's attitude to sex roles was even more important.

It was vital that the *action programme* be accompanied by a precise schedule and endowed with adequate funds, but the Commission too had to be equipped with the requisite staff and expertise.

Rearrangement of working time

The Committee issued an opinion on a draft recommendation on the principles of a Community policy with regard to retirement age. It approved the principle that workers should be free to choose the age at which they retire. Workers should be entitled, but not obliged, to draw their retirement pension early and be able to decide exactly when to do so, the Committee said. To ensure real freedom of choice, reductions in pension payments to early retirees should not jeopardize their right to use such a facility.

In an opinion on a draft directive on voluntary part-time work the Committee approved the Commission's aim of introducing the principle of non-discrimination between *part-time and full-time workers* and noted that the articles in the draft directive included most of the principles and guidelines in the own-initiative opinion of 1978. The Committee also commented on the definition of part-time work, the scope of the non-discrimination principle and the application of the rule concerning the proportionality of rights.

Medium-term projections of social expenditure and how to finance it

The Committee agreed with the general guidelines in the Commission's paper and said that they should largely put right the shortcomings which had led to criticism of the Commission's previous social budgets.

Joint meeting of the EP Committee on Social Affairs and the ESC Section for Social Questions

The EP Committee on Social Affairs, Employment and Education and the ESC Section for Social Questions held a joint meeting on 20 October 1982. This meeting — the first of its kind in the social sphere — was attended by Mrs Fenger-Møller, President-in-Office of the Council, and Mr Richard, Commissioner for Social Affairs. Discussion was focused on preparations for the 'Jumbo' Council of Ministers of Finance, Economic Affairs and Social Affairs on 16 November.

4. ECONOMIC AND FINANCIAL POLICY

In 1982 the Committee issued an opinion on the development of the socio-economic situation in the Community and analysed the proposals for developing the European Monetary System (EMS).

In view of the persistent recession, questions are increasingly being asked about what remedies are possible and desirable. Every effort to tackle the crisis is followed closely. It is therefore not surprising that the Committee's declarations on this matter are received with more than normal interest by all those concerned.

The European Monetary System

After the introduction of the EMS on 13 March 1979, consideration was given to the future of the system from May 1979 onwards. In March 1980 the Commission submitted a paper to the Council.

On 15 January 1982 the Council decided the EMS should be fleshed out. The Commission's proposals for this were submitted to the Council of Economic and Financial Ministers on 15 March. They consisted of using the ECU more widely for private transactions and Community loans, encouraging the use of the ECU for short-term settlements between central banks, boosting efforts to bring about economic convergence and promoting greater collaboration between the USA and Japan over international exchange markets and interest rates.

The Council said it agreed by and large with the Commission's proposals but asked the Monetary Committee and the governors of the central banks to provide more details.

In its own-initiative opinion of 29 April 1982 on the development of the EMS the Committee stressed the need for increased economic convergence between the Member States. It supports the Commission's proposals on public-sector use of the ECU but thought that private use of the ECU would depend largely on what advantages the ECU offered the user.

Because of the 'external relations' aspect, it did not seem that a mere technical strengthening of the EMS would be enough to ensure greater European independence from the USA.

The Committee supported the proposals aimed at strengthening consultation between the Community, the USA and Japan.

Cyclical policy

This year, as in previous years, the Committee issued two opinions on the economic situation in the Community. The first was drawn up on its own initiative and the second at the request of the Council on the basis of the Commission's annual economic report. The Committee gave most prominence to its own-initiative opinion, which was published in the form of a brochure to inform the various interest groups of the Committee's position concerning the most important economic and social issues.

The economic situation in the Community (mid-1982)

On 1 July 1982 the Committee issued its annual own-initiative opinion on the economic situation in the Community, in which the main themes were the fight against inflation, encouragement for investments and the jobs situation. Stress was laid on the special role the Community had to play in coordinating economic policies to avoid distortions of competition.

The Committee recalled that the Commission's forecasts for the end of 1982 and the beginning of 1983 were not very encouraging. The situation was expected to worsen, especially with regard to jobs. The unfavourable economic climate was holding back any policy of restructuring the economy. The budgetary implications should not be underestimated although there were grounds for being more active, such as in combating unemployment. In this area, account also had to be taken of the cost of unemployment benefits and the drop in States' receipts generally. As far as investments were concerned the Committee thought that attention should be given above all to those which generated jobs in growth sectors. It was vital to encourage basic and applied research so as to introduce new production technologies. But everything had to be part of a policy of economic convergence at Community level. Only then could one fully enjoy the enormous advantages of a vast internal market. Protectionism would only make things worse.

The Committee also looked at subsidies. These could not be allowed to distort competition or lead to jobs being lost in another Member State.

The economic climate was giving smaller firms a particularly hard time. High interest rates seemed to be a big problem and the Community should do everything possible to help such firms.

The Committee concluded that priority should be given to fighting unemployment and concentrating investments on energy saving, regional transport, home construction, environmental protection and new technology. Such investments should be financed through the 'New Community Instruments'.

Subsidies for certain loans granted under the EMS

On 14 October 1982, the Committee adopted an opinion on the proposal for a Council regulation (EEC) amending Council Regulation (EEC) No 1736/79 of 3 August 1979 on interest subsidies for certain loans granted under the European Monetary System. The proposed regulation provided for interest rebates of 3% per year granted for infrastructure projects and programmes and financed from funds borrowed by the New Community Instrument and by the European Investment Bank. The Committee felt that the most pressing objective was to achieve a coordinated policy to create jobs and improve the competitiveness of the economy.

Opinion on the Commission's annual economic report

On the basis of the Commission's latest forecasts, the Committee felt that the Commission was still somewhat too optimistic. The rising unemployment and the large public-sector deficits were particularly disquieting.

The Committee agreed that there was a need for stimulatory measures in order to remedy the economic situation. Priority had to be given to employment. The policy might, of course, differ from one country to another. In fixing priorities care had to be taken to ensure that other policy objectives were frustrated as little as possible.

The Committee also thought that employers, workers and the government had to be involved in this policy.

In the budget sphere, the Committee, like the Commission, proposed that the pattern of spending be changed in favour of expenditure that promoted economic growth. In implementing reforms, however, care had to be taken to avoid a deflationary spiral.

On the subject of investment, the Committee reiterated that priority had to be given to new job-creating investment in growth areas. It accordingly called for the incorporation of investment incentives in government plans. Public-sector investment was not, however, sufficient by itself.

The Committee stressed that an incomes policy had to cover all incomes. It disagreed on this point with the Commission. On the subject of the different wage/profit relationship advocated by the Commission, the Committee stated that the necessary inferences should be drawn with regard to workers' rights in respect of participation in firms.

The Committee accepted the idea of moderation of the rise in labour costs in the light of the need to create employment. It referred to the recent 'Jumbo' Council in advocating reorganization and reduction of working time, provided this did not affect the competitiveness of firms.

As regards monetary policy, the Committee regretted that the Commission did not say anything about extension of the EMS.

The Committee agreed with the Commission that there had to be coordination of economic policy. This applied also to policy on the reorganization of working time and, of course, to subsidization policy, which had to be in accordance with the provisions of Articles 92 and 93 of the EEC Treaty. The Committee also called for further integration of the internal market. At international level every effort should be made, through multilateral negotiations, particularly within GATT, to combat trade barriers.

As in previous years, the Committee drew up a report on the economic situation in one of the Member States. This time it was Denmark, the country which was President of the Council up to the end of 1982.

5. REGIONAL POLICY

1982 was a year in which the future of regional policy was debated at length. The proposals for a revision of the ERDF Regulation, submitted somewhat late by the Commission, had still not been adopted by the Council at the end of the year.

The ESC made a major contribution to this debate in the form of three opinions and a study on the following subjects:

Revision of the ERDF Regulation

The ESC opinion approves the new approach adopted by the Commission. However, it is pointed out that the new rules for coordinating national policies should not lead to a levelling downwards and it is hoped that the Member States will be able to continue their own efforts to reduce disparities.

As far as the role of the regional authorities is concerned, the Committee thinks that the procedure should be expanded appropriately so as to include certain social and economic interest groups.

It is particularly pleased that the Member States will be obliged to study the impact of their framework programmes on the environment.

It would like it to be understood that the provision favouring frontier regions does not refer only to initiatives covered by quotas but also to those which are not.

While supporting the principle of aid being geographically concentrated, the Committee points out that beneficiary regions are at present chosen on the basis of statistics which really must be objective and kept constantly up to date.

A minority statement was issued opposing excessive concentration in particular.

Study on integrated operations

In this study the Section for Regional Development endeavoured to define the concept, aims and possible applications of integrated operations on the basis of the pilot experiments already initiated by the Commission in Naples and Belfast; it made a critical appraisal of these experiments.

It considers that integrated operations represent an important step towards coordination of aid from the various financial and technical instruments at the Community's disposal. As regards the ERDF in particular, integrated operations unquestionably form a catalyst which will make for maximum effectiveness of aid and the closest possible involvement of the local authorities concerned.

It hopes that the results of these pilot experiments, which will only be assessable in five years' time, will make it possible to envisage general application of this coordination procedure.

The Section also refers to the detailed study it has already made of the possibility of carrying out an integrated operation in the iron and steel areas in the north of Lorraine and suggests other possible applications in rural areas threatened with depopulation, border regions such as the Bayerischer Wald (Bavarian Forest) and overseas territories such as the island of Reunion.

Specific action on behalf of housing in Northern Ireland within the framework of an integrated operation in Belfast

The Section approved the specific action for Belfast. In the course of its work on integrated operations it had already noted that there is a major housing problem in the Belfast area. It was pleased that emphasis is placed on the 'additionality' of the funds to be granted, which seems to be better guaranteed in this regulation than in other regional policy measures.

The Section merely suggests that there is scope for greater precision in the matter of deadlines and points out that one should not forget the need for other investments, particularly in public-sector facilities aimed at improving the quality of life in the city.

ESC opinion on the periodic report on the economic and social situation of the regions of the Community

The Committee attempted to assess the reliability and effectiveness of the periodic report both as a means of analysing the relative prosperity of the regions and as a working tool of future regional policy. The opinion is primarily concerned with three questions:

- (i) The definition of the word 'regions'; the Commission wishes to provide a more detailed analysis (on the basis of Level III rather than II regions) in its next report. The Committee has weighed up the respective advantages of the two alternatives and considered others, such as more functional socio-economic regions.

It is in favour of using a more functional type of region for analytical purposes, since it is more likely to reflect economic patterns than administrative units. At the same time it acknowledges that this will create difficulties — for instance with data available only by administrative units. If this first option is not adopted it urges that administrative units be grouped together to form more extensive functional areas. It is confident that the collection and use of statistics is likely to become more reliable and flexible with modern data-processing methods.

- (ii) The nature of the indicators used to assess the relative prosperity of a region. The Commission opted for GDP and unemployment. The Committee queries the relevance of GDP which it claims is not calculated by uniform, hard-and-fast methods in all Member States, and calls for the adoption of standard procedures. As to unemployment, it feels that the significance of this very important indicator would be further enhanced if it were weighted to allow for the overall rate of economic activity, coupled with population and migration trends.

The Committee also considers that it would be advisable to make use of supplementary indicators such as infrastructure density or sectoral analyses, with a view to reducing the margin for error, particularly in borderline cases where it is uncertain whether or not a given region qualifies for ERDF aid.

In general the Committee stresses the need to select indicators which would afford a dynamic rather than a static view of the situation in the regions.

- (iii) Once a definition and reliable indicators have been chosen, the results of the analysis will be used to determine a 'Community average'. The Committee questions the relevance of this, at least when one leaves the realms of analysis and turns to the drafting and implementation of regional development policies. It considers that it is necessary to proceed with the utmost caution when attempting to define what is 'average'.

The opinion closes with recommendations as to the layout and format of future reports.

Every year, the Committee delivers an opinion on the ERDF Report. Work on the preparation of the opinion on the 7th Annual Report (1981) began in December 1982.

The Section was authorized to draw up an information report on the economic problems of border regions in Ireland. Work on this was to begin in January 1983.

The Commission proposals on the second series of 'non-quota' measures were to be referred to the Committee as soon as possible. It is interesting to note that these new proposals echo a recommendation made by the Committee: authorization of specific regional development measures under Article 13 of the Fund Regulation (non-quota section), not only in the steel industry and shipbuilding, but also in textiles, another sector which is currently in decline.

6. INDUSTRIAL POLICY

The Committee's work in this field focused specifically on SMEs. In an own-initiative opinion on the promotion of the small and medium-sized enterprises sector in the European Community (Rapporteur: Mr Kolbenschlag) the Committee listed the key points for Community strategy in this area. These were:

- (i) Elimination of red tape before the creation of an SME; and provision of consultancy services in all areas of management, to ensure that SMEs can survive and flourish;
- (ii) As regards capital, the various Community financial instruments should be geared to the specific needs of small and medium-sized enterprises; the Community should also provide deficiency guarantees;
- (iii) In the field of tax reliefs, the special concessions for investment reserves and tax relief on retained profits could boost the capital resources of small and medium-sized enterprises; the Committee also came out in favour of the 'carry-back' of losses in all Member States;
- (iv) In the interests of improving inter-firm cooperation the Committee called for the speedy adoption of the Council regulation on the European cooperation grouping, the introduction of a European law on private limited liability companies, the expansion of relevant Commission departments and, finally, Community subsidies for trade fairs and exhibitions;
- (v) The latest advances in data processing should be made available to small and medium-sized enterprises;
- (vi) Effective action against the black economy must be part and parcel of a policy for the promotion of SMEs;

- (vii) The special role of SMEs in the endogenous development of the disadvantaged regions of the Community must be stimulated by expanding the Community's regional-policy instruments and using them simultaneously.

Lastly, the Committee endorsed the European Parliament's proposal to proclaim 1983 the European 'Year of small and medium-sized enterprises'; it therefore proposed that a joint conference be organized in January 1983 to prepare this. The Commission, the Parliament and the Economic and Social Committee would use the conference to frame a wide-ranging policy on the promotion of SMEs in the Community.

The Committee's work on sectoral policy concentrated on the textiles industry. The Committee assessed the industry's prospects against the background of the renewal of the Multifibre Arrangement.

In an own-initiative opinion (Rapporteur: Mr Masucci), the Committee agreed that:

- (i) A competitive textile and clothing industry must continue to hold an important place in the industrial structure of the Community;
- (ii) All essential production stages of the textile and clothing chain must continue to be represented in the Community; and
- (iii) In administering the MFA the Community must take account of both commercial and industrial policy criteria.

The Committee added that unemployment in this sector could not be solved solely by creating new jobs in other industries because almost all industries were shedding labour under rationalization schemes.

Rather than using social measures to deal with redundancies, it was necessary to limit job losses by technical measures that had a more direct bearing on the development of the sector. Such measures would include:

- (i) a phased reduction of working hours in the 1980s, particularly in firms where plant at full operational capacity was increased;
- (ii) encouragement to move towards new products and production schemes by stepping up structural adjustments;
- (iii) the use of foreseeable Community consumption trends as a basis for import quotas in bilateral negotiations;
- (iv) immediate action to stop dumping by non-EEC countries;
- (v) the laying-down of common rules on outward processing traffic, so that re-imports were kept within overall Community ceilings fixed in trade agreements with individual countries.

Competition policy

In line with new arrangements, the Commission referred the Annual Report on Competition Policy to the Committee. The Rapporteur was Mr Neumann.

The Committee supported the Commission's intention (i) to make public opinion in the Community more aware of Community competition policy, particularly in view of competition's role in safeguarding prosperity, and (ii) to undertake a realistic appraisal of the possibilities and limits of this policy.

The Committee commented *inter alia* on the Commission's assertion that it would support measures specifically designed to combat the crisis in certain sectors. These included moves to gear existing industrial structures to the new requirements of the world economy. The Committee feared that such a criterion could lead to competition between State aids and encourage Member States to off-load their economic difficulties on to other EC countries.

The Committee took the view that the Commission should give priority to the harmonization of State aid and to ensuring the implementation of the 1975 Council decision on compliance with certain criteria (transparency, ceilings, etc.).

Under the above consultation procedure, the Committee delivered an opinion in October 1983 on the *Eleventh Report on Competition Policy* (Rapporteur: Mr Évain).

In this opinion the Committee noted with satisfaction that its opinions were taken into account in the Commission's Report and welcomed the fact that the Commission had explicitly recognized it as an ideal forum for passing on information to, and arranging consultations with, all the various social and economic groups.

The Committee felt that the Commission should be given credit for its efforts to improve the procedures for implementing competition rules and pointed out that its earlier opinions have always called for the existing procedures to be simplified and speeded up. These procedures had a direct impact on business costs since they could cause delays which adversely affected business running, thus directly affecting final users and consumers.

The Committee trusted that the Commission would pursue further its studies into improving transparency and the legal security of economic operators, speed up decision-making as much as possible and encourage objectivity in the preliminary examination of competition files by its departments.

The Committee was concerned that the Commission, which had exclusive responsibility for granting exemptions under Article 85(3), currently had 4 000 cases pending before it and hoped that the authorization procedures would be reviewed with a view to their being speeded up considerably. Such a move would benefit economic operators, who would thus have all the facts at their fingertips when making decisions, especially as regards investments.

As regards the application of competition rules to small and medium-sized firms the Committee was pleased to note that the Commission was endeavouring to create a legal and economic climate in which such firms could compete, if not on an equal footing, then at least with the best possible chances of success, with large private or public national or multinational companies operating on the same market.

Finally, the Committee urged the Commission to pay special attention to finding ways of enforcing competition rules on State aid more strictly and welcomed the fact that the Commission had already shown its willingness to take action on this issue, as testified by the considerable increase in the number of proceedings and decisions of rejection taken in 1981 compared with previous years.

Information technology

In late 1982 (November) the Committee issued an opinion on a preparatory phase for an extensive Community strategic programme for research and development in the field of information technologies (Esprit). It welcomed the Commission's plan to press ahead with this programme and pointed to its consistent support for such activities, from the Community science and technology projects of 1974 up to the latest action programmes to build up new communications and information technologies.

While reserving the right to produce a detailed opinion on Esprit when practical information was available on the technical details of the programme, the Committee endorsed the Council Decision under review on the grounds that it was a major step towards the proposed introduction of Esprit and would help ensure that Esprit could be launched by early 1984.

The Committee also unanimously approved a Commission proposal to extend the second part of the *multiannual programme in the field of data processing* for a further three years. In its opinion (drawn up by Mr Nierhaus) it emphasized the cardinal importance of technological developments for the future of the Community's economy both domestically and internationally. As software development was currently something of a bottleneck in EDP technology and would most probably remain so in the immediate future, the Committee stressed the need to step up further development in this sector.

Since the resources allocated (about 5% of the funding for national programmes in Europe) were relatively small, it was absolutely essential that they be concentrated to a large degree on a few key areas if they were to give an effective stimulus to further development.

The Committee also hoped that, before any decision was taken on support for application projects, a careful examination would be made of current requirements so as to avoid misinvestment.

The Committee also stated its views on the amended proposal for a Council regulation on the control of concentration between undertakings.

In February 1974 the ESC backed a proposal for a Council regulation on merger control. Since then no final Council decision was taken because of major differences of opinion on the two following points:

- (i) the scope of the regulation: the Commission originally proposed that the regulation should not apply to mergers involving firms with a total turnover of less than 200 million ECU and a market share in a Member State of less than 25%;
- (ii) the respective powers of decision of the Commission and Council: the proposal gives the Commission investigatory and decision-making powers, subject to review by the Court of Justice.

The present amendment was drafted to break the deadlock. Its main aims are:

- (i) to raise the turnover threshold to 500 million ECU;
- (ii) to set the market share criterion at 20% of the entire common market;
- (iii) to give the Council more influence in decision-making, without jeopardizing the Commission's final say.

The Committee agreed that the future regulation should apply only to mergers with a Community dimension and that the effects of international competition should also be taken into account in deciding whether or not a merger was incompatible with the common market.

The Committee endorsed the Commission proposal that the regulation should apply only to mergers involving a minimum turnover of 500 million ECU. Finally, the Committee insisted that the proposal must not extend the period between the commencement of investigations and the final Commission decision.

Company law

The Committee delivered two major opinions on the:

- (i) proposal for a Council directive on annual accounts of banks and other financial establishments; and the
- (ii) proposal for a Council directive on the supervision of credit institutions on a consolidated basis.

In the first opinion, while agreeing with the purpose of the draft proposal, the Committee was unable to endorse the directive as it stood.

The Committee objected particularly to the fact that the proposal provided for referential legislation. The Committee felt that this was undesirable, because it involved two instruments, and created confusion where the two directives clashed or were unclear.

The Committee felt that the specific features of credit institutions which were recognized by the Commission and which led to their exclusion from the fourth directive, remain valid. It insisted that in the matter of annual accounts banks and other financial institutions should be governed by specific legislation even if this means repeating certain provisions of the fourth directive.

In the second opinion, the Committee acknowledged that the proposal was an important step towards the integration of the European capital markets, but stressed that true integration was contingent on progress in other fields and, in particular, the harmonization of national regulations.

Referring to the institutions involved, i.e. credit institutions and finance houses in which the former have a substantial holding, the Committee commented that finance houses were not defined sufficiently clearly. The term 'competent authorities', which occurs in several places in the proposal and might give rise to confusion, should also be defined.

The Committee also proposed some amendments to the proposed directive and pointed out that:

- (i) it is futile to fix an absolute amount with a view to preventing the consolidation of negligible investments, since inflation would make such a sum meaningless;
- (ii) the rules currently governing institutions specializing in mortgage loans were tighter than those proposed by the directive.

Customs alignment

The Committee delivered opinions on:

- (i) inward processing
- (ii) refund of, or exemption from, import or export taxes.

In a further opinion, dealing with:

- the 1982 programme for the attainment of the customs union,

the Committee expressed regret that the intensive efforts of the ESC, the European Parliament, the Commission, and the Advisory Committee on Customs Matters to harmonize customs legislation have to all intents and purposes, been obstructed by the inaction of the Council. As a result very little progress has been made since 1979. The Committee felt that the main

reasons for this alarming state of affairs was the lack of firm political commitment on the part of decision-takers, especially the Council, and an over-emphasis on technical details.

The Committee therefore urged the Council to rectify the situation and to accord its work in this area the priority it deserves. The Committee felt that the Council should also make greater use of Article 155, and transfer the requisite powers to the Commission.

7. TECHNICAL BARRIERS

Unlike previous years the Committee was consulted on relatively few proposals concerning technical barriers to trade. This was probably due (i) to the completion of work in certain areas (motor vehicles), and (ii) to the fact that the Commission has reviewed its policy on alignment. This shift is undoubtedly connected with the Court of Justice judgment of 20 February 1979, in the *Cassis de Dijon* case (Case No 120/78). The Court ruled that any product lawfully produced and marketed in one Member State should as a rule have free access to the market of any other Member State, subject to Article 36 of the Treaty of Rome.

The Committee delivered opinions on:

- (i) wheeled agricultural and forestry tractors (maximum speed);
- (ii) the fourth amendment to the parent directive on cosmetic products;
- (iii) the fifth amendment to the above directive.

When examining the two amendments to Directive 76/768/EEC on cosmetics, the Committee largely steered clear of theoretical considerations. The fourth amendment proposed the authorization of two new substances, and the Committee stressed that it would be a good idea, when new products were added to a list of approved substances, to reconsider authorization of other products used for the same purpose. This would allow products to be replaced by safer and more effective substitutes.

Similarly, the Committee's opinion on the fifth amendment (colouring materials for hair dyes) to the parent directive made it clear that more effective protection of human health required the establishment of an exhaustive list of materials approved for use in hair dyes. Such a list would deter Member States from invoking the safeguard clause giving them temporary powers to ban or impose special conditions on the marketing of products suspected of being harmful. This clause had been invoked for the 10 hair dyes which are currently authorized by Annex III to the framework directive.

On 7 October 1982, the Commission withdrew the two proposals, in the light of Council Directive 82/368/EEC of 17 May 1982, amending the directive for the second time. This directive empowers the Commission to make technical adjustments to the annexes after ascertaining the views of a committee of experts. Such proposals will therefore no longer be referred to the ESC or the European Parliament.

8. EXTERNAL RELATIONS

In January 1982, the Committee discussed a study compiled by its Section for External Relations, entitled 'The EEC's external relations — Stocktaking and consistency of action'. The study was then forwarded to the Council and the Commission.

The study was the result of over two years' work and had the twofold aim of (i) appraising the development of the Community's relations with non-member countries over the past 20 years, and (ii) determining the extent to which this development had been consistent, both within itself and in relation to the development of the EEC's internal policies. The study did not propose any course of action but emphasized the need to secure greater consistency by establishing some order of priority in the Community's objectives.

The twofold analysis undertaken by the External Relations Section yielded the following conclusions:

More than 20 years after the entry into force of the Treaty of Rome, the Community has become an acknowledged world leader. It is the major international trading bloc and it enjoys growing prestige in the eyes of third countries, particularly the developing nations.

The Community has not, however, always been perfectly consistent in its aims in the field of external relations, and it has not been uniformly wholehearted in its efforts.

The chronic recession and the Member States' failure to coordinate their sometimes conflicting national economic policies have effectively undermined the cohesiveness of the external action taken by the Community.

The contradictions and inconsistencies of Community policies and actions also stem from the lack of a general, broad framework for Community action on different fronts over the last decades.

For all these reasons, an exhaustive, realistic political debate on the Community's fundamental long-term objectives is urgently needed.

This year, for the first time, the ESC issued an opinion on the Commission report to the ACP-EEC Council of Ministers on the administration of financial and technical cooperation under the Lomé Convention.

This annual report comprises a financial review of the administration of the European Development Fund and the contribution of the European Investment Bank. It provides a detailed breakdown, by sector and purpose, of Community aid distributed under the financial and technical cooperation programme.

It also attempts to assess the extent to which the projects financed have contributed to development in the recipient countries.

In its opinion, the Committee noted that in 1980 commitments and especially disbursements in connection with financial and technical cooperation were speeded up. The fact that the longest delays occur in the administrative machinery of the least developed countries made this speeding up particularly welcome.

Referring to the selection of projects and the cost of financing them, the Committee expressed the hope that the Community would give maximum support to small-scale projects, where the initiative was taken by the local population rather than the State. However, certain large-scale projects should not be overlooked, and should be considered mainly in terms of their regional implications (impact on more than one country).

The Committee emphasized two aspects of financial and technical cooperation which deserved increasing attention, by virtue of their long-term effect on real ACP development: 'follow-up' to investment, and vocational training.

In response to the Council's request the Committee has given its views, as it does every year, on the Scheme of Generalized Tariff Preferences granted by the Community to imports from the developing countries.

The Committee feels that the GSP is an important economic instrument for the beneficiary countries and a vital tool of cooperation policy for the Community. The Committee wonders, however, whether the Commission has taken sufficient account of the present economic and social situation in proposing that the GSP be extended. There is a particular need to establish a balance between the problems of the different economic sectors, agriculture in particular, in Europe and the fact that the problems of the different countries with important agricultural interests, development can only be achieved via the agricultural sector.

The Committee would stress once again that the GSP should be prepared in the light of comparable systems operated by other industrialized countries. Special account must be taken of the possible repercussions on the Community of the United States implementing its new ideas on reciprocity in trading relations with third countries, particularly the developing countries.

Reiterating the need for a selective application of the GSP, the Committee wishes to see it reserved above all for those countries which have most need of it. Consequently, the Committee has reservations about the Commission's proposals to grant certain State-trading countries preferential access to the Community market for an increased number of products.

Finally, the Committee would repeat its recommendation that the regulation should contain a clause about the application of minimum labour standards. It reiterates its hope that costs involved in opening the GSP to developing countries will be shared out fairly between all economic and social sectors within the Community.

The ESC's Section for External Relations also continued the regular meetings which it has held with representatives of EFTA's Consultative Committee since 1975.

The two delegations considered the employment situation in Europe and measures to combat unemployment, particular attention being paid to:

- (i) the various measures taken or envisaged by both parties with a view to boosting employment (industrial policy, social policy, measures to help young people, anti-inflation measures, etc.);
- (ii) the effects of industrial restructuring in the countries of Europe;
- (iii) the repercussions on employment of developments in economic relations between the main trading blocs (EFTA, European Community, United States, Japan, newly industrializing countries, developing nations).

The following measures to combat unemployment were highlighted: revival of investment, curbing of costs, higher productivity, and special emphasis on training for young people tailored to the opportunities offered by the economy, bearing in mind probable demographic and technological trends.

The two delegations also recognized the importance of the forthcoming GATT trade negotiations and referred to international monetary problems (exchange rate fluctuations, high interest rates).

A Committee delegation also attended the annual meeting between representatives of the economic and social interest groups in the ACP and EEC countries, which was held in Geneva on 5 June 1982, in the presence of European and ACP members of the Joint Committee of the Consultative Assembly.

Discussions focused on the role of rural development in the economic progress of ACP countries and the problems of ACP migrant workers and their families in the EEC.

Joint texts were drafted for submission to the forthcoming meeting of the Joint Committee of the Consultative Assembly.

The Committee has examined an information report drawn up by the Section for External Relations on relations between the European Community and the United States. In this report, which sets out to give a detailed evaluation of the various issues which are causing conflict between the European Community and the United States, the Section not only discusses trade questions but also deals with economic and monetary matters and their possible effects on EEC-USA relations.

The Committee will issue an own-initiative opinion on the matter.

9. ENERGY POLICY

Energy

Hard on the heels of the Commission's formal report on the mandate of 30 May 1980, there emerged from the Commission a veritable barrage of special sectoral position papers — including ones on energy (The development of an energy strategy for the Community) and research (Scientific and technical research and the European Community proposals for the 1980s). To the research document the Economic and Social Committee did not react. However, the Committee did adopt opinions on the energy strategy document, on Energy pricing: policy and transparency, on The role for coal in Community energy strategy, on An energy strategy for the Community: the nuclear aspects, and on Investment in the rational use of energy.

In addition to, but quite apart from these position papers, on which the Committee delivered opinions, the Council also consulted the Committee on the granting of financial aid for pilot and industrial projects and demonstration projects connected on the one hand with the liquefaction and gasification of solid fuels, and, on the other, with the exploitation of alternative energy sources and energy-saving. Further consultations in the energy field concerned a series of specific financial incentives in support of certain investments in the rational use of energy, and the saving of crude oil through the use of substitute fuel components in petrol.

The Committee felt the energy strategy put forward by the Commission in the aftermath of its report on the mandate of 30 May to be a logical continuation of the strategy pursued by the Community after the first energy crisis. The Council, even as far back as September 1974, had sought to reduce dependence on oil in particular by a more rational use of energy, energy-savings and greater diversification of supplies — without, however, thereby jeopardizing economic growth and social progress in the Community.

The Committee in common with other bodies that have considered the Commission's proposals, believed that the following priorities satisfied most criteria by which Community policy can be judged:

- (i) adequate level of investment;
- (ii) common approach to pricing and taxation;
- (iii) measures of solidarity to avoid market instability;
- (iv) common R & D policies;
- (v) common external relations policies.

Over and above these specific priorities, however, the Committee feels there is an urgent need to coordinate energy policy and medium and long-term economic and social policy.

Because it feels that in many cases, and in the majority of Member States investment in energy projects is impeded by misgivings among the public, the Committee proposes that the Commission should, despite all the difficulties standing in its way, take the initiative in drawing up, in conjunction with the Member States, as uniform as possible outline conditions for authorization procedures in the field of energy supplies.

On the subject of energy pricing, the Committee reiterated its misgivings about the use of fiscal measures to influence energy decisions. Such measures can easily lead to distortions of competition, increased inflation and serious disadvantages for particular groups of consumers — both private and industrial. This must be avoided at all events.

Also the Committee has fundamental objections to the introduction of a set of interventionist instruments to deal with even limited supply shortfalls. For serious supply difficulties there is already intervention machinery (IEA, Article 59 of the ECSC Treaty), as the Commission has recognized.

In its opinion on the Commission's communication to the Council concerning the role for coal in Community energy strategy, the Committee came out strongly in support of the Commission for putting forward concrete proposals to strengthen, even against the present background of falling oil prices, the position of our home-produced primary energy source, coal. It went along with the Commission, too, as to the desirability of fundamentally improving price transparency. This is necessary if complex decisions on future coal policy are to be taken.

However whilst, again, agreeing with the Commission on the need to promote investment in the conversion of oil-fired equipment to coal, the Committee warns strongly of the dangers of overlapping production subsidies and subsidies on consumption. The coexistence of subsidies in both fields lead to undesirable distortions and falsifications of competition within the Community; aids should be confined to the production sector.

The Committee felt that an appropriate source of imports is to be found in some of the ACP countries. Community resources should be concentrated in those countries. The promotion of primary energy production in the ACP countries would appear to be one of the most sensible forms of development aid, since it would provide these countries with the energy base required for both industrial development and long-term economic relations with the industrialized countries.

It expresses a critical note, however, by saying that the Commission in its communication gives no idea of the potential impact on employment. Yet this consideration could influence policies regarding the breakdown between aid to (i) coal production, and (ii) the structural and industrial conversion necessary for the use of coal.

On the Commission's communication concerning investment in the rational use of energy, the Committee was anxious to encourage the Community's

endeavours with respect to this type of investment but was a little critical of the half-measures put forward by the Commission. It welcomes the communication, then, but is rather scathing about the fact that nine years have already gone by since the onset of the energy crisis, whereas only now is the Commission able to come out with an analysis of the problems encountered in fostering investment in the rational use of energy. It considers it essential to expand projects and programmes aimed at promoting the rational use of energy. It sees RUE policy as having the potential for providing the much needed positive impact on the economy as a whole, especially as regards employment. It looks at Member States' RUE policies and suggests where these could be improved. Finally, the Committee hopes that the communication will quickly lead to directives laying down a comprehensive set of measures.

In its opinion on the nuclear aspects of Community energy strategy, the Committee carefully examines and generally supports the Commission's proposals regarding the action to be taken. It calls for reliable data on which to make a valid judgment on the economic aspects of nuclear energy, and deals, in the same opinion, with the problem of spent nuclear fuel in particular, and the question of the acceptability of nuclear energy in general, by the public at large.

When the Commission followed-up its mid-year communication on the rational use of energy, with a proposal for a Council regulation (EEC) on the payment of financial incentives in support of certain categories of investment in the rational use of energy, the Committee welcomed it for what it was: a proposal to give financial incentives to support certain categories of investment in the rational use of energy. It hoped that the four categories of investment included in this proposal for a regulation were only the start in the Community's campaign to promote the rational use of energy. The Committee went on to recommend that a further (fifth) category of investment be included in the regulation as eligible for financial incentives: plants for the gasification of coal. Investment in such plants — both at the level of large-scale users as well as the major ports handling imported coal — should be encouraged, since the benefits of gasification are many, including higher thermal efficiency and the fact that existing distribution networks can be utilized.

The Committee was particularly enthusiastic about the potential contained in the draft regulation for increasing the use of urban, industrial and agricultural waste.

In its opinion on the proposal for a Council directive on crude oil saving through the use of substitute fuel components in petrol the Committee hoped that it would serve to prevent national legislation or national administrative procedures within the Member States from hindering the development of a Community market for substitute fuels, the decision whether or not to handle substitute fuels being left to the judgement of commercial organizations. In brief, the Committee saw the proposal as being entirely in line with Community energy objectives, in particular the reduction of dependence on oil, and the promotion of new energy sources.

Research and development

The Committee did not give an opinion on the Commission's communication entitled Scientific and technical research and the European Community: proposals for the 1980s, which like so many of the position papers referred to above, stemmed from the mandate of 30 May. The Committee did, however, prepare a study on the aims and priorities of a common R & D policy.

In this study, the Committee recalled that since the 1976 Committee's study on Objectives and priorities for a common research and development policy there have been many developments in the role of the Community in European science and technology policy. The new study therefore commences by a review of policies over recent years, and then goes on to examine the kind of objectives that could be set for Community R & D, as well as the constraints to which they are subjected. The study continues with a review of different levels of research and the way in which Community research can be linked with that in the Member States. The role of the Joint Research Centre is also considered. After an examination of the way in which R & D can be combined with other Community policies, the study concludes with a number of recommendations and general conclusions. The annexes to the study contain supplementary information regarding R & D expenditure at Community and Member State level and similar expenditure in the US and Japan. The annexes also include a review of progress towards achieving the objectives outlined in the 1976 study.

In a mid-year opinion, the Committee supported the Commission's proposal for modifying for the year 1983 the 1980—83 programme to be implemented by the Joint Research Centre — in the main for the Super-Sara project. The Committee indeed expressly recommended that the funds requested be approved as soon as possible so that, above all, the contracts for the Super-Sara loop and the renewal of the infrastructure could be awarded without delay. It also supported a proposal for a five-year research and development programme in the field of applied metrology and reference materials.

10. PROTECTION OF THE ENVIRONMENT - PUBLIC HEALTH - CONSUMPTION

Environment policy

Primarily concerned at the outset with the control of pollution and nuisance, the Community's action on the environment has gradually evolved into an overall, preventive policy designed to incorporate the environmental dimension in both general and sectoral policy.

This thinking was reflected in the Community's third environmental action programme 1982—86, and in the ESC's opinion thereon.

After reviewing the Community's work in the environment sphere during the first two action programmes (1973—81), the ESC came to the conclusion

that, though the Community had adopted a number of legislative texts over this period, further progress could have been achieved, had the Council been more prompt in approving some of the proposals submitted by the Commission.

In its opinion the ESC criticized the attitude of those Member States which have failed to incorporate Community decisions into their legislation and said that the Commission should see that such legislation is implemented at national level with uniform penalties for infringement. The Committee also took the view that the present economic and employment situation should not be used as a justification for not pursuing environmental policy. However, measures should be avoided which could encourage firms to move to other countries which apply less stringent environment protection standards.

In the field of positive action the ESC recommended that the Commission should continue to inform the general public and various local authorities, social groups and other interested parties (schools, mass media, etc.) on environmental policies in order to encourage awareness and support for them.

Environmental policy should also be more fully coordinated with other Community policies (such as agriculture, industry and budgets) with a view to developing an overall strategy, and the Commission should produce a report on this matter to determine priorities for action.

Environmental protection measures cannot be considered only within a narrow national framework, and the ESC accordingly is strongly in favour of giving the Community's policy an international dimension.

On the financial side, the ESC said that new sources of finance must be found for the proposed Environment Fund, and that industry should be offered financial incentives to introduce anti-pollution equipment.

Finally, the Committee mentioned a number of specific matters which should be given particular attention — for example the development of clean technologies, the problem of land deterioration and not least of all, motor vehicle pollution.

The Community's environment policy generally is concerned with noise abatement, and in this connection the ESC issued two opinions, one on noise emitted by domestic electrical appliances and the other on helicopter noise.

The Commission in its proposals for noise control on household appliances had considered that the best solution would be to urge manufacturers to voluntarily inform consumers of noise levels rather than impose noise limits.

The ESC however was of the opinion that the initial voluntary labelling phase would have to be followed by a second mandatory phase, leading finally to a third phase in which noise limits were laid down and then gradually lowered.

While noting that implementing directives would be drawn up for each family of appliances beginning with vacuum cleaners, dishwashers and washing machines, the Committee asked the Commission to draw up a priority list for other appliances.

The Committee considered that the relevant information on noise levels must be affixed to each appliance in a clearly visible position and that all parties concerned — governments, manufacturers and consumers — must be consulted and involved in the preparation of standards and the drawing up of implementing directives.

The Commission's proposal on the control of helicopter noise is a follow-up to the directive on the limitation of noise emissions from subsonic jet aircraft, and aims to establish a uniform system of Community rules to limit noise emissions from helicopters.

While noting the Commission's proposal to apply ICAO noise emission standards, the Committee warned that it would be unacceptable to apply severe and costly standards within the Community, unless non-member States were subject to equally strict rules, and the Commission should take account of this in international negotiations, in order to avoid serious risks of distortion in international competition.

As there is not yet enough information available for a full assessment of the economic consequences of adopting the ICAO standards, the Committee considered that the proposed deadlines for their application should be put back sufficiently far to ensure that the directive is compatible with the technological knowhow and the economic possibilities of the Community helicopter industry.

Community policy is also concerned with atmospheric pollution, which covers a subject of considerable topical interest: the control of pollution by motor vehicles, which not only affects the environment but also public health.

The first Community directive establishing limit values applicable to pollutant gas emissions from petrol engined motor vehicles was issued in 1970, and these limit values have been progressively reduced since by several subsequent directives.

The Commission has now proposed a further reduction in limit values, and an extension of the directive to cover light diesel-engined vehicles. The Committee has issued an opinion not only endorsing the new proposal, but proposing that a further directive be prepared for gas emissions from diesel powered heavy-duty vehicles and construction equipment. The ESC's opinion also drew specific attention to the necessity for further action on gas emissions on a global basis, with particular reference to the question of unleaded petrol.

The Community's environmental policy also provides for the conservation of fauna and flora, and in an opinion on the Commission's proposal on the

protection of baby seals, the killing of which has caused public outcry, the Committee agreed that the ban on imports of seal-pup skins was necessary.

However, the Committee urged the Commission to press on with its negotiations with the countries concerned (Canada and Norway) with a view to finding a satisfactory solution to this problem. A moratorium on killing or a international ban was called for.

The protection of the environment is not of course incompatible with an improvement in the employment situation, and it might be a worthwhile exercise if these two actions could be combined.

In this context the Committee charged the environment section with drawing up a report on the implementation of job-creating environmental measures in order to identify ideas for action in this field for discussion with interested parties.

The report made a general examination of the impact of environment policies to date, dealt with new prospects in the light of structural changes in the Community, and reviewed sources of finance which might be tapped.

In its conclusion, the report mentioned several fields in which action could possibly be taken. These included support for pilot development projects connected with rural and urban renewal; mounting an information campaign to overcome reticence in implementing appropriate proposals; facilitation of structural changes such as an increase in product durability and in waste recycling, and the inclusion in the different Community policies — agriculture, research, transport, energy, etc. — of environment/employment criteria.

The Environment Section will continue to examine the concept in more depth and will draw up an opinion thereon early in the coming year.

Health protection and consumer affairs

In the field of public health and consumer interests the ESC issued opinions on dangerous substances in toys and textiles, the use of certain food preservatives and microbiological criteria in foodstuffs and feedingstuffs.

In the case of toys and textiles the Committee approved the attempt to limit the use of dangerous substances in toys and objects designed for children, and drew attention to the need to continue the scrutiny of other substances which, while not covered by the present proposal, have caused serious problems in some Member States.

The Committee also recommended that the Commission consider strengthening Community legislation to protect public health by preventing industry from selling products containing dangerous substances on other markets.

The ESC approved the Commission's proposals concerning the use of certain food preservatives but only approved the renewal of the deadline for the use of thiabendazole, provided rules for the surface treatment of fruit were introduced by the Commission by 1 July 1983.

In the field of microbiological criteria for food products and animal feeding-stuffs, the Commission made a proposal for a Decision establishing (i) a framework of general principles to be followed in establishing Community microbiological criteria, and (ii) an initial list of foods and feedingstuffs to which Community ground rules would apply when microbiological criteria are being drawn up.

The ESC approved the basic principles of the decision but recommended that the list of products should follow the international Codex Alimentarius as far as possible, and that the microbiological criteria should be reviewed every three years.

As far as the consumer programmes in general are concerned, the ESC continues to keep a watching brief on their implementation and regrets that action is still awaited on a number of proposals submitted to the Council on which the ESC has issued an opinion.

Account taken of opinions

Because of the time-lag between the issue of an ESC opinion on a proposal and the preparation of any legislative amendments which such opinion may give rise to, progress in recording follow-up is always some time in arrears.

During 1982, the most significant development took place in respect of the third environmental programme, which has already been covered earlier in this report.

An amended version of this programme has been submitted by the Commission to the Council with the inclusion of a number of changes which had been suggested by the Committee.

Thus the revised text incorporates the views expressed by the ESC that the present economic crisis must not be used as an excuse for weakening environmental policy, that the Commission should examine the implementation at national level of Community legislation and study penalties in case of violation, and that it should also continue its action to spread information at appropriate non-governmental levels. In addition the Commission agreed with the Committee that more attention should be paid to motor vehicle pollution, and that the international dimension of the Community's environmental policy should be intensified.

Still in the general field of environment, the ESC had issued an opinion in 1981 on a Commission proposal on the environmental impact assessment of

certain public and private projects, and in a revised text the Commission took account notably of the Committee's observations on the procedure for consultations and appeals and on precautions against the publication of confidential information.

In the case of a proposal on the disposal of the waste of titanium dioxide (a pigmentation element used for industrial purposes, particularly in the paint industry), the Committee's observations on surveillance and monitoring methods of this pollutant were taken into account in the revised text proposed by the Commission.

Likewise, in a proposal on the use of asbestos, classified as a dangerous substance, several of the Committee's observations were incorporated in the revised text: the setting of a deadline after which crocidolite, the most dangerous type of asbestos, would not be used; the definition of methods of measurement of asbestos content, the banning of asbestos fibres for use in spraying (flocking and painting) and the introduction of adequate labelling regulations.

During 1980/81 the Committee did considerable work on genetic engineering and more specifically on the safety aspects of recombinant DNA, highlighted by the publication of a study on the subject.¹

In December 1981 the Committee issued an opinion on a proposed Council recommendation on the registration of recombinant DNA work, which proposed that a directive be issued on a number of relevant points. In mid-1982, the Council recommendation was adopted but the ESC's proposal that a directive be issued has not yet been realized.

In addition, the ESC's work has received recognition elsewhere as the OECD used it as source material for its own study on *biotechnology* published during the year.² It is worth noting in particular that the ESC had expressed concern that guidelines should be laid down for work with pathogens (micro-organisms which cause disease), and that the OECD has likewise recognized that pathogens do present real risks and that many countries still have no regulations for handling them.

¹ 'Genetic Engineering Aspects of Recombinant DNA Work' — ESC 81-014 (1981).

² Bull, Holt & Lilly. *Biotechnology — International Trends and Perspectives*. OECD (1982), (93 82 01 1); ISBN 92-64-12362-8.

Press relations and outside echo

In the year under review, the European Community has had to face increasing difficulties and, as the recession deepened, it has lost more points in the popularity ratings as shown by opinion polls. This attitude has been reflected in the newspapers and electronic media throughout the Member States. Nor has the Economic and Social Committee escaped its share of criticism in the press.

Nonetheless, despite the relatively small amount of space devoted to reporting on Community matters in national and provincial newspapers, the Community's weight and power in world affairs is gaining in recognition. To a large extent, it can be ascribed to the attention given by editorial writers to the Member States' political cooperation in external affairs and in trade policy as *competition between the large trade blocs is getting more severe.*

The press echo obtained by the Committee must be related to this background. In view of the fact that the number of clippings mentioning the Committee, which were received in the Secretariat and which are used as indicative figures only, shows an increase of 30% over the last year, it can be considered as reasonable. Television and radio coverage, though still meagre, has also improved.

Looked at countrywise, the best coverage was obtained in Belgium, then Italy (because of the three section meetings held there), followed by Ireland (thanks to the Committee's Irish presidency), then the federal Republic of Germany, the United Kingdom and France. The number of clippings received from the other Member States was relatively low.

One of the main events among the Committee's activities, as far as the press was concerned, was its new four-year mandate. As it included the appointment of 58 new members, a number of regional newspapers took advantage of the fact to announce the honour bestowed on a locally-known personality. The election of a new president and two vice-presidents and their first interviews, provided excellent press coverage.

So did the activities of the outgoing president as well as his speeches and interviews, and, in particular, his visits to Germany, France, Denmark and Portugal. The meeting of the Bureau in Dublin and the awards of the Medal of European Merit there had a widespread echo and not only in the Irish press.

There is little doubt that the Committee often obtains a stronger impact on the press when its activities take place outside Brussels than at its headquarters. Thus the visits and meetings of sections or study groups to Bari, La Rochelle, Jülich, Trieste, Palermo and Copenhagen, each time supplemented by a press conference, brought good results.

Another method, which has proved most successful in the past, is the organizing of press conferences in Member States with the rapporteurs of opinions as spokesmen. In the year under review, this task was undertaken by the following members: Mr Bornard in Paris, on integrated operations; Mr Locuffier in Brussels, on the economic situation of Belgium; Mr Hall in London, on the revised rules of the ERD and, in Belfast, on the housing problem in that city; Mr Marvier in Paris, on the small and medium-sized enterprises; and Mr Évain in Brussels, on the relations between the EC and the USA.

Press clipping continued to come in on opinions delivered in the previous year, notably on the aspects of agriculture related to Spain's entry, on the construction industry, and on the EEC's external relations.

As the debate on the so-called 'Vredeling proposal' on the information and consultation of employees in transnational companies evoked great interest in the press, the Committee's opinion on the subject also found wide dissemination. So did its various opinions dealing with the problem of unemployment in general. Other opinions which were well used were those on farm prices and agricultural products. The Committee's statement on the situation in Poland received good coverage. Throughout the period under review, the Press Division maintained its contacts with the press corps stationed in Brussels.

Another aspect of information work, to reach the public by means of lecturing, audio-visual displays and by receiving visitors' groups — a task in which Committee members often share — brought good results. The number of groups received at the Committee and reached by Committee lecturers doubled, compared to 1981, and the number of visitors came to 5 355, that is 17% more than last year. Viewed by nationality, most of the visitors came from Germany, followed by those from the UK, France, Spain, Portugal, Ireland, Denmark and Greece. In addition to visitors from Member States and candidate countries, many came also from as far afield as the US, Malaysia, Singapore, Israel and the West Indies.

Many of the people concerned are opinion-formers, such as politicians, journalists, managers, party and trade union officials, educationalists, students and representatives of farming organizations, whose understanding of the Committee's role and functions will in the long term prove extremely valuable.

The Committee's publications remain a useful means of drawing the attention not only of the other Community institutions but also of the general public to the Committee's activities. The Bulletin, whose presentation has been improved, now provides regular information to interested parties. In addition to its 10 issues, the Committee brought out the following publications, generally in seven languages, in the course of the year:

- (i) Annual Report 1981
- (ii) The EEC's external relations — Stocktaking and consistency of action (Study)
- (iii) Agricultural aspects of Spain's entry into the EC (Opinion) (also in Spanish)
- (iv) Aims and priorities of a common research and development policy (Study)
- (v) The promotion of small and medium-sized enterprises (Opinion)
- (vi) The economic and social situation of the Community (two Opinions)
- (vii) Guidelines for Mediterranean agriculture (four Opinions)
- (viii) New edition of the general brochure on the ESC (also in Spanish)
- (ix) Symposium on construction and growth (in French, English and German).

On the whole, as there is growing interest and support of the members for obtaining press, radio and television coverage for the Committee's activities, an attitude which received considerable impetus from Mr Roseingrave as President, the prospects for the future are more hopeful.

Chapter IV

The Groups

GROUP I — EMPLOYERS

The Employers Group, reconstituted for the term-of-office 1982–86, has now 42 members representative of private and public enterprise, commerce, transport, banking and insurance, wholesale and retail trade, and agriculture. Of these 42, 15 are new members.

At the inaugural session in October 1982 the employer candidate, Mr François Ceyrac, was elected by a very large majority to the Chairmanship of the Committee for the period 1982–84. His employer colleagues on the Committee Bureau are Mr Broicher (Germany), Mr Breitenstein (Denmark), Mr Dracos (Greece), Mr Loughrey (Ireland), Mr Masprone (Italy), Mr Noordwal (Netherlands), and Mr Zinkin (United Kingdom).

The three Section chairmen proposed by the Employers Group and elected by their respective Sections are Mr Romoli, (Energy and Nuclear Questions), Mr de Wit, (Industry, Commerce, Crafts and Services), and Mr Miller, (External Relations).

Mr Staratzke was unanimously re-elected as Chairman of the Group, assisted by two Vice-Chairmen, Mr Masprone and Mr Zinkin.

In the past year employer members have been rapporteurs for more than half the number of opinions adopted by the Committee, despite being by far the smallest of the three Groups. Among these papers drafted by employer rapporteurs were those on 'The external relations of the EEC: Stocktaking and consistency of action'; 'Objectives and priorities for a common R & D policy'; 'Annual accounts of banks and other financial establishments'; 'Admission of securities to official stock exchange listing'; 'Price-fixing for certain agricultural products'; 'Development of the European Monetary System'; 'Action programme for the environment 1982–86'; 'Development of a Community energy strategy and energy pricing'; 'The role for coal in Community energy

strategy'; 'Organization of the market in oils and fats'; 'First periodic report on the economic and social situation of the regions'; 'Eleventh Report on Competition Policy'; 'Relations between the European Community and United States'.

The Employers Group has consistently sought to tackle the growing problem of unemployment by long-term measures to achieve reasonable economic growth and to create permanent jobs. The Community must agree on broad policies which would encourage investment, promote the development of new technology, and, above all, outlaw protectionist tendencies. Proposals by the Commission to strengthen and develop the free internal market for goods and services by the further rapid removal of technical barriers and the simplification of frontier formalities have been receiving their sustained support.

At this time of economic crisis and popular disenchantment with the Community, employers have called for a fresh political impulse to unify Europe. The Community decision-making processes must be made more democratic which will require a strengthening of the role of the European Parliament and of the Economic and Social Committee so that the citizens of the Community may recognize and experience the advantages of European unity. With this in mind the Group has given its full support to the improvement of working relations with the European Parliament.

The well-established procedures for cooperation between the Group and the European professional and sectoral organizations have been fully maintained; a large number of meetings of UNICE (Union des Industries de la Communauté Européenne), the CEEP (Centre Européen de l'Entreprise Publique), the Permanent Conference of Chambers of Commerce, and of the four wholesale and retail trade organizations, have been held under Group I auspices during the year.

Within the Committee itself the Group has welcomed an initiative to improve the brevity and pertinence of Committee opinions and is insisting that this initiative be respected.

The Group also warmly welcomes the close and regular collaboration which is developing between the Chairmen of the three Groups and the Committee Chairman and Bureau and which is an invaluable aid to achieving a consensus on matters of political importance.

GROUP II — WORKERS

The European trade unions are represented on Group II, the workers' group.

When the new Committee took office in October 1982, Group II membership rose from 54 to 57. Mr van Greunsven (FNV, Netherlands) was elected Chairman and Mr Bonety (CFDT, France) Vice-Chairman.

The following members were appointed to the Committee Bureau for the 1982–1984 term:

Mr Pfeiffer, Committee Vice-Chairman (DGB, FR of Germany)
Mr Cavazzuti (CISL, Italy)
Mr Delourme (FGTB, Belgium)
Mr Hadjivassiliou (CGT, Greece)
Mr Jenkins (TUC, United Kingdom)
Mr Murphy (ICTU, Ireland)
Mr Schneider (CGT, Luxembourg)
Mr Soulat (CFDT, France)

The following Section Chairmen are also drawn from Group II:

- Social Questions – Mr Houthuys (CSC, Belgium)
- Transport – Mrs Weber (DGB, FR of Germany)
- Regional Development – Mr Milne (TUC, United Kingdom)

In line with the importance which the national trade unions attach to certain topical subjects, members of Group II have acted as rapporteurs for the following opinions:

- (i) Information and consultation of workers in multinationals;
- (ii) Social situation;
- (iii) Merger control;
- (iv) Part-time work;
- (v) Equal opportunities for women;
- (vi) Rational use of energy;
- (vii) Situation and prospects for the textile and clothing industry;
- (viii) Common transport policy;
- (ix) Regional policy – integrated operations.

The rapporteurs for the following subjects – which are still under discussion – also belong to Group II:

- (i) Technological and industrial innovation;
- (ii) Reform of the Social Fund;
- (iii) Temporary work;

- (iv) Vocational training;
- (v) Protection of workers against noise;
- (vi) ACP-EEC cooperation;
- (vii) Health and safety at work.

In spite of the opinions which the Committee has issued in recent months, Group II would point out that measures designed to increase industrial democracy and monitor companies' activities (such as the Vredeling directive, which sought to ensure that workers were consulted on the introduction of new technologies and proposed mergers), have been shelved, by the Council, sometimes for years.

The trade-union movement's prime concern in the face of the deepening recession has been to combat unemployment, Group II has therefore advocated a comprehensive strategy, comprising measures in the sphere of investment, industrial policy, regional policy, etc. It has also called for a coordinated Community-level campaign to reduce working hours, without however undermining the autonomy of the parties concerned.

GROUP III — VARIOUS INTERESTS

To the outside observer it may seem a risky undertaking to lump together representatives of farmers, small firms, the skilled crafts, the professions, consumers, families and various other personalities in the same group, and indeed other groupings or subdivisions into further units would be possible. But the members of Group III all have one thing in common: they represent the ancient and unchanging elements of society, even if some, like the consumers, have only recently become aware of their collective identity.

The economic crisis has given new relevance to Group III, whose vitality and spirit of initiative give cause for many hopes, and whose needs and demands receive much attention.

Everything has happened as if the technological era of the infinitely small, which needs the scale of the gigantic to develop, has once again given a new chance to the individual in his dual capacity of producer and consumer.

The role of Group III within the Economic and Social Committee is clearly that of a balance to counteract any tendency towards polarization. Its very make-up leads it towards a dialogue backed up by the solid humanistic traditions of the categories it represents.

It is not, therefore, unusual to find that many of the rapporteurs for controversial subjects such as competition, the economic situation, pollution or transport come from Group III.

When the Committee was reappointed in October 1982, Group III too re-elected its officers. The Group Chairman is Mrs Strobel and the Vice-Chairmen Mr De Bruyn and Mr Morselli.

Attendance at conferences

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

- Conference organized by the European Unification Research Committee on 'The Community's social policy' 15 January in Brussels
- Session on the future of the CAP organized by the National Young Farmers' Centre 17 to 22 January in Brussels
- East-West seminar organized by the Deutsche Bank office in Moscow 21 to 23 January in Moscow
- International conference organized by the Toulouse branch of the European Movement on 'The Mediterranean South and the common market' 29 January in Toulouse
- Meeting of the Steering Group of the European Centre for the Development of Vocational Training (Cedefop) on 'The problems of vocational training in small and medium-sized enterprises' 1 February in Berlin
- Seminar organized by the European Environment Office on 'Acid rain in Scandinavia' 2 and 3 February in Brussels
- Conference organized by the Mondoperaio Cultural Centre on 'Cooperation, social economics and socialism in Europe' 5 March in Rome

- Course organized by the Paris Vocational Training Study Centre for Agricultural and Agro-Food Information on 'Agriculture in the building of Europe' 11 and 12 March in Brussels
- Monthly luncheon debate organized by the European Circle of the Catholic University of Louvain on 'The Economic and Social Committee and its importance for the European Communities' social policy' 16 March in Louvain
- Colloquium organized by the European Movement, Brussels (in conjunction with the Trans-European Policy Studies Association (TETSA) and the International European Training Centre (CIFE) on 'Twenty-five years of the European Communities – what now?' 18 and 19 March in Brussels
- Colloquium/annual conference organized by the National Institute for Physical Planning and Construction Research, Dublin on 'Ireland in the year 2000' 24 and 25 March in Dublin
- Economy and environment seminar organized by the Politischer Club, Berlin 27 to 30 March in Florence
- ESC Chairman guest speaker at lunch organized by the Irish branch of the European Centre of Public Enterprises (CEEP) 30 March in Dublin
- Press conference and seminar organized by the European Centre for the Development of Vocational Training (Cedefop), Berlin 31 March in Berlin
- Seminar organized by the European Retail Trade Confederation 16 April in Brussels
- 4th Statutory Congress of the European Trade Union Confederation, Brussels 19 to 23 April in The Hague
- Seminar organized by the European Training and Action Group, Bonn on 'European policy on the curriculum – The European Community's economic and social policy, including the terms of its external economic relations' 21 to 28 April in Walberberg (FR of Germany) and Brussels
- Colloquium organized by the Group of French People's Banks (affiliated to the International Confederation of People's Credit), Paris on 'Creation through innovation' 26 April in St-Etienne (France)

- General Assembly of the Confederation of Family Organizations in the European Community on 'Family policy' 26 and 27 April in Brussels
- National Congress of the National Confederation for Farmers' Mutual Insurance, Cooperation and Credit, Paris on 'The mutual insurance and co-operative movement in agriculture and the new economic and social guidelines' 4 to 6 May in Lyon
- Annual General Assembly of the Belgo-Italian Chamber of Commerce on 'Competition in a time of crisis' 10 May in Brussels
- 18th Conference organized by the European Association of Proprietary Medicinal Products, Paris on 'Health for everybody – self-medication' 12 to 14 May in Athens
- Meeting of the International Confederation of People's Credit 14 May in Strasbourg
- 12th Federal Congress of the German Trade Union Confederation, Düsseldorf 16 to 22 May in Berlin
- Colloquium organized by the Law Faculty of Ghent University on 'Consumer access to the law in the European Community' 17 to 19 May in Ghent (Belgium)
- Annual Assembly of the Confederation of German Industry, Cologne 18 May in Bonn
- 1st Trade Congress organized by the Portuguese Confederation of Trade 21 and 22 May in Lisbon
- Colloquium organized by the European Movement on 'How to develop and organize the activities of the European Movement in future' 21 and 22 May in San Remo/ Viareggio (Italy)
- World asbestos symposium 23 to 30 May in Montreal (Canada)
- 14th International Congress on the Public, Social and Cooperative Economy organized by the International Research and Information Centre on the Public, Social and Cooperative Economy, Liège and the Austrian Branch, Vienna on the theme 'Public, social and cooperative economy – a guarantee for social progress' 24 to 26 May in Vienna (Austria)
- 3rd Annual Congress organized by the National Institute for Physical Planning and Construction Research, Dublin on 'Ireland in the year 2000' 25 and 26 May in Kilkenny (Ireland)

- 3rd General Assembly of the European Committee of the International Federation of the Blind, Brussels 25 to 27 May in London
- Reception given by the City of Brussels in honour of Mrs Veil on the occasion of her being made an honorary citizen 26 May in Brussels
- Congress on energy supplies 1 and 2 June in London
- Colloquium organized by the Marseilles Chamber of Commerce and Industry and the Mediterranean Institute for Sea Transport on 'Sea transport in the age of the Community' 1 to 3 June in Marseilles
- Annual Congress organized by the German Raiffeisen Union 2 to 4 June in Kiel (FR of Germany)
- Seminar organized by the European Training and Action Group, Bonn on 'European policy on the curriculum — The European Community's economic and social policy, including the terms of its external economic relations' 2 to 9 June in Walberberg (FR of Germany) and Brussels
- Seminar in preparation for the hearing on 5 June 1982 (ACP—EEC social partners) organized by the Friedrich Ebert Foundation, Brussels 4 and 6 June in Geneva (Switzerland)
- Meeting of the executive committee of the European Training and Development Centre for Farming and Rural Life (CEPFAR) and invitation to its 10th anniversary celebrations 9 and 10 June in Brussels
- Conference of the European Liaison Committee of Common Market Forwarding Agents, Brussels on 'Forwarding agents and the common policy' 21 June in Genoa (Italy)
- Symposium on the Greek food industry organized by the Commission of the European Communities' Business Cooperation Centre 24 and 25 June in Athens
- Ministerial conference organized by the Miljö 1982 department of the Swedish Ministry of Agriculture on 'The acidification of the environment' 28 to 30 June in Stockholm

- Colloquium organized by the European League for Economic Cooperation (LECE) on 'The coexistence of the public and private enterprise in the European economy' 2 July
in Brussels
- 3rd meeting of the group of experts of the European Foundation for the Improvement of Living and Working Conditions 5 to 7 August
in Dublin
- 21st International Conference on Social Welfare, London 29 August to 4
September
in Brighton (UK)
- 114th TUC Congress 6 September
in Brighton (UK)
- Meeting organized by the Federation of Hunters' Associations of the EEC on 'The problem of agriculture within the framework of the worldwide strategy for wildlife conservation' 6 October
in Brussels
- Congress organized by the French branch of the European Movement under the motto 'Convention for Europe' 9 and 10 October
in Versailles
- Seminar organized by the Spanish National Confederation of Agricultural Chambers (CONCA) in conjunction with the European Training and Development Centre for Farming and Rural Life (CEPFAR) on the 'Training of farm managers in the countries applying for membership of the European Community' 10 to 15 October
in Alicante (Spain)
- Colloquium organized by the Commission for the Study of the European Communities on 'The common agricultural policy and Community policies' 15 October
in Rennes (France)
- 9th Statutory Congress of the European Federation of Agricultural Workers' Unions within the Community 20 to 22 October
in Brussels
- General Assembly of the International Confederation for People's Credit 22 October
in Vienna
- General Assembly of the Pharmaceutical Group of the European Community 24 to 28 October
in Frankfurt
- International meeting organized by the Friedrich Ebert Foundation on 'The consumer and the common market — interim assessment and future prospects' 29 to 31 October in
Bergneustadt
(FR of Germany)

- European seminar organized by the European Training and Development Centre for Farming and Rural Life (CEPFAR) on 'Promotion of women in agriculture'

9 to 14 November
in Grado (Italy)
- European day of the National Federation of Trade Unions in the Electricity and Gas Industries on 'Social Europe (Economic and social assessment, future prospects)'

16 November
in Servier (France)
- Meeting organized by the Economic and Social Advisory Council of the Benelux Economic Union on 'The construction sector'

19 November
in Brussels
- Study day organized by the Friedrich Ebert Foundation, Brussels, on 'Agricultural policy in the enlarged Community'

24 November in
Brussels
- 4th Conference of EURO-FIET (regional European organization of the International Federation of Commercial, Clerical and Technical Employees), Geneva (Switzerland) on 'Job creation and reduction of working time'

25 and
26 November
in Brussels
- General assembly of the National Committee for the Liaison of the Activities of Mutual-Benefit Societies, Cooperatives and Non-profitmaking Associations, Nanterre

8 December
in Paris
- Parliamentary hearing of the Council of Europe on 'The use of living animals for experimental or industrial purposes'

8 and 9 December
1982
in Strasbourg

Chapter VI

Reappointment of the Committee

On 12 and 13 October 1982, the Economic and Social Committee held the inaugural session of its seventh four-year term of office. Representatives of the Council and the Commission were present. The meeting elected Mr François Ceyrac as Chairman and Mr Margot and Mr Pfeiffer as Vice-Chairmen, all three to serve for a period of two years. The following were also elected as members of the Bureau:

Mr Breitenstein	Mr Cavazzuti	Mr Berns
Mr Broicher	Mr Delourme	Mr Burnel
Mr Dracos	Mr Hadjivassiliou	Mr Hilken
Mr Loughrey	Mr Jenkins	Mr Jakobsen
Mr Masprone	Mr Murphy	Mr Jaschick
Mr Noordwal	Mr Schneider	Mr Rainero
Mr Zinkin	Mr Soulat	Mr Storie-Pugh

The complete list of Committee members appointed by the Council for the 1982–86 period is given in Annex A.

Chapter VII

Internal affairs of the General Secretariat

1. STAFF

In 1982 the General Secretariat had 378 permanent posts, only 1.07% more than in the previous year. The increase, due only to a rise in the number of Greek nationals, was too small to allow the Secretariat to improve its organizational structure.

The Secretariat also had 12 local staff, and a certain number of auxiliary staff.

2. BUDGET

Appropriations for the financial year 1982 amounted to 23 399 600 ECU. The increase compared with the 1981 budget of 21 270 200 ECU was 10%.

This rise in appropriations was due both to the effect of the general increase in prices on the Committee's running costs, and to the need to complete various installations, as part of the introduction of a new integrated document-reproduction system.

3. MEETINGS

Ten plenary sessions and 12 Bureau meetings were held in the course of the financial year 1982.

The Committee's working bodies also held a large number of meetings:

Sections	85
Study Groups	218
Group I, Group II, Group III (Three Groups)	78
Miscellaneous	224
Meetings of sub-groups recognized by the three Groups	137

There were also numerous groups of visitors.

4. STRUCTURE OF THE GENERAL SECRETARIAT. (1982)

Chairman

- Private office
- Group Secretariats
- Financial control

Secretary-General

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

Directorate A – Consultative work

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

Directorate B – Consultative work

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

Directorate C – Consultative work

- Secretariat of the Section for Energy and Nuclear Questions
- Secretariat of the Section for Agriculture
- Secretariat of the Section for External Relations

General Directorate for Administration, Translation and General Affairs

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

**List of members of the
Economic and Social Committee
classified by country,
their qualifications¹
and by Group²**

¹ For obvious reasons we have been unable to list all the qualifications, etc. of members. Only the members' most representative functions in their respective countries are given

² Group of Employers: I

Group of Workers: II

Group of Various interests: III

LIST OF MEMBERS OF THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMITTEE
(Appointed on 21 September 1982)

Belgium	Group	
Armand Colle ¹	II	National President of the General Confederation of Liberal Trade Unions in Belgium (CGSLB)
Clément De Bièvre	I	Honorary Director of the Federation of Belgian Industry (FEB)
Jacques De Bruyn	III	Honorary General Consultant, Association of Belgian Banks (ABB/BVB)
Georges Debunne	II	Former General-Secretary of the Belgian General Federation of Labour (FGTB/ABVV)
Michel De Grave	II	Adviser, Research Department of the Confederation of Christian Trade Unions in Belgium (CSC/ACV)
Alfred Delourme	II	Assistant General Secretary of the Belgian General Federation of Labour (FGTB/ABVV)
André De Tavernier	III	Economic Adviser to the Executive of the Belgian Farmers' Union
Jozef Houthuys	II	President of the Confederation of Christian Trade Unions in Belgium (CSC/ACV)
Alfons Margot	III	General Secretary of the National Christian Union of Self-Employed Workers (UNCCM/NCMV)
Roger Ramaekers	III	President of the Consumer Council; General Secretary of the Belgian Cooperatives Federation (Febecoop)

Group I : Employers
 Group II : Workers
 Group III : Various Interests

¹ New member.

Belgium (continued)	Group	
Yves Van Der Mensbrugge ¹	I	General Adviser, Bekaert SA; Professor at the Catholic University of Louvain
Jacques Van Melckenbeke	I	Chief Adviser, National Building Federation
Denmark		
Poul Antonsen	I	Director, Union of Danish Breweries
Finn Breitenstein	I	Head of Department (International Affairs) in the Danish Industrial Council
Karen Gredal	III	Vice-President, Danish Consumers' Council
Erik Hovgaard Jakobsen	III	Head of Department in the Danish Agricultural Council (Trade and Market Policy Department)
Bent Nielsen	II	Secretary of the Danish National Trade Union Confederation (LO)
Marichen Nielsen	III	Senior Citizens' Welfare Officer; former member of the Folketing (Danish Parliament) and the European Parliament
Preben Nielsen	II	Economic Adviser to the Danish National Trade Union Confederation (LO)
Knud Mols Sørensen	II	Member of the Executive Committee of the Danish Federation of Civil Servants and Salaried Employees' Organizations (FTF); Federation of Merchant Navy Officers
Kaj Storm Hansen	I	Adviser to the Danish Wholesalers' Association; member of the International Development Cooperation Council

¹ New member.

Germany	Group	
Ulrich Berger ¹	III	Deputy national President of the German Civil Servants' Association (DBB)
Horst Hermann Binnenbruck ¹	I	Head of the Traffic Policy Department, National Association of German Long-Distance Hauliers
Paul Broicher	I	Chief Executive Secretary, German Industrial and Trade Association
Helmuth Cammann	I	General Secretary of the Federal Association of German Banks
Dietmar Cremer	II	Head of Section, Economic Policy Department of the Federal Council of the German Trade Union Confederation (DGB)
Klaus Benedict von der Decken	III	Director at the Institute for Reactor Components of Jülich Nuclear Research Establishment
Ursula Engelen-Kefer	II	Head of the Labour Market Policy Division of the Federal Executive Committee of the German Trade Union Confederation (DGB)
Karl-Heinz Friedrichs	II	Head of the Special Missions Division of the Executive Committee of the Trade Union for the Metal Industry (IG metall)
Hedda Heuser	III	Executive Board member of the German Doctors' Congress (Deutscher Ärztetag)
Johannes M. Jaschick	III	General Secretary and member of the Board of the German Consumers' Association (AGV)
Josef Kölbl ¹	III	Member of the Working Party on Environmental Problems (Bonn)
Klaus Joachim Kübler ¹	III	General Secretary of the German National Association of Craft Industries

¹ New member.

Germany (continued)	Group	
Werner Löw ¹	I	Member of the Management Board of the National Union of German Employers Associations (BDA)
Willi Lojewski ¹	II	President of the Union of Horticultural, Agricultural and Forestry workers
Gerd Muhr	II	Deputy President of the German Trade Union Confederation (DGB)
Herbert Nierhaus	II	Member of the National Executive Committee of the German Employees' Trade Union (DAG)
Alois Pfeiffer	II	Member of the Federal Executive Committee of the German Trade Union Confederation (DGB)
Kurt Plank ¹	III	Head of the Transport Policy and International Relations Department, Deutsche Lufthansa AG
Rudolf Schnieders	I	General Secretary of the National Federation of Farmers' Unions
Jürgen Stahlmann ¹	I	General Secretary of the German National Wholesale and Export Trade Association
Hans-Werner Staratzke	I	Former executive member of the Presiding Board of the General Confederation of the German Textile Industry; Delegate of the Confederation of German Industry (BDI) to the Economic and Social Committee
Käte Strobel	III	Member of the German Consumers' Association (AGV)
Maria Weber	II	Former Vice-President of the German Trade Union Confederation (DGB)
Hans-Jürgen Wick	I	General Secretary of the 'Deutscher Raiffeisenverband e.V.' (Agricultural Credit Cooperative Association)

¹ New member.

Greece	Group	
Stylianos Bazianas ¹	III	Chairman, General Confederation of Greek Agricultural Associations (GSASE)
Anna Bredima	I	Lawyer, Special Adviser to the Greek Shipowners' Association; Adviser to the Cooperatives' Organization
Konstantin Chalioris ¹	III	Member of the General Confederation of Agricultural Associations of Chios
Georgios Dassis	II	Special Adviser to the Greek General Confederation of Labour
Apostolis Dassoulas ¹	III	Economist specializing in the craft sector, member of the Exporters' Union of Pieria, member of the Chamber of Commerce and Crafts
Panagiotis Dracos ¹	I	Member of Executive Bureau, Federation of Greek Industrialists (SEV), General Secretary of the Institute for Economic and Industrial Research
Orestes Hadjivassiliou ¹	II	President, General Confederation of Greek Labour (GSEE)
Athanassios Kamizolas ¹	III	Director at the Ministry for the National Economy with responsibility for the affairs of the Council for Economic and Social Policy (SKOP)
Dimitrios Kitsos ¹	II	Vice-President, Federation of Secondary School Teachers (OLME); member of the Executive Bureau of the General Council of the Civil Servants' Association (ADEDY)
Georgios Raftopoulos ¹	II	General Secretary, General Confederation of Greek Labour (GSEE)

¹ New member.

Greece (continued)	Group	
Fotis Spachos ¹	I	President Greek Traders' Pension and Provident Fund; member Athens Chamber of Commerce and Industry
Nikolaos Vassilaras	III	Member, Rhodes Association of Traders and Chamber of Commerce
France		
René Bernasconi ¹	III	President of the General Confederation of Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (CGPME)
René Bonety	II	Expert in the Economic Department of the French Democratic Confederation of Labour (CFDT)
Henry Bordes-Pages ¹	II	National delegate of the French Confederation of Executive Staffs (CGC)
Jean Bornard	II	President of the French Christian Workers' Federation (CFTC)
Édouard Brassier ¹	III	General Secretary of the French National Federation of Mutual Benefit Societies (FNMF)
Roger Burnel	III	President of the National Union of Family Associations (UNAF)
Gérard de Caffarelli	III	First Vice-President of the French Permanent Assembly of Chambers of Agriculture (APCA)
François Ceyrac	I	Honorary President of the National Council of French Employers (CNPFE); President of the International Chamber of Commerce
André Dunet	II	Adviser, National Board of the General Confederation of Labour (CGT)

¹ New member.

France (continued)	Group	
Pierre Eelsen ¹	I	General Delegate of the Renault Company
Claude Évain	I	Delegate of the President of the National Council of the French Employers' Federation (CNPF) in charge of international relations
Louis Lauga	III	Deputy General Secretary of the French National Federation of Farmers' Unions (FNSEA); President of the Central Fund of the French Farmers' Mutual Benefit Society
André Laur	III	Vice-President of the National Confederation for Farmers' Mutual Insurance, Cooperation and Credit (CNMCCA)
Jean Marvier	III	Vice-President and Treasurer of the National Confederation of Crafts and Trades (CNAM)
Dr Jacques Monier ¹	III	Honorary President, Confederation of Unions of Medical Doctors in France
Bernard Mourgues ¹	II	Member of the National Board of the Trade Union, Force Ouvrière (FO)
Jean Querleux ¹	I	Deputy Commercial Director, Freight Division, French National Railways (SNCF)
Jean Rouzier	II	National Secretary of the French General Confederation of Labour — Force Ouvrière (CGT-FO)
André Soulat	II	National Secretary of the French Democratic Confederation of Labour (CFDT)
Jacques Tixier ¹	II	Adviser to the National Board of the General Confederation of Labour (CGT)

¹ New member.

France (continued)	Group	
Guy Vasseur ¹	III	Deputy General Secretary, National Young Farmers' Centre (CNJA)
Gabriel Ventejol	III	Chairman of the French Economic and Social Council
Roland Wagner	I	President of the Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Strasbourg and the Lower Rhine
Joseph Yverneau ¹	III	Member of the Board of the French National Federation of Farmers' Unions (FNSEA)
 Ireland		
John F. Carroll	II	President of the Irish Transport and General Workers' Union (ITGWU)
Donal Cashman ¹	III	President of the Irish Farmers Association
Henry J. Curlis	II	Past President of the Irish Congress of Trade Unions (ICTU)
Sean Kelly ¹	III	President of the Irish Creamery Milk Suppliers Association
John Kenna	I	Director of Transport and Foreign Trade, Confederation of Irish Industry
P. J. Loughrey	I	Vice-President of the Dublin Chamber of Commerce
Patrick Murphy	II	Assistant General Secretary, Federated Workers' Union of Ireland
Gordon A. Pearson	I	Executive Committee Member of the Federated Union of Employers
Tomás Roseingrave	III	National Director, Muintir na Tíre (Irish Community Development Movement)

¹ New member.

Italy	Group	
Andrea Amato ¹	II	Italian General Confederation of Labour (CGIL)
Romolo Arena	I	Chairman of Finsider International (IRI)
Eduardo Bagliano	I	Chairman of Fiat's Committee on Community Problems
Danilo Beretta	II	President of Chemical Industry Workers in the Italian Federation of Trade Unions (FEDERCHI-MICI — CISL)
Walter Briganti ¹	III	Member of the Governing Council, Association of Cooperatives and Mutual societies
Giovanbattista Cavazzuti	II	Italian Confederation of Trade Unions (CISL)
Fausto d'Elia ¹	II	President, National Confederation of Business Managers (CIDA)
Luigi Della Croce ¹	II	National Secretary, Italian Labour Union (UIL)
Francesco Drago ¹	II	Head of Section for International Affairs, Italian Labour Union
Umberto Emo Capodilista	III	President of the Committee of Agricultural Organizations in the European Community (COPA); President of the General Confederation of Italian Agriculture (Confagricoltura)
Manlio Geroszi	III	President, General Italian Confederation of Crafts (Confartigianato)
Enrico Kirschen	II	Member of the Executive Committee of the Italian Labour Union (UIL)
Alberto Masprone	I	Deputy Director-General for the Coordination of the Activities of the Economic and Social Committee of the European Communities at the General Confederation of Italian Industry (Confindustria)

¹ New member.

<i>Italy (continued)</i>	Group	
Ettore Masucci	II	Secretary-General of the National Chemical Workers Federation of the General Confederation of Italian Labour (FILCEA-CGIL)
Vittorio Meraviglia	II	President of the Court of Arbitration of Italian Federation of Textile and Garment Workers, (FILTA) affiliated to the Italian Confederation of Trade Unions (CISL)
Pietro Morselli	III	Director of the International Relations Department of the Confederation of Italian Cooperatives, Rome
Renato Ognibene	III	Vice-President of the Italian Farmers' Confederation
Guido Paggi	I	Head of division in charge of international relations of the General Confederation of Italian Agriculture (Confagricoltura)
Giovanni Rainero	III	Responsible for international agricultural relations and common agricultural policy in the National Confederation of Owner Farmers (Col-diretti)
Beatrice Rangoni Machiavelli ¹	III	National Secretary, Consumer Protection Committee
Giacomo Regaldo ¹	I	Head of Brussels Office, Italian Trade Confederation (Confcommercio)
Aldo Romoli	I	In charge of relations with international bodies at Montedison
Enrico Vercellino ¹	II	Member of the International Committee, Italian General Confederation of Labour (CGIL)
Giancarlo Zoli	III	Lawyer, Vice-President of the Italian Section and member of the European Bureau of the Council of Local Authorities in Europe (CCE)

¹ New member.

Luxembourg	Group	
Mathias Berns	III	General-Secretary of the Central Association of Luxembourg Farmers
Marcel Glesener	II	President of the Luxembourg Christian Trades Union Confederation (LCGB)
Carlo Hemmer	I	Honorary Director of the Luxembourg Chamber of Commerce; President of the Luxembourg Stock Exchange
Eugène Muller ¹	III	Director, Chamber of Trade; Adviser, Committee of the Craftsmens' Federation
Jeannot Schneider	II	President of the Luxembourg Federation of Railway and Transport Workers, Civil Servants and Employees; General Secretary of the General Confederation of Labour
Hubert Schoepges ¹	II	Member of the Management Committee, Federation of Private Sector Employees (FEP)
Netherlands		
C. A. Bos	III	Mayor of Katwijk; Guest lecturer at Amsterdam Free University
T. Etty	II	International policy adviser, Netherlands Trade Union Federation (FNV)
R. J. H. Fortuyn ¹	I	Chairman, Netherlands Transport Liaison Committee
L. N. Goris	III	Secretary of the Council for Small and Medium-sized Enterprises
J. M. W. van Greunsven	II	Member of the Executive Board of the Netherlands Trade Union Federation (FNV)

¹ New member.

Netherlands (continued)	Group	
G. H. E. Hilkens	III	President of the Consumers Committee for Europe (CCE)
Ph. H. Noordwal ¹	I	Director for International Affairs, Union of Netherlands Enterprises (VNO)
B. Pronk	II	International officer of the Christian National Confederation of Trade Unions in the Netherlands
P. J. G. M. van Rens	II	Adviser, Netherlands Trade Union Federation (FNV)
J. van der Veen	III	President of the Netherlands Christian Farmers' and Horticulturists' Union
W. W. M. Wagenmans	II	International Affairs adviser of the Netherlands Trade Union Federation (FNV)
J. De Wit ¹	I	Former President of the Netherlands Christian Employers' Association (NCW)
United Kingdom		
J. R. Boddy	II	General Secretary, National Union of Agricultural and Allied Workers (NUAAW)
F. J. Chapple	II	General Secretary, Electrical, Electronic, Telecommunications and Plumbing Union (EETPU)
G. A. Drain	II	General Secretary, National and Local Government Officers' Association (NALGO)
W. Elkan ¹	III	Professor of Economics, Brunel University
M. T. Fuller ¹	I	Director, South Lancashire, Cheshire and North Wales Engineering Employers' Association

¹ New member.

United Kingdom (continued) Group

J. Gallacher	I	Parliamentary Secretary, Cooperative Union Ltd; Member Board of the Retail Consortium Ltd
T. Jenkins	II	Assistant Secretary, Trades Union Congress International Department
F. S. Law	I	Deputy Chairman, National Freight Company (PLF)
W. G. N. Miller	I	Past Executive Director, Save and Prosper Group Ltd
Charles Earnest Mills	I	Consultant, formerly member for Economic Planning, British Gas Corporation
James F. Milne	II	General Secretary, Scottish Trades Union Congress (STUC)
J. A. de Normann ¹	I	Former Head, ICI Building Group
Mrs C. Marie Patterson	II	National Officer, Transport and General Workers Union (TGWU)
W. G. Poeton ¹	I	Member of the Union of Independent Companies
Mrs M. Quigley ¹	III	Member of the Livestock Marketing Commission for Northern Ireland
E. B. Roycroft ¹	III	Executive of the Association of Directors of Social Services
D. P. Schwarz	III	Chairman of the Manpower Services Commission, Special Programmes Board for North Wales
Sir George Sharp ¹	III	Chairman, Glenrothes Development Corporation
Alexander R. Smith ¹	II	General Secretary, National Union of Tailors and Garment Workers
Lawrence J. Smith ¹	II	Executive Officer, Press and Information Officer, Transport and General Workers Union (TGWU)

¹ New member.

United Kingdom (continued) Group

P. Storie-Pugh ¹	III	Past President of the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons
M. P. Strauss ¹	III	Coordinating Director — Policy, National Farmers' Union
Mrs A. Williams ¹	III	Vice-President of the Consumers' Association
M. Zinkin	I	Consultant, member of the Europe and Overseas Committee, Confederation of British Industry

¹ New member.

**List of opinions,
studies and information reports
issued during 1982**

194TH PLENARY SESSION ON 27 AND 28 JANUARY 1982

- Information and consultation of employees in undertakings with complex structures, in particular transnational undertakings
(Rapporteur: Mr Muhr) (CES 82/82)
- The EEC's external relations — Stocktaking and consistency of action (Study)
(Rapporteur: Mr Romoli) (CES 440/81 final)
- Objectives and priorities for a common research and development policy (Study)
(Rapporteur: Mr Couture) (CES 1033/81 final)
- Programme of research and development in the field of science and technology for development (1982—85)
(Rapporteur: Mr Bornard) (CES 81/82)
- Situation and prospects of the textile and clothing industries in the community (Commission communication) (Own-initiative opinion)
(Rapporteur: Mr Masucci) (CES 82/82)
- Cosmetics (Amendment to Directive 76/768/EEC)
(Rapporteur: Mr Masprone) (CES 84/82)
- Wheeled agricultural and forestry tractors (Amending 17 directives)
(Rapporteur: Mr Masprone) (CES 80/82)

195TH PLENARY SESSION ON 24 AND 25 FEBRUARY 1982

- The coordination of labour market instruments (Own-initiative opinion)
(Rapporteur: Mr Vanni) (CES 187/82)
- The EC Commission's competition policy (Tenth Commission report)
(Rapporteur: Mr Neumann) (CES 190/82)
- Specific action on behalf of housing in Northern Ireland within the framework of an integrated operation in Belfast
(Rapporteur: Mr Bornard) (CES 186/82)
- Annual accounts of banks and other financial establishments
(Rapporteur: Mr Miller) (CES 189/82)
- Coordination of the conditions for the admission of securities to official stock exchange listing and coordination of the requirements for the drawing up, scrutiny and distribution of the listing particulars to be published for the admission of securities to official stock exchange listing. (Amendment to Directives 79/279/EEC and 80/390/EEC)
(Rapporteur-General: Mr Miller) (CES 188/82)

- Limitation of noise emissions from helicopters (Draft directive)
(Rapporteur: Mr Bernaert) (CES 179/82)
- Restrictions on the marketing and use of certain dangerous substances and preparations (Seventh amendment to Directive 76/769/EEC)
(Rapporteur: Mr Zoli) (CES 195/82)
- Survey on the structure of agricultural holdings for 1983
(Rapporteur: Mr Rainero) (CES 180/82)
- Special measures for improving the production and marketing of Community citrus fruit (Amendment to Regulation (EEC) No 2511/69)
(Rapporteur: Mr Paggi) (CES 191/82)
- Common organization of the market in wine (Amendment to Regulation (EEC) No 337/79)
(Rapporteur: Mr Paggi) (CES 191/82)
- Common organization of the market in fruit and vegetables as regards producers' organizations (Amendment to Regulation No 1035/72)
(Rapporteur: Mr Paggi) (CES 193/82)
- Health problems affecting trade in fresh poultrymeat in respect of personnel responsible for carrying out health inspections, supervision and control tasks and health problems affecting intra-Community trade in meat products (Amendments to Directives 71/118/EEC and 77/99/EEC)
(Rapporteur: Mr Wick) (CES 194/82)
- Notification of animal disease within the Community
(Rapporteur: Mr Wick) (CES 181/82)
- Health problems affecting trade in fresh poultrymeat (Amendment to Directive 71/118/EEC)
(Rapporteur: Mr Jaschick) (CES 183/82)
- Health problems relating to residues of antibiotics in fresh meat of Community origin
(Rapporteur: Mr Jaschick) (CES 182/82)
- Supplementary Community measure for the eradication of brucellosis, tuberculosis and leukosis in cattle (Amendment to Directive 77/391/EEC)
(Rapporteur: Mr Wick) (CES 184/82)
- Special measures for peas and field beans used in the feeding of animals (Amendment to Regulation (EEC) No 119/78)
(Rapporteur: Mr Zinkin) (CES 185/82)

196TH PLENARY SESSION ON 24 MARCH 1982

- Prices for certain agricultural products and certain related measures 1982/83
(Rapporteur: Mr Schnieders) (CES 291/82)
- Manufacture, putting into circulation and supply of medicated feeding-stuffs in the Community
(Rapporteur: Mr Wick (CES 290/82)

197TH PLENARY SESSION ON 28 AND 29 APRIL 1982

- New measures on the European Monetary System (EMS) (Own-initiative opinion)
(Rapporteur: Mr Évain) (CES 390/82)
- 1982 programme for the attainment of the customs union (Own-initiative opinion)
(Rapporteur: Mr Broicher) (CES 382/82)
- Voluntary part-time work
(Rapporteur: Mr Dassis) (CES 384/82)
- New Community action programme on the promotion of equal opportunities for women 1982—85
(Rapporteur: Mrs Weber) (CES 385/82)
- Medium-term projections for social expenditure and its financing (Commission communication)
(Rapporteur: Mr Davies) (CES 376/82)
- Principles of a Community policy on retirement age (Draft recommendation)
(Rapporteur: Mr Blasig) (CES 386/82)
- European Regional Development Fund (Amendment to Regulation (EEC) No 724/75)
(Rapporteur: Mr Hall) (CES 389/82)
- Supervision of credit institutions on a consolidated basis
(Rapporteur: Mr De Bruyn) (CES 383/82)
- Inward processing relief arrangements
(Rapporteur: Mr Broicher) (CES 388/82)
- Stocks of crude oil and petroleum products (Amendment to Directive 68/414/EEC)
(Rapporteur: Mr Mills) (CES 381/82)

- Community transit (amendment pursuant to the second paragraph of Article 149 of the EEC Treaty) (Amendment to Regulation (EEC) No 222/77) (Rapporteur: Mr Broicher) (CES 379/82)
- Food preservatives (17th amendment to Directive 64/54/EEC) (Rapporteur: Mr van Campen) (CES 377/82)
- Microbiological criteria for food and feedingstuffs, including the conditions for their preparation, in the veterinary, foodstuffs and animal nutrition sectors (Rapporteur: Mr Daul) (CES 378/82)
- Integrated operations in the field of regional development (Study) (Rapporteur: Mr Bornard) (CES 916/80 final)

198TH PLENARY SESSION ON 26 AND 27 MAY 1982

- The promotion of the small and medium-sized enterprises sector in the European Community (Own-initiative opinion) (Rapporteur: Mr Kolbenschlag) (CES 474/82)
- European Communities' action programme for the environment (1982—86) (Rapporteur: Mr Mills) (CES 478/82)
- Development of an energy strategy for the Community and energy pricing — policy and transparency (Commission communication) (Own-initiative opinion) (Rapporteur: Mr Zünkler) (CES 472/82)
- Role for coal in Community energy strategy (Commission communication) (Rapporteur: Mr Zünkler) (CES 471/82)
- Establishment of a common organization of the market in oils and fats (Amendment to Regulation No 136/66/EEC) (Rapporteur: Mr Paggi) (CES 475/82)
- Airborne noise emitted by household appliances (Rapporteur: Mr Hilkens) (CES 473/82)
- Agreement on the International Carriage of Passengers by Road by Means of Occasional Coach and Bus Services (ASOR) (Rapporteur: Mr Schneider) (CES 470/82)
- Collection of information concerning the activities of road hauliers participating in the carriage of goods to and from certain non-member countries (Rapporteur: Mr Renaud) (CES 476/82)
- Repayment of remission of import or export duties (Amendment to Regulation (EEC) No 1430/79) (Rapporteur-General: Mr Broicher) (CES 477/82)

199TH PLENARY SESSION ON 30 JUNE AND 1 JULY 1982

- The economic situation in the Community (mid 1982) (Own-initiative opinion)
(Rapporteur: Mr Loccufier) (CES 555/82)
- Social developments in the Community in 1981
(Rapporteur: Mrs Engelen-Kefer) (CES 556/82)
- Investment in the rational use of energy (Commission communication)
(Rapporteur: Mr Delourme) (CES 549/82)
- Energy strategy for the Community: the nuclear aspects (Commission communication)
(Rapporteur: Mr von der Decken) (CES 550/82)
- First periodic report on the economic and social situation of the regions of the Community (Additional opinion)
(Rapporteur: Mr Loeb) (CES 553/82)
- Acceleration of agricultural development in certain regions of Greece
(Rapporteur: Mr Dassis) (CES 546/82)
- Financial and technical cooperation in 1980, under the Lomé Convention (Commission report) (Own-initiative opinion)
(Rapporteur: Mr Cremer) (CES 552/82)
- Control of concentrations (Amendment to the proposal for regulation)
(Rapporteur: Mr Friedrichs) (CES 551/82)
- Cosmetics (5th Amendment to Directive 77/768/EEC)
(Rapporteur: Mr Ramaekers) (CES 554/82)
- Tighter controls on the application of Community rules on agricultural products
(Rapporteur: Mr Clavel) (CES 547/82)
- Partly of wholly dehydrated preserved milk for human consumption (Second amendment to Directive 76/118/EEC)
(Rapporteur: Mr Berns) (CES 557/82)
- Aid for hop producers in 1981
(Rapporteur: Mr Bernaert) (CES 548/82)
- Special measures in respect of soya beans
(Rapporteur-General: Mr De Grave) (CES 558/82)

200TH PLENARY SESSION ON 14 OCTOBER 1982

- Limited financial support in the field of transport infrastructure (Rapporteur-General: Mr Kenna) (CES 695/82)
- Interest subsidies for certain loans granted under the European Monetary System (Amending Regulation (EEC) No 1736/79) (Rapporteur-General: Mr Rouzier) (CES 696/82)

201ST PLENARY SESSION ON 27 AND 28 OCTOBER 1982

- Transport policy of the European Community (Own-initiative opinion) (Rapporteur-General: Mr Rouzier) (CES 741/82)
- Commission's Eleventh Report on Competition Policy (Rapport-General: Mr Évain) (CES 740/82)
- Revision in the year 1983 of the multiannual research programme (1980—83) of the Joint Research Centre (Rapporteur-General: Mr von der Decken) (CES 738/82)
- Fixing the Community's Scheme of Generalized Tariff Preferences for the period 1983 to 1985 and opening the scheme applicable in 1983 (Rapporteur-General: Mr Cremer) (CES 739/82)
- Granting of financial support for demonstration projects relating to the exploitation of alternative energy sources, energy-saving and the substitution of hydrocarbons and pilot industrial projects and demonstration projects relating to the liquefaction and gasification of solid fuels (Two proposals for a regulation) (Rapporteur-General: Mr Mills) (CES 742/82)
- Wastes from the titanium dioxide industry (Amending Directive 78/176/EEC) (Rapporteur-General: Mr Romoli) (CES 737/82)
- Relations between the European Community and the United States (Information report) (Rapporteur-General: Mr Évain) (CES 544/82 final)

202ND PLENARY SESSION ON 24 AND 25 NOVEMBER 1982

- Common measures to improve the conditions under which agricultural products are processed and marketed (Amending Regulation (EEC) No 355/77) (Rapporteur: Mr Wick) (CES 846/82)

- Community quota for the carriage of goods by road between Member States (Amending Regulation (EEC) No 3164/76)
(Rapporteur: Mr Morselli) (CES 845/82)
- Multiannual programme (1979–83) in the field of data processing (Amending Council Decision 79/783/EEC)
(Rapporteur: Mr Nierhaus) (CES 848/82)
- In the field of applied metrology and reference materials (Non-nuclear indirect action 1983–87) (Five-year research and development programme)
(Rapporteur: Mr von der Decken) (CES 844/82)
- Rules for a prohibition to import skins of certain seal-pups and products derived therefrom into the Community
(Rapporteur: Mr Zoli) (CES 842/82)
- Measures to be taken against air pollution by gases from positive-ignition engines of motor vehicles (Amending Directive No 70/220/EEC)
(Rapporteur: Mr von der Decken) (CES 843/82)
- Community research and development programme in the field of information technologies
(Rapporteur-General: Mr Nierhaus) (CES 849/82)
- The Community oils and fats sector (Information report)
(Rapporteur: Mr Lauga) (CES 334/82 final)

203RD PLENARY SESSION ON 15 AND 16 DECEMBER 1982

- Commission's annual economic report 1982–83
(Rapporteur: Mr Goris) (CES 921/82)
- Aid on shipbuilding (Amending Directive 81/363/EEC)
(Rapporteur: Mr Arena) (CES 916/82)
- Crude oil saving through the use of substitute fuel components in petrol
(Rapporteur: Mr Mills) (CES 915/82)
- Payment of financial incentives in support of categories of investment in the rational use of energy
(Rapporteur: Mr Pearson) (CES 925/82)
- Infrastructure for innovation and technology transfer (1983–85)
(Rapporteur: Mr Goris) (CES 924/82)
- Taxes other than turnover taxes which affect the consumption of manufactured tobacco (Amending Directive 72/464/EEC)
(Rapporteur: Mr Miller) (CES 920/82)

- **Application of Article 85(3) of the Treaty to categories of specialization agreements**
(Rapporteur: Mr Bagliano) (CES 917/82)
- **Action in respect of inward processing (Implementation of Article 18 of Directive 69/73/EEC)**
(Rapporteur: Mr Broicher) (CES 923/82)
- **International Carriage of Passengers by Road by Means of Occasional Coach and Bus Services (ASOR)**
(Rapporteur: Mr Morselli) (CES 918/82)

Annex C

**List of opinions
drawn up by the
Economic and Social Committee
on its own initiative
(1973-82)**

- Multilateral GATT negotiations
(Rapporteur: Mr de Précigout) May 1973
- Industrial and technological policy programme
(Rapporteur: Mr Kley) November 1973
- Progress achieved in the first stage of economic and
monetary union and measures to be taken in the
second stage December 1973
- Commission memorandum on the improvement of
the common agricultural policy
(Rapporteur: Mr Bourel) February 1974
- Agricultural aspects of the GATT negotiations
(Rapporteur: Mr Rømer) February 1974
- Role of the ESC in the institutional machinery of the
Communities
(Rapporteur: Mr De Bruyn) March 1974
- Employment and the changed situation in the EEC
(Rapporteur: Mr Debonne) May 1974
- EEC negotiations with African States, the East
Indies and the countries of the Pacific
(Rapporteur: Mr Bodart) June 1974
- Situation in the EEC
(Rapporteur: Mr De Bruyn) July 1974
- Energy for Europe – research and development
(Rapporteur: Mr Schlitt) January 1975
- EEC Mediterranean policy
(Rapporteur: Mrs Baduel Glorioso) January 1975
- Developing countries and the GATT negotiations
(Rapporteur: Mr Rømer) January 1975
- EEC data-processing policy
(Rapporteur: Mr de Ferranti) April 1975
- Education in the EEC
(Rapporteur: Mr Sloman) April 1975
- European Union
(Rapporteur: Mr De Bruyn) July 1975
- Telecommunications
(Rapporteur: Mr Roseingrave) September 1975

- The economic and social situation of women in the European Community (Rapporteur: Mrs Evans) February 1976
- Unemployment in the EEC (Rapporteur-General: Mr Basnett) February 1976
- Regional development in the Community in 1975-77 and establishment of an EEC regional policy (Rapporteur: Mr Maher) March 1976
- Coordination of national employment policy instruments (Rapporteur: Mr Laval) March 1976
- Possibilities of developing advanced technology sectors in the EEC through a policy of liberalizing public purchasing (Rapporteur: Mr de Ferranti) May 1976
- Specific measures to relieve unemployment among the elderly, young people and women returning to gainful employment (Rapporteur: Mr Carroll) November 1976
- The common agricultural policy in the international context (possible consequences and improvements) (Rapporteur-General: Mr Berns) January 1977
- How regional development helps solve unemployment and inflation by making for a more balanced distribution of the working population (Rapporteur: Mr Bornard) March 1977
- The GATT multilateral trade negotiations (additional own-initiative opinion) (Rapporteur: Mr Évain) April 1977
- The implementation and development of the Community's consumer protection and information programme (Rapporteur: Mr Ramaekers) May 1977
- Transport problems in relations with Eastern bloc countries (Rapporteur: Mr Hennig) June 1977
- Direct cooperation between the bodies designated by Member States to verify compliance with Community and national provisions in the wine sector (Rapporteur: Mr Guillaume) June 1977

- Industrial change and employment — A review of the Community's industrial policy and future prospects
(Rapporteur: Mr Carstens) September 1977
- European Regional Development Fund (Second Annual Report 1976)
(Rapporteur: Mr Loughrey) September 1977
- Small- and medium-sized enterprises in the Community context
(Rapporteur: Mr Kolbenschlag) November 1977
- Transport problems in relations with Eastern bloc countries
(Additional own-initiative opinion)
(Rapporteur: Mr Hennig) November 1977
- Communication on the amendment of the common organization of the market in beef and veal, report on the merits of premiums and intervention measures in the beef and veal sector
(Rapporteur: Mr Schnieders) December 1977
- Community regional policy guidelines
(Rapporteur: Mr Laval) January 1978
- Common principles to be adopted in export credit insurance system for medium and long-term transactions with public and private buyers
(Rapporteur: Mr Miller) February/March 1978
- Report on starch products in the Community and the starch production refund
(Rapporteur: Mr Masprone) February/March 1978
- State of the customs union of the European Economic Community
(Rapporteur: Mr Marvier) End March 1978
- Education and vocational training for young workers
(Rapporteur: Mr Sloman) End March 1978
- Part-time work
(Rapporteur: Mr van Rens) May 1978
- Draft Council decision on the activities of certain State-trading countries in cargo liner shipping
(Rapporteur-General: Mr Hoffmann) May 1978

- Community stand in the face of international monetary disorder
(Rapporteur: Mr Charpentie) June 1978
- Progress made in implementing the Lomé Convention in view of the opening of negotiations for a new convention
(Rapporteur: Mr Soulat) July 1978
- The future of forestry in the European Community
(Rapporteur: Mr Maher) July 1978
- Means of communication in the Londonderry/Donegal frontier area
(Rapporteur: Mr Cremer) July 1978
- Greek application for membership of the European Community
(Rapporteur-General: Mr De Ridder) November 1978
- Problems of frontier workers
(Rapporteur: Mr Delourme) January 1979
- Third ERDF Annual Report
(Rapporteur: Mr Pearson) February 1979
- New shipping nations, flags of convenience and flag discrimination
(Rapporteur: Mr Rouzier) April 1979
- Energy objectives for 1990 and Member States' programmes
(Rapporteur: Mr Margot) May 1979
- Greater economic policy convergence
(Rapporteur: Mr Margot) May 1979
- Community enlargement — Requests for membership from Greece, Spain and Portugal
(Rapporteur: Mr Pfeiffer) June 1979
- Role and influence of local and regional authorities in framing the common regional policy
(Rapporteur: Mr Ventejol) October 1979
- Industrial restructuring in the Community
(Rapporteur: Mr van Campen) October 1979
- Multiannual programme for achieving the customs union
(Rapporteur: Mr Marvier) October 1979

- ERDF Funds for 1980
(Rapporteur-General: Mr Milne) October 1979
- The European Regional Development Fund (Fourth Annual Report 1978)
(Rapporteur: Mr Pearson) November 1979
- The problems of trade barriers and the alignment of laws in this area
(Rapporteur: Mr Évain) November 1979
- Report on some structural aspects of growth
(Rapporteur: Mr Querini) February 1980
- Regional programmes
(Rapporteur: Mr Hall) April 1980
- Use of medicine and its effects on public health
(Rapporteur: Mr De Grave) April 1980
- The report on European institutions
(Rapporteur-General: Mr Friedrichs) May 1980
- Development cooperation policy and the economic and social consequences of the application of certain international standards governing working conditions
(Rapporteur: Mr Soulat) July 1980
- Distribution of the total catch possibilities of stocks or groups of stocks occurring in the Community fishing zone
(Rapporteur: Mr Leo) November 1980
- Community accession to the European Convention on Human Rights
(Rapporteur: Mr Williams) December 1980
- Protection of investment in less-developed countries
(Rapporteur: Mr Breitenstein) December 1980
- European Regional Development Fund (Fifth Annual Report 1979)
(Rapporteur: Mr Curlis) December 1980
- The Community competition policy in the light of the current economic and social situation
(Rapporteur: Mr Bagliano) April 1981
- Revision of the ERDF Regulation
(Rapporteur: Mr Hall) April 1981

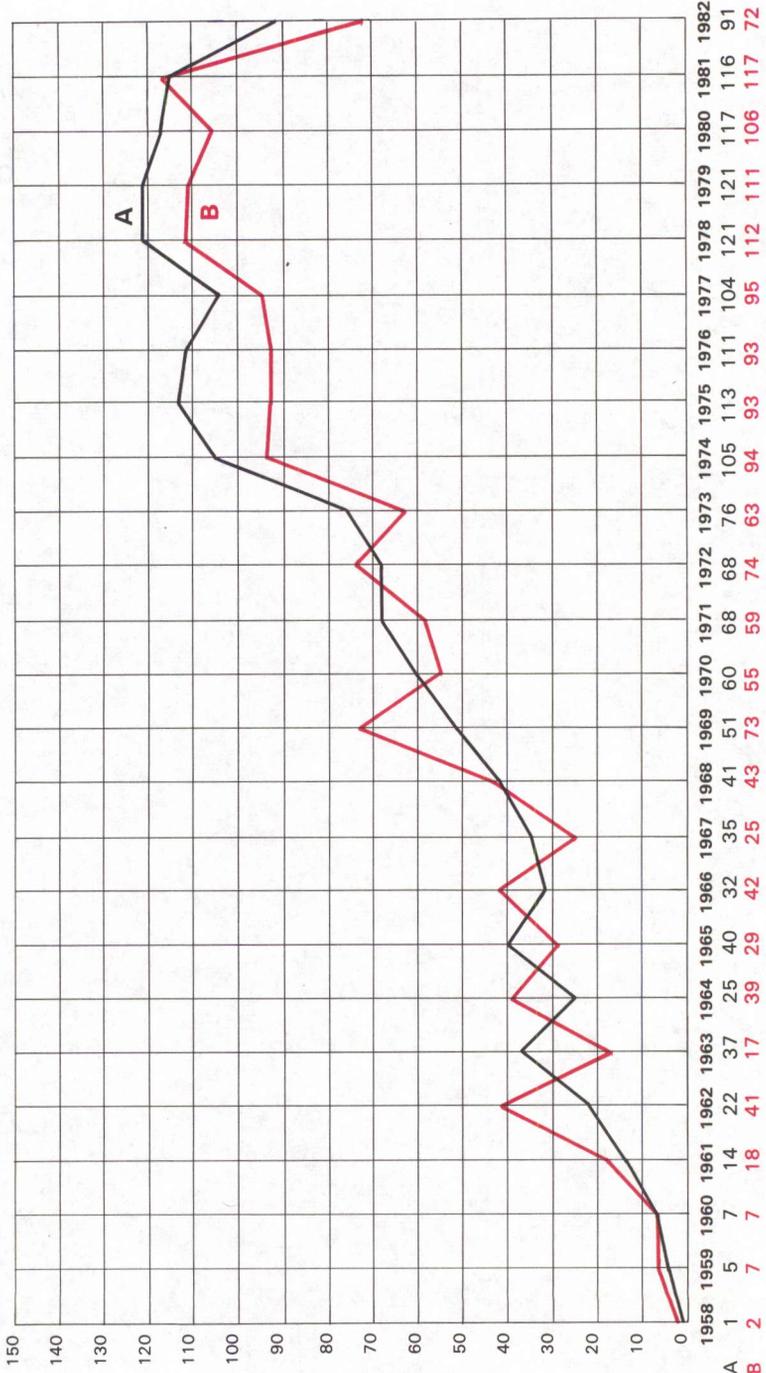
- Implementation of the Second Lomé Convention
(Rapporteur: Mr Clavel) May 1981
- Economic and commercial relations between the
Community and Japan July 1981
(Rapporteur: Mr Évain)
- The automobile sector July 1981
(Rapporteur: Mr Laval)
- The present situation in the Community's construc-
tion sector and the most appropriate measures by
which the EEC can promote growth and employment
in this sector July 1981
(Rapporteur: Mr Évain)
- The situation and problems of the handicapped July 1981
(Rapporteur: Mr Davies)
- The Community's food aid policy September 1981
(Rapporteur: Mr Williams)
- The agricultural aspects of the enlargement of the September 1981
Community to include Spain
(Rapporteur: Mr Lauga)
- Review of energy policy objectives for 1990 and September 1981
Member States' investment programmes
(Communication from the Commission)
(Rapporteur: Mr Margot)
- Prospects for the Communities' policies in the October 1981
1980s
(Rapporteur: Mr De Bruyn)
- Reform of the common agricultural policy November 1981
(Rapporteur: Mr Zinkin)
- European Regional Development Fund (Sixth Annual December 1981
Report 1980)
(Rapporteur: Mr Zoli)
- The situation and prospects of the textile and cloth- January 1982
ing industries in the Community
(Rapporteur: Mr Masucci)
- The coordination of labour market instruments February 1982
(Rapporteur: Mr Vanni)

- The development of the European Monetary System (EMS)
 (Rapporteur: Mr Évain) April 1982
- The 1982 programme for the attainment of the customs union
 (Rapporteur: Mr Broicher) April 1982
- The promotion of the small and medium-sized enterprises sector in the European Community
 (Rapporteur: Mr Kolbenschlag) May 1982
- Communication from the Commission to the Council on the development of an energy strategy for the Community and energy pricing — policy and transparency
 (Rapporteur: Mr Zünkler) May 1982
- The economic situation in the Community (mid-1982)
 (Rapporteur: Mr Loccufier) July 1982
- Commission report to the ACP-EEC Council of Ministers on the administration of financial and technical cooperation in 1980 under the Lomé Convention
 (Rapporteur: Mr Cremer) July 1982
- Transport policy of the European Community in the 1980s
 (Rapporteur-General: Mr Rouzier) October 1982

Annex D

Graphs

A — TEXTS PRODUCED (Opinions, information reports, studies)
B — REFERRALS



NUMBER OF STAFF



MEETINGS



European Communities — Economic and Social Committee

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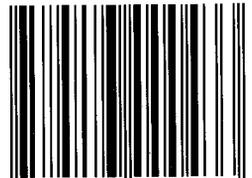
This Annual Report covers the Economic and Social Committee's work in 1982. It looks in particular at the Committee's influence within the Community's decision-making process, the Committee's image in the media and the role played by the groups represented on the Economic and Social Committee. A table showing the work carried out on various Community policies is also included. The Report concludes with a number of lists, graphs and tables.



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