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Report

drawn up on behalf of the Committee on Social Affairs, Employment and
Education

on

- I. the third report from the Commission to the Council on the possibilities and difficulties of ratification by the Member States of the first list of conventions concluded within other international organizations
- II. relations between the European Communities and the International Labour Organization (ILO)

Rapporteur: Mr A. GEURTSSEN

By letter of 20 November 1975 the Committee on Social Affairs and Employment requested authorization to draw up a report on the Third Report from the Commission to the Council on the possibilities and difficulties of ratification by the Member States of the first list of conventions concluded within other international organizations (Com(75) 142) in the fields of social legislation and labour legislation and on relations between the European Communities and the International Labour Organization (ILO).

At its meeting of 8 December 1975 the enlarged Bureau authorized the committee to draw up a report on the above subjects.

At its meeting of 1 December 1975 the Committee on Social Affairs and Employment appointed Mr Geurtsen rapporteur.

It considered the draft report at its meetings of 8 December 1975, 22/23 January 1976 and 24 February 1976 and, at the last-mentioned meeting, unanimously approved the motion for a resolution and the explanatory statement.

Present : Mr Adams, vice-chairman and acting chairman; Mr Marras, vice-chairman; Mr Geurtsen, rapporteur; Mr Albers, Mr Albertsen, Mr Artzinger (deputizing for Mr Girardin), Mr Carpentier, Mr Della Briotta (deputizing for Mr Bermani), Mrs Dunwoody, Mr Glinne, Mr Härzschel, Mr Kavanagh, Mrs Kellett-Bowman (deputizing for Mr Howell), Mr Martens (deputizing for Mr A. Bertrand), Mr Knud Nielsen (deputizing for Mr Dondelinger), Mr Normanton, Mr Pisoni, Mr Premoli, Mr Prescott, Mr Schwörer (deputizing for Mr Van Der Gun) and Mr Yeats.

After certain information had come to the notice of the Committee on Social Affairs, Employment and Education at its meeting of 23-24 March 1976, it decided to postpone the presentation of this report in plenary session.

At its meeting of 30 March - 1 April 1977 the committee unanimously agreed that the postponement could now be terminated. Apart from some alterations of a factual nature no further amendments were made to the report.

Present : Mr Van Der Gun, chairman; Mr Galuzzi, vice-chairman; Mrs Dunwoody, vice-chairman; Mr Geurtsen, rapporteur; Mr Adams, Mr Albers, Mr Caro, Mr Carpentier, Mrs Cassanmagnago-Cerretti, Mr Granelli, Mr Ove Hansen, Mr Kavanagh, Mrs Kellett-Bowman, Mr Meintz, Mr H.W. Müller, Lord Murray of Gravesend, Mr Pianta, Mr Pisoni, Mr Pistillo, Sir Brandon Rhys Williams, Mr Schreiber, Mr Santer, Mr Vandewiele, Mr Wawrzik.

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A

The Committee on Social Affairs and Employment hereby submits to the European Parliament the following motion for a resolution, together with explanatory statement:

MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

on

- (i) the third report from the Commission to the Council on the possibilities and difficulties of ratification by the Member States of the first list of conventions concluded within other international organizations, in the fields of social legislation and labour legislation, and
- (ii) relations between the European Communities and the International Labour Organization (ILO)

The European Parliament,

- having taken note of the third report from the Commission to the Council on the possibilities and difficulties of ratification by the Member States of the first list of conventions concluded within other international organizations,¹
- considering the advisability of making a specific study of relations between the European Communities and the International Labour Organization,
- having regard to the report by the Committee on Social Affairs and Employment (Doc. 54/77),

¹COM(75)142

1. Notes with satisfaction the publication by the Commission of the European Communities of a third report, which takes account of the situation in the new Member States, on progress made towards ratification of international conventions in the fields of social legislation and labour legislation¹
2. Recalls the resolutions which it has previously adopted in this field¹, the main substance of which remains valid;
3. Welcomes the fact that the number of ratifications by the Member States has increased since the consideration of its last report on this subject²; largely agrees, nevertheless, with the Commission's conclusions and, in particular, shares its dissatisfaction at the number of officially ratified legal instruments and the slowness of the procedures involved;
4. Points out, however, that even when, in a given Member State, an international convention has not been ratified, it can exert a certain influence there, either because certain of its elements have been incorporated in national legislation or because they have been taken over in collective labour agreements freely negotiated by workers' and employers' organizations;
5. Welcomes the fact that, at the 61st session of the General Conference in 1976, the International Labour Office approved a convention on the establishment of tripartite bodies responsible for promoting the implementation of international labour standards, and requests the Member States to adopt, if possible, a common position in this respect;
6. Points out once again that conventions of this kind, which have been drawn up within an international framework after extensive consultation in which all Member States of the Community have taken part, are obviously intended, through ratifications, to become fully operative and that their non-ratification can result in distinct disadvantages for those directly concerned;

¹ Resolution of 14.5.1963, OJ No 84, p.1576/63
 Resolution of 2.7.1968, OJ No C 72/68, p.21
 Resolution of 4.4.1973, OJ No. C 26/73, p.8

² Report by Mr Pêtre, Doc. 289/72, April 1973 part-session

7. Again, urges, therefore, the Member States to speed up their ratification procedures, not least for the sake of the harmonizing effect that derives from uniform legal provisions having force in all Member States, which makes this matter a Community affair;
8. Requests the Council, therefore, officially to instruct the Commission to continue to follow closely in the future, in consultation with the International Labour Office, not only the progress being made with ratifications, but also the actual application by Member States of ratified conventions, and to continue to report regularly on this subject to the Council and Parliament;
9. Also requests the Commission to continue to use its influence, particularly with the Council, to promote, by every means possible, the entry into force of this legislation;
10. Would appreciate it if, in future, the Commission's report on conventions in the fields of social legislation and labour legislation could be brought up to date so as to reflect the situation obtaining in the year of its publication.

II.

11. Notes that the objectives of the International Labour Organization and those of the European Communities in the social field largely coincide and therefore believes both for reasons of principle and for practical reasons that, in this area, cooperation between the two institutions should be as close as possible;
12. Requests its Political Affairs Committee and its Legal Affairs Committee to submit, in due time, a report on the further development of the Communities' relations with international organizations such as the United Nations and its specialized agencies within the meaning of Articles 228 and 229 of the EEC Treaty¹;
13. Believes that achievement of European Union is bound to lead to the Communities' membership of ILO, yet feels that, pending this development, the following practical measures could be taken at once:
 - (a) a higher degree of coordination at Community level of positions to be adopted by the Member States at ILO's annual conferences;
 - (b) appointment of a single spokesman to speak at these conferences on behalf of the nine governments in respect of all areas where such coordination has been achieved (for example, the representative of the Member State exercising the Presidency of the Council);
 - (c) encouragement by the Community of consultation at European regional level and of more frequent meetings at that level within the framework of ILO;
 - (d) admission of a delegation from the European Parliament to join those from the Communities and the Member States at such regional conferences;
 - (e) more active participation by the representatives of the Commission, of the ECSC Consultative Committee and of the Economic and Social Committee in ILO's activities.
 - (f) opening of negotiations between the International Labour Office and the Communities on the replacement of the three existing cooperation agreements by a single, wider-ranging agreement;
 - (g) intensification of practical cooperation in the form of inter alia regular mutual consultation, adaptation by both sides of, for example, sectoral and statistical study programmes, as also the forms and models used therein, and technical coordination in the reciprocal use of documentation systems;

¹Also the corresponding articles of the ECSC and EAEC Treaties.

14. Requests the Commission of the European Communities, acting in collaboration with the Director-General of the International Labour Office, to submit to the European Parliament, within one year at the latest, a separate report on action taken on the abovementioned suggestions;
15. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Director-General of the International Labour Office, the Secretary-General of the Council of Europe, the governments of the Member States and the Council and Commission of the European Communities.

EXPLANATORY STATEMENTI. Ratification of international conventions in the social sector

1.1 The European Parliament has already devoted two reports to this matter:

- TROCLET, 1968 (Doc. 81/68)¹
- PETRE, 1973 (Doc. 289/72)²

The European Social Charter dealt with in the third report now under consideration was considered in the report:

- TROCLET, 1963 (Doc. 1/63-64)³

1.2 Practically none of the points made in the resolution adopted in connection with the last of the above reports is of much significance any longer, except perhaps the tacit supposition that ratification of the European Social Charter by all the countries concerned could very well take some considerable time. And that has proved correct, since at the present time, 12 years after its signature, the Charter has been ratified by only six Member States; and as five of them had ratified it by 1968, that means there has been only one further ratification in seven years⁴.

1.3 In the 1968 resolution, which was drawn up on the basis of the Commission's first report, it was noted with approval that the Commission had begun to look into what had happened about international agreements in the social sector, embodying its findings in its First Report on the subject. It was also noted that, although European integration could not be achieved in the absence of a Community social policy, the Member States would at the same time have to constantly bear in mind the need for solidarity with all the other countries of the world in this sphere.

The 1972 resolution on the Commission's Second Report was critical of the slow progress being made with ratification; with a view to improving the situation it was suggested even more strongly than before that an important role could be played by the social partners (i.e., the possibility of pressure being brought to bear on the authorities by employers and/or employees)⁵. The Commission was also asked for an additional report on the situation in the new Member States.

¹ Resolution of 2.7.1968, OJ No. C 72/68, p.21
² Resolution of 4.4.1973, OJ No. C 26/73, p.8
³ Resolution of 14.5.1968, OJ No. 84/68, p.1576/63

⁴ See also paragraph 1.4 of this report

⁵ This possibility is currently receiving attention at ILO

The Third Report is in fact the Commission's response to this request; the Commission took nearly 2 years but it has also brought its information on the original Member States up to date as at the end of 1964.

This is not without its usefulness, since by the end of 1964 fourteen conventions drawn up by ILO and eleven drawn up by the Council of Europe had been ratified in the previous three years.¹

It is therefore a fair conclusion that progress is being made in this sector.

1.4 Your committee feels, however, that the following should also be noted.

While recognizing that it is desirable to consolidate international agreements by ratification (and this certainly applies if a country has been directly concerned in the drawing up of an agreement) and that non-implementation can, in some cases, result in obvious disadvantages to those directly affected, it should be remembered that non-ratification is not necessarily equivalent to complete non-implementation. In particular, in highly developed countries such as those of the Communities, that have a well-developed social system, it can be assumed that practices in flagrant infringement of the provisions of the agreements referred to here will not arise. The Third Report contains numerous examples of failure to ratify for reasons that are far from implying the rejection of one or more conventions in their entirety.

ILO itself does moreover apply a procedure for keeping a check on the ratification of its conventions: the member countries are required to submit annual reports on the stage reached with the relevant procedures to an ad hoc committee on the implementation of conventions and recommendations. There has also been some success with regard to conventions that have not yet been ratified, e.g., in negotiations on collective labour agreements.

1.5 An illustration of the above is the statement by Mr HILLERY, Vice-President of the Commission², on the actual implementation of the principle of equal pay for men and women.

After noting that 'equal pay' had become law in 1975 in the Benelux countries, Denmark and Ireland, he referred to the equal pay directive, then

¹ See the annex to this report and Written Question No. 68/75 by Mr PETRE, OJ No. C 170/75, p.31

² Question Time, plenary assembly of the European Parliament in Strasbourg of 17.12.1975, answer to question by Mr HAMILTON.

still waiting to be considered by the Council¹, which provides for the possibility of recourse to legal action in cases where the principle is not observed.

It should be recalled that the principle of non-discrimination as referred to here was at all events laid down in the International Charter of Labour (if not earlier) as annexed to the Constitution of ILO in the form established in Philadelphia in 1944. (ILO has been in existence since 1919).

It was also taken over in Article 14 of the European Convention of 1952 on the protection of human rights and in the European Social Charter drawn up on the initiative of the Council of Europe (third recital).

1.6 There was in fact good reason for choosing this example, which has its EEC equivalent in the 'self-executing' Article 119 of the EEC Treaty, as the Communities initially adopted the position that the execution of at least some aspects of their social policy could be allowed to depend on progress already achieved in the framework of other international organizations, in particular ILO. This procedure has not always been satisfactory and specific Community action has been taken in certain cases.

The activity of ILO has, then been regarded as an integral part of efforts to create a Community social policy as laid down in the Treaty of Rome, whether in the form of new legislation or the harmonization of existing national legislation, and this view still holds good today.

1.7 The converse, namely that ILO activity cannot be regarded as falling outside the Community's terms of reference, is therefore inescapable. This means that the Council and the Commission have no need to soft-pedal on such matters as ratification of agreements since this is clearly fundamental to the realization of a Community social policy.

1.8 It may well be that the mere act of drawing up reports on the stage reached with ratification procedures has contributed to progress with ratification in the Member States.

Your committee would therefore like these reports to be continued. Since non-observance of a ratified convention is possibly more serious than non-ratification, future reports should also indicate actual implementation of the conventions in the Member States.

¹ Adopted at the meeting of the Council of Ministers of Social Affairs of 18.12.75 see OJ L39/76, p. 40.

Moreover, emphasis should in future be put on reports being as up to date as possible; it is odd that the Commission's survey only covers conventions adopted between 1952 and 1964¹.

Conclusion

1.9 Your committee feels that, all in all, there is cause for a certain satisfaction with the progress made in implementing labour legislation drawn up by ILO; it is most desirable that reports on this subject be continued, expanded in the manner indicated above.

Partly in view of what is discussed in the following section, it further feels that the reporting in question should take the more general form of a survey of actual cooperation between the Community and ILO in the entire field of Community social policy.

The reason for this is simply that, as explained, the activities of ILO are in no way distinct from those of the Community in the social sector but are an integral part of them.

¹ See table III annexed to this report

II.

Relations with ILO

2.1. In 1973 the International Labour Organization (ILO) revised the structure of its representation in Western Europe, entrusting its liaison office in Brussels as from that date with the conduct of relations with:

- a. in the first instance, the four institutions of the European Communities and representatives of employers and employees at European level,
- b. in the second instance, with the appropriate ministerial departments in the three Benelux countries, and employers' and employees' organizations there.

This move was intended to give a new dimension to relations with the Communities; it can be seen as a somewhat late change of heart¹.

2.2 A series of formal cooperation agreements with the International Labour Office was concluded by the Communities shortly after their foundation:

- The ECSC in 1953,
- The EEC in 1959, and
- EURATOM in 1959².

Overall, these agreements make provision for:

- i. mutual consultation,
- ii. exchange of information,
- iii. technical cooperation in fields of common interest,
- iv. arrangements concerning implementation and areas of competence.

2.3 Developments in Community relations with the International Labour Office can be broadly traced in the Annual General Reports of the Communities.

¹ILO offices in Western Europe are located in Brussels, Bonn, London, Paris and Rome

²OJ Nos. 11/53, 27/59 and 18/61

- ECSC 1955 Reference to the cooperation agreement concluded in 1953 and to participation by the High Authority in the First European Regional Conference in Geneva
- ECSC 1956 First tangible results of the cooperation agreement
- ECSC 1957 Cooperation on drawing up the agreement on social security arrangements for migrants (ECSC Treaty, Article 69)
- ECSC 1960 Second cooperation agreement and financial support from the High Authority for the information centre for health and safety at work
- ECSC 1963 Subsidy of 10,000 u.a. to the Centre for Information and Research on Vocational Training set up by ILO and the Council of Europe
- ECSC 1964 High Authority participation in the governing body of ILO and in the International Labour Conference. Research assignment given to the International Vocational Training Centre of Turin
- ECSC 1966 Contribution to the international centre of 30,000 u.a. for a four-year period

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- EEC 1961 Commission reference in its Fifth General Report to its representation at the (45th) International Labour Conference and on the Governing Council of the International Labour Office and participation in the activities of the International Vocational Training Centre of Turin

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- Third General Report 1969 (50th anniversary of the Foundation of ILO). Community cooperation in a symposium on vocational guidance and training and participation in a congress on occupational health and safety; organization at the Vocational Training Centre of Turin of a session on the further training of training officers in industry and financial contribution to the International Institute for Labour Studies and the International Safety Centre (p.409)

Officials of the Commission and Council participate in the activities of the ILO bodies; members of the Commission have been attending the annual ILO conferences since 1965.

2.4. In the documents produced by the International Labour Office - particularly in the reports drawn up for the general annual conferences and the Regional European Conferences - the Communities are not systematically mentioned, but whenever mention is made of them it is extensive¹.

Important in the context of this parliamentary report is the end of what was stated in 1974, on behalf of the International Labour Office, as a declaration of principle: 'The Regional European Conference will doubtless be able to indicate to ILO what the latter can do to play a new and more dynamic role in Europe and thus add a new and more human dimension to European cooperation.

2.5 The Communities have contributed financially to ILO institutions such as the Vocational Training Centre since their foundation, initially with grants of approximately 10,000 u.a. per annum. In 1969 this amount was increased to 18,000 u.a. and in 1976 the figure will be 20,000 u.a.².

Any ad hoc expenditure on incidental collaboration is provided for by the appropriate budgetary items; these do not therefore appear in the official Community budget as such.

2.6 It is possibly of interest to mention here something revealed by the estimates made by the International Labour Office for 1972-73, the years in which ILO's Liaison Office in Brussels was expanded.

For 1970-71 there was an entry of some \$ 50,000 in the Budget for this office (Paris: about \$ 300,000, Beirut: about \$ 275,000, and Moscow: just below \$ 150,000); for 1972-73 the amount planned was more than \$ 150,000 (with no drastic changes in the other items)³ and for 1976-77 about \$423,000.

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A few facts and figures illustrating the present stage of relations with ILO have been presented.

Future relations will now be considered under the headings of:

- a. institutional relations
- b. practical cooperation.

Clearly, the purely institutional aspect of relations is outside the scope of this report and is left to the appropriate committees of the European Parliament.

¹ See inter alia D.G. Report for the 1955 Regional European Conference, p. 137 et seq.; also that for 1974 Regional European Conference, p. 99 et seq.

² For 1976, see item 3521 of the Community budget

³ Report II for the 1971 General Conference

a. Institutional relations

2.7 The Communities are not yet considered - and perhaps cannot yet be considered - as subjects of international law in the usual sense. This means that they cannot be a member in their own right of, for example, the United Nations or of any of its specialized agencies.

However, the situation is no longer static in this respect. On the one hand, the rest of the world has always regarded the Communities as a more closely knit body than it was actually seen to be from the inside; on the other, partly as a result of the accession of the United Kingdom and the admission of the Federal Republic of Germany to the United Nations, the Communities' impact on world events has gradually increased to such an extent that it can no longer be disregarded.

2.8 This has been reflected in the first place in statements emanating from the United Nations itself. For instance, after the interview which took place in November 1975 in New York between Mr GUNDELACH, member of the Commission and Mr WALDHEIM, the UN Secretary-General, press reports¹ stated that reference had been made to the growing and moderating influence of the Community delegation on UN activities and the desirability of letting the delegation play a larger role was acknowledged.

The same view is increasingly being taken on the European side, witness for example, a series of written questions from Members of the European Parliament².

Community relations with the UN specialized agencies, other than with GATT and ILO are not yet highly developed, but neither are they completely non-existent. Here such institutions come to mind as the Food and Agriculture Organization, the World Health Organization, the World Meteorology Organization, etc.³

Particularly significant in this context is the fact that the Community negotiated on behalf of the Member States in the various rounds of Gatt negotiations (Dillon and Kennedy Rounds) at the time of the introduction of the common external tariff, which was brought forward on two occasions, and this has been entirely a Community affair since 1968.

¹ Eg. Agence Europe, 26.11.1975, p.9; also the statement by the European Council of 17.7.1975 on the UN.

² See Written Question No. 764/74, by Mr FELLERMAIER, OJ C 19/76, p.2; Nos. 254, 255 and 256/75, by Mr GLINNE, OJ C 242, 264 and 285/75 and 680, 683, 684 and 687 and 688/75, EP Bulletin No. 48/75, 16.1.1976, Question Time, 11.2.1976, question by Lord St. Oswald.

³ See also C. A. EHRHARDT: Die E.G. unter dem Einigungsdruck ihrer Umwelt, in Aussenpolitik' No. 4/75, blz 397.

The European Parliament was also occupied with matters such as Euro-control¹.

The Commission was given a mandate by the Council at its meeting of 20 January 1976² to negotiate on behalf of the Member States on a convention on the protection of the Rhine from chemical pollution and to conclude this convention on behalf of the Member States.

These various instances, only alluded to en passant in this report, afford unmistakable evidence that the Community is increasingly being recognized as an autonomous international legal entity.

This in itself has definite consequences for the Communities' relations with ILO. Also of relevance are the points raised in paragraphs 1.6. ff

2.9 The example of relations between the EEC and GATT in particular raises the question of the possibility of the Community becoming a member of ILO in place of the individual Member States.

Accepting that this could not take place immediately, in view in particular of the tripartite principle laid down in the ILO statute, it is hard to avoid the conclusion that there can be no fundamental legal objection to such a move although obviously a number of legal and other adjustments would be necessary which would require a certain time and would depend on the willingness of both parties to accept the change. It should not be overlooked from the ILO point of view, that the Communities form an institution sui generis with respect to its objectives, instruments and bodies, so that the Community's accession could hardly be considered to constitute a precedent.

Your committee will be interested to note reactions to this suggestion.

2.10 In the meantime a number of changes in formal relations could be effected without institutional change so that the Community could be considered as one entity with a single spokesman and so that more substance could be given to the status of the Commission representative on ILO bodies.

¹Resolution of 12.11.1975, OJ C 280/75, p.24

²Press release No. 89/76 (Press 6)

The necessary steps are described in detail in paragraph 13 of the resolution with this report and in principle need no further explanation here.

2.11 Perhaps something more should be said about the ILO regional conferences, which were mentioned in the discussion in preparation of this report.

ILO decides autonomously on the holding of regional conferences, which do not have to be held at regular intervals. The last one was held in 1974.

The best context for fruitful relations between the Communities and the ILO would certainly be provided by conferences of this kind, where - for the time being - Member States are represented on a tripartite basis. They also provide the opportunity for a delegation from the European Parliament to attend discussions, possibly with consultative status, at any rate with the right to speak and to make its views known.

At these more limited conferences emphasis is placed on 'regional' problems, which are precisely the pivot around which relations between the ILO and the Communities turn.

2.12 Last, but not least, it would seem possible to use these regional conferences in an effort to 'depoliticize' ILO and to get attention focused once again on social problems, which are certainly more than big enough to warrant spending all available time on them. There has been growing criticism in the EEC of the recent tendency for general meetings of UNESCO, ILO and other UN bodies to degenerate into 'mini United Nations assemblies'.

These observations are made in all seriousness, but with due restraint seeing that they relate to problems that are purely institutional for the Community and internal for ILO and can therefore only be touched on indirectly in this report.

Your committee feels it would be useful if regional conferences of this kind could be held in the near future and thereafter at more frequent intervals.

Conclusion

2.13 Even though Community membership of ILO cannot be achieved overnight, the purpose of the resolution, which will not be further discussed here, accompanying this report is considerably more than to effect a simple stocktaking and to put forward a few minor suggestions on improvements and modifications to existing relations.

The moment seems opportune to take certain initial, basic steps to achieve a substantially greater degree of integration in the various activities. Quite apart from the current internal problems of ILO, the time to do this is now.

The paragraphs in the resolution on negotiations on the revision of existing cooperation agreements (paragraph 13(f)) and on the related reports on this initiative by the European Parliament (paragraph 14) should be seen in this light.

(b) Practical cooperation

2.14 The representative of the International Labour Office explained to your committee that the activities of ILO, to the extent that they were relevant to the Communities, had been concentrated since the second Regional Conference on Europe on the following fields:

- employment
- improvements in living and working conditions
- worker participation.

2.15 There is no doubt about the fact that, for 1975 and 1976¹, Community interests too have been centred on these sectors.

The following topics in these sectors deserve special mention:

(a) Measures to remedy youth unemployment

The International Labour Office in particular can draw on experience in the United States and Canada, and it is intended to set up a technical working party composed of representatives of the Organization for European Economic Cooperation (OEEC), the International Labour Office and the Communities.

¹ See, for example, Docs. 73, 331 and 332/75; Doc. 306/73; Doc. COM(75) 570 final, 12.11.1975, Doc. COM(76) 253 final, 3.6.1976, Doc. 298/76

(b) Migration in periods of recession

Having regard to inter alia experience in Asia and Africa, this involves matters relating to such questions as equal pay, worker participation, vocational training with a view to return to country of origin, etc.,

(c) Social security for migrants

This is the only field where there is a permanent cooperation arrangement between ILO and the Community; it has existed since the ECSC period.

(d) Safety at work

(e) Humanizing of working conditions

(f) Social security and worker participation, e.g. in multinational undertakings

2.16 Some details of cooperation between the Communities and the International Labour Office have been given in paragraph 2.3 of this report.

The area in which cooperation is most extensive is that of social security arrangements for migrant workers. There have been contracts on this matter with the International Labour Office since the ECSC period and subsequent provision was made for it in Regulations 3 and 4/58 EEC¹ ff.

The International Labour Office provided considerable technical and practical support, which can be regarded as setting an example for closer cooperation in other areas.

In the exchange of views between your committee and the representatives of the Commission and the International Labour Office, one point to emerge was that in 1968 studies were requested by the Community on the reception of migrant workers and on social problems affecting the self-employed and seamen. There was also cooperation on the setting up of the 1974 Community Social Action Programme².

It is clear that ILO concern with current social and economic matters coincides to a large extent with that of the Communities. Information

¹ OJ No. 30/1958

² OJ No. C 13/74, p.1 ff

exchanged between the two organizations is therefore bound to serve a useful purpose; an obvious example is that of problems in connection with multinational undertakings¹.

2.17 This cooperation, which in view of the similarities in the activity of the institutions concerned should help to eliminate unnecessary duplication, can be further intensified if action is taken now to strengthen relations between the institutions.

This might well be done by preparing a series of reports, studies and statistics etc., of interest to both institutions.

In the interests of completeness, it may be noted that some statistical harmonization has taken place in recent years within the Community, for example in agriculture, and the result has been that data is collected by the Member States in such a form that it can also be used in compiling Community statistics. This was achieved by a technical harmonization allowing national and Community needs - which are by no means always identical - to be dealt with simultaneously by computer. Perhaps this is also possible with respect to the ILO.

2.18 It is not the intention of this report to deny that differences exist in the activities and working methods of the institutions concerned; our aim here is to take advantage of such common objectives and common administrative structures as do exist and thus achieve maximum efficiency.

Your committee considers the extension of practical cooperation as no less important an element of the report than all the previous measures mentioned.

¹ See, for example, the relevant and very positive study carried out by the International Labour Office in 1975.

I. Number of ratifications by the Member States of international conventions in the social sector
ratifications per convention

Convention	1968	1972	1974	Member States
A : International Labour Office				
- No 103 (1952)				
Maternity protection	0	2	2	It. - Luxbg
- No 111 (1958)				
Discrimination in respect of employment and occupation	3	3	4	Dk - Gmy - It. - Neth.
- No 117 (1962)				
Aims and basic standards for social policy	1	1	1	It.
- No 118 (1963)				
Equality of treatment of migrants			6	Dk - Gmy - Fr. - Irl. - It. - Neth.
- No 119 (1963)				
Guarding of machinery	1	1	1	It.
- No 120 (1964)				
Hygiene in commerce and offices	1	3	5	Dk - Gmy - Fr. - It. - UK.
- No 121 (1964)				
Benefits in the case of employment injury			5	Belg. - Gmy - Irl. - Luxbg - Neth.
- No 122 (1964)				
Employment policy	3	8	8	Belg.-Dk.- Gmy.-Fr.-Irl.-It.-Neth.-UK.
Totals	9	18	32	

B. : Council of Europe

- European Social Charter (1961)

- Social Security Code (1964)

- Protocol (idem)

Dk. - Gmy. - Fr. - Irl. - It. - UK

Belg.-Dk.-Gmy.-Irl.-Luxmbg.-Neth.-UK.

Belg.- Gmy. - Luxmbg. - Neth.

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Totals

5

6

6

6

6

17

II. Number of ratifications per Member State

Belgium	Denmark	Germany	France	Ireland	Italy	Luxmbg.	Nether-lands	UK
121	111	111	118	118	103	103	111	120
122	118	118	120	121	111	121	118	122
Code	120	120	122	122	117	Code	121	ESC
Protoc.	122	121	ESC	ESC	118	Protoc.	122	Code
	ESC	122	Code	Code	119		Code	
	Code	ESC			120		Protoc.	
		Code			122			
		Protoc.			ESC			
4	6	8	4	5	8	4	6	4

Source: COM(75) 142, Annex

Situation as of 13.12.1976

III. Number of ratifications by Member States
of the 140 conventions drawn up in
ILO since 1919

Member State	Conventions Nos 1-67 1919 - 1939	Conventions Nos 68-140 1946 - 1974	Total (out of 140)
Belgium	39	33	72
Denmark	23	20	43
France	45	51	96
Germany	25	35	60
Ireland	31	20	51
Italy	39	39	78
Luxembourg	34	17	51
Netherlands	35	41	76
U.K.	37	32	69

Source: International Labour Office; situation as at 31.12.1976