

TRADE UNION NEWS

from the European Community

No 12 Summer 1973

european communities
press and information

**European Communities
Press and Information Office
23 Chesham Street
London SW1**

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Published by
European Communities
Press and Information Office
23 Chesham Street
London SW1
01-235 4904

New proposals on Social policy
..... Regional policy
..... Industry & technology
..... Energy policy
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..... Economic &
monetary union

The nine-nation summit conference held in Paris last October set the Community, and above all the Commission, an impressive programme of work to be achieved during 1973. Consequently the Commission produced during April and May no fewer than eight major policy documents. Six of these have direct implications for industry and jobs in the member countries. These are summarised briefly below. (The other two deal with the Communities' position in the forthcoming GATT trade talks, and relations with the developing Commonwealth countries to whom the enlarged Community has offered special agreements. Both of them certainly have implications for the employment situation, though less directly. They are not therefore covered here).

1. Guidelines for a European Social Action Programme

One of the unions' constant past criticisms of the Community has been that social progress and harmonisation has not kept pace with economic integration. The Commission now calls for a "European social union", the first phase of which should be completed not later than the end of stage two of the economic and monetary union (see below). Its suggestions fall into three areas - full and better employment - living and working conditions - participation in decision making. The main ones are:

- Community contributions to employment premiums for the creation of new jobs in under-developed and declining regions;
- A European centre for vocational training;
- Concrete measures to give migrant workers improved social protection, reception facilities (including training), education and housing;

- The setting up of women's employment committees in those member states which do not have them already and a Permanent Committee to assist the Commission in co-ordination at Community level;
- Community help for the further training of school leavers who fail to obtain jobs;
- Community help to guarantee elderly workers against loss of income due to premature retirement, and help in training instructors in the rehabilitation of handicapped workers;
- A system of permanent cooperation between the Commission and national employment services;
- An examination of the question of minimum wages;
- The implementation of the principle of equal pay for men and women;
- Concrete proposals for the extension of social protection to categories of people not covered at all or inadequately under existing systems;
- A study on the possibility of Community support for unemployment benefits;
- Urgent studies with the social partners with a view to abolishing assembly line work by sector and on a Community basis;
- Action on the proposals already made aimed at extending worker participation in management;
- Aid to European trade-union organisations to help their training and information services on Community affairs, including the setting up of an Institute of Labour.

The Commission's suggestions are now before the Economic and Social Committee and the European Parliament for their views and will form the basic work document at the special social conference planned for June 28 in Luxembourg, which will bring together Commission, governments and the two sides of industry. Final proposals will be put before the Council of Ministers in the autumn. (See T. U. comments, page 26).

2. Report on Regional Policy in the Enlarged Community

The Summit meeting took the view that the Community had to give much higher priority to helping its poorer regions, and the Commission has now published its 'green paper' setting out the general lines it thinks the Community should follow in this field.

Community regional policy cannot replace national policies - it must complement them. But if the Community is to succeed it must coordinate the various common policies and instruments at its disposal as well as the national regional policies. The role of Community regional policy will increase as the Community increases and improves its instruments of intervention. This coordination must be done in closest cooperation with the unions and employers' organisations.

The Regional Development Fund: Two basic elements of regional policy will be the subject of proposals to be made by the Commission in June: The Regional Development Fund and the Regional Development Committee. The Fund must be big enough to fulfil the mandate of the Paris Summit. This gave 'high priority' to removing structural and regional imbalances in the Community which might affect the achievement of European Economic and Monetary Union. The Fund must concentrate expenditure in the most needy regions, without consideration of 'juste retour'.

Direct grants and interest rebates on loans should be the main elements of financial intervention. A financial contribution to premiums for promoting creation of new jobs is also envisaged. Financial aid should go principally to industrial schemes, service activities and infrastructure projects which have particular regional importance or are directly designed to stimulate production.

A Management Committee will assist the Commission in running the Fund. The principal criteria for fixing where the Fund's aid will go will be the level of unemployment and a regional gross domestic product below the Community average, though decisions will have to be taken flexibly and other criteria brought in as well where appropriate.

Coordination of national policies: A Regional Development Committee would be created. Its task will be to examine and facilitate coordination of national regional policies, both with each other and with Community policy.

After consultations with unions, industry and the European Parliament, the Commission will put forward specific proposals in June and hopes that they will be accepted by the Council of Ministers in autumn, so that both Fund and Committee can begin work next January.

3. Programme for an industry and technology policy

The Commission proposes action in a number of fields, and will be putting forward formal legislative proposals on an ad hoc basis from now on. The main fields of proposed action are:

Suppression of technical barriers to trade: Stress is placed on the urgent need to eliminate trade barriers caused by differing technical and safety standards in the different member countries. Much work has already been done in this field, and the Commission now proposes to increase the tempo.

Public contracts: The public sector accounts for a major proportion of orders in some fields, especially the high-technology fields like tele-communications, computers and aircraft. Unless tenders are genuinely opened to firms in the whole Community, governments will contrive to favour firms in their own country, thus making impossible the advantages of large-scale production the Community should bring - which in turn only favours outside manufacturers from Japan and the USA. A first step was taken last year, but the Commission now urges moving farther and faster towards really "open" purchasing.

Mergers: In order to ensure both adequate competition and effective control of companies in monopoly or dominant positions it is suggested that all mergers over a certain size should have to be notified in advance to the Commission.

Company law: The Commission calls for progress towards the harmonisation of company law, both to provide firms with real opportunities of operating throughout the Nine, and to provide adequate protection for both workers and consumers. It urges the Council of Ministers rapidly to adopt the various proposals it has already tabled, and promises more to come.

Small firms: The Commission proposes to help smaller and medium-sized companies which wish to operate at a wider-than-national level by instituting a system of Community development contracts.

High-technology and declining industries: The Commission proposes special Community help to enable industries like aircraft, computers, heavy engineering and nuclear engineering to operate successfully and competitively by Community-wide cooperation, but also for the older, labour-intensive industries like ship-building and textiles which have to be modernized.

4. Guidelines and priorities for a Community energy policy

With energy consumption always increasing (see p.25), the aim must be to ensure long term security of supply under reasonable economic conditions. With this in mind the Commission calls for a coordinated approach by all the major oil importers (EEC, USA, Japan), but also stresses the urgent need to establish good relations, based on mutual trust, with exporting areas (mainly developing countries). It further calls for a better organisation and greater public control of the oil market within the Community.

On nuclear energy, which now accounts for only a tiny proportion of the total consumption, the Commission urges a speeding up of development, both in order to meet the ever expanding demand and to limit the over-dependence on imported oil. For the same reasons it calls for the maximum possible use of Community coal in power stations. As for natural gas, it proposes limits to the amount used in power stations since supplies are not endless and it should be conserved in view of its environmental advantages. The Commission also calls for action to protect the environment regarding the location of power stations, power station waste disposal (both radioactive waste and waste coolants from thermal stations), and the presence of sulphur, lead and other noxious substances in fuels.

5. A policy and action programme on the environment

Pollution is no respecter of frontiers. And in a single Community based on free trade differing national standards on such things as car exhaust fumes are clearly unacceptable since they can amount to a very effective method of protecting the domestic producer rather than the environment. It is clear that Community-wide action is necessary. If the member governments are really prepared to take joint action it will be a major step towards a Community which is not merely economic, but human, too. The Commission's proposed action programme involves joint measures in three fields:

Anti-pollution measures: These would involve harmonised measurement techniques, health standards and scientific criteria. Much work has already been done here, but even more remains. But the system must be flexible enough to allow those countries which wish to move faster towards stricter controls to do so, and at the same time prevent their use for economic protectionist purposes.

Improving the working and living environment: This includes measures like the proposed aids to hill-farmers and for afforestation schemes which are aimed at protecting the countryside and the way of life in it. But the Commission also plans to submit proposals for a special European Foundation for the improvement of working and living conditions, and to suggest guidelines in the field of town-planning - where the member countries can learn much from each other, to push for improvements in working conditions (see Social Action Programme above), and to promote the need for more public information.

International cooperation: The Community and the member governments must play an active role in promoting environmental protection at the world-level too.

6. Economic and Monetary Union: report on the transition to Stage 2

The Commission admits its disappointment at the lack of progress made during Stage 1, which will end at the end of this year. It states that four lessons must be learnt:

- Formal agreements mean little without the will to apply them in practice;
- greater priority must be given to removing the Community's social and regional disparities;
- in certain important fields we must go beyond mere coordination and real responsibilities must be exercised at Community level;
- the principal economic and social forces, in particular the unions and employers' organisations, must be closely associated with all progress made.

The Commission proposes that five-year quantitative moving economic forecasts be made, and that to help in this a new Economic Research and Analysis Institute be created. It calls for greater coordination of budget and tax policy. In the monetary field it calls in particular for a return to exchange rates which would be fixed between the Nine, but adjustable under Community procedures, and a common policy towards non-member countries, joint protection against capital movements from the outside world, and gradual liberalisation within the Community, and the efficient operation of the Community's Monetary Cooperation Fund to help countries in balance of payments difficulties.

On the institutional side, the report urges that wider executive powers be delegated to the Commission, that the Council's decision making process be improved and that greater powers be given to the European Parliament. Regarding the last point, the Commission will present formal proposals during June for increasing the budgetary control powers of the Parliament.

THE TRADE UNIONS IN DENMARK

The Danish Federation of Trade Unions (1), Landsorganisationen i Danmark (L.O.), is the biggest labour organisation in Denmark. At the end of 1970 the L.O. consisted of 895,995 members organised in 56 affiliated trade unions.

The Beginnings

Towards the middle of the 19th century the industrial revolution, which had already brought about profound social changes in other countries in Western Europe, caught up with Denmark. During the 1860's new companies appeared - the railways, regular shipping lines etc. Until this period the main feature of the Danish economy had been agriculture plus small-town craftsmen and artisans: now Denmark became a modern industrial society. This change in economic structure did not cause as much disruption in Denmark as in some other countries which were affected by the industrial revolution at the same time. Nevertheless the workers emerged as a new social class. The new economic and social conditions forced them to organise both at political and trade union level.

It was about 1870 that the first Danish trade unions came into being. Their first aim was to collect funds to support strikes and to secure higher wages. From the very beginning the movement was at loggerheads with the establishment and in 1872 a real battle was witnessed when the police and the hussars were given the order to charge the crowd attending an open-air public meeting held in Copenhagen. Union leaders were thrown into prison and the International Workmen's Association (the First International) which had coordinated the movement until this date, was banned.

In 1873 a number of independent trade unions were formed to replace it. The National Federation of Trade Unions - Landsorganisationen De Samvirkende Fagforbund - was founded in 1898. At this time it linked together 38 national trade unions and 25 local unions representing 60,000 members in all. Its strength was first tried as soon as 1899 when the Employers' Confederation (also established in 1898) enforced a lockout in a clash which gradually involved 40,000 workers.

1) Sometimes called the 'Danish National Trades Union Centre.

The dispute lasted three months and was resolved by the signing of the "September Agreement" which solved the problems in hand and laid down a number of basic rules for future negotiations. Thus the right of workers to organise themselves in Trade Unions was acknowledged. "The Agreement of 1960" replaced the original "September Agreement".

Since 1910 an industrial court has been given the responsibility of ensuring that this agreement is adhered to, and the post of Government Conciliator was established in the same year. The "general rules for settling industrial disputes" date from the same period. They lay down the procedure for settling disputes on the interpretation of agreements.

During the First World War the trade union movement made real progress which was, however, followed by a set-back in the 1920's, a decade characterised by a high level of unemployment. Ever since then the total strength of the trade union movement has grown continuously:

1900:	96,000	1940:	543,000
1910:	123,000	1950:	714,000
1920:	355,000	1960:	776,000
1930:	339,000	1970:	890,000

The Structure of the L. O.

The Congress is the highest decision-making body in the L. O. and alone can draw up the statutes, repeal or amend them. Its decisions are binding on the Executive Committee and the General Council. It consists of the general secretaries of all the affiliated national trade unions, a representative of each local trade union which is separately affiliated, and a representative of each local federation of workers. The Congress meets for ordinary sessions once every four years but an extraordinary meeting can be called by the Executive Committee or the General Council as required.

At the ordinary sessions the Congress elects the Executive Committee consisting of a president, a vice president, a treasurer, a number of secretaries and sixteen members.

Between the meetings of the Congress, the General Council is the highest decision-making body. It consists of the Executive

Committee plus representatives of the affiliated organisations on the basis of one representative for every 2,000 members or fraction of this number.

The General Council is called together for a meeting at least once a year. Should the need arise it can also be called by the Executive Committee or by at least 50 members of the General Council.

The day-to-day work of the L.O. is carried out by the Executive Committee to which two members nominated by the Social Democratic Party may be added. The Executive Committee consults the General Council on all important questions.

Industrial Relations

A special agreement between the L.O. and the Employer's Confederation provides for committees of equal numbers of management and workers to examine day-to-day working conditions and to study proposals and plans for improvement. A new agreement on co-operation and bipartite committees in firms was signed in 1970. Both the trade unions and the employers' organisations did their utmost to interest the workers and the employers in the forming of these committees. The trade unions help these committees to function well by appointing their members and supporting them in their daily work.

Collective agreements are usually made between a national trade union and the corresponding employers' organisation. An agreement can, however, be made directly between a trade union and an employer. Most of the agreements are made between the organisations affiliated to the two central organisations - the L.O. and the Employers' Confederation. They normally run for two years and all terminate on the same date. They are renewed at the same time according to a well-defined procedure. The claims that affect all occupations, or the greater number of them, are negotiated by the two central organisations while the national unions negotiate for the claims of their own particular sector. The Government Conciliator (Forligsmanden) follows these negotiations. This appointment is a government post established by law which can give advice to both sides. Should the need arise he works out a draft agreement which is put to the vote in each organisation. Disputes in breach of an agreement can go to the Industrial Court (Arbejdsretten).

The L.O. and social progress

The high standard of living in Denmark is overwhelmingly due to trade union pressure over the years. Collective agreements are the basis of all progress in this sphere, and have often led to later legislation. The shorter working week, holidays with pay, industrial injury benefits, public holidays with pay, sickness benefits paid on a day to day basis, provisions for job security, superannuation and supplementary pensions are only a few examples of the advantages which were first achieved by collective bargaining. It was therefore a logical step for the trade union movement to become involved in much cooperation with the government and the employers both in order to put the existing social legislation into practice and to prepare for future legislation. The Trade Union movement is always consulted when a new law is being drafted, irrespective of the government in power.

Links with other sections of the Labour movement

Since its beginnings the trade union movement has maintained very close links with the Social-Democratic Party. Indeed, originally they were one organisation. Though they have long since been separate, the links remain very close. Thus the L.O. is represented by two members on the Executive Committee of the Party and, by reciprocal agreement, the Social-Democratic Party nominates two members to the Executive Committee of the L.O. The closeness of the links is made clear by the fact that the present Danish Prime Minister, Anker Joergensen, moved directly to this position in October 1972 from being President of the country's largest union. The L.O. also has extensive links with Denmark's important producer and consumer cooperative movements.

The three wings of the labour movement also share a special economic information service. The "Economic Council of the Labour Movement" collects and collates basic data which are used to support wage claims and negotiations. It represents the interests of workers on a number of economic committees. The L.O. devotes much time and effort to the provision of educational opportunities for the workers, and also to making their point of view known. The L.O.'s journal "Løn og Virke", the Social-Democratic newspapers and some others ensure that this information reaches the public.

Jointly with the other workers' organisations the trade unions have formed a Workers' Education Association (Arbejdernes

Oplysningsforbund - A.O.F.), through which the L.O. contributes to the education of both union officials and ordinary members. The labour movement as a whole is responsible for three education institutions, at Esbjerg, Roskilde and Elsinore. These are further education colleges open to all young people, but in addition to ordinary courses they give special courses for trade unionists. The L.O. also has at its disposal a conference centre at Elsinore where it organises special information sessions.

International links

The Danish trade unions have always had close contacts with the free trade union organisations throughout the world, and especially with those in the other Scandinavian countries. The L.O. is one of the founding members of the International Confederation of Free Trade Unions and it strongly encourages the increase in intergovernmental cooperation through the United Nations Organisation and its specialised agencies.

The L.O. leadership strongly supported the Social-Democrat government during Denmark's negotiations to join the European Community, though there were naturally dissident voices too. At its special congress on May 18, 1972, it approved the entry terms by a vote of 524 to 406. The resolution adopted states that "... Congress considers Denmark's participation in enlarged cooperation within the EEC and a strengthening of trade union cooperation across frontiers to be the best basis of a solution to these problems and thereby of a further development of society in conformity with the fundamental interests of the labour movement."

The L.O. is a founder member of the new European Trade Union Confederation which came into being on February 9, 1973.

● Commission portfolios

The list of the new 13-member Commission published in TUN 11 unfortunately included some omissions. In addition, one of the French Commissioners, M. Deniau, has resigned and been replaced by M. Claude Cheysson. The correct list is as follows:

President

François-Xavier Ortoli (French, Gaullist)

General Secretariat

Legal Service

Spokesman's Group

Security Office

Vice-Presidents

Wilhelm Haferkamp (German, Socialist)

Economic and monetary affairs, including
ECSC credit and investments

Patrick John Hillery (Irish, Fianna Fail)

Social Policy

Carlo Scarascia Mugnozza (Italian, Christian Democrat)

Relations with the European Parliament

(in conjunction with the Commission President)

Environmental policy

Consumer protection

Transport policy

Press and information

Henri Simonet (Belgian, Socialist)

Taxation; financial institutions (banking and insurance);

harmonisation of company law;

Energy policy

Euratom safeguards and control

Euratom Supply Agency

Sir Christopher Soames (British, Conservative)

External Relations

Commissioners

Albert Borschette (Luxembourg, former diplomat)

Competition

Personnel and Administration

Ralf Dahrendorf (German; Liberal)

Research, Science and Education; dissemination of
technical and scientific information; mutual
recognition of diplomas
Joint Research Centre
Statistical Office

Claude Cheysson

Development aid and cooperation policy
Community budgets
Financial control

Finn Olav Gundelach (Danish; Socialist)

Internal market (includes removal of technical
barriers to trade; right of establishment and
freedom to supply services; harmonization of economic
legislation; European comany law)
Administration of customs union

Petrus Josephus Lardinois (Dutch; Catholic)

Agriculture

Altiero Spinelli (Italian; Socialist)

Industrial and technological policy

George Thomson (British; Labour)

Regional policy

● Trade agreement signed with Norway

An industrial free trade agreement was signed with Norway on May 14, to come into effect on July 1. When Norway voted last autumn to stay out of the Community it became necessary to negotiate a special trade agreement with her, in order to safeguard her interests. The new agreement is on similar lines to those negotiated earlier with the other non-joining EFTA members, Sweden, Finland, Austria and Switzerland, though these came into force on April 1.

● UK links with EEC on schemes on medical aid

From last April 1, most British holiday makers visiting Europe are eligible for urgent medical and hospital treatment on the same terms as insured nationals of the country in question.

Under Community social security regulations now applicable, those covered will be: employed persons working for an employer in the United Kingdom and their families; national insurance beneficiaries who are normally employed, or industrial injuries beneficiaries; pensioner or widow beneficiaries; and dependants of those included in the previous categories. (Self-employed and non-employed persons are not covered.)

They may, however, still have to pay for their treatment - depending on the system in force in the country they are visiting. These vary considerably.

Belgium: patient pays the doctor and chemist direct, and then claims back normally not less than 75% of the cost from one of the Belgian insurance funds. For hospital treatment, the fund pays the hospital direct, but patient will have to bear part of the cost.

Denmark: all treatment normally free, though where doctors do charge a fee reimbursement can be claimed.

France: as for Belgium. Patient can normally reclaim 70% of doctor's fees, and 70% to 90% of cost of medicines. Insurance fund pays 80% of hospital costs (but can pay 100% for major surgery).

Germany: all treatment normally free (though patient may have to pay a small prescription charge for medicines), provided registered doctor/hospital is used.

Irish Republic: free treatment.

Italy: as Germany.

Luxembourg: patient pays doctor and chemist and then reclaims most of cost. Hospitalisation free.

Netherlands: all treatment normally free, provided patient uses registered doctor/hospital.

United Kingdom: free treatment, but patient may have to pay a small prescription charge for medicines.

This is a very simplified outline of how the systems work. But for all countries except Denmark, Ireland and the UK, holiday makers have to obtain a certificate of entitlement from their

own national authorities before leaving home. In the UK this Form EIII can be obtained from the local office of the Department of Health and Social Security, which also have available free of charge an explanatory leaflet "Medical treatment for holiday makers and other temporary visitors to countries of the European Economic Community" (SA 28).

(DHSS leaflet "Social security arrangements for people moving within the European Economic Community" (SA 29) explains the benefits available to persons working in another Community country.)

● Social Fund applications now total 263m.u.a.

Applications by the Nine for aid from the reconstituted European Social Fund to help create new jobs in the enlarged Community already total 263m. units of account - nearly twice the amount currently available. The UK alone, for example, is asking for about £30m. for retraining programmes in declining industrial areas.

At this year's first meeting on May 3 the Fund's steering committee, grouping government, employer and trade union representatives, discussions centred on a Commission paper seeking to define criteria on which aid could be given. Danish and Irish union and employer representatives took part in the meeting, but from the UK only the employers.

This year around 180m. units of account are available which may be used, apart from retraining, in moving workers to new jobs and helping handicapped people find work. The credits are divided into two categories. The first is for use on projects designed to eliminate long-term structural unemployment and under-employment, and to promote the reabsorption into the labour force of certain underprivileged groups (all Britain's applications come under this heading). The second category is for schemes in industries directly affected by Community policies, such as agriculture and the textile and clothing industries.

The Fund committee did not discuss the individual applications at its May meeting; these will have to wait until the formal criteria for benefit have been established. Meanwhile, further applications are still coming in, it is reported.

● Community aid for research in steel

A new medium-term steel research programme is to follow the first programme established for the period 1967-1970. Taking account of the probable aims to be achieved in the next few years, the European Commission has therefore prepared general guidelines for steel research and development which have been transmitted to the ECSC Consultative Committee (Chairman Sir David Davies) for its views. Specific subjects dealt with include improvements or adaptations to production processes, since the competitiveness of the Community steel industry will in the future depend largely on changes resulting from further research in this area; and the optimisation of product quality.

Between 1955 and 1972, the Community spent a total of 60m. units of account in grants for technical iron and steel research in the ECSC. This aid averaged 4,4m. u.a. from 1962 - 1971, representing an average 61% of the total cost of the research financed. Total expenditure on iron and steel research benefiting from Community aid is estimated to be about 5% of the sums annually devoted to research by the steel industry in member states.

● Community aid to ECSC housing now totals 305 million u.a.

By December 31, 1972, the European Coal and Steel Community had financed the construction of a total of 122,584 dwellings for miners and steel workers, as shown in the following table:

	number of dwellings financed	of which		
		planned	in construction	built
Germany	81,595	2,877	2,642	76,076
Belgium	7,029	-	326	6,703
France	22,855	896	1,798	20,161
Italy	6,164	344	754	5,066
Luxembourg	836	8	8	820
Holland	4,105	369	107	3,629
Community of Six:	122,584	4,494	5,635	112,455

Of the total construction costs of 1,264 million units of account, 305,75m. have come from Community resources, the rest from elsewhere. The current programme of construction is continuing: a total of 20m. u.a. has been allocated for the years 1973 and 1974. About 60% of the houses built are for letting; the remainder will become the property of the workers.

● Community aid for British steel workers?

The British government is asking the Community to help retrain 50,000 steel workers who are due to lose their jobs over the next 10 years because of the British Steel Corporation's plans for rationalisation. The BSC's £3,000m. reorganisation plans will mean the loss of 17,500 jobs in Wales, 8,500 in the East Midlands, 6,500 in Scotland, 6,000 at Consett and Cleveland, 4,000 in Yorkshire, Lincolnshire and the West Midlands, and 3,500 in the North West.

Under ECSC rules, the Community provides substantial non-repayable aid where large-scale job cuts are made. In this case, British steel workers should be paid 90% of their wages for two years after they are made redundant. The cash would be paid during periods of retraining and resettlement. Special assistance would be given to men redeployed within the British Steel Corporation and to those who are declared redundant or retire early. The payments would help steel workers who are unemployed or who get jobs at lower pay. Those undergoing training for new skills would get allowances.

● Aid for coking coal

The Commission has submitted to the Council a new scheme for aid to coking coal and coke for the steel industry to replace the system that expired at the end of 1972.

As before, this aid is intended to facilitate production, marketing in areas remote from the coalfields, trade within the Community, and the conclusion of long-term contracts.

The aid is to be paid to companies producing coking coal on deliveries of the coal they produce. It can only be paid if this coal is used to make coke and the coke is actually

charged into the blast furnaces of the Community steel industry. It applies only to deliveries of coking coal and blast furnace coke under a long-term contract.

This aid will enable the collieries to grant discounts which must not result in delivered prices for Community coal and coke falling below those that could be charged for coking coal from third countries and for coke made from coking coal from third countries.

● ECSC aid for Lofthouse orphans

The Commission of the European Communities decided during April to make a gesture towards the families of those miners who died on March 21 in the Lofthouse Colliery disaster in Britain. A grant of BF 376,000 (approximately £3,800) will be paid from ECSC funds, to be shared among the 22 orphans involved.

● 1972 Social report: UK, Ireland lag

Including comparative statistics for the new member countries for the first time, the Commission's Annual Report on the social situation in the Community in 1972 *) appears to show Britain and Ireland in a poor light.

On the basis of the latest available figures, unemployment in the UK at 2.9 per cent was surpassed only by Ireland (6 per cent) and Italy (3.2 per cent), compared with Germany's 0.7 per cent and France's 2.2. per cent. With 595 work days lost per 1,000 workers, Britain was second only to Italy (998) and compares unfavourably with France (280), Germany (203), the Netherlands (25) and Denmark (11).

The report shows that throughout the original six-nation Community unemployment rose slightly from 1.4 million in 1971 to 1.6 million in 1972, although an estimated 750,000 unfilled vacancies continued to exist. The reformed Social Fund will, according to the Report, give a 'more rapid and practical response to urgent employment problems' and should assist some 70,000 workers in 1973.

*) Report on the development of the social situation in the Community in 1972. Commission of the European Communities. February 1973. (From HMSO: price £1.00)

The Netherlands headed the table of dwellings completed per 1,000 people, with 10.4, followed by Denmark (10), France (9.3), and Germany (9.1), Italy (6.7), Britain (6.5), Ireland (5.2), and Belgium (4.4).

● Economic trends

The Commission's monthly publication "Graphs and Brief Notes *), in its March edition, summarises economic developments in the Community since the beginning of this year. Some of the main points are given below:

Industrial production:

Industrial production expanded considerably and in most member countries the rate of use of production capacity increased substantially. The expansion of production was particularly marked in countries where unemployment is still relatively high - Italy, Ireland and the United Kingdom. It extended to almost all sectors. In the capital goods production industries production trends reflect the almost universal recovery of capital investment. In consumer goods, production trends were influenced by a considerable increase in consumer spending.

Unemployment:

In all Community countries the improvement in the short-term situation led to a drop in non-seasonal unemployment. The number of persons employed in industry, and particularly the building industry where employment was favourably affected by the mild winter, is on the increase. The drop in unemployment was particularly marked in Germany, the United Kingdom, the Netherlands (partly due to measures taken last autumn by the Government), Ireland and Denmark. The drop was less marked in France, Italy and Belgium. The number of unfilled employment vacancies rose everywhere and particularly in the United Kingdom, Germany, France, and Belgium.

Rising prices:

In recent weeks the cost of living has continued to rise sharply in all the countries of the Community, basically due to a rapid rise in food prices. The prices of industrial products

*) "Graphs and Notes on the economic situation in the Community". Commission of the European Communities. (From HMSO: £3.00 yearly. Single copies 30 p.)

and services are also still rising substantially. In addition to the constant rise in costs, the recovery of demand has contributed in many cases. In Italy the introduction of VAT last January furthermore caused considerable price increases, particularly for certain services. In the United Kingdom, on the other hand, where the rise in the cost of living had been considerable in recent months, the price and wage freeze decided on by the Government slightly slowed up increases in January. A pause in the increase was also noted in France after the reduction in VAT in January.

Household consumption:

In the last quarter of 1972 and at the beginning of 1973, the value of household consumerspending increased rapidly. The major increase in disposable income and the fear of further price increases must have played a decisive role. Additional incentives towards consumer spending were provided in the United Kingdom by the increase in social benefits and in Denmark by a reduction in direct taxation. In Italy, the application of VAT on 1 January 1972 led households to buy up numerous consumer goods in advance of that date. In France, on the other hand, the announcement of a reduction in VAT held up certain purchases at the end of the year. The marked rise in prices limited the expansion, in real terms, of household consumption in most member countries. Almost everywhere, increased demand mainly was on household electrical appliances and motor cars.

● Wage increases

The Commission services have estimated wage increases in industry, building and craft industries in 1972 as compared with those for 1971 and with those of the United States. The figures considered were gross incomes including wages, salaries and social security payments. The 1972 increase was high, but lower than that of 1971.

<u>Annual wage increase (in %)</u>					
	<u>1972</u>	<u>1971</u>		<u>1972</u>	<u>1971</u>
Germany	4.5	8.5	U. K.	6	6.8
Belgium	7.5	8.3	Netherlands	3.5	6.5
Italy	7.5	12.7	U. S.	1.5	2
France	6.5	6.7			

● Energy in the Nine

During 1973 the total energy requirements of the Community of Nine will display a growth rate of slightly less than 6%, rising to a volume of around 1,500 million TCE *). The additional demand as compared with 1972 will be about 80 million TCE (equivalent to the combined needs of Belgium and Denmark in 1973).

These energy requirements will be met as follows: petroleum products 62%, solid fuels 21%, natural gas 12%. The remaining 5% will be provided by hydro-electric power, various products such as peat and, to an increasing extent, nuclear energy (1.2% of the total requirements in 1971; 1.7% in 1973). These are the estimates given by the European Commission in a recently published report on "The energy situation in the Community: position in 1972 - prospects for 1973".

The enlargement of the Community gives greater importance to the role of North Sea oil and gas. Though modest at present, the contribution made by these resources is calculated to reduce the Community's dependence on imports. In the coal-mining sector, the collieries of the six original member states will have to take into account the prospects of the penetration of their market by British production, but all Community coal will remain at a price disadvantage in relation to coal imported from non-member states. As far as imported oil is concerned, 1972 was marked by rises in the cost of crude, though this had only a slight effect on the prices of derived products. But US imports from the eastern hemisphere are growing rapidly, and the reserve production capacity in certain African and Middle Eastern countries is less than in the past (due either to technical factors affecting the extraction or shipment of crude oil, or restrictions imposed by the authorities). This market is therefore exposed to possible price increases which could become very considerable in the event of a sharp rise in demand or the reduction or interruption of crude oil supplies from certain sources.

*) TCE - tons, coal equivalent

Internal consumption of energy from primary and equivalent sources (enlarged Community)

	Volume in m. of TCE ¹⁾			Variations (%)		Total share (%)		
	1971	1972	1973	'72/1	'73/2	1971	1972	1973
Coal	302.43	268.05	269.40	-11.4	+ 0.5	25.2	21.7	20.5
Lignite	31.15	32.10	33.76	+ 3.0	+ 5.2	2.6	2.6	2.6
Oil	694.26	732.86	772.34	+ 5.6	+ 5.4	57.9	59.2	58.8
Nat. Gas	114.47	143.01	168.93	+24.9	+18.1	9.6	11.6	12.9
Primary elect. 2) & others	55.72	61.02	68.22	+ 9.5	+11.8	4.7	4.9	5.2
Total: 3)	1198.03	1237.04	1312.65	+ 3.3	+ 6.1	100	100	100

1) TCE = tons, coal equivalent

2) including the external trade balance

3) totals may differ owing to rounding off

● The shrinking Community coal industry

In the enlarged Community, 18 coalmines with a production capacity of nearly 7 million tons were closed down in 1972. A further 14 (14.5 million tons) will stop working in the Six this year (1973 figures for the United Kingdom are not available). The table below gives the pattern of EEC coalmine closures.

	1972		1973	
	Number	Production 1971 (1000 t)	Number	Production 1971 (1000 t)
Kempen	-	-	1	1,116
Belgique Sud	1	134	3	760
BELGIUM	1	134	4	1,876
Ruhr	5	3,522	5	8,523
Aachen	-	-	-	-
Nieder- sachsen	-	-	-	-
Saar	-	-	1	1,988
GERMANY (F.R.)	5	3,522	6	10,511

	<u>1972</u>		<u>1973</u>	
	<u>Number</u>	<u>Production 1971 (1000 t)</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Production 1971 (1000 t)</u>
Nord/ Pas-de-Calais	3	1,134	2	1,254
Lorraine	1			
Centre Midi	1	201	1	665
FRANCE	5	1,958	3	1,919
NETHERLANDS	-	-	1	1,588
Total for Community of the Six:	11	5,614	14	15,894
Scotland	3	500		
North East	3	400		
Yorkshire	1	200		
UNITED KINGDOM	7	1,100	n.a.	n.a.

● Cautious TU backing for Social Action Programme

At meetings in May the ETUC worked out a joint view on the Commission's proposals for a social action programme (see p.3). The ETUC memorandum begins by accepting the Summit call for the participation of the representative workers' organisations in the Community's decision-making process. It sees the Community first and foremost as an instrument for creating a better and more just working and living environment for its people, but notes that interdependence goes beyond the Community to the whole of western Europe.

The memorandum further calls on the governments to accept real and binding commitments in the social field rather than making fine declarations, and also stresses the importance of a constructive attitude from the employers.

the ETUC priority objectives are ten in number. They start with the need for a politically binding commitment by governments and the Council of Ministers to formulate and execute policies for full employment. The other objectives are:

- full regional employment, through a common regional policy;
- security of income when changing jobs;
- price stability;
- safety at work;
- equal rights, including equal pay for women;
- extensive efforts for training and permanent education, also as part of regional policy;
- an orderly and constructive handling of the question of migrant workers;
- possible negotiations with European employers for collective bargaining and collective agreements in Europe;
- the extension of democracy by permitting effective participation in decisions taken by or on industry in general, health and safety at work, financial institutions and consumer protection.

Finally, the ETUC stresses that the Commission's proposals are acceptable only as a beginning and emphasises that they make no attempt to secure an overall concerted policy, or active planning control of economic development. The ETUC sees this as vital if our societies are to be transformed in the direction of social and economic equality. As such the Commission's action programme will need reviewing after a suitable period.

Who will go to the Social Conference?

It has long since been the Community's stated intention to call a special, top-level conference with both sides of industry to discuss the social action programme. This will bring together the leaderships of the European trade union movements and employers' organisations, together with the nine governments and the Commission. The Commission hopes to gain from the conference clearer guidance of what form and priorities it should give to the detailed action programme it must produce in the autumn.

At previous similar meetings the unions have been represented by the Community-wide confederations, but also a number of smaller national bodies not affiliated at European level. But at the moment the major confederation, the ETUC, is maintaining that in a Community-level meeting only the Community-wide bodies can be represented - ETUC, the European Organisation of the WCL, and the CGIL/CGT. They are not prepared to sit down with the smaller national unions. The conference was originally scheduled for June 28, but the present dispute seems almost certain to delay it.

- British Chairman for ECSC Consultative Committee

At the May meeting of the Consultative Committee of the European Coal and Steel Community, which brings together employers and trade union representatives, together with those of industrial consumers, in the coal and steel industries, Sir David Davies was elected the new president. This is the first occasion where someone from one of the new member countries has become president of a major Community body.

Under the ECSC Treaty, the role of the Consultative Committee is to advise the Commission before all major policy decisions are made. The British coal and steel unions have been represented on it from the beginning of this year.

Sir David Davies is General Secretary of the UK Iron and Steel Trades Confederation and also of the Steel Committee of the International Metal Workers' Federation.

- Take up responsibilities, Lappas tells UK unions

British trade unions should not withdraw from their responsibilities towards the workers of Europe - particularly in the current phase of European construction in which far-reaching decisions are being taken, Alfons Lappas, Chairman of the Community's Economic and Social Committee*), told pressmen in London in March. He stressed in particular the problems which had arisen through the failure of British trade unionists to take part in the work of the ESC. He added that his talks with leading representatives of the TUC had strengthened his view that the British trade unions' attitude had been shaped mainly by domestic political considerations.

He did not believe, however, that this attitude was a realistic one. The Treaty of Accession, having been ratified by all the national parliaments in the European Community, would not be the subject of new negotiations. Trade unions in the original Community countries had been fighting for years for conditions from which British workers would now benefit, he concluded.

1) Mr. Lappas is also member of the Executive Council of the German Trade Union Confederation (DGB).

British trade unions have so far declined to take their allotted seats on the ESC and other Community bodies, but he was encouraged by recent indications that leading members of the TUC General Council were beginning to rethink this policy. UK employer and other representatives have sat in the Committee since the beginning of this year.

● European Metalworkers' Federation enlarged

At the meeting the EMF Executive Committee held in Brussels on April 19 it was unanimously agreed to accept the Danish Metalworkers' Union, the Norwegian Steel and Metal Workers' Union, the Swedish Metalworkers' Union and the metalworkers' section of the Irish Transport and General Workers' Union as full members.

There was no indication at the time of writing as to whether the British metal and engineering unions will apply for affiliation.

● Entertainment unions set up European committee

The newly-formed European Entertainment Industry Committee had its first meeting in April. Created by the International Secretariat of Entertainment Trade Unions, it plans to affiliate to the European Trade Union Federation as an "industrial committee" as provided for in the ETUC constitution.

● ETUC still leaves problems, says CGT

In a comment on the formation in February of the new European Trade Union Confederation, whose members all belong to the ICFTU, the Communist-led CGT of France

declares that "the problems of unity of action at the level of Western Europe and of the European continent still remain unsolved", despite the "positive" attitudes of some of the national centres involved.

The CGT says that the united image which the ETUC was to assume does not correspond to reality in the light of the conditions surrounding its foundation, its constitution and the links it maintains with the ICFTU; "the only possibility left to other organisations of joining without conditions is contrary to the very principles of the sovereignty and independence of each national centre."

The CGT pledges itself to intensify its efforts for unity among Europe's trade unions and presses for a European Trade Union Conference on economic and social problems "which the ILO Regional Conference envisaged for the end of 1973 or the beginning of 1974".

● CGIL - CGT on Community transport policy

In a comment on the EEC transport policy, the European Committee of the (Communist) CGT-CGIL transport unions has suggested that such a policy should aim at a rational use of existing infrastructures; better coordination and adaptation to regional, national and international needs; a sharing of cost based on the notion that each form of transport complements every other; a democratic investment policy; and protection of nationalised firms. The Committee also wants guarantees on employment conditions, pay, working hours and trade union rights.

The Committee recognizes that to achieve such a programme will require the combined strength of all the European transport unions and a global, rather than sectoral, view of EEC transport questions. The Committee will therefore be inviting the WCL and the ETUC to join with it in taking a concerted stand on the globalisation of transport problems and in working out a common course of action, which can be presented to governments and EEC institutions.

- ETUC urges uniform taxation on unearned income in Europe

The European Trade Union Confederation has called on the Commission of the European Communities to ensure that income from capital be taxed in the same way as income from labour. In a press release issued in March ETUC General Secretary Théo Rasschaert urges that a harmonised solution be found for income from securities and bonds by having the tax deducted at source as is the case for wages and salaries. He advocates a tax rate of 25%.

- Unions to coordinate policy on migrant workers

A Trade Union Charter for Migrant Workers is to be prepared, following an ICFTU meeting in May which brought together representatives of unions from nine European and Mediterranean countries which are major suppliers or receivers of foreign labour. The meeting agreed that the national confederations concerned should coordinate their policies, and on the need for a more controlled flow of migration. In order to bring new jobs to people in their own countries and localities, strong regional development policies were essential, the unions stressed, and also called for efforts to make multinational companies more aware of social factors when making their investment plans. The meeting urged unions to see that migrant workers were treated fairly and equally in terms of wages, social security, housing etc.

The meeting was attended by union representatives from Belgium, France, Germany, Italy, the Netherlands, Spain (UGT in exile), Sweden, Tunisia and Turkey.

- German unions opposed to Greek membership

The German Trade Union Federation (DGB) issued a strongly worded statement in April criticising the Greek regime as anti-democratic. The DGB is totally opposed to Greek member-

ship of the European Community until full democratic rights are restored. The DGB finds it tragic that Greece, whose history played such a large part in the democratic and cultural development of Europe, is now isolated from current European development on account of the present regime.

● Position of Spain

In a statement published on May 4 the European Trade Union Confederation, of which Victor Feather is President, reiterated its opposition to Spanish membership of either EFTA or the European Community so long as trade union rights and democratic freedom are not introduced and guaranteed.

The Executive Committee of the ETUC issued this statement after it had been informed that informal talks had taken place about the possibility of Spanish membership of EFTA.

● French - German TU talks

As part of the series of periodical consultations between the DGB and the French TU Federation FO, delegations from the two bodies met in France on May 2. The two delegations were led by Heinz Vetter, President of the DGB, and André Bergeron, General Secretary of FO. The main point on the agenda was the discussion of future developments within the European Community, and in particular the attitude to be taken by the unions at the important social policy conference planned by the Commission in Luxembourg in June. The trade union movements of all the member countries will be invited, via the ETUC and other European level confederations, to be represented at this conference, along with the employers' organisations. The aim of the conference is to provide the Commission with an opportunity of discussing with the two sides of industry the general guide lines for its social action programme published in April (see page 3).

- Official role for Post Office Unions at European level

The Post Office unions of Western Europe have been pressing for a long time to be given formal consultative status by the Conférence Européenne des Postes et Télécommunications (CEPT). The CEPT, which brings together postal administrations from all the countries of Western Europe, granted the unions this status at its plenary meeting last September. This means that the European Secretariat of the PTTI (which links together the ICFTU Post Office Unions) and Eurofedop (its WCL equivalent) will now be consulted before decisions are taken. Through the CEPT the national authorities try to coordinate their policy on postal matters.

The fact that there is a 'postal common market' between the original six members of the European Community does not derive from a Community requirement at all. This resulted from quite a separate agreement between the six governments. Under this arrangement, letters going to other member countries need only the same postage as domestic mail. There has been some pressure on Britain to adopt this system, but since British postal tariffs are still rather lower than those of the Six, the British government has said that such a move would be too costly. The main field where Community regulations do touch the post office is that of public purchasing, where governments and other public authorities are already required to put out major contracts to tender throughout the whole of the Community area. This will apply to Britain as from July 1, 1973.

- Trade unions examine problems of multinational companies

The joint International Confederation of Free Trade Unions/International Trade Secretariats Working Party on Multinational Companies, set up by the ICFTU Congress in London last year, held its first meeting in Brussels at the end of February. The meeting was concerned primarily to work out a basic strategy and division of labour among the various trade union organisations currently looking at the question of the multinationals.

It was decided at the meeting that future activities would be conducted on the understanding that relations between such companies and trade unions are the responsibility at the international level primarily of the ITSS, while those between governments and the companies (as well as multinational company matters in intergovernmental organisations) will be the province of ICTFU. Close cooperation will be maintained between both sides of the international labour movement in all these matters.

In view of the enormous need for research on the subject, the ICFTU and ITSS agreed to set up study groups to collect detailed data on the impact of the multinationals on developing countries; repercussions on employment; social effects of incentives used to attract foreign investment; legal aspects of cross-frontier union action; and the elements of a possible international code of conduct for multinational companies. Dissatisfaction was expressed at the slow tempo with which this last question was being dealt with by the International Labour Office, and it was agreed that every effort should be made to have the subject fully discussed at the earliest possible ILO conference.

The ILO has in fact now decided to question its members on the possibility of drawing up special legislation for the multinationals. If the response to the survey is positive, the ILO will draft a series of international standards which could then form the basis for national legislation. A further study of the multinationals is being carried out by a committee of ECOSOC, the United Nations Economic and Social Committee, with the eventual aim of drawing up an international code of conduct.

● Unified union for the Brussels institutions

After several smaller mergers last year, the two main trade unions representing the personnel of the Common Market institutions got together last January to form the Union Syndicale - Service Public Européen. The new union currently represents over 2,200 Brussels officials - about a third of the total - and is studying the possibility of coordinating its work with that of the unions organising international civil servants in Paris and Strasbourg, too.

Among the aims of the US-SPE are to "defend the independence, permanence and quality of the European civil service as necessary preconditions for the realisation of European integration; to gain recognition of the right of the union to participate in determining the working and employment conditions of its members and of all personnel by means of free negotiations and participation in management; to do all in its power to ensure that the structures and working methods of our institutions are adapted to the demands of a modern and humane multinational administration".

The new body, like its two predecessors, is directly affiliated to the PSI and to the ICFTU, but not to any national confederation.

● Industrial relations in Ireland

The Centre for Contemporary European Studies, University of Sussex, has just published a paper on industrial relations and industrial democracy in the Republic of Ireland. Written by John Goss, now a Research Fellow at the Centre, it is based on work undertaken for the European Commission last year. It is to be followed shortly by similar papers on Denmark and Norway.

Principal Community bodies on which Trade Unions and Employers' Organisations are represented

1. Economic and Social Committee

Principal consultative body and the only one with the status of an "institution". Created 1958, by EEC Treaty articles 193-198 and Euratom Treaty articles 165-170. Must be consulted before Council decisions on major questions as specified in Rome Treaties. Since 1973 has power to undertake debates/enquiries on its own initiative without waiting for references from Council. Subdivided into 9 specialised sections dealing with particular policy fields. 153 members, nominated by governments, divided equally between trade unions, employers' organisations and "other interest" (which include farmers, professions, consumers, etc.). 24 British members, nominated by UK government. Own secretariat in Brussels.

2. Standing Committee on Employment

Created 1970, by decision of the Council. Advises Council and Commission on all aspects of employment policy. 18 trade union and 18 employer representatives (appointed by the Community-level TU and employers' organisations), plus the nine Ministers of Labour or Employment, and the Commissioner responsible for Social Affairs. Serviced by Council of Ministers secretariat.

3. Consultative Committee

Created 1952 by ECSC Treaty articles 18, 19. Advises Commission on coal/steel matters. Parallel body to Economic and Social Committee under Rome Treaties. 81 members nominated by governments, divided equally between coal and steel unions, coal and steel employers and coal and steel users. Breakdown as between coal and steel sectors depends on relative importance of coal and steel industries in each country. 18 British members.

4. Mines Safety and Health Commission

Created 1957 by decision of the Council (following the Marcinelle (Belgium) pit disaster). Makes recommendations direct to governments on improvements in health and safety measures. 2 governmental, 1 union and 1 employer member from each country. Serviced by the Commission which also provides the chairman. Has 12 working parties and 4 committees of experts on different aspects of health and safety.

5. Social Fund Committee

Created 1960, by Rome Treaty article 124. Advises the Commission on the administration of the European Social Fund. 54 members (+ 27 substitutes). Each country has 6 seats (+ 3 substitutes), divided equally between unions, employers and governments. Members nominated by governments. Serviced by Commission.

6. Advisory Committee on Freedom of Movement for Workers

Created by Council decision in 1961. Composition etc. as for Social Fund Committee.

7. Advisory Committee on Vocational Training

Created by Council decision in 1963. Composition etc. as for Social Fund Committee.

8. Advisory Committee on Social Security for Migrant Workers

Created by Council decision in 1971. Composition etc. as for Social Fund Committee.

The following are Joint Advisory Committees composed of union and employer representatives in equal numbers, established by the Commission to advise the Commission in particular policy fields. The members are chosen by the Community-level organisations of unions and employers' organisations. Serviced by the Commission. The Committees set up their own special working parties as and when necessary to deal with particular questions.

9. Joint Committee on the harmonisation of working conditions in Coal.

Created 1955. 46 members. (Also a smaller white-collar committee created in 1965.)

10. Joint Committee on the harmonisation of working conditions in Steel.

Created 1955. Membership not yet settled in enlarged Community, but will probably be about 50. (Also a smaller white-collar committee created in 1965.)

11. Joint Advisory Committee on Social Questions relating to paid Agricultural Workers

Created 1963. 50 members.

12. Joint Advisory Committee on Social Problems in Sea Fishing

Created 1968. Enlarged membership not yet settled. (Previously 28.)

13. Joint Advisory Committee on Social Problems in Road Transport

Created 1965. Enlarged membership not yet settled. (Previously 28.)

14. Joint Advisory Committee on Social Problems in
Inland Waterway Transport

Created 1967. Enlarged membership not yet settled.
(Previously 34)

15. Joint Advisory Committee on Social Problems in
Rail Transport

Created 1971. Enlarged membership not yet settled.
(Previously 28)

In addition there are 16 Advisory Committees created at different times since 1962 under the Common Agricultural Policy. There is a Committee for each major commodity. Membership varies from 24 to 46, with in each case the farmers' and farming co-operatives' representatives having 50% of the seats. The other 50% is shared between food manufacturers, workers, dealers and consumers, with the specific representation varying with the nature of the sector. As an example, the Advisory Committee on Cereals totals 38 members: 19 producers (14 farmers' representatives, 2 from farming co-operatives and 3 from processing co-operatives); 6 food manufacturers; 4 merchants; 5 farming and food-industry unions; 4 consumers. As for the Joint Advisory Committees, the members sit as representatives of, and are appointed by, the Community-level bodies representing the various interest groups.