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I. EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES

A MAY DAY MESSAGE FROM MR. LEVI SANDRI, VICE-PRESIDENT OF THE COMMISSION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES

On the occasion of the May Day Celebrations I would like to send a warm greeting to all workers together with my heart-felt wishes for the ever-increasing economic and social advancement of the working classes, increasingly united in a free and democratic Community.

This day of celebration for the world of labour provides me with a welcome opportunity to point to the way we have travelled together and to the considerable positive support which the workers and their national and European organizations have at all times given to the Community institutions in implementing and fulfilling in every economic and social sector the principles and objectives of the European Treaties.

The close and fruitful co-operation which has marked these years and which must be constantly intensified in the future represents a major factor in the process of integration and provides a firm guarantee for fulfilling the aspirations of our peoples for political union, an indispensable aid in the advancement and development of European society in the years to come.

II. THE UNIONS AND EUROPE

THE FREE TRADE UNIONS OF THE COMMUNITY COUNTRIES ASK TO BE CONSULTED ON THE MERGER OF THE TREATIES

Brussels, 25 April 1968

Below, we reproduce the text of a document published by the ICFTU European Trade Union Secretariat following a meeting of the Executive Committee on 25 April 1968.

In this document, the ICFTU Unions recall their views on the geographical extension of the Community and the strengthening of its democratic structures and urge participation by the trade unions in drawing up the Single Treaty.

"The Executive Committee of the free national trade union centres (ICFTU) of the six countries of the Community, meeting in Brussels on 25 April 1968 under the Chairmanship of L. Rosenberg, recalls that on the occasion of the Tenth Anniversary of the signing of the Treaties of Rome, the ICFTU and ICFTU trade Unions had stated their views in the following way:

"The trade union movement reaffirms its conviction that only an integrated Europe will be able to give the national economies a large enough scale to make it possible to bring about a regular growth of the standard of living of our peoples and that only a united Europe is capable of becoming a factor making for stability and peace in the world.

In reaffirming its commitment to Europe, the trade union movement reminds heads of governments that it is their duty to continue with the mission which has been entrusted to them and to do everything in their power to abolish obstacles in the path leading towards a united Europe.

Among the major problems arising at present, the trade union movement attaches particular importance to:

- the geographical extension of the Community
- the strengthening of the Community's democratic structures".

"During the past year no serious progress has been made on these two points. There continues to be a prevailing lack of unanimity both with regard to the membership of Great Britain and to the strengthening of internal structures.

"To this has to be added the fact that the disharmony which succeeded the crisis of 1965 continues to press heavily on the Community's decisions:

- there has been no acceptance of voting by a qualified majority,
- The Commission's prerogatives are challenged every day that goes by.

"The Executive Committee urges that the trade union organizations should participate, by direct consultation, both at national and Community level, together with the Community institutions, the European Parliament and the Economic and Social Committee in drawing up the Single Treaty.

"The trade unions will not support in any way whatsoever the merger of the Treaties if this does not serve to attain their basic objectives nor to create machinery for implementing them:

- a much greater element of democracy in the functioning of the institutions
- full employment
- fair distribution of national income
- economic expansion
- a more balanced regional development
- a greater measure of aid to the developing countries".

THE FIRST EUROPEAN CONGRESS OF THE CHRISTIAN
TRADE UNIONS IN THE SIX COUNTRIES WILL TAKE PLACE
IN MAY 1969 IN BRUSSELS

Brussels, 16 May 1968

The Committee of the IFCTU European Organization held its 22nd meeting on 16 May 1968 in Brussels, under the chairmanship of A. Cool.

The Management Committee met the previous day to prepare for this meeting.

Below, we reproduce in its entirety a communiqué issued by the IFCTU European Organization, dealing with the proceedings of this meeting.

"The Committee took a final decision on changing the IFCTU European Organization Conference into a Congress which will take place every two years.

"The first Congress, which will mark the 10th Anniversary of the IFCTU European Organization, will be held in Brussels on 7, 8 and 9 May 1969. It will be devoted to discussing a progress report and guide-lines for future European trade union activities, prepared by the Secretariat and of a further Report on "labour relations on a European scale", which will deal particularly with European social structure and trade union responsibility in this sphere.

"The Committee continued with the discussion of a report on the structural organization and activities of the IFCTU European Organization following the Amsterdam Conference and in preparation for the Brussels Congress. The Committee decided to set up a special Sub-Committee to revise the Constitution of the IFCTU European Organization.

"After an exchange of views on problems connected with activities within the European Communities, the Committee decided to ask the Management Committee to prepare the ground for a wide-ranging discussion of social policy in the Communities which has been placed on the agenda of its next meeting.

"The Committee also accepted the proposal put forward by the Pan-African Confessional Workers' Union (The IFCTU African Regional Organization) to hold talks between the two regional organizations concerning the renewal of the Treaty of Association between the European Community and the African and Malagasy States.¹

After an exchange of views on trade union activities within the OECD, the Committee took certain decisions relating to the preparation of a Second European Regional Labour Conference which will take place in Geneva in December 1968.

"The Committee also carried out a broad review of the general situation, particularly the trade union situation in certain European countries, particularly in Spain, Portugal and Greece.

"The Committee adopted a resolution on the situation in countries where basic freedoms are lacking, particularly in the countries mentioned.

"Finally, the Committee noted a report on the situation in the countries of Eastern Europe and decided to follow closely further developments of the situation in conjunction with the responsible bodies of the International Federation of Christian Trade Unions."

¹ The Communiqué issued by the Pan-African Confessional Workers Union reads as follows:

"The Committee of the Pan-African Confessional Workers' Union (UPTC) meeting in Addis Ababa on 17, 18 and 19 April 1968; having examined the workings of the Treaty of Association, criticisms that have been made in this respect and the envisaged renewal of the agreement in 1969; considering that commercial, industrial and agricultural workers will be most immediately affected by the shape of the new Treaty;

calls for the organization of a meeting between African and European trade union leaders and experts to examine both the results of association and the renewal of the Treaty.

The UPTC Committee expresses the wish that this meeting of experts should take place in Africa."

THE ICFTU EUROPEAN TRADE UNION
SECRETARIAT EXAMINES FISCAL HARMONIZATION IN THE EEC

Brussels, 20 May 1968

The ICFTU European Trade Union Secretariat has adopted and forwarded to the European Commission a statement setting out its views about the principles and conditions for fiscal harmonization in the Community.

"The trade unions," the ICFTU European Trade Union Secretariat points out, "admit the need for a certain measure of harmonization between Member States in this field as a condition for enabling the free movement of goods to take place under favourable conditions. However, adverse social and economic repercussions should be avoided by observing the following principles:

"The total tax burden on the population of each of the Member States should not increase as a result of harmonization;

"The principle whereby taxes are levied in proportion to the capacity of economic return should be respected in all cases;

"It should not be forgotten that indirect taxation is more anti-social than direct taxation. Harmonization should not, therefore, lead to an increase in indirect taxation which hits all consumers indiscriminately and thus weighs proportionally more heavily on the lower-income groups;

"If, however, limited increases in indirect taxation prove to be necessary in certain countries, lower income groups should receive compensation by way of relief on direct taxation or direct repayments or subsidies;

"Any reduction in the general level of direct taxation should be compensated for by a more stringent taxation of higher incomes".

M. DESCAMPS, GENERAL SECRETARY
OF THE CFDT (FRANCE) EXAMINES THE TRADE UNION POSITION
ON EUROPEAN INTEGRATION

Paris, 20 and 21 April 1968

The CFDT National Committee, which is composed of delegates from national trade groups and of local trade councils, met on 20 and 21 April 1968 in Paris.

Mr. Eugene Descamps, General Secretary, addressing the meeting, had the following to say on the CFDT's international activities:

"At Common Market level, co-operation is developing between the ICFTU European Trade Union Secretariat and the IFCTU European Organization. Policy on most questions is worked out and implemented on a joint basis, as is the case with the task of representing the workers' interests.

"At present, the two organizations are engaged in drawing up a joint social programme.

"The decision of the French CGT and the Italian CGIL to open a joint office in Brussels to deal with Common Market questions represents a new development, particularly in the CGT's policy, since it is now accepting the EEC as a fact and is asking to take part in the consultative machinery of the Common Market.

"In spite of this positive development, economic Europe is being built up at one remove from the trade union movement.

"The trade unions are very slow in counting out the necessary transition from a preoccupation with national questions towards an interest in developments on a Europe-wide scale."

"There is much too great a gap between carrying out representative functions at European level and the scope for real action.

"Today, trusts, cartels and concentrations of economic and industrial power are real facts at European level. In a few weeks, there will be complete freedom of movement of goods, capital and workers throughout the countries of the Common Market.

"The trade unions have an urgent task to make up the ground they have lost in comparison with the pace of European economic and capitalist integration.

"We shall have to continue to define our views on the main problems arising as a result of European economic integration (democratic planning at European level, employment policy and free movement of workers, social guarantees, democratic supervision by the trade unions and the elected political representatives of the process of European construction, the enlargement of the Common Market etc. ...).

"We must have full discussions with the main national trade union centres of Germany, Italy, Belgium, the Netherlands, Great Britain etc. so as to arrive at common policies and objectives.

"Finally, we have to be realistic and play our part in the quest for a truly European structure for the trade union movement, truly European both in its spirit and in its scale; we have to study the necessary transfer of national sovereignty involved in creating a European trade union structure."

THE "FORCE OUVRIERE" NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
(FRANCE) URGES THE NEED FOR STRENGTHENING TRADE UNION
STRUCTURE AT EUROPEAN LEVEL

Brest, 3,4 and 5 May 1968

The National Executive of the CGT-FO (France) meeting in Brest on 3, 4 and 5 May 1968, adopted the following resolution on European questions:

"At European level, the National Executive strongly advocates that the work which has been embarked on with a view to strengthening the trade union structure of the free trade unions in the Europe of the Six should find a practical continuation. The Executive recalls its support for Europe and reaffirms that only an integrated and united

Europe will make it possible to bring about a regular increase in the standard of living and constitute a decisive factor for stability and peace in the world.

"For this reason, the Executive condemns all those who would wish to slow down or even jeopardize both the extension of Europe to include other democratic countries (Great Britain, Denmark, Norway, Ireland etc.) and the economic, social and political unification of Europe in accordance with the basic principles of supranationality and democratic supervision."

On the evening of Friday, 3 May, prior to the meeting of the National Executive, a large-scale meeting was held in the "Salle des fêtes" of the Brest Town Hall to discuss European questions.

3rd INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS OF
IG METALL(DGB, GERMANY) ON AUTOMATION, RATIONALIZATION
AND TECHNICAL PROGRESS

Oberhausen, 5-8 March 1968

The German National Engineering and Metal Workers' Union (IG Metall) was host to more than 1,200 scientists, experts, civil servants and trade unionists from all over the world, including academics from the USSR and other countries of Eastern Europe, at their International Congress held from 5-8 March 1968 at Oberhausen to discuss aspects of automation, particularly the social consequences.

In his welcoming address, the President of IG Metall, Otto Brenner, raised a number of questions arising from the rapid acceleration of the process of automation in the German Federal Republic:

"How can we make good past and present mistakes bringing suffering to those who, although they are in jobs, are inadequately trained or who have entered the wrong professions?"

In order to alleviate the adverse social consequences of technical progress, O. Brenner asked for the establishment of a "German Commission for Technical and Structural Development" on the model of bodies existing in the United States and the Netherlands.

Such a Commission, composed of representatives of science, business and the unions should draw up a co-ordinated research programme, thus providing the basis for structural and growth policies adapted to the process of automation.

With regard to the adjustment of collective agreements so as to adapt them to technical progress, IG Metall has asked the employers to negotiate on a draft agreement which will protect workers against the effects of rationalization.

An address entitled "Technical Progress and the Common Market" given by Professor Levi Sandri, Vice-President of the Commission of the European Communities, dealt with differences in the rate of progress between the EEC and the United States as well as action taken by the European institutions to foster technical progress.

Professor Levi Sandri referred to the slower rate of technological advance in Europe when compared with the United States of America, a comparison which applied between the United States and the States of Europe taken separately or together in the Community. The gap, moreover, was increasing. The problem was not only an economic one, but was primarily of a political character.

Professor Levi Sandri continued:

"In order to measure up to the problems which will arise, the European Community will have to have at its disposal adequate machinery and appropriate means for intervening. Indeed, these are problems which, by their very size, will, in the future, exceed the possibilities open to the individual states and will only be capable of solution on a Community basis, viz. within the framework of a united Europe.

"It will be necessary to carry out at Community level an active policy on employment providing for full employment of labour, even taking into account the necessary rapid transformation of the apparatus of production".

The Vice-President of the Commission of the European Communities also referred to factors making for stability of employment: free movement of workers, the European Social Fund, the work carried out for the re-training and re-employment of workers in the ECSC industries and the principles of a common policy on vocational training provided for in the European Treaties.

Finally, he placed emphasis on the extension of the length of compulsory education, the spontaneous trend to follow courses of secondary and higher education and vocational training courses providing openings to more than one single profession together with permanent facilities for retraining and vocational further training as supporting measures for carrying out an active policy on employment.

TRADE UNION MEETINGS AND CONGRESSES

ORDINARY CONGRESS OF THE BELGIAN FEDERATION OF TRADE UNIONS (FGTB)

Brussels, 22, 23 and 24 April 1968

The Belgian National Centre, FGTB, held its Ordinary Congress on 22, 23, and 24 April 1968 in Brussels. The Congress was attended by 527 delegates and many foreign guests. Mr. H. Castel was President.

Mr. Louis Major introduced the Report on Activities, covering the FGTB's activities over the last 3 years. In particular, he referred to the increase of 20 000 in membership since 1965 bringing the total FGTB membership to 770 800.

Mr. Delourme, National Secretary, replied to speeches concerning women workers, Mr. De Beck on social programmes and Mr. Willy Schugens on economic questions.

Speakers during the Congress pointed to the need for wages to keep pace with increases in the index of retail prices and expressed opposition to any kind of incomes policy within the country's present economic system.

In particular, Congress called for a basic structural reform so as to introduce to Belgium economic democracy safeguarding full employment and social progress. Expressing anxiety at the increase in unemployment and the closing down of factories, Congress urged that a number of measures should be taken including industrial modernization and redevelopment and a system of compensation, analogous to that operated by the ECSC, for all workers affected by the closing of factories until such time as they are re-absorbed by new industries under modernization and redevelopment programmes.

Moreover, the 527 delegates adopted a resolution calling for 10 guaranteed annual public holidays, four weeks annual holiday with double pay and a progressive reduction of working hours to a 40-hour week.

Women trade unionists took a major part in the discussions, urging that women workers should play a more active rôle in the trade union movement and calling for more vigorous action on equal pay.

Resolution on European Questions

Congress adopted the following resolution on the European Communities:

"In the political sphere, Congress notes that the rôle of the Commission of the Communities has been challenged in several areas and that its powers are being increasingly vested in the College of Permanent Representatives.

In order to prevent the Community becoming completely dominated by technocrats, Congress:

- places emphasis on the need for the Commission of the Communities to be able to exercise freely its right of initiative;
- calls for the application by the Council of Ministers of the rule on voting by a qualified majority as provided for in the EEC Treaty;
- points out that the members of the Council of Ministers regard themselves as responsible only to their respective national governments;
- demands, therefore, an extension in the supervisory powers of the European Parliament, whose members should be elected on the basis of universal suffrage;
- reaffirms that the extension of the Community to include all the democratic countries of Europe will strengthen the political unity of the European Communities;
- calls for an extension in the powers of the Economic and Social Committee which should, in particular, be invested with the right of initiative;
- demands that, when the Treaties are merged, workers' existing rights should be at least maintained and that the trade union movement should have a say in the matter;

- renews its appeal for the progressive implementation of the Action Programme drawn up by the European Trade Union Secretariats relating to:
 - the achievement of full employment and the strengthening of economic democracy;
 - the reduction of the working week;
 - increased annual holidays and increased holiday pay;
 - guaranteed income during periods of unfitness for work.
- reaffirms the views adopted by the 1965 Congress on international and trade union relations.

Elections of Officers

The Congress unanimously elected Georges Debunne as General Secretary and re-elected the three National Secretaries: Mr. Alfred Delourme, Mr. Nathalis de Bock and Mr. Willy Schugens. Mr. George Gogne was also appointed National Secretary.

Special Session to honour Louis Major

A special session was held to honour the outgoing General Secretary, Mr. Louis Major, retiring at the age of 65.

Among the many tributes paid to Louis Major was a speech by Mr. Harm Buiters, General Secretary of the ICFTU, who recalled the contribution that Louis Major had made to the international Free Trade Union Movement and to the cause of European unity.

Mr. Harm Buiters went on to state:

"His political realism and his deep feeling of international solidarity made Louis Major one of the great defenders of the European idea. There was never any doubt in his mind that the way towards a socialist Europe could only be by way of a united Europe and that, in a united Europe, a united trade union movement has a major rôle to play. This conviction he unrelentingly proclaimed, particularly in the Economic and Social Committee of the European Communities, during his period of chairmanship, of which we all have every reason to be proud".

Georges Debunne, new General Secretary of the FTGB

Mr. Georges Debunne was born on 2 May 1919 at Hofstade. After completing his primary and secondary education in Flemish schools at Menin, he was admitted to the Ecole normale Charles Buis, where he was awarded his teaching diploma in 1937, after satisfying the examiners ("le Jury Central") on his advanced studies in Flemish. In 1938, he joined the teaching staff of the Hal Secondary School, where he was straightaway appointed a delegate of the Socialist Teaching Staff Union.

After being a prisoner of war until the end of June 1940, he joined the Resistance and became a clandestine trade union delegate. At the Liberation he was Head of a major trade union and on 6 October 1945 he was elected Permanent National Secretary by the Congress of the National Food and Drink Workers' Union.

On 10 February 1946, he was re-elected Permanent National Secretary, this time, however, for the Central Government Employees' Section of the Belgian Public Service Workers' National Union (Centrale Générale Services Publics, CGSP). During the Extraordinary Congress held on 21 - 22 May 1947, he was unanimously elected General Secretary of the CGSP.

From then until 24 October 1956 he was particularly concerned as General Secretary with the CGSP's press relations, publicity and collective bargaining.

On 24 October 1956, when the President, Henri Jansen, retired on reaching the age limit, Georges Debunne was elected as his successor.

Since then, he has been appointed President of the Central Government Employees' Section (Secteur ministères), President of the Brussels region of the FGTE and chairman of the Brussels Common Action Committee.

CONGRESS OF THE FRENCH NATIONAL UNION OF
CHEMICAL WORKERS (FORCE OUVRIERE)

Grenoble, 26, 27 and
28 April 1968

The Ordinary Congress of the French National Union of Chemical Workers (FO) was held in Grenoble on 26, 27 and 28 April 1968. Going on for 300 delegates from constituent local unions and many foreign guests took part in the proceedings.

Immediately prior to the Congress, the Union's Secretariat had organized a European Seminar on 22 and 23, 24, 25 April. The following questions were dealt with: the trade union movement and the situation in France; France and the construction of Europe; the trade union movement and the situation in Great Britain; Great Britain and the construction of Europe; the trade union movement and the situation in Germany; Germany and the construction of Europe; the trade union movement and the situation in Italy; Italy and the construction of Europe.

Report on Activities

The Report on Activities and Future Working Programme were introduced by Mr. Maurice Labi, General Secretary.

In this report, Mr. Labi dealt at some length with European questions. In particular, he stated that "Europe, which is going to produce a strong stabilizing and magnetic action in tomorrow's world, can already play an important rôle in liberalizing what is commonly called Central Europe. Today, the demographic, economic and financial potential of Europe is comparable with that of the super-powers: the Europe which is being built will soon be able to act as a considerable world power, using this power within its frontiers and beyond to foster harmony and justice, promote trade and human communications, remodelling and extending our ancient humanist civilisation and giving it an increasingly socialist colouring."

"However, right from the start, what we have always wanted to achieve and to see in our Europe," Mr. Labi continued, "is primarily a great effort to promote peace and progress". (...) Quite clearly, organized labour has a supremely important contribution to make towards this historic achievement. Our interests and aspirations are at stake. However, we have to admit to ourselves that, after spending a great deal of time and money, we often have the feeling of marking time, of not making enough progress towards that clear

definition which should increasingly inform our activities, to be failing to advance quickly enough towards building up the European trade union movement, in short, not to be - in our own house and in those matters which concern us - as European in spirit as we would like others to be. They, for their part, the rulers and the employers, have already gone further than we have in facing up to reality. The governments, in spite of certain obstructive tactics employed by certain people, are continuing with the work of European construction and the Treaty of Rome is continuing to be implemented."

"Over and above the Common Market itself," the General Secretary of the French National Union of Chemical Workers continued, "which will be fully in force on 1 July this year, when customs duties between the six countries are abolished, there is every reason for committing ourselves to promoting the progressive integration of national economies, as well as in finance, social conditions, education etc., for taking this work in hand, before, and in order to prepare the ground for political, diplomatic and military integration so that, in every major sphere, all the policies pursued by the member states become the European policy and so that the whole array of these policies in every sphere may gradually merge in conditions of harmony. Every advance, every stage completed, every measure of integration should, clearly, be accompanied by the establishment of enforcement machinery and competent administrative institutions. In this context, one would certainly expect to see an extension in the rôle, powers and composition of the Economic and Social Committee. However, consultative machinery, which might subsequently evolve and become institutionalized, does not, as yet, exist in practice for the various major industries, and it would be advisable to develop possibilities for meetings, direct exchanges and agreements between the unions, the employers and the EEC officials for each major economic sector."

The General Secretary went on to state:

"The governments have still a lot to do, but not more than we ourselves as trade unions. The same has been true for a long time for the employers, whose European techniques are a great deal more advanced than our own, whilst, naturally, they have their problems among themselves. They are, obviously, in a better material position than we are to organize themselves and work together. The employers are organized and work together in three main areas:

1. for many years, each industry has had its own research and co-ordinating bodies and during their regular meetings, they are able to meet each other and attempt to harmonize their policies in relation to the governments and the trade unions;
2. for a long time, mergers, take-overs and groupings, as well as the construction of new plant, have gone on and will continue,

with firms working beyond, or linked with other firms situated beyond, their national frontiers, thus giving rise to the undertaking which is European in type, whose legal status is currently in the process of definition;

3. undertakings, whose operations extend to several Common Market countries, a number of which are French, are more and more tending to set up holding companies in France or in Switzerland, where their general policy, particularly their social policy, is worked out on European rather than on national lines; this trend implies that decisions affecting their establishments in a particular country are now and forthwith directly related to those taken in their establishments spread throughout Europe".

"Thus, by their keen perception of their own, which are often common, interests, and of the fact that they are involved with the future of Europe," Mr. Labi concluded, "the governments and the employers give the appearance of being more realistic, more dynamic and more efficient than the trade unions. Accordingly, it is not wrong to say and to go on saying that this Europe is at present a Europe of technocrats and capitalists and that the voice of the peoples and their organizations is little heard in Brussels and scarcely taken account of there. If this is true, it is also true that it depends on us, on our own will, on our imagination and our efforts, whether there is to be a change in the right direction, towards our interests which merge with the interests of Europe".

In his general report, Mr. Labi also dealt with present claims being put forward by the Union, the question of workers' unity and the political future of France. The report was adopted by 302 to 21, with 38 abstentions.

The Resolution adopted by Congress

At the end of its proceedings, Congress adopted a number of resolutions. Below, we reproduce the text dealing with European questions:

(...) "The National Congress of the French National Union of Chemical Workers (Fédéchimie CGT-FO) deplores the fact that Europe, by reason of its division and its uncertainty, is not adequately playing the world rôle as mediator as a promoter of peace and as a donor of aid which it ought normally to play by reason of its nature and its resources.

"Congress supports an increase in the speed of European construction in all spheres where this is at present possible (economic, social, financial and technological union) as well as an extension

to include other democratic countries or countries which are in process of liberalization: Great Britain, Austria, Denmark, Sweden, Switzerland, as well as Roumania, Czechoslovakia and Yugoslavia;

"calls for the establishment of democratic supervisory bodies and for a better hearing of the trade union point of view in the European Economic Community so as to combat and reduce the power of the technocrats and capitalists which now prevails within the Common Market;

"for this reason, Congress appeals to all fraternal organizations in other countries to speed up the process of merging their forces so that tomorrow they will be able to make themselves felt as one large European trade union centre, which is the only guarantee for a future of progress, freedom and peace."

The Congress re-elected Mr. Mauri Labi as General Secretary.

European Meeting

Following the Congress, the Co-ordinating Committee of the Committees for the Chemical Industry in the Six Countries met in Grenoble. During this meeting, the Committee dealt with the following questions: an examination of European trade union structural organization; a continuation of the discussion on a common European trade union policy; national reports.

Finally, it should be noted that the French National Union of Chemical Workers (FO) organized, in conjunction with its Congress, a large public meeting on 26 April in the Palais de la Glace in Grenoble devoted to: "The Trade Union Movement, the Left and Europe."

Those speaking at this meeting included: Mr. D. Mayer, President of the League of Human Rights; Lord Walston of the Board of Trade; Mr. Dors Smets, former President of the Building Workers' International, Senator; Mr. Karl Kupper, Vice-President of the German Chemical workers' Union (IG Chemie); Mr. Lino Ravecca, General Secretary of the Italian Chemical Workers' Union (UIL) and the Mayor of Grenoble, Mr. Hubert Dubebout.

34th CONGRESS OF THE FRENCH NATIONAL
METAL AND ENGINEERING WORKERS' UNION
(CFDT)

Rouen, 25-28 April 1968

The French National Union of Chemical and Engineering Workers' (FGM-CFDT) held its 34th Ordinary Congress in Rouen from 25-28 April. The Congress was attended by more than 400 delegates from all parts of France and large delegations from abroad.

After hearing a number of reports and very lively discussions, the Congress adopted resolutions on: collective bargaining claims; national organization policy; economic questions; political questions; international questions; and membership of the IMF (International Metal Workers' Federation)

Congress adopted the following resolution on Europe:

a) Single Executive and Treaty

"The merger of the Executives and the merger of the Treaties which is about to take place have had and will have direct repercussions for the workers and for the future of our country and of Europe.

Congress, reaffirming the condemnation by the 1965 Congress of "the capitalist aims and methods employed for organizing the European economy which have resulted in unemployment and loss of earnings", puts forward the following demands in conjunction with the Single Treaty:

- (i) Community policy in all sectors should be a policy agreed by all the parties concerned, viz: the authorities, the workers and the employers;
- (ii) economic expansion, increasing employment opportunities, the raising of the standard of living and the improvement of working conditions are the explicit aims to be followed and the settlement of these questions should be by way of negotiations between workers' and employers' organizations at European level;

(iii) economic policy should, in particular, be based on:

- the establishment of general objectives for each sector and industry;
- a true co-ordination of investments at European level;
- basic and applied research should be promoted, independently of the industries themselves;
- there should be wider knowledge and publication of statistics.

In the social sphere, all measures to promote re-training and re-employment of workers, vocational training, free movement of workers, guarantees on the standard of living, improvements in living and working conditions etc. should be adopted and applied with the full co-operation of the workers' organizations.

Consultations, both of professional organizations and competent bodies, should be made obligatory and extended to cover all sectors, which implies the establishment of consultative committees and mixed committees for each sector.

The financing of the European institutions should be regulated in such a way as to guarantee their independence of the States.

Before the Single Treaty is finalized, Congress calls, in particular, for:

- (i) complete maintenance of the provisions relating to the ECSC;
- (ii) transfer of the ECSC guarantee reserves to a European trade union fund, to be administered on a bipartite basis."

b) The Extension of Europe

"Congress considers that Europe should not be limited to the six countries but should be opened in the near future for the membership of Great Britain and the Scandinavian countries. Congress also rejects:

- any treaty of association with Franco Spain and the admission of this Spain to the Common Market;

Congress calls for:

- (i) suspension of the Treaty of Association with Greece until democratic freedom has been restored in this country;
- (ii) economic and cultural co-operation between the Common Market and the Peoples' Democracies;
- (iii) the promotion of active European solidarity with the countries of the Third World."

c) Strengthening of the Trade Union Campaign

"Congress feels that the trade unions should increase their efforts to:

- (i) promote wider knowledge among the workers of European problems, thus giving them a keener interest in and awareness of these problems;
- (ii) develop and extend their relations at all levels, particularly within firms, throughout trusts and on an industry-wide basis;
- (iii) insist on and obtain collective bargaining and the conclusion of collective agreements, particularly on an industry-wide basis;
- (iv) strengthen their united action;
- (v) define the nature and characteristics of the Europe that they wish to build up in common, its institutions and their rôle;
- (vi) give the trade unions the means to fulfil these Community objectives."

Resolution on Affiliation to the IMF

The 34th Congress of the French National Union of Metal and Engineering Workers also adopted the following resolution on affiliation to the IMF.

"The 34th Congress endorses the advice given by the National Council as set out in its resolution of December 1966, within the

framework of the National Union's constant position with regard to international trade union activities;

"Decides, with the aim of strengthening trade union effectiveness and solidarity:

- (i) to disaffiliate the FGM from the International Federation of Christian Metal Workers' Unions (FISCM);
- (ii) to affiliate the FTM to the International Metal Workers' Federation (IMF);

"Authorises its national governing bodies to implement this decision as soon as possible."

This resolution was adopted by 98.46% of the votes.

Election of the Executive Committee

The National Council, meeting during the Congress, elected the Executive Committee, which is composed as follows:

J. Lannes	(National President)
J. Maire	(General Secretary)
R. Careme	(National Treasurer)
A. Acquier)	
J. Chereque)	
A. Mercier)	(National Secretaries)
J. Rose)	
A. Soulat)	
E. Bailleul)	
A. Lepert)	
B. Loiseau)	(Members of the Executive Committee)
C. Michelot)	
A. Moutet)	

STATEMENTS BY TRADE AND
INDUSTRIAL COMMITTEES

THE SITUATION IN THE COAL MINING INDUSTRY
EXAMINED BY THE CHRISTIAN MINERS'
INTERNATIONAL (CISC)

Brussels, 21 March 1968

The Committee of the Christian Miners' International (IFCTU), met in Brussels on 21 March 1968. The agenda included examination of the situation in the coal mining industry nine months after the merger of the European Executives. In a motion, the Christian miners recalled the urgency of adopting adequate measures to meet "the threatening developments in the coal mines". They also ask to participate in preparing the General Objectives for Coal, in accordance with Art. 46 of the Treaty of Paris, and that the original ECSC funds should be used solely for ECSC purposes.

The resolution states:

"Establishment of General Objectives

These objectives remain necessary for coal as well as for the other sources of energy, so that the workers and all those concerned in the industry as well as consumers should have at their disposal at least a minimum body of information by way of a forecast of future trends;

These should be drawn up after consulting all those concerned so as to take proper account of all factors, particularly data concerning employment and the economic situation in the regions.

"Policy on Employment, Retraining and Re-employment of Workers
Industrial Modernization and Redevelopment

The compulsory establishment of general objectives should be accompanied by resources for carrying out an effective policy on employment under the new Treaty. The provisions of the policy on retraining and re-employment, which were laboriously drawn up during fifteen years' experience in applying the Treaty of Paris and which constitute one of the most remarkable achievements of the ECSC, should be maintained in their entirety.

These provisions should be complemented by transferring to the Single Commission, the possibilities of intervention previously open to the High Authority in the field of industrial modernization and redevelopment and the creation of new jobs, since this represents a necessary complement to any policy concerning the adaptation of the coal mining industry.

"Financing

Implementation of these provisions to be incorporated in the Single Treaty can only be assured by preserving autonomous, adequate financing for interventions by the Commission, particularly in the social sphere.

"Other Provisions of Social Policy

In order to avert an unacceptable retrogression, achievements in the following fields should also be preserved under the Single Treaty:

- (i) housing;
- (ii) vocational training;
- (iii) safety and health of working;
- (iv) technical research;
- (v) trade union information;
- (vi) joint committees.

The preservation of these established rights should be guaranteed through agreements annexed to the new Treaty.

"Workers' Participation

The principle of workers' participation in economic and social policy should be preserved by maintaining an institutional apparatus providing, as does the present ECSC Consultative Committee, the mine workers with:

- (i) appropriate representation;
- (ii) regular information on all economic and social questions relating to their industry;
- (iii) direct consultation on all matters concerning them envisaged by the Commission".

MEETING OF THE IFCTU EUROPEAN TRANSPORT COMMITTEE

Ostende, 3 April 1968

A meeting of the IFCTU European Transport Committee took place in Ostende on 3 April 1968. The Committee adopted one resolution, in which, after recalling previous statements, particularly the resolution concerning the EEC Common Transport Policy, adopted by the Congress of the International Federation of Christian Transport Workers' union at Evian les Bains in June 1967 (see Trade Union News No 5/67), the Committee notes that "at its Session of 13 and 14 December 1967, the Council of Transport Ministers of the Communities attempted to leave behind them the stagnation which had, for many years, prevented any effective implementation of the Common Transport Policy".

The Resolution goes on to emphasize the great interest which attaches to the adoption of the regulation on the harmonization of certain social provisions in road transport. In this connection, the Committee considers however, that "this regulation only represents a first stage on the way towards the implementation of a proper social policy in transport which should aim at introducing normal working conditions in the different means of transport so as to enable all transport workers to lead a full family, social and cultural life. In addition, decent working conditions, which entail proper rest periods, could not fail to promote safety in transport for the benefit of the Community as a whole and all transport users.

In view of the very rapid rate of technical development in transport, it is necessary to give particular attention to vocational training so as to provide for a highly qualified labour force which can cope with the increasingly complex nature of work in the transport industry.

Finally, the Resolution adopted by the IFCTU European Transport Committee once again asks that the professional interests involved, including the transport workers' trade unions, should participate effectively in the work of the Market Supervisory Committee.

Containerization Seminar

On 4 and 5 April 1968, the International Federation of Christian Transport Workers' Unions organized in Ostend a seminar on problems arising from containerization.

Papers were read by Mr. P. Rho, Director General of the General Directorate "Transport" of the European Communities, and Mr. A. Vleugels, Director General of the Antwerp Port Authority.

The effects of containerization on the maritime industry, port working, inland transport as well as the general economic and social effects were dealt with in conclusions adopted by the Federation.

SOCIAL HARMONIZATION IN TRANSPORT: A STATEMENT BY THE FREE TRADE UNIONS

Villingen, 11 April 1968

The Committee of ITF Transport Unions in the EEC, which consists of ITF - ICFTU transport workers unions in the Six, met at Villingen (Germany) on 10 and 11 April 1968. Ph. Seibert was Chairman.

In a statement adopted after the meeting, the Committee notes that, in order to obtain a rational and planned organization of the transport market, "it is, above all, necessary, to have strict rules co-ordinating investments, strict regulation of access to the market and of capacity, as well as vigorous measures to harmonize and co-ordinate conditions of competition, and, particularly, working and living conditions in the different means of transport."

The trade unions approved the proposal made by the Commission to set up a Committee to supervise the market and asked to be adequately represented on this Committee.

Once again, the Committee of ITF Transport Unions in the Community expressed serious concern at the considerable and very regrettable delay incurred in the Community's work in the field of social harmonization in road transport. Although the European Parliament and the Economic and Social Committee have given their opinion more than a year ago, the Council of Ministers has still not taken any decision on the first Community project in this field.

The transport workers' unions in the Community address an urgent appeal to the Council of Ministers to adopt the regulation concerned at its meeting at the end of April 1968 and not to hesitate at all in fixing a date for the regulation to come into force.

The Committee of ITF Transport Unions in the Community urges that the different Community bodies intensify their co-operation with the trade union circles concerned by taking the necessary initiative without delay so as to bring about the indispensable social harmonization in the different means of transport."

CHRISTIAN COMMERCIAL WORKERS UNION LEADERS
MEET IN PARIS

Paris, 5 April 1968

Leaders of the Sales Representatives Section of the International Federation of Christian Unions of Salaried Staffs, Technicians, Supervisory Staffs and Travelling Salesmen (FISCETCV) met in Paris on 5 April 1968.

The work of the meeting centred on the finalization of a draft European membership card. The Unions hope to be able this year to issue this card to their members working regularly in Community countries. Card holders will be able at any time to approach fraternal organizations in the different countries of the Common Market for information and advice.

The delegates also examined a draft directive for regulating the legal status of Sales Representatives at Community level and decided to act jointly with representatives of the free trade unions (FIET - ICFTU) in a common approach to the Commission of the European Communities.

III. THE TRADE UNION MOVEMENT AND EUROPEAN INTEGRATION

EUROPEAN DEMOCRACY: A MEMORANDUM OF THE CHRISTIAN WORKERS' MOVEMENT (BELGIUM)

Brussels, 22 April 1968

On 22 April 1968 the Executive Committee of the Christian Workers Movement (MOC, Belgium) approved a memorandum setting out a number of questions on which the MOC wishes to make known the point of view of the workers it represents.

This document had been drawn up - as pointed out by "Au Travail", the official publication of the Belgian Christian Trade Unions, in its issue No. 19 of 11 May 1968 - "at a time when a new formula for political guidance is sought for the near future."

With regard to European problems, the memorandum states:

- " - In spite of present difficulties, European integration should be continued and strengthened.
- The basic objective remains the attainment of a politically united Europe. The major stages during the coming years will be: the strengthening of the European Parliament, which must become a true Parliament, having supervisory and legislative powers and composed of directly elected members; the merger of the European Treaties where, as far as the social aspects are concerned, the Treaty of Paris (ECSC) should serve as a model.
- It will be necessary to engage in permanent activities to overcome present obstacles in the path of the eminently desirable extension of the European Communities; however, we should be on our guard, in this connection, against any initiative which might compromise the achievements already made.
- Pursuit of the process of European integration in the spheres of:
 - (i) technological integration, and
 - (ii) integration of social policy with participation by the workers and their organizations at all levels of European policy.

The memorandum also contains a chapter devoted to the problems of foreign workers in Belgium.

THE WORKERS' LIBERATION MOVEMENT (FRANCE)
ANALYSES THE SITUATION IN THE COMMON MARKET

In its special May Day number, the Workers Liberation Movement (Mouvement de Libération Ouvrière (MLO) France), analyses the situation in the Common Market in an editorial of Mr. Guy Baudrillart, General Secretary.

"On May Day 1968," G. Baudrillart writes, "it is no longer a question of whether one is for or against Europe, because Europe is now being made. The question which has to be put in specific terms is, what sort of Europe the workers want.

Do the workers want a Europe which would only be an extension of a system and type of civilisation with consequences and risks which, despite certain attractions, everyone can judge in his own country?

Or do the workers want a Europe based on true economic and social progress, a Europe which looks outwards towards the world, a Europe of peace and justice in which the workers will no longer be 'rejects' but responsible citizens?

Put in these terms, that is, on the new scale of Europe, this is the ever-present problem of a class which has to struggle for its advance and to know how to employ means which are adequate to solve its problems and realize its ambitions."

IV. BIBLIOGRAPHY AND DOCUMENTATION

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BULLETIN OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES - ECSC - EEC - EURATOM
No. 3, March 1968 - Publishing Services of the European Communities
No. 4001⁺ - On sale - Published in German - French - Italian - Dutch -
English and Spanish.

This issue includes the following items:

- Debates in the European Parliament on Applications for Membership,
following the session of the Council of Ministers on 19 December 1967;
- The extension of the Communities (developments since 19 December
1967);
- Introduction to the Report on the Social Situation in the
Community in 1967;
- The official visit to the United States of M. Jean Rey, President
of the Commission of the European Communities.

BULLETIN OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES - ECSC - EEC - EURATOM
No. 4, April 1968 - Publishing Services of the European Communities
No. 4001⁺ - On sale - Published in German - French - Italian - Dutch -
English and Spanish.

This issue includes the following items:

- The Tenth Anniversary of the European Parliament;
- Extracts from the Summary of the First General Report of the
Commission of the European Communities, by M. Jean Rey, President
of the Commission (Strasbourg, 12 March 1968);
- Submission to the Council of Ministers by the Commission of a Draft
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"PRINCIPES ET METHODES DES ENQUETES DE CONJONCTURE HARMONISEES
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CYCLICAL SURVEYS CARRIED OUT IN THE COMMUNITY) - 1967, 43 pages -
Published in German, French, Italian, Dutch and English.
On sale: FF 5.-; Bfrs. 50.- No. 8198⁺ .

This publication is a new edition, revised and enlarged, of that which appeared in 1963. The EEC Common Programme of economic cyclical surveys was put into practice in 1962 in the form of monthly surveys carried out by questioning heads of industrial firms, grouped in 19 major sectors and since 1964 has consisted of a cyclical survey concerning investments.

Since then, the programme has been considerably extended and the scope of the survey has been increased, new questions introduced, the representative basis continually improved and the nomenclature been set out in much greater detail.

Moreover, in June 1966, monthly investigations began in the building sector.

The previous publication has, therefore, been revised and brought up to date to take account of the various developments.

ECSC

"16^{ème} RAPPORT GENERAL SUR LES DEPENSES ADMINISTRATIVES DE LA COMMUNAUTE POUR L'EXERCICE FINANCIER 1966-1967- APRIL 1968"
(16th GENERAL REPORT ON ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENDITURE BY THE COMMUNITY FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR 1966-1967 - APRIL 1968) -
Publishing Services of the European Communities No. 14329 -
Published in four languages.

The document gives provisional details of administrative expenditure by the ECSC for the financial year 1966-1967 and includes reports on administrative expenditure by the ECSC institutions for the financial year, 1966-1977 for the High Authority and, for the financial year 1966, for the common institutions and secretariat of the Councils of the European Communities.

COURT OF JUSTICE OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES

"RECEUIL DE TEXTES - Organisation, compétences et procédure de la Cour" (Collection of texts - organization, powers and procedure of the Court) Second revised edition - 1967 - 351 pages - on sale -
Price: FF 20.-; Bfrs. 200.-

A collection of texts published for the first time in 1963 concerning the organization, power and procedure of the Court of Justice of the European Communities provided in one volume all the provisions relating to the Court set out in the different Treaties setting up the European Communities, and in the various protocols and annexed agreements as well as in regulations adopted in application of these Treaties.

A new edition became a necessity when several provisions relating to the Court were modified by the Treaty setting up a Single Council and a Single Commission for the European Communities which came into force on 1 July 1967. Moreover, new powers have been attributed to the Court of Justice, particularly by the various agreements on association concluded between the European Economic Community on the one hand and, on the other, Turkey, the African and Malagasy States and Nigeria.

GENERAL DIRECTORATE FOR PRESS AND INFORMATION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES

The General Directorate for Press and Information of the European Communities (Common Market, ECSC, Euratom) publishes in five languages a series of documentation dossiers on the most topical problems of European integration. Among dossiers recently published are:

"DOCUMENTATION EUROPEENNE" (série syndicale et ouvrière)
(EUROPEAN DOCUMENTATION - TRADE UNION AND LABOUR SERIES)
No. 1, published in German, French, Italian and Dutch.
This number includes the following items:

- The Population of the Europe of the Six
- Belgian Trade Unionism
- The 20th Century Industrial Revolution
- The International Monetary System (I. International Liquidity)

"LE MARCHÉ COMMUN ET LES CONSOMMATEURS" - "DER GEMEINSAME MARKT UND DIE VERBRAUCHER" - "IL MERCATO COMUNE E I CONSUMATORI" - "DE GEMEENSCHAPPELIJKE MARKT EN DE VERBRUIKERS" - Références bibliographiques - Bibliographische Angaben - Indicazioni bibliografiche - Bibliografische gegevens - 1968 ("THE COMMON MARKET AND THE CONSUMERS" - a bibliography - 1968).

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These publications can be obtained by writing to the General Directorate for Press and Information of the European Communities in Brussels (244, rue de la Loi), Luxembourg (18, rue Aldringer) or from the offices in Bonn, Paris, The Hague, Rome, Geneva, London, New York or Washington.

MISCELLANEOUS

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This magazine covers 10 provinces without distinction of nationality and attempts to establish the first permanent link between them in the most varied spheres.

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TO OUR READERS

THIS PUBLICATION IS INTENDED TO KEEP THE TRADE UNION LEADERS OF THE COUNTRIES OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY INFORMED REGARDING THE VIEWS OF DIFFERENT TRADE UNION ORGANIZATIONS ON THE CONSTRUCTION OF EUROPE. THE OPINIONS EXPRESSED ARE THOSE OF THE AUTHORS, AND MUST NOT BE TAKEN AS COINCIDING WITH THOSE OF THE COMMUNITY INSTITUTIONS.

Editor's Note

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