



# trade union information

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1. THE EUROPEAN TRADE UNION CONFEDERATION DEMANDS ACTION FROM THE EUROPEAN COUNCIL

Following a request made by the European Trade Union Confederation, an ETUC delegation composed of:

Heinz-Oskar VETTER	President of the ETUC President of the DGB (Germany)
Georges DEBUNNE	Vice-President of the ETUC General Secretary of the FGTB (Belgium)
Thomas NIELSEN	Vice-President of the ETUC President of the Landsorganisationen (Denmark)
Theo RASSCHAERT	General Secretary of the ETUC

held a talk on 17 July 1975 with Aldo MORO, President of the European Council, and F.X. ORTOLI, President of the European Commission, in which they put forward matters of concern to the 37 million unionised European workers who are faced with the economic crisis in Europe.

The delegation submitted a short memorandum to the President of the European Council and the President of the European Commission summarising the ETUC's initial proposals for a solution to the present crisis.

The delegation laid particular emphasis on the necessity of convening a conference within the very near future, which would be attended by representatives of the Governments, the European Commission, the employers' organisations, and the trade unions, to discuss the measures which should be taken in the economic and social field.

On the same day the European Council (the thrice-yearly meeting of heads of state or government of the Community countries) approved the holding of a conference in the autumn, at which Ministers of finance or economic affairs and ministers of social affairs will meet with the European organisations of employers and trade unions.

The memorandum referred to above contains certain proposals for short-term action. It calls on all countries to put job-creation in the forefront of their economic policies; countries with a favourable balance of payments should undertake more vigorous economic expansion. In developing investments creating jobs, priority should be given to communal facilities and the satisfaction of communal needs. The present situation calls for:

Reduction of working hours

- reduction of working hours (reduction of the working week; holidays; early pension and/or lowering of retirement age)
- control of overtime
- efforts to combat the employment of illegally employed labour
- extension of compulsory schooling to the age of at least 16.

Distribution of working hours

- distribution of the necessary working hours amongst all the workers employed

- additional efforts in the field of general and vocational training.

#### Protection of workers

- development of the protection of workers in the event of closure of the firm, collective and individual dismissals, and vocational retraining.
- worker control of employment and the organisation of work.

## 2. THIRD REPORT ON THE ACTIVITIES OF THE NEW EUROPEAN SOCIAL FUND

The Commission submits each year to the Council and the European Parliament a report on the activities of the Social Fund during the past financial year and on the development of expenditure foreseeable in the coming three years. This Third Report concerning the activities of the Social Fund in 1974, breaks new ground by including at the request of the European Parliament a chapter devoted to some critical observations on the effective impact of the Social Fund on Community employment policy.

#### Influence of the Social Fund on Community employment policy

The report points out that the European Parliament had quite rightly laid special emphasis on the importance of ensuring liaison between the action of the Social Fund and the promotion of a Community policy on employment. However, there are three constraints limiting the Commission carrying out this liaison:

- (1) the limited resources available to the Social Fund; obviously, above a certain level, aid from the fund would of necessity influence national aids;
- (2) the fact that only the Member States are competent "to forward to the Commission applications for assistance from the Fund";
- (3) the third constraint consists of the legal, material and psychological limits encountered by the Commission in its efforts to coordinate employment policy at Community level.

After elaborating on this point, the Report goes on to suggest that "an immediate and useful solution, although it is only a beginning, could be for the government members of the Committee of the Social Fund to review the applications for aid they receive at intervals in the context of all national aid".

#### Guidelines for the future

In drawing up the aims which should have priority in the relatively near future the Commission took into account both the guidelines arising from various Council decisions and the incentive role of the Social Fund vis-à-vis national policies. Thus it is estimated that the Social Fund accounts for 5-10% of total public spending by all Member States of adult vocational training. Although this does not make the Fund a deciding factor, it nevertheless allows it to exercise a considerable stimulating influence if properly guided.

#### Guidelines derived from Council decisions

These include:

- (a) support for retraining certain categories of workers given priority by the Community's social policy, e.g. handicapped, migrants, and more recently, young people under 25;

- (b) increasing the share of vocational training devoted to the underdeveloped regions;
- (c) help to prepare workers to face the consequences of economic change.

#### Complementary guidelines

Because of financial limitations, additional guidelines have to be adopted which deal with the incentive role of the Social Fund. These include:

- (i) using the Social Fund to boost the overall effort made by Member States in adult vocational training;
- (ii) paying special attention to the efforts made by certain countries to close the gap between them and their partners;
- (iii) encouraging them with the help of differential rates of intervention by the fund, coordinated operations between firms and various public services concerned with employment.

#### Forecasts of Social Fund expenditure

The Commission believes it is reasonable to adopt as a main guideline for its forecast of future expenditure for the next few years as a whole an average annual increase rate of 20-25% for the present areas of intervention with the aim of stabilizing its proportion of the public expenditure of member countries.

In accordance with the Commission budgetary practice, multiannual forecasts are expressed in the constant prices of the current financial year. As the 1975 budget was 355 million u.a. a 25% increase would give a budget of about 450 million u.a. for 1976 (500 million u.a. at current prices). For 1977 and 1978 the real increase rate adopted is 10-15% corresponding to 25% at current prices.

#### Other areas covered

Other chapters in the report deal with:

- (1) a general picture of the activities of the Fund in 1974;
- (2) budgetary and financial aspects;
- (3) description of the various operations of the Fund with particular reference to the "Case Law" built up by the Social Fund Committee and the Commission.

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Recapitulation of commitments, by country, expressed in m.u.a. since the entry into force of the new Social Fund on 1 January 1975 for operations carried out in 1972, 1973 and 1974

(Source: Table 6 of the Report)

Member States	Commitments in millions of units of account	%
Belgium	15.4.	3.30
Denmark	17.3	3.68
Germany	58.0	12.36

Member States	commitments in millions of units of account	%
France	94.7	20.17
Ireland	26.6.	5.68
Italy	122.1	26.03
Luxembourg	0.07	0.02
Netherlands	15.4	3.28
United Kingdom	119.6	25.48
TOTAL	469.4	100.00 %

### 3. ETUC STATEMENT ON INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S YEAR

At its meeting on 4 July 1975 in Brussels, the executive committee of the European Trade Union Confederation adopted a statement on International Women's Year which had been prepared by its group on problems faced by working women. After pointing out that participation by women in economic life is an irreversible phenomenon, the ETUC makes the following demands:

- the right to work for everyone, without discrimination between men and women;
- equal access for men and women to all jobs, rejecting any form of segregation in employment and any cloistering in so-called "women's sectors" and jobs;
- campaigns against unemployment and underemployment, both of which still affect women more directly than men, particularly as a result of practices tending to dismiss women first and foremost;
- campaigns against any form of exploitation, particularly that which is generally carried out in conditions which violate the standards which have been established by collective agreements and apply to temporary work, interim work, and work performed at home;
- the equal advancement of men and women without any discrimination particularly in respect of access to the professions and to qualified and management jobs;
- the elimination of all wage discrimination and the establishment of real and strict equality of wages and working conditions;
- school and vocational training policies which are non-discriminatory, co-education in all educational establishments, the same opportunities for girls as for boys in general, vocational, and further education;

- the development of the necessary social facilities (creches, nursery schools etc.) which would enable working couples to carry out their family and household commitments in satisfactory conditions - commitments which should be shared between husband and wife;
- the recognition of the social aspect of parenthood, the protection of expectant women workers including the prohibition of dismissal, adequate maternity leave paid at normal rates, leave in the event of illness of dependent children and ascendants, etc.,
- the organisation of family planning, respecting the genuine liberty of the wife and of the couple, but encouraging responsible parenthood;
- the genuine equality of men and women in all questions concerning social security and taxation.

To achieve these demands, the ETUC, together with the working women in all its member organisations:

- appeals to Governments to review existing legislation, to promote new legislation and to ensure that it is strictly applied.
- appeals to the European Community and to other competent European bodies:
  - (1) to adopt and put into practice all the necessary legal instruments (regulations, directives, recommendations) to promote the upward harmonisation of national laws and practice;
  - (2) in view of the present crisis and unemployment, to pay particular attention to economic support for industrial sectors with a high proportion of female labour, since these are often the least privileged sectors.

The ETUC pledges that it will play its proper part in the struggle to obtain full recognition of the place and role of working women in society, including promotion of integration of women trade unionists at all levels of trade union responsibility. It appeals to working women to play an active part in trade union work and to working men to cooperate in all measures bringing women more fully into trade union affairs.

#### 4. EUROPEAN PUBLIC SERVICES ORGANISATION CALLS FOR HARMONISATION OF WORKING CONDITIONS

On 11 and 12 June 1975 EUROFEDOP (European Organisation of the International Federation of the Public Services) held an information session in Evian, France, in cooperation with the Commission's trade union information division.

Problems of the public services and their insertion into Community preoccupations were raised. Workers in this sector are affected by general problems of wage-earners (length of the working week, duration of holidays, re-employment of handicapped persons, vocational training, participation in

in decision-making, etc.) and they should benefit from Community directives in the social field whose application is prescribed for employers.

The participants decided to intensify action at national and Community level to win the establishment of joint committees having the task of preparing in the nine countries modalities of harmonisation of conditions of work for public services staffs.

Preliminary enquiries have been or will be carried out in the sectors of PTT, health services and state administrations.

## 5. DGB CONGRESS IN HAMBURG

The German Trade Union Federation DGB held its 10th three yearly Federal Congress in Hamburg from 25 to 30 May 1975. 478 delegates representing 7.4. million DGB members in 16 trade unions took part in the Congress.

At the opening session speeches were made by the President of the German Federal Republic, Walter Scheel; the President of the Commission of the European Communities, François-Xavier Ortoli; (see trade union information No. 7) and the President of the Economic and Social Committee of the European Communities, Henri Canonge. Moreover the President at that time of the Council of Labour and Social Ministers of the Community, Irish Labour Minister Michael O'Leary, was given the floor during a later Congress session.

50/50 Co-determination and Direction of Investment in the economy were the two major themes developed at the Congress. In the field of social policy the DGB as previously gave priority to optimum health provisions but attention was also given to old age pension insurance and unemployment insurance, where progress was called for. In the collective bargaining field the delegates called for realisation of the principle of benefits to be available solely to trade union members, and work in relation to office employees is to be intensified in all DGB trade unions.

The new DGB executive board has been given the task of revising the basic action programme, so that it should do justice to current demands. A new draft is to be presented to the next Federal Congress in 1978.

### Quiet Congress

The Congress was quieter than had been expected at a time of great economic difficulties with over a million unemployed. In regard to the 300 proposals for resolutions and decisions the delegates agreed in most cases with the recommendations of the resolutions committee. Thorough discussions at the Congresses of the individual unions in Autumn last year provided the basis for unity and firmness at the DGB Congress.

This is reflected in the re-election of President Heinz O. Vetter, who received 440 out of 462 votes, a higher majority than received by any DGB President in the past.

The two deputy presidents, Maria Weber and Gerd Muhr were re-elected. The President of the Horticultural, Agricultural and Forestry Workers (Alois Pfeiffer) was elected to the executive bureau for the first time as successor to Georg Neemann. Other members were re-elected.

## Co-determination

The question of the introduction of co-determination came up many times during the Congress. Federal President Walter Scheel, Federal Chancellor Helmut Schmidt asked the delegates to have more understanding for the solution put forward by the social liberal coalition. Vetter criticised the thinking in the ranks of the FDP. The President of IG Metall, Eugen Loderer demanded that not one iota should be removed from the trade union claims for introduction of 50/50 co-determination. The Congress emphasized the need for putting through 50/50 co-determination. Vetter stated that the Federal Parliament could not now fail to give an answer to this social claim on the State. In the last few months it had been again and again clear what is the attitude of the workers if they are only allowed to talk about decisions affecting their fate and not to determine them jointly.

## Steering of investment

The DGB calls for the establishment of a public investment agency in connection with the proposed steering of investment by the Federal Government. This should be informed in good time and completely about investments by large undertakings. Those undertakings and concerns should have a commitment to report on investments which fulfil two of the three following criteria:

- at least 2,000 employed
- 75 million Mark total assets
- 150 million Mark annual turnover.

The Congress was convinced that the realisation of this claim would represent a contribution towards a society based on social justice as well as towards economic progress. Vetter pointed out that receiving such information was a pre-condition for effective steering of investment and pleaded for optimum coordination of policy concerning sectoral and regional structure.

## Multinational companies

The DGB Congress noted the discussion at international trade union level over the increasing number of multinational companies and called for effective control. The resolution states that: "The DGB supports international agreements dealing with minimum prescriptions, norms for conduct in regard to information, publicity, consultation, and other contacts. In the long term such regulations only make sense if they are appropriately enshrined in national legislation". In the preparation of such norms regulations by and international institutions such as U.N.O. or the International Labour Organisation representatives of trade unions should play a full role in decision-making. The Congress called on the Federal Government, the cartel office and the tax authorities to use all existing facilities for mutual information, consultation and cooperation with other Governments, so as to recognise in good time efforts to effect international concentrations, financial movements and concealment of profits by the large companies; present and future legislative opportunities should be used to hinder harmful international decisions by multinational companies.

## Office employees

The DGB and its member unions propose to begin a common recruiting campaign, in order to strengthen office employee representation and action within the DGB trade unions. A recent report had shown that this group of workers still as a whole feel "at a distance from the trade union".



## Social policy

The Congress called on the DGB to take a full part in reorganisation of the health services so as to improve their performance and ensure that necessary improvements will not be held up on account of lack of finance. The Congress called attention to the expansion of profits of the pharmaceutical industry at the expense of the contributors to social sickness insurance schemes and also noted the high increase of the incomes of doctors and dentists; it called for appropriate measures to be taken urgently.

In regard to old age pensions, the Congress called for the introduction of flexible retirement age, from 60 onwards. In regard to unemployment insurance, benefits should be raised to 90% of the net income.

## Labour Law

A revised labour law system should abolish the legal distinction between manual workers and office employees. It was no longer justified to provide lower conditions for manual workers. The law on dismissals should provide more favourable conditions for workers. The responsibility of workers for damages which they cause in the exercise of their work "should also be limited in occupations which are not classified as dangerous". Laws preventing competition which hinder the mobility of workers, should be subject to strict limits.

## Wage Policy

The Congress called for a reform of the collective bargaining law so as to allow for differentiation to be made between benefits for organised workers and for unorganised workers.

## Vocational Training

The Congress stated that a reform of vocational training was <sup>a</sup>test of the good intentions of the current government. There should be reform of the financing and organisation of vocational training and there should be co-determination by the units at all levels.

## Media policy

The Congress noted with extreme anxiety the "increasing concentration in the field of the press". The Government and the parties should take appropriate measures for the maintenance of a variety of opinions and for the independence of editors from different institutions.

## European Community

The European Community, which the German trade unions have supported from the very beginning, has proceeded in a highly contradictory way in the three years since the last Congress, according to the views expressed by the present Congress. A positive element has been the extension of the Community to include Denmark, Great Britain and Ireland and other positive developments have been the social action programme and the beginning of a common regional policy; on the other hand there have been set backs such as that concerning economic and monetary union as well as the inability of the Community to act in regard to the energy crisis.

In the opinion of the DGB these set backs can to a large extent be ascribed to the fact that there are no effective and democratic institutions

in the European Community having the ability to draw up and carry out a European policy on their own initiative. European integration has brought about a larger market but has not formed institutions which can effectively control and direct happenings in this market.

The DGB considers it highly important therefore to work for the creation of democratic institutions in the Community. With these institutions which should be an appropriate part of democratic and social Europe, the wishes of the workers should be able to be carried out.

#### European Trade Union Confederation

The DGB considers that such views on the institutions in view of their weakness can only be put into practice if the European trade unions exercise effective pressure on the institutions as well as on the governments of the member states.

The DGB has therefore done its best to ensure that the European trade union confederation is a powerful instrument of the workers' movement in relation to the organisation of industry and the institutions of the European Community.

The DGB is aware that the European trade unions have varying traditions and have to face different social conditions. Therefore they have varying conceptions of European and international policy. The DGB feels that no organisation should be accepted into the ETUC which works against the international Confederation of Free Trade Unions and seeks to weaken it.

#### 6. CONGRESS OF THE NETHERLANDS INDUSTRIAL WORKERS UNION

"A better distribution of knowledge, income and power" was the theme of the first regular congress of the Netherlands industrial workers' union NVV held in Rotterdam from 2 to 4 June 1975.

This Netherlands trade union, constituted through mergers in October 1971, now has over 200,000 members in various industrial sectors (engineering, textiles, chemicals, electronics, leather, diamonds, etc). It is the largest union in the national centre NVV (690,000 members).

Arie Groenevelt, president, and Wim Kok, president of the NVV, both mentioned the relations between the union and national centre in their speeches. A. Groenevelt stated: "Alone we can achieve very little. To have a strong policy we need the NVV and the NVV needs us. Our position can sometimes lead to tension, but that must not lead to ruptures". On his side Wim Kok emphasized that "the industrial union NVV is one of us. Whoever seeks a quarrel with the industrial union NVV, must not at the same time expect peace with us (NVV)".

The Congress changed the constitution so as to make it easier for all migrant workers in the sector to join the union.

It called for an examination, together with the NVV and other affiliated unions, of the possibility of launching or re-launching a socialist daily newspaper. A proposal to promote the recognition of 1 May as a public holiday "as in neighbouring countries" was approved.

The congress adopted "basic elements for the work of the industrial workers' union NVV". The union proclaims the equality in value of all men. It rejects the structures of capitalist society and sets out its aims and means of reaching them, as follows:

- (a) the aim of the industrial workers' union is to lay the basis for a fundamentally different society, characterised by:
  - freedom and equality for all;
  - a just distribution of income, knowledge and power among the whole of society;
  - the right of co-decision for each member who is ready to collaborate in the distribution, consolidation and transformation of society;
  - unblocking of opportunities for each person to develop as an individual.

These characteristics are to be found in a socialist society, based on workers' democracy; a society which can be recognised by the democratic taking of decisions in all areas and at all levels.

- (b) the construction of a socialist society out of a capitalist system must begin with the equitable distribution of income, knowledge and power.

- (c) in its struggle to obtain a socialist society based on workers' democracy the industrial workers' union will have to:
  - set itself more strongly in the international context and organise itself better;
  - on the basis of its own outlook struggle to obtain an undivided and active form of trade unionism;
  - keep out of all decisions which would hinder the achievement of these aims;
  - take and propagate positions aimed at shaking up present-day capitalist society and constituting a beginning of the achievement of socialist society based on labour democracy.

## 7. IRISH TRADE UNIONS CALL FOR NEW MEASURES AGAINST UNEMPLOYMENT

High unemployment both in the North and in the South formed the major preoccupation of the seventeenth annual conference of the Irish Congress of Trade Unions held in Cork, 8-11 July 1975. In his opening address the ICTU President, Andrew Barr, expressed the view that selective tariffs and quotas could reduce unemployment immediately. A conference resolution called for "special measures to protect industries adversely affected by free trade". Another resolution, moved by the Irish Shoe and Leather Workers' Union which has seen imports of shoes grow from 2.3 million pairs in 1971 to 5.5 million in 1974 (out of a total consumption of 9 million pairs), "instructs the Executive Council to inform the Government that unless adequate safeguards against imports are given to manufacturing industry, the ICTU will selectively impose a quota system against imports which will protect existing employment".

The resolution on employment also called for a state development corporation to "coordinate and support existing and new state-sponsored enterprises" as well as for direct assistance to industrial worker cooperatives.

A preliminary discussion took place on the government's request for a revision of the current national wages agreement, signed by all the parties earlier this year. A special congress will take a decision at the end of July.

## Report on restructuring the Irish trade union movement.

The ICTU requested the International Labour Organisation to make a survey of the trade union movement in Ireland, with a view to assisting the Irish trade union movement in its efforts aimed at rationalising trade union structures. The ILO appointed one of its top officials, Johannes Schregle, to undertake this task.

The author of the survey points out there is no magic formula for an Irish trade union structure which could come from outside; the process will have to be gradual and will involve bringing about a change in attitudes. He suggests the appointment of an adviser on trade union restructuring; a trade union study conference on trade union structure with which the ILO might be associated; renewed efforts by the two largest unions in the ICTU, the Irish Transport and General Workers' Union (150,000 members) and the Workers' Union of Ireland (35,000 members) to merge; and a survey of the existing trade union movement, so that facts regarding financial contributions and benefits in different unions, as well as the number and position of Irish trade union officials, should be available in connection with rationalisation talks.

The report and recommendations will be considered at a special ICTU consultative conference.

## Democratisation of the European Community

The annual conference unanimously adopted a resolution on the democratisation of the European Community, as follows:

This Annual Delegate Conference, being concerned at the continuing real need to bring about a greater degree of democratisation into the Institutions of the European Economic Communities, calls upon Congress to review this whole situation in the light of developments and experience since our entry into the Community, and to consider the desirability of furthering reforms which will provide for the election of the European Parliament by the direct vote of the people, providing a greater degree of supervision and control by that Parliament over the Council of Ministers and the European Commission, and a greater degree of participation by the social and political organs of the member States in the policy making processes of the Communities.

The Federation of Rural Workers successfully moved a motion on benefits in Ireland from the EEC common agricultural policy, as follows:

Conference calls on the Government to promote proposals to ensure that an appropriate share of the income which is made available to persons engaged in agriculture under the E.E.C. Common Agricultural Policy benefits farm employees directly so that the farm employees' share of the yield of agricultural prices, etc. is not confiscated by other better off sections of the agricultural community.

## Retirement of Billy Blease

Tributes were paid to Billy Blease, who had just retired from his position as Northern Ireland Officer of the ICTU. He will continue to serve the Northern Ireland Committee of the ICTU in a consultative capacity. Terry Carlin, up to now Administrative Officer (NI), has been appointed to the post of Northern Ireland Officer.

## 8. BRITISH UNION LEADERS SPEAK ON REFERENDUM RESULT

In a statement issued on the day the two-to-one majority in favour of Britain staying in the European Community was announced, TUC general secretary Lionel Murray said:

"The TUC will play its part in the EEC institutions alongside colleagues from the trade unions of the other eight countries. It will mean a lot of hard work but we are willing to shoulder it".

The trade union movement had called for a referendum on the Market as far back as the time when Britain went in. Many trade unionists campaigned strenuously for Britain's withdrawal.

"But we are democrats", said Mr. Murray, "and we accept majority votes".

"Now it is up to us to make the Community work as successfully as possible, not only for economic progress but for coordinated social advance which up to now has been slow in coming".

Not that the remedies for all our troubles will be found in Brussels and Luxembourg, Murray added. "Many of the most important decisions about our future can only be taken here in Britain".

"To restore full employment and combat inflation we need bigger investment in modern plant and machinery, higher skill in management and industrial relations, and an expanded programme of industrial training and re-training - all to aid the growth of production and raise living standards.

"We shall look to the Government to take the positive interventionist action in the economic field which again and again in its campaign it asserted would continue to be Britain's right".

### Jack Jones

In a brief statement on the outcome of the Common Market referendum at the Congress of the Transport and General Workers' Union, Jack Jones paid tribute to all members and all those Labour Ministers who had campaigned against membership. But, he added, the TGWU, which had been in the forefront of the anti-Market campaign, now accepted the referendum result and would try to pursue its policies in the appropriate Common Market institutions.

The British trade unions would use their influence to fight for a maximum degree of democracy inside the Common Market and resist policies "which are against the interests of the British working people".

"We will remain vigilant throughout and try to ensure that the worst features of the EEC are minimised", he said. As an example he mentioned Community regulations requiring the installation of tachographs in the drivers' cabins of lorries. The TGWU would try to have those withdrawn or at least to have their implementation in Britain delayed.

### Sydney Weighell

A reaction of a more specific nature to the referendum result came from Sydney Weighell, general secretary of the National Union of Railwaymen. He called for a re-examination of the Channel tunnel project.

He said the idea had been strongly resisted by Labour MPs because they felt it was a commitment to EEC membership.

He told the union's conference in Jersey: "Let us hope that now the referendum has disposed of that red herring the whole scheme can be re-examined. It is the most economic means of meeting the ever increasing demand for cross-Channel passenger and freight services.

"It is cheaper, quicker and more convenient, and in purely railway terms will give material and financial assistance to British Rail by attracting additional traffic.

#### Joe Gormley

In his presidential speech at the annual conference of the National Union of Miners in Scarborough, Joe Gormley spoke about his union's experiences in the committees of the European Coal and Steel Community. The Conference adopted an emergency resolution allowing the union to be represented on these committees. Part of Joe Gormley's speech was as follows:

"The Trade Union Movement must get involved more closely with our neighbours in Europe. We have got to create an identity of purpose there if we are going to make a success of that Community. We can work together for so many ideals because the Trade Union Leaders I have met in Europe have the same ideals.

I believe that we have a big job to do and a tremendously urgent part to play because I see a slight change in the last twelve months on the energy fronts as established in the ECSC Committees.

I remember, in the first twelve months when we were in these Committees, we had a terrific struggle, along with our colleagues from the National Coal Board and the other Unions, to get the British point of view accepted, i.e. that there should be a bigger emphasis on the Coal Industry in the energy plan for Europe.

We fought a terrific battle and were, in my opinion, winning. But, unfortunately, as a result of a resolution which was carried last year with a narrow majority, and which was perhaps carried for the wrong reasons, we had to withdraw from the Committees and our voice, not being heard, has, of course, not been listened to and no notice taken of our thinking.

But I find a disturbing trend in the approaches to the energy problems of Europe. They, like us, are affected by the oil situation. They, like us, are having to look around for other methods of energy or means of energising their industries and unfortunately instead of putting more and more emphasis on the coal which is still available in Europe and even in Britain it seems from the plans that they are envisaging a bigger and bigger proportion of the energy market being supplied from nuclear energy.

#### 9. BRITISH TRADE UNION NOMINATIONS TO COMMUNITY ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMITTEE

The British TUC has chosen a top-level team of eight trade union leaders to fill vacant seats on the Community's Economic and Social Committee. (The United Kingdom has 24 seats on the 144-member Committee, with eight seats being allocated to trade unions, eight to employers and eight to other interest groups).

In conformity with the method of selection of the Committee, the TUC has put forward sixteen names for the eight seats, with the mention of eight who should take precedence, as follows:

Lionel Murray, TUC general secretary  
Jack Jones, transport workers  
Lord Allen, shop workers  
David Basnett, general and municipal workers  
Terry Parry, fire brigades  
Marie Patterson, transport workers  
Reg Bottini, agricultural workers  
Lord Briginshaw, retired general secretary of  
the printers' union.

It is expected that the Council of Ministers will ratify the nominations early in September and that the delegation will attend its first Committee meeting later that month.

#### 10. BRITISH LEYLAND SHOP STEWARDS REPORT ON ITALIAN CAR INDUSTRY

Through the Workers' Educational Association and the External Studies Department of Oxford University a group of shop stewards and rank and file trade union activists from British Leyland, Oxford, organised their own visit to the British Leyland plant outside Milan in September 1974. The group also paid a short visit to FIAT, Turin. Preliminary briefing about the Italian political, economic and trade union scene was provided during the three months prior to the tour.

In Italy the group split into study sections, and section reports constitute the nucleus of the report. They deal with the place of Leyland-Innocenti in the Italian motor industry; union membership in Innocenti; collective bargaining at Innocenti; job control at Innocenti; wages and hours; fringe benefits. The result is an impressive first-hand account of similarities and differences between workers' conditions in car manufacture in Britain and Italy.

The report concludes: "There are clearly many and wide differences in the social ambience, the work situation, and the modes of trade union organisation between British Leyland, Cowley and Leyland-Innocenti, Milan. Yet when this is said, the most remarkable impression that remains is that of the identity of the problems faced by each group of workers, the ease with which, during our discussions, each group of workers was able to relate to the other.

The study visit of British Leyland workers and trade unionists to the Leyland-Innocenti plant has, by any test, served a most useful purpose. One hopes that similar groups of active production workers, not only in the motor industry, but also in other industries, will make similar trips in the future. One hopes that they too, as we have done, will publish their conclusions. That such trips will not be all one way, is too our fervent hope".

The European Commission has a limited number of copies of this 78-page report and readers wishing to receive it free of cost can write to Mr. Michael Lloyd at the European Community London Office (address on the front page of this "Trade Union Information" bulletin).

11. TRADE UNION SEMINAR ON COOPERATION BETWEEN EEC COUNTRIES AND THIRD  
WORLD COUNTRIES

On 27 and 28 June 1975 the information office of the Friedrich Ebert Foundation in Brussels held its second seminar for trade union leaders from countries of Africa, the Caribbean and the Pacific (ACP). The theme of the seminar **was** cooperation policy between the European Community and countries of the third world after the conclusion of the Lomé Convention.

26 trade union leaders from 20 of the countries which have signed the Lomé Convention, took part, as did many guests including the president of the Economic and Social Committee H. Canonge, representatives of the European Commission, the European Trade Union Confederation and the International Confederation of Free Trade Unions.

Speakers were E. Francis, ambassador of Jamaica; Maurice Foley, deputy director-general, development and cooperation, European Commission; Horst Seefeld, member of the European Parliament; Roger Louet, director-general of the Economic and Social Committee; Heinz-Oskar Vetter, President of the ETUC and of the German DGB; D. Akuma, general secretary of the Organisation of African Trade Union Unity.

H.O. Vetter and D. Akuma, as well as all the other speakers, laid stress on the importance of bringing the trade unions into the process of application of the Convention. This meant not only participation in the institutions of the Convention but also the interest of the trade unions of Europe and the ACP countries in the concrete application of the Lomé Convention and its effects on the workers.

In the final statement prepared by the participants the wish was expressed for further meetings between the trade unions of the ACP countries and those of Europe, in order to achieve better coordination of trade union activities and a participation by the trade unions in the framework of the Lomé Convention.

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