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1. COUNCIL OF MINISTERS MAKES PROGRESS IN SOCIAL FIELD

Several decisions on social policy were taken by the Council of Ministers (on the proposal of the Commission and after taking into account the advice of the Economic and Social Committee) at its meeting in Luxemburg on 10 June 1974.

It agreed to make migrant workers and handicapped workers eligible to obtain credits under article 4 of the Social Fund.

In regard to migrant workers, the Social Fund will be able to intervene in the following circumstances :

- "integrated" programmes for migrant workers of Community origin, covering preparations before departure and up to reception in the country of immigration;
- orientation actions : workers who are nationals of third countries (the number of such workers in the Community is estimated at 6.2 million) will be able to benefit from certain measures in their country of immigration, mainly concerning their reception and in certain cases vocational training;
- training of social workers and orientation staff: the Social Fund will be able to make grants for the training or supplementary training of persons looking after the reception of migrants.

This opening of article 4 of the Social Fund to migrant workers does not exclude them from the scope of actions designed to combat structural unemployment under article 5 (The Social Fund caters for two types of actions: 1) those under article 4 directly linked to repercussions on employment of Community policies, such as in textiles or agriculture;

- 2) those under article 5 aimed at absorbing structural unemployment in certain regions).

In regard to physically handicapped persons, the Council accepted the utilisation of article 4 only for financing pilot projects for vocational training, while the Commission had made more far-reaching proposals for reintegration in society, including operations facilitating employment and geographical mobility of handicapped persons.

At the same time the Council agreed to a first Community action programme for vocational readaptation of handicapped persons. This programme includes, among other items: cooperation among bodies dealing with readaptation and training in the member states, chosen so as to encourage new methods, exchanges of information and the training of persons capable of applying new methods; short-term activities designed to bring about qualitative improvement in vocational readaptation.

The Council further reached agreement on the application of the additional protocol of the EEC/Turkey agreement concerning Turkish workers in the Community. They will practically be able to enjoy the same social benefits as Community workers.

It was also decided to set up a Consultative Committee on Safety, Hygiene and Health Protection at the Place of Work.

This Committee will be composed of 18 government representatives, 18 trade union representatives and 18 employers' representatives.

It will have the task of assisting the Commission in the preparation and application of activities in the field of safety, hygiene and health protection at the place of work, excluding industries within the scope of the Permanent Organ for Safety and Health in Coal Mines.

The competence of the latter organ, created in May 1957 within the European Coal and Steel Community, was extended by the Council meeting to cover extractive industries, mining or non-mining.

Finally, a first discussion was held on the Commission's proposal concerning mass dismissals. The matter will be taken up again at the Council's meeting in September.

2. BELGIAN DEPUTY PROPOSES VOTING RIGHTS FOR MIGRANTS

Ernest Glinne, Belgian Deputy, Member of the European Parliament and former Minister of Labour, has just presented to the Belgian House of Representatives a bill extending the franchise at local elections (including eligibility to stand) to residents who are nationals of other countries of the Community.

Messrs. Eyskens and Andreotti made a similar proposal at the Paris Summit in September 1972, and an Italian draft law was tabled on 8 April 1974.

3. SOCIAL FUND AID FOR PILOT PROJECTS IN VOCATIONAL TRAINING

The Social Fund will finance studies and pilot-projects in vocational training in France, Belgium and Italy. The grant of 307,000 units of account (approximately £130,000) covers half the total cost of the studies and projects. Each of the following four projects will involve about 30 persons:

- 1) Multi-skill training for the meat industry in Brittany, France. This scheme, organised by the Association pour le Développement de la Promotion Sociale dans la région de Bretagne, aims at improving the craft training in the rapidly growing meat sector so as to equip the trainees for the varied industrial activities which are developing in this sector.
- 2) Creation of a training centre for applied computer technology in industry at the Université du Travail of Charleroi, Belgium. The centre would develop training programmes for people working with automated machining for small and medium-size production lines. The programmes would also include the training of instructors.

- 3) Vocational and social re-integration of young mentally handicapped adults. This scheme is being organised by Belgian, French and Dutch associations at Cratte in the Ardecho, France. The course creates conditions leading to a sense of autonomy and responsibility in the handicapped persons by involving them in teams of other young people who are working on the restoration of an abandoned village.
 - 4) Research and development of a multi-purpose vocational training programme for the industrial sector. The scheme is organised by the Ente Nazionale ACLI per l'Istruzione Professionale in Rome. It aims at evolving a method which allows the integration of the teaching of scientific subjects into general vocational training in order to stimulate the capacity of trainees to adapt to the growth of the economy and the requirements of change. This method is being tried out in three centres: Anzio, Padua and Salerno.
- 4) THE COMMISSION FORBIDS AN UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN EUROPEAN GLASS CONTAINER MANUFACTURERS

The Commission has just adopted a decision condemning a series of breaches of Article 85 of the EEC Treaty, committed by manufacturers of hollow glass containers (bottles, pots for preserved foods, flasks).

This decision concerns the most important manufacturers of glass containers of five member states, and in particular the following enterprises:

- In Germany: Gorresheimer Glas and Veba Glas which hold respectively about 40% and 24% of the German market for glass containers and H. Heye Glasfabrik, which covers 10 to 12% of the German market for glass bottles.
- In Belgium: Bouteilleries Belges Réunies, the sole Belgian manufacturer of bottles and Verlica-Moninies the only Belgian manufacturer of jars and flasks). These two enterprises have financial and personal links with the French group St. Gobain.
- In the Netherlands: Verneenigde Glasfabrieken Schiedam. This company, which is controlled by the French group BSN, is the largest Dutch manufacturer of hollow glass.
- In France: Boussois-Souchon-Neuvesel and St. Gobain Emballage, which respectively hold about 50% and 40% of the French market for glass bottles and pots for preserves.
- In Italy: Bordoni-Miva (subsidiary of the St. Gobain group) AVIR (in which St. Gobain has a 25% participation) and Vetri, which together represent about 40% of Italian production of glass bottles.

The Italian manufacturers cancelled the agreements described hereafter as from the end of 1971. Following the Commission's intervention, the German manufacturers also annulled their participation as from the end of 1973. The Commission decision, takes note of the breaches committed and calls upon all the participant enterprises to put an end to them immediately.

The actions objected to go back to 1955 when the German and Benclux

manufacturers of hollow glass - who were joined in 1960 by the French and in 1961 by the Italian participants - concluded what was called an agreement on "rules of honest competition" of which the Commission was notified at the end of 1962. Following checks carried out in 1971/72, it became apparent that, under the cover of forbidding dishonest practice between participants, certain clauses were in fact at impeding normal competitive measures in the field of prices, discounts and trading conditions.

The Commission's investigations also showed that the application of the agreement was examined during the annual general meeting of the participants and within a restricted committee composed of representatives from the dozen very big member enterprises who met three times a year.

At these meetings various arrangements were made to apply or supplement the initial agreement relative to the "rules of fair competition".

5. NEW ICFTU ASSISTANT GENERAL SECRETARY

At its last session the ICFTU Executive Board appointed Jan Vanderveken as Assistant General Secretary in place of Heribert Maier. J. Vanderveken is 44 years old, of Belgian nationality. He had hitherto worked at the ICFTU Geneva Office, with responsibilities for liaison with the Workers' Group of the International Labour Organisation.

6. MEETING OF EUROPEAN METALWORKERS' EXECUTIVE

At a meeting on 6 June in Brussels the Executive Committee of the European Metalworkers' Federation heard reports from the Secretariat on the present work of the European Commission in different branches of the economy, particularly shipbuilding, aerospace, nuclear energy, automobile and computer industries. The Executive Committee examined the situation with regard to EMF discussions with some multinational corporations.

The Executive Committee decided to set up, following a joint EMF and IMF meeting on migrant workers in Geneva, a special working group to clarify and put into effect the demands of delegates from European countries, including Yugoslavia, Turkey, Portugal, Morocco, Algeria and Tunisia..

The EMF calls on the European employers' association for the metal industry, WEM, to set up with the EMF a joint committee at European level and to arrange before long a meeting of both delegations. The EMF will continue and extend its contacts with the European employers associations in the shipbuilding, aerospace, automobile and engineering industries.

The Executive Committee adopted a decision in principle to accept the Christian metalworkers' unions of the Benelux countries as members on the basis of the results of the negotiations so far, as soon as they make application for affiliation.

At the same time, the Executive Committee commissioned a EMF delegation to renew discussions with the CGIL-FIOM (ITALY).

The EMF underlines its intention to organise a protest action of all metalworkers' unions in all European countries against the repercussions of the oil companies' policy and has set up a committee to take care of the preparations.

In conclusion, the EMF took up again the draft action programme for the next three years, due to be put before the 2nd EMF General Assembly on 30 and 31 October 1974 in Frankfurt.

The Executive Committee will hold a special meeting in Stockholm in July.

7. TWELFTH CONGRESS OF FRENCH CONFEDERATION FORCE OUVRIERE

The twelfth congress of the French Confederation CGT-Force Ouvrière took place in Toulouse from 11 to 14 June 1974, under the slogan "Building Europe means improving conditions of life, ensuring freedom and guaranteeing peace".

In presenting his report to the Congress André Bergeron, Secretary-General, reaffirmed his organisation's faithfulness to the principle of trade union independence and to the practice of free collective bargaining. He underlined that an incomes policy could not be applied and that FO would firmly fight against any government which attempted to impose one. He mentioned the achievements of FO in the field of wages and social benefits and stated that talks were proceeding with the employers' organisation CNPF with a view to revising the 1969 agreement on employment: FO wants employers to take collective responsibility in the case of closures of firms and dismissals.

In regard to lifelong training, André Bergeron pointed out that considerable sums had been built up through taxes on firms and that hundreds of training organisations had sprung up, often with little or no qualifications for the task. This situation had to be changed.

The FO General Secretary drew attention to the important statement on "trade unions in society" adopted by the last FO Congress and contrasted this with the formula of "self-management" proposed by some, rejecting the latter system as a dangerous illusion.

Emphasizing the need for European unity, André Bergeron stated that the trade unions must fight to construct a Europe of the workers. He feared that the new European Trade Union Confederation was not as clear about its European objectives as the trade union organisations of the six countries had been: "Nothing solid and durable can be built unless there exists among the members of a community a real identity of view on what a future United States of Europe could be". Part of the final resolution of the Congress read :

"Force ouvrière proclaims its European faith and demands that at least three common policies should be put into practice in 1974:

- energy policy, which must take account of all existing sources to ensure the security of supply;
- social policy, on which heads of states and governments have made precise commitments;
- regional policy, so as to reduce the considerable gaps in development and income between European countries.

The means exist, the will is lacking.

European trade union action must make these policies prevail, so that workers and disinherited populations should be convinced that Europe has henceforth the will to transform itself into a social Europe through concrete acts. The Executive Bureau now composed as follows :

General Treasurer :	Pierre Tribé
Bureau Members :	Robert Degris, Maurice Derlin, Antoine Faesch, Pierre Galoni André Heurtebise, Paulette Hofman, Antoine Laval, Roger Lerda, Jean Rouzier, Roger Sandri, Gabriel Ventejol

8. BRITISH TUC SEEKS SHARE FOR WORKERS OF CONTROL OF COMPANIES

As part of its response to a government request for proposals for reform of British social legislation, the British Trades Union Congress is preparing a draft law on company control. This is based on the discussion paper on industrial democracy which was approved by the annual congress last September.

Companies with more than 2,000 employees would be obliged to establish a supervisory board on which half the members would be union nominees (employees of the firm or full-time trade union officials). The supervisory board would be able to overrule decisions of the management board.

Boards of nationalised industries would be made up equally of union representatives and government nominees representing the public interest.

A TUC report on Britain's transport problems, just published calls for the establishment of a national transport planning authority responsible for integrating the country's transport systems and proposes that half of the executive boards of operating authorities should be workers' representatives proposed by their trade unions.

9. BRITISH UNION RESOLUTIONS ON EUROPE

Several British trade unions have recently adopted resolutions on Europe at annual congresses. While the Amalgamated Union of Engineering Workers called for withdrawal of Britain from the Community, the General and Municipal Workers' Union took a position in favour of the Labour Government's efforts to obtain new conditions for Britain's continued membership.

The GMWU report on Britain and the EEC, which was remitted to the Executive for action, reached the conclusion that the Labour Government's efforts to secure within the EEC renegotiated conditions should be supported, that in principle the union remains committed to a form of European integration,

and that

"for purposes of effectively representing our members we should continue to develop closer liaison with trade unions in the EEC countries, via International Trade Secretariats where appropriate, and to press the TUC to take up the allotted seats on the Economic and Social Committee and other Consultative Committees."

The GMWU is specifically concerned about its members employed in the processing of cane sugar; it does not consider the Commission's proposal to guarantee access of 1.4 million tons from developing countries as high enough to maintain UK employment in cane refining.

The Union of Shop, Distributive and Allied Workers adopted a resolution laying stress on European trade union cooperation "to combat the effects on all workers of multinational companies". It endorsed the need for participation in the industrial committees of the European Trade Union Confederation and called upon the Executive Council "to press for benefits similar to those enjoyed by our Common Market brothers".