

COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES

PRESS RELEASES

PRESIDENCY: IRELAND

JANUARY-JUNE 1990

Meetings and press releases 28-31 May 1990

Meeting number	Subject	Date
1406 th	Industry	28 May 1990
1407 th	Development Co-operation	29 May 1990
1408 th	Labour/Social Affairs	29 May 1990
1409 th	Education	31 May 1990



COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES
GENERAL SECRETARIAT



PRESS RELEASE

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6617/90 (Presse 29)

1406th Council meeting

- Industry -

Brussels, 28 May 1990

President: Mr Desmond J. O'MALLEY
Minister for Industry
and Commerce of Ireland

28.V.90
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The Governments of the Member States and the Commission of the European Communities were represented as follows:

Belgium

Mr Willy CLAES Minister for Economic Affairs

Denmark

Mrs Anne-Birgitte LUNDHOLT Minister for Industry

Germany

Mr Helmut HAUSSMANN Federal Minister for Economic Affairs

Mr Dieter VON WÜRZEN State Secretary,
Federal Ministry of Economic Affairs

Greece

Mr Stavros DIMAS Minister for Industry,
Energy and Technology
Ministry of Industry

Spain

Mr Claudio ARANZADI Minister for Industry and Energy

France

Mr Roger FAUROUX Minister for Industry and
Town and Country Planning

Ireland

Mr Desmond J. O'MALLEY Minister for Industry and
Commerce

Mr Michael SMITH Minister of State at the
Department of Industry and
Commerce

28.V.90
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Italy

Mr Adolfo BATTAGLIA

Minister for Industry, Trade
and Craft Trades

Luxembourg

Mr Robert GOEBBELS

Minister for Economic Affairs

Netherlands

Mr P.C. NIEMAN

Ambassador,
Permanent Representative

Portugal

Mr Luis ALVES MONTEIRO

State Secretary for Industry

United Kingdom

Sir David H.A. HANNAY

Ambassador,
Permanent Representative

Commission

Mr Martin BANGEMANN

Vice-President

Sir Leon BRITTAN

Vice-President

Mr Antonio CARDOSO E CUNHA

Member

SMALL AND MEDIUM-SIZED ENTERPRISES

On the basis of Commission working documents, the Council discussed measures to assist small and medium-sized enterprises, viz. promoting their participation in public procurement in the Community and in Community activities in the field of research and technological development.

It approved the conclusions set out below for the two sectors.

Promoting SME participation in public procurement
in the Community

The Council

1. welcomes the Commission's presentation and invites the Commission to continue to examine measures and to make recommendations to promote increased access of SMEs to public contracts, taking into account the objectives of the policy of open and efficient public procurement;
2. requests the Commission, in consultation with Member States, to continue to work to clarify the definition of SMEs in this and other frameworks;
3. urges the Member States to encourage their public authorities to take account of the categories of measures (other than those of a discriminatory nature) discussed in the Communication in reviewing and implementing their public procurement procedures;
4. stresses that there is a need for actively promoting and assisting SMEs' participation in public procurement. Existing networks and agencies should be used towards this end; the Commission should look in particular at the use of the Euro Info Centres and BC-NET and an improvement in the TED System as a means of disseminating information and promoting and assisting transnational tendering;

28.V.90

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5. emphasises the need to introduce transparency into all procedures relating to public procurement;
6. requests the Commission to study the problems which face SMEs in tendering for large contracts;
7. asks the Commission to study and analyse various qualification and procedural requirements imposed by contracting authorities, which restrict SME participation, with a view to examining the possibility of drawing up standardised qualification requirements and simplified tendering procedures on a Community-wide basis;
8. urges the Commission to consider appropriate experiments and pilot projects, to study and evaluate their results and make more detailed recommendations on appropriate measures in this area;
9. notes the Commission's intentions to study appropriate and positive measures to prevent any serious risks directly associated with the implementation of open public procurement and in promoting its application at regional level;
10. seeks early progress on the implementation of the Compliance Directive (i.e. to increase guarantees of openness and non-discrimination and to ensure that practical arrangements exist for the redress of problems encountered in the tender procedures);
11. requests the Commission to monitor on an on-going basis the participation of several categories of size of SMEs in public procurement, and to report periodically to the Council on the matter;
12. requests the Commission to increase co-operation with Member States in proposing measures to facilitate increased access of SMEs to public procurement.

SME Participation in Community activities in the field of
research and technological development

The Council

1. welcomes the Commission's working document on efforts to encourage further participation of SMEs in Community R&TD programmes within the general objectives of these programmes;
2. requests the Commission to continue to work in consultation with Member States to clarify the definition of SMEs in this and other frameworks;
3. urges the Commission to intensify its efforts to increase SME participation in these programmes, especially in those projects which are closest to the industrial stage;
4. welcomes the Commission's pilot actions adapted to the needs of SMEs such as CRAFT and the BRITE-Euram feasibility awards and, if their evaluation is positive, agrees to consider their extension to all relevant programmes on a permanent basis;
5. considers that continuing attention should be given to improving the situation for SMEs in the areas of information on Community R&TD Programmes, the Commission's own administrative arrangements and procedures in relation to these programmes and the cost/complexity of preparing applications;

28.V.90

ton/HM/er

6. asks in this context that particular consideration should be given to the development of research infrastructures in the peripheral regions of the Community in the context of Structural Funds (such as the STRIDE programme) to allow for greater SME participation in Community research programmes in these regions;
7. takes note of the intention of the Commission in the implementation of the R&D framework programme 1990-1994 to propose improved measures for the dissemination and exploitation of results taking account of the specific requirement of SMEs;
8. requests the Commission to report periodically to Council on the participation of different categories of size or types of SMEs in R&TD programmes;
9. requests the Commission to increase co-operation with Member States in proposing measures on SMEs' activities in the field of R&TD.

28.V.90
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Improvement of the business environment in the Community

The Council heard Commissioner CARDOSO E CUNHA presenting the Commission report on the impact of Community legislation on business with special regard to SMEs, and took note of the various actions undertaken by the Commission to improve the administrative, legal and tax environment for businesses.

The Council asked the Commission to continue its activities in these areas and, if necessary, extend them to other sectors.

It agreed to examine in a constructive manner the proposals which the Commission had submitted or intended to submit in the areas concerned.

It also asked the Member States to take more systematic account of the objective of improving the business environment in the administrative, legal and tax areas when adopting a position on specific legislative proposals from the Commission.

Administrative simplification in favour of small and medium-sized enterprises in the Member States

Having received the Opinion of the European Parliament, the Council, acting on the basis of the amended Commission proposal, adopted the Recommendation relating to the implementation of a policy of administrative simplification in favour of small and medium-sized enterprises in the Member States. Member States are therefore recommended:

- to implement programmes of administrative simplification in favour of businesses, involving all competent public bodies;
- to ensure that the above arrangements relate to both new legislative proposals and existing legislation, the removal of redundant legislation and the adaptation of legislation which no longer reflects economic and social reality;
- to strive to ensure that, for all draft laws and regulations, an examination is also made, at an initial stage, of their necessity, effectiveness and intelligibility where such drafts are likely to increase the administrative burden on enterprises; this should be similar to the examination undertaken by the Commission on the impact of Community legislation, in particular, on small to medium-sized enterprises (impact assessment);
- to pay particular attention to the following points:
 - (a) modernization of the organization of administrative departments, in particular of services in contact with enterprises, with a view to improving the co-ordination of the various departments, their efficiency and speed of response;
 - (b) improvement of procedures by the standardization and reduction in numbers of forms and returns used in the fields of accountancy, taxation, social affairs and statistics;
 - (c) establishment, where appropriate, of one-stop shops providing guidance on the overall formalities to be observed on the creation of an enterprise;
 - (d) replacement of as many formal decisions as possible by procedures involving non-opposition, according to which at the end of a certain time-limit from the receipt of the application the absence of a reaction on the part of the competent authorities is taken as a decision;
 - (e) improvement of the information to small and medium-sized enterprises, for example by the publication of vade mecums, brochures and administrative organization charts;
 - (f) consolidation or compilation of national legislation, to make it more easily understandable for enterprises;
 - (g) where necessary, the development of special simplified administrative implementing measures for SMEs;

28.V.90

ton/HM/tb

- to create or maintain an appropriate body for consultation between the representatives of business, including small and medium-sized enterprises, and the administration, with a view to promoting the simplification of administrative procedures and of legislation;
- in implementing the above, not to prejudice the legal rights of workers and third parties;
- to inform the Commission of major achievements in the field of administrative simplification, problems encountered and initiatives proposed so that the Commission can ensure that all Member States are fully aware of developments and possibilities in this matter;

and the Commission is asked:

- (a) to put into practice within its own Institution the points contained in this Recommendation and to inform the Member States of the main achievements;
- (b) to bring forward a plan for examining the impact of existing Community legislation and to identify areas where this legislation is particularly burdensome;
- (c) to simplify access for SMEs to the structural Funds and to Community research and development programmes as well as to other Community programmes;
- (d) to set up arrangements for consulting the representatives of businesses on the various aspects of the programme for administrative simplification;
- (e) to continue improving the fiches d'impact in the Commission framework and to publish them;
- (f) to examine the scope for reducing overlap between the administrative formalities to be completed by enterprises when they carry on their activities in another country;
- (g) to submit a regular report on Community and national measures relating to administrative simplification.

28.V.90

ton/HM/tb

PRESENTATION OF THE GENERAL OBJECTIVES FOR STEEL - 1995

The Council heard an introductory statement from Vice-President BANGEMANN on the general objectives for steel 1995 which

- began by defining the qualitative scenario, making an attempt to identify the factors which could be crucial to the development of the steel industry over the next few years
- then dealt with the analysis of, and quantitative forecasts for, the steel products market within the Community in 1992 and 1995 and examined the outlook for internal demand using two kinds of forecasting approach
- concluded by examining the market for the main factors of production, making an analysis of future trends on the raw materials markets and in energy inputs and of the kinds of workforce skills and investment that would be required by the steel industry.

The Council held an exchange of views in the course of which the Member States welcomed the fact that these policy guidelines had been put forward and made comments on the objectives set by the Commission.

The Council concluded the discussion by asking the Commission to take account of the comments made by Member States today in its further proceedings in relation to steel.

SHIPBUILDING

The Council heard a statement from Vice-President BRITTAN introducing the Commission proposal for a 7th Directive on aid to shipbuilding.

Essentially, the proposal extends the aid policy in this sector for two years with certain amendments relating mainly to degressive aid ceilings, aid levels for small vessels, the end of the transitional arrangements for Spain and Portugal and a number of more technical amendments.

The Council discussed the various aspects of the Commission proposal and instructed the Permanent Representatives Committee to examine it without delay so that a decision could be taken before the end of the year since the 6th Directive was due to expire on 31 December.

The Council also noted that the Commission had just submitted a proposal for directives for Community participation in the negotiation of an international arrangement within the OECD to eliminate subsidies for shipbuilding.

The Council agreed to take a decision on the negotiating directives as soon as possible and instructed the Permanent Representatives Committee to examine the proposal for that purpose.

MISCELLANEOUS DECISIONS

European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD)

The Council decided to sign the Agreement establishing the EBRD on behalf of the Community, subject to conclusion; since the Decision on the conclusion is based on Article 235 of the EEC Treaty, the Opinion of the European Parliament has been requested.

OECD: National treatment

The Council decided that the Community would take part, alongside the Member States, in the OECD negotiations on a decision on national treatment.

Fisheries

The Council adopted the Regulation relating to the conclusion of the Protocol establishing, for the period from 1 January 1990 to 31 December 1991, the fishing opportunities and the financial contribution provided for in the Agreement between the European Economic Community and the Government of the People's Republic of Mozambique on fisheries relations.

The fishing possibilities granted are as follows:

- shrimp vessels fishing exclusively for deep-water crustacea:
1 100 GRT per month on a yearly average
- shrimp vessels fishing for shallow-water and deep-water crustacea:
3 700 GRT per month on a yearly average
- ocean-going tuna seiners: licences for 44 vessels.

The financial compensation is fixed at ECU 4 300 000. The Community will contribute ECU 1 950 000 towards the financing of scientific and technical

28.V.90

ton/HM/jb

programmes in Mozambique. In addition, a reconnaissance campaign to find new resources will be carried out by Community vessels.

Appointment

On a proposal from the Netherlands government, the Council appointed Dr. J.J. van DIJK a member of the Economic and Social Committee to replace Mr Bartholomeus PRONK, member, who has resigned, for the remainder of the latter's term of office, i.e. until 20 September 1990.

COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES
GENERAL SECRETARIAT

PRESS RELEASE

6618/90 (Presse 75)

1407th Council meeting
- Development Co-operation -
Brussels, 29 May 1990

President: Mrs Maire GEOGHEGAN-QUINN
Minister of State
with special responsibility for EEC matters

29.V.90
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The Governments of the Member States and the Commission of the European Communities were represented as follows:

Belgium:

Mr André GEENS Minister for Development Co-operation

Denmark:

Mr Bent HAAKONSEN State Secretary,
Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Germany:

Mr Hans-Peter REPNIK Parliamentary State Secretary,
Federal Ministry of Economic Co-operation

Greece:

Mr Constantinos LYBEROPOULOS Ambassador,
Permanent Representative

Spain:

Mr Carlos WESTENDORP Ambassador,
Permanent Representative

France:

Mr Jacques PELLETIER Minister for Development Co-operation

Ireland:

Mrs Maire GEOGHEGAN-QUINN Minister of State with special
responsibility for EEC matters

29.V.90
ill/HM/ep

Italy:

Mr Federico DI ROBERTO

Ambassador
Permanent Representative

Luxembourg:

Mr Georges WOHLFART

State Secretary,
Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Co-operation

Netherlands:

Mr Jan PRONK

Minister for Development Co-operation

Portugal:

Mr José Manuel DURAO BARROSO

State Secretary for Foreign Affairs and
Co-operation

United Kingdom:

Mrs Lynda CHALKER

Minister for Overseas Development

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Commission:

Mr Manuel MARIN

Mr Abel MATUTES

Vice-President

Member

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29.V.90
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ENVIRONMENT AND DEVELOPMENT - COUNCIL RESOLUTION

1. Following the request made by the Council at its meeting on 21 November 1989, the Council bodies have pursued their discussions of the need
 - to draw up guidelines enabling environmental considerations to be better integrated into development co-operation:
 - to devote specific appropriate means to this task.
2. On the basis of the discussions held and of a paper provided by the Commission services, the Council reconfirms the conclusions reached on 6 November 1984 and 9 November 1987 on the need to integrate environment and development and on the means to be used to this end.

The Council recognizes that it is for each country to determine its broad environment policies. However, the Council confirms that all projects and programmes financed by the Community and the Member States in whatever sector should take into account at all stages their effect on the environment.

This may entail specific environmental safeguards agreed in dialogue with developing countries on individual aid projects and programmes.

29.V.90

ill/HM/ms

3. The Council underlines that the environmentally sound and sustainable management of natural resources is of fundamental importance to developing countries. It further recognizes that the enforcement of sound environmental policies is made more difficult by the lack of adequate technical and financial resources and these policies face a serious challenge from the rapid and concentrated growth of population. Soil erosion, desertification, deforestation, air and water pollution and rapid urbanization, are amongst the most pressing environmental problems facing those countries. These issues represent real barriers to economic growth and sustainable development and are priorities for development assistance.

4. The Council stresses that the achievement of sustainable development inter alia requires greater understanding of the local environment and of environmental economics in developing countries and more systematic consideration of environmental factors in national decision making.

The Council declares the willingness of the Community and the Member States to assist developing countries in protecting their natural resource base through supporting research activities, institution building, training and other forms of institutional support.

29.V.90

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The Council considers that the active involvement of local populations in decision-making and implementation is of fundamental importance in ensuring that proper attention is given to environmental factors. Support should be extended to local communities to organize themselves and to strengthen, enrich and apply their own means and capacities for the care of their environment while responding to their needs. The role of NGOs in general in this respect, and indigenous NGOs in particular, is stressed.

5. The Council notes the vital necessity of involving developing countries in worldwide efforts to tackle the emerging global environmental issues. Such involvement requires continuing and environmentally sustainable economic growth in developing countries and the reinforcement of efforts to tackle poverty.

The Council recognizes the need both to ensure that existing and future aid contributes as effectively as possible to these tasks and to provide additional resources on concessional terms. The Council considers that as far as the provision of additional public resources is concerned, existing co-operation instruments including financial mechanisms represent an appropriate channel at this stage.

The Council considers that, in the allocation of these resources, particular attention should be given to priority needs of developing countries, taking into account the need to alleviate global threats, with particular reference to changes of climate and the depletion of the ozone layer. In this context, the Council attaches particular importance to forestry and to energy efficiency.

6. The Council recognizes that a number of practical steps are needed to translate the broad principles noted above into action.

In order to improve environmental consideration in development activities, the Council attaches particular importance to:

- support for developing countries in defining environmental priorities, strengthening their environmental institutions and legislation and staff training. In this context, the Community and its Member States underline the need for a much closer and concrete co-operation at the country level with other development partners and with the active participation of the recipient country. In this work, support should be given in particular to the preparation and implementation of environmental action plans at national and sectoral level and conservation strategies. The Council stresses the importance of taking existing plans into account in the programming of Community and Member States' aid;

- active implementation of environmental impact assessment by the Community and its Member States following both their own directives and procedures and/or those which have been developed by relevant international bodies;

29.V.90

ill/HM/ms

- implementation, in co-operation with the ACP States, of the reinforced provisions of the fourth Lomé Convention taking into account the principles outlined in paragraphs 1 to 5 above. Work should begin as soon as possible on the preparation of jointly approved checklists to help estimate the environmental viability of proposed operations with the help of environmental impact assessments where appropriate so that both can be used on the preparation of Lomé IV projects and programmes;

- increased stress on the environment in the Community's future co-operation with the countries of Latin America, Asia and the Mediterranean region, based on appropriate operational principles and procedures in line with the objectives outlined above;

- active participation by the Community and the Member States in work to improve environmental appraisal methodologies, to develop appropriate tools in environmental economics and to improve understanding of the state of the environment in developing countries. In this context the Council notes the work of the DAC on environmental issues. The Council recalls its previous conclusions on the need for experts meetings organized by the Commission and considers these meetings should complement the work in other fora, as appropriate;

29.V.90

ill/HM/ms

- the provision of training and guidance in environmental appraisal and monitoring for the aid staff of the Commission and the Member States both in headquarters and in the field. The Council recognizes that considerable work has already been undertaken in this respect; however, the need for the adoption of operational principles and guidelines is stressed;

 - the provision of appropriate environmental expertise in the Community and Member States' aid agencies. The Council stresses the need to take environmental factors into account from the beginning of project planning which requires the active participation of all those involved.
7. The Council notes that Environment and Development will be a central theme in a number of forthcoming international meetings. The Council recognizes the importance of agreement on measures to assist the accession of developing countries to the Montreal Protocol at the London Conference in June. The Council also looks forward to the Second World Climate Conference in November and the 1992 United Nations Conference on Environment and Development in Brazil. The Council will ensure that development issues are fully considered in the preparation by the Community and the Member States for these meetings.

The Council undertakes to keep this issue under review, to monitor progress and to return to consider it at a future Council.

29.V.90

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TROPICAL FORESTS : DEVELOPMENT ASPECTS - COUNCIL RESOLUTION

1. As an addition to its consideration of the general question of Environment and Development, the Council, following the intention it expressed at its meeting on 21 November 1989, has examined from the development policy perspective the Commission's communication on the conservation of tropical forests. The Council shares the analysis contained in the communication and broadly agrees with its conclusions.

The Council attaches great importance to the conservation of tropical forest resources - that is, their preservation, rehabilitation and sustainable management, supported by reforestation. Such resources are essential for the sustainable development of developing countries and are of worldwide importance in view of possible consequences of deforestation for climate change, loss of biodiversity and degradation of the natural resource base.

2. The Council has noted the estimated need to double the present level of donor resources devoted to forestry and associated activities and therefore considers that a major increase in funding is needed by all donors. It recognizes that progress in meeting this aim will depend on increasing the capacity of donors and developing countries to devise and implement appropriate actions. It welcomes the fact that the Commission and some Member States have already set in train major increases in their forestry activities.

29.V.90

ill/HM/ms

3. The Community and its Member States recognize the necessity of a worldwide co-ordinated strategy for tropical forest resources and endorse the following principles and activities :

- Responsibility for tropical forests lies with the countries concerned. Donors should concentrate on supporting action taken by the developing countries themselves and, where necessary, help them to develop forest conservation strategies and to strengthen their institutional capacity in this sector.
- The Tropical Forestry Action Plan (TFAP) should be the basic framework for co-ordinated funding and action in the support of forest activities. The Council urges the Community and the Member States to support current efforts to implement the principles of the TFAP, considers these efforts need to be reinforced and made more effective, and welcomes the review of the TFAP now under way. The Council will examine the results of that review at a forthcoming meeting together with ways of making the TFAP more effective.
- Countries actively supporting the conservation of their remaining natural forest through legal, fiscal and institutional measures, and the revision of land use policies should merit special attention. Action to correct policies which encourage forest destruction should also be fostered and supported.

29.V.90

ill/HM/ms

- Member States and the Commission should ensure that all their activities which directly or indirectly affect forests are coherent and co-ordinated among themselves and with other donors and recipients and that they have effective units with the necessary forestry expertise.

- The future geographical allocation of forestry aid should be co-ordinated using the mechanism of the TFAP. Priority must continue to be given to the poorest countries and those without the resources to help themselves. However, regions where the threat to forests is particularly serious and which may not previously have been a priority for donors should receive particular attention in the allocation of additional resources.

- The type of support will vary from country to country in accordance with their particular needs. Particular emphasis must be given, in line with the priorities of the TFAP, to: the integration of forestry actions with agriculture; restoration of fuelwood supplies; the establishment of reserves based on the environmental and biodiversity functions of forests; the sustained management of natural forests; and to strengthening and supporting institutions, with a view to increasing local capacity for sustainable management. There is a need for donors to co-ordinate their actions as regards countries and sectors.

29.V.90

ill/HM/ms

- Particular importance has to be attached to the social dimension of forestry. The traditions and experience of indigenous forest dwellers should be respected and drawn upon while at the same time the needs and problems of new settlers and those living on the periphery of the forest should be addressed. Active steps should be taken to involve local populations in planning and implementation of projects.

- Special emphasis must be given to the involvement of international and national NGOs in the TFAP process, particularly at local level.

- Particular consideration should be given to the role of the International Timber Trade Organisation (ITTO) in promoting sustainable management, notably in establishing guidelines for best practice in this sector. The ITTO should be encouraged to carry out its actions in a manner consistent with the TFAP framework.

- The Council notes the recent adoption, at the 8th session of the ITTO, of guidelines for the rational management of natural tropical forests and of an action plan and work programme on forest industry, and particularly the objective that total exports of tropical timber products should come from sustainably managed resources by the year 2000.

- Forestry research is of fundamental importance. Particular emphasis should be placed on improving sustainable productivity of forests; identifying non-timber resources of the forest and key areas of biodiversity, and evaluating the environmental services provided by trees and forests. Reinforcement of the research capacities of the developing countries themselves should be a priority.

29.V.90

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4. The Council welcomes the increased priority given to tropical forestry in the Lomé IV Convention. Practical action will need to be agreed with individual partners. The Council supports the Commission's intention to lay emphasis on TFAP exercises and to take into account the strategy outlined at 3 above in its dialogue with ACP countries during the preparation of Lomé IV indicative programmes. Action at a regional level will be equally important.

5. In its future consideration of co-operation with developing countries in Asia and Latin America the Council feels that greater emphasis must be placed on the conservation of tropical forests, where possible within the context of the TFAP and in accordance with the strategy set out in paragraph 3 above. The Council notes with interest the Commission's intention to propose a programme for forest conservation with eight Amazonian countries.

6. In conclusion, the Council underlines that the success of this strategy requires increased attention to forestry aid policies in donor countries, appropriate policies and institutions in developing countries, better co-ordination and additional resources from all donors. It urges the Commission and the Member States periodically to monitor and assess the implementation of this strategy and to report back on progress to a future Council.

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CO-OPERATION WITH THE DEVELOPING COUNTRIES OF ASIA AND LATIN AMERICA

The Council heard a statement by Commissioner MATUTES, presenting the recent Commission communication on guidelines for co-operation with the developing countries of Asia and Latin America.

The Council thanked the Commission for this important communication. A preliminary discussion was held, enabling delegations to state their initial reactions.

At the end of the discussion the Council instructed the Permanent Representatives Committee to examine the Commission communication in detail and to submit a report to it with a view to further discussions at Council level.

CO-OPERATION WITH THE MEDITERRANEAN COUNTRIES

The Council took note of a statement by Commissioner MATUTES setting out the development aspects of the communication which the Commission had recently forwarded to the Council concerning a renewed Mediterranean policy and of delegations' first reactions on the matter.

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FOOD AID POLICY - COUNCIL CONCLUSIONS

1. At its meeting on 21 November 1989, the Council adopted a comprehensive Resolution on food aid policy. In this Resolution it asked that further discussions take place on three topics: the integration of food aid with other forms of development assistance; specific criteria and conditions for multiannual programmes; and the nature of the overall assessment of the annual food aid programme of the previous year.
2. Discussions, limited to these three topics, have taken place on the basis of information provided by the Commission and the Member States; the Council draws the following conclusions:

A. Integration of food aid with other forms of development assistance

As recognized in Article 2 of the framework Regulation, food aid has a specific role and objectives, aimed at strengthening food security. Its integration with other development instruments and with the development efforts of the recipient country can contribute in a significant way to these objectives. This integration may be achieved from the programming through the execution stages by

29.V.90

ill/HM/cw

- the taking into account, in the programming and implementation of Community aid, of recipients' food needs and the role that Community aid can play in this regard, in order to ensure that food aid and the other development instruments are used in a co-ordinated manner to maximize their impact on food security. In this context, the Commission might, on an experimental basis and in conjunction with the recipient country concerned:
 - = draw up and implement, on a country level, fully integrated programmes of EC development assistance in a few countries which have a recurrent food deficit and which receive significant EC food aid and financial assistance on a regular basis
 - = monitor closely the effectiveness of this integrated approach in these countries
 - = submit a report in due course to the Council on the results achieved by this experiment;
- actions involving both food aid and financial and technical assistance, as have already been initiated by the Commission. In these cases close co-ordination should take place during the programming, implementation, monitoring and evaluation stages. In this context the Council invites the Commission to consider ways of improving co-ordination between the various Committees when these are considering related proposals for food aid and for financial assistance;

29.V.90

ill/HM/cw

- an integrated use of food aid with other instruments to improve the food security of carefully identified vulnerable groups, through, inter alia, free or subsidized distribution of food aid, "food for work" projects, nutritional or social welfare projects. Where appropriate locally purchased food should be used in such actions;
- using food aid in projects or programmes receiving other types of aid from the Community or the Member States.

In reviewing the possibilities for integrating food aid with other forms of development assistance, the Council notes that the use of counterpart funds deserves further reflection. It expresses its interest in a broad review of the use of counterpart funds from all sources.

In order to improve co-ordination of food aid and other Community development assistance joint meetings of the Council Working Parties on Food Aid and Development Co-operation should be organized whenever this seems appropriate.

B. Multiannual programmes

The Council recalls that the Community gives priority to emergency situations and that multiannual programmes should only be used where it can be clearly demonstrated that in this way the overall effectiveness of the food aid allocation will be increased. It stresses the necessity of ensuring that the total proportion of the Food Aid Programme committed in multiannual programmes does not reach a level which might in any way reduce the Community's ability to respond to these or other priority requests.

The Council recognizes that multiannual food aid programmes, as envisaged by the framework regulation, can improve the role of food aid as a development instrument and facilitate its integration with other development instruments. Multiannual programmes provide a continuity of supply over an agreed number of years of food aid and, where food aid is sold, counterpart funds in support of an identified food security objective. Multiannual programmes should also make it possible to improve the implementation of triangular operations by forward planning, thereby increasing their impact and effectiveness.

29.V.90

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The essential criteria for deciding a multiannual food aid programme are the existence in the recipient country of:

- a structural food deficit at national level; however, in exceptional circumstances where a serious long-term local deficit has been clearly identified, the possibility of multiannual food aid action might be considered;
- viable food policies (concerning, for example, the balance between imports and local production, or pricing policy).
- a project or a programme, which has been subject to identification and appraisal and in which food aid has been identified as an essential component.

Multiannual programmes should also be subject to the following conditions:

- evidence, confirmed by the appraisal, that the programme in question will not negatively affect local food production;

29.V.90

ill/HM/cw

- flexible programming which would allow for modification of the choice or quantity of products, or the use of substitution measures, should such changes better meet current food security objectives;
- detailed mid-term review with the possibility of altering the programme's or project's initial guidelines as set out above.

C. Overall assessment of the annual food aid programme of the previous year

As an aid to decision-making on programming, the Council requests the Commission, shortly after the end of each year, to present an overall statistical review of the preceding year. This should indicate the state of implementation of each decision taken and should be accompanied by a brief commentary providing an overview of the annual programme detailing any problems or exceptional events encountered in the previous year.

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The Council notes that the suggestion has been made that the Community's food aid should be programmed in value terms rather than, as hitherto, in quantities. It requests COREPER to study the implications of such a change and report on its conclusions to a future Council.

WOMEN IN DEVELOPMENT - COUNCIL CONCLUSIONS

1. The Council has been concerned for some time to ensure that the role of women in development is adequately taken into account in all Community development policies. In November 1987, it asked that an action programme be drawn up encompassing practical measures to be implemented by all relevant administrative units.
2. The Council has taken note of a work programme which has recently been drawn up by the Commission and which outlines how it intends to implement the articles of the fourth Lomé Convention relating to the role of women in development. Recalling that its policy on women in development applies to all Community policy instruments, the Council requests the Commission to complete its action programme as soon as possible by preparing similar work programmes covering the Community's co-operation with the countries of Asia, Latin America and the Mediterranean region.
3. The Council welcomes the fact that the provisions of the new Lomé Convention place greater emphasis on the role of women and recognize the importance of the contribution which women make to the development process.

4. The Council, in welcoming the Commission's intentions and approach, stresses, like the Commission, that the full integration of women into the development process can best be achieved by recognizing the importance of their economic and social roles, providing them with the means to fulfil these roles effectively, improving their self-help capacity and structures and ensuring that they benefit from their involvement in the development process.

The Council, whilst noting the various actions by which the Commission intends to integrate the WID dimension into all stages of the project cycle, requests the Commission to consider additional proposals and possibly include, in the present and future proposals for action, concrete steps for their full implementation.

5. The Council invites the Commission and the Member States to take practical steps to ensure that WID activities are continued and strengthened by developing the necessary management systems and allocating adequate personnel and other resources.
6. Recognizing that co-operation between the Member States and the Commission in this field is of great importance, the Council notes with satisfaction that the Commission intends to hold the next meeting of experts on Women in Development from the Member States in September 1990.

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EVALUATION OF DEVELOPMENT CO-OPERATION - COUNCIL CONCLUSIONS

1. The Council has for some years been concerned to improve the effectiveness of the evaluation of development co-operation. In November 1987 it adopted guidelines on future work in this area and, in May 1989, reiterated the importance it attaches to the establishment of sound evaluation procedures.
2. Following the request made by the Council, the Commission has forwarded to it a report containing an overview of evaluation activities and results in 1989, its work programme for 1990, and a summary of the results of co-operation between the Member States and the Commission. This report has been the subject of an exchange of views between the Commission's experts and those from the Member States.
3. The Council welcomes this report and considers that it represents a significant advance both in the field of the Commission's own evaluation activities and in that of co-operation between the Commission and the Member States.

The Council notes with satisfaction that the Commission's evaluation unit has been significantly strengthened and that it intends in the future to evaluate more projects in Latin America, Asia and the Mediterranean regions.

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The Council, noting the findings of the report in relation to the implementation of Community aid and the Commission's management of this aid, recognizes that a number of the problems identified are also experienced by Member countries in their bilateral aid programmes. It invites the Commission to take the necessary steps to follow up the recommendations of the report and in particular to improve feedback through better project formulation, appraisal and management.

4. The Council, which will keep this question under review, invites the Commission and the Member States to maintain and develop the EEC internal co-operation process which has now been set up.

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SECOND UN CONFERENCE ON THE LEAST-DEVELOPED COUNTRIES

The Council held a discussion on preparations for the second UN Conference on the Least-Developed Countries, to be held in Paris from 3 to 14 September 1990.

The Council noted the positions adopted by the Member States and the Commission during the discussion and stressed the importance which the Community and its Member States attached to the Conference and to proper preparation for it in order to enable the Community to play the constructive role befitting it.

The Council accordingly asked the Commission to submit to it at the earliest opportunity the communication it had promised, so that a common position could be prepared on that basis before the summer recess.

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY

The Council discussed the issues arising in connection with preparation for the International Development Strategy for the 1990s, which is to be discussed by the UN General Assembly beginning on 17 September.

LOME IV PROGRAMMING

On the basis of information provided by Vice-President MARIN, the Council reviewed the programming of financial and technical aid under the fourth Lomé Convention.

EVENTS IN CENTRAL AND EASTERN EUROPE

On the basis of a document from the Spanish delegation, the Council discussed co-operation with the developing countries in the light of events in Central and Eastern Europe. It was reaffirmed that Community policy vis-à-vis the Central and East European countries did not affect its policy towards the developing countries.

GERMAN UNIFICATION AND DEVELOPMENT CO-OPERATION

The Council noted an oral statement by the German delegation on the effects of the German unification process on development co-operation. The German delegation emphasized in particular that the Federal Republic's commitment to the developing countries would not be affected by unification and that in the interim the German Democratic Republic also intended to maintain and develop its activities in that field.

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MISCELLANEOUS DECISION

The Council adopted the Decision concerning the conclusion by the Community of the Agreement establishing the Common Fund for Commodities, signed in 1981.

The Member States of the Community have already for their part completed the procedures necessary for their participation.



COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES
GENERAL SECRETARIAT

PRESS RELEASE

6711/90 (Presse 77)

art/BS/dot

1408th Council meeting

- LABOUR AND SOCIAL AFFAIRS -

Brussels, 29 May 1990

President: Mr Bertie AHERN
Minister for Labour
of Ireland

The Governments of the Member States and the Commission of the European Communities were represented as follows:

Belgium

Mr Luc VAN DEN BRANDE Minister for Employment and Labour

Denmark

Mr Erik KIRKEGAARD Minister for Labour

Germany

Mr Wolfgang VOGT Parliamentary State Secretary to the
Federal Minister for Labour and Social
Affairs

Greece

Mr Haris CARABARBOUNIS Deputy Permanent Representative

Spain

Mr Luis MARTINEZ NOVAL Minister for Labour and Social
Security

France

Mr André LAIGNEL State Secretary for Vocational
Training, Ministry of Labour

Mrs Hélène DORLHAC State Secretary for the Family,
Ministry of Solidarity

Ireland

Mr Bertie AHERN Minister for Labour

Italy

Mr Ugo GRIPPO State Secretary,
Ministry for Labour

Luxembourg

Mr Jean-Claude JUNCKER

Minister for Labour

Netherlands

Mr Bert DE VRIES

Minister for Employment and
Social Security

Portugal

Mr José Albino da SILVA PENEDA

Minister for Employment and
Social Security

United Kingdom

Mr Michael HOWARD

Secretary of State for Employment

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Commission

Ms Vasso PAPANDREOU

Member

ACTION TO ASSIST THE LONG-TERM UNEMPLOYED

The Council adopted a Resolution on action to assist the long-term unemployed (see Annex I).

THE FORCE PROGRAMME

The Council adopted a Decision establishing an action programme for the development of continuing vocational training in the European Community (FORCE).

The aim of the programme, which is to run for four years (1 January 1991 - 31 December 1994), is to support and complement the policies and activities developed by and in the Member States in the area of continuing vocational training, a field essential to the completion of the internal market.

ECU 24 million was estimated as necessary for the financing of the first two years of the FORCE programme.

The principal objectives of the FORCE programme are:

- to encourage a greater investment effort in continuing vocational training through the development of partnerships;
- to encourage innovations in the management of continuing vocational training, methodology and equipment;
- to take better account of the consequences of the completion of the internal market;
- to contribute to greater effectiveness of continuing vocational training mechanisms and their capacity to respond to changes in the European labour market.

To achieve those objectives the programme has been given two complementary parts:

- a common framework of guidelines designed to support and complement the policies and measures adopted by the Member States with a view to promoting the development of continuing vocational training;
- a number of transnational measures implemented at Community level designed to support and complement activities developed by and in the Member States.

In the implementation of the programme the Commission will be assisted by an advisory committee composed of representatives of the Member States. Twelve representatives of both sides of industry will participate in the work of the committee as observers.

THE FIGHT AGAINST RACISM AND XENOPHOBIA

The Council and the representatives of the Governments of the Member States, meeting within the Council, adopted a Resolution on the fight against racism and xenophobia (see Annex II).

FREEDOM OF MOVEMENT FOR WORKERS WITHIN THE COMMUNITY

The Council held a general political exchange of views on the proposal for the amendment of Regulation (EEC) No 1612/68 and the proposal for the amendment of Directive 68/360/EEC.

These proposals are intended to improve the situations of migrant workers and of the members of their families, in particular in the light of the jurisprudence of the Court of Justice since 1968.

The Council instructed the Permanent Representatives Committee to continue work on these proposals.

SOCIAL SECURITY FOR MIGRANT WORKERS - NON-CONTRIBUTORY BENEFITS

The Council took stock of the progress made on the proposal for the amendment of Regulation (EEC) No 1408/71 on non-contributory benefits.

It instructed the Permanent Representatives Committee to continue work on the proposal.

HEALTH AND SAFETY OF WORKERS AT WORK

The Council adopted two Directives and a common position in the field of the health and safety of workers at work.

The two Directives adopted were the last two of the Article 118a package submitted by the Commission in March 1988; the Council adopted the framework Directive and the individual Directives on the workplace, work equipment and personal protective equipment in 1989. The individual Directives provide that the consultation and participation of workers and/or their representatives must take place in accordance with Article 11 of the framework Directive.

It is provided that the Member States will apply the two Directives adopted no later than 31 December 1992.

- HEAVY LOADS Directive

This Directive lays down minimum health and safety requirements for handling heavy loads where there is a risk of back injury for workers.

It provides that employers must take appropriate organizational measures to avoid the need for the manual handling of heavy loads by workers or, where that need cannot be avoided, to reduce the risks run in the manual handling of heavy loads.

- DISPLAY SCREEN EQUIPMENT Directive

The Directive lays down minimum safety and health requirements for work with display screen equipment.

The Directive obliges employers:

- to analyse workstations in order to evaluate the safety and health conditions to which they give rise for their workers;
- to take appropriate measures to ensure that workstations meet the minimum requirements laid down in the Annex to the Directive on equipment, the environment and the operator/computer interface.

The Directive also provides that:

- a worker's activities must be planned in such a way that daily work on a display screen is periodically interrupted;
- workers must be entitled to an appropriate eye and eyesight test and, if necessary, an ophthalmological examination.

- Common position on the BIOLOGICAL AGENTS Directive

This draft Directive is intended to protect workers against risks arising or likely to arise from exposure to biological agents at work.

It provides that in the case of any activity likely to involve a risk of exposure to biological agents, the nature, degree and duration of workers' exposure must be determined in order to make it possible to assess any risk to the workers' health or safety and to lay down the measures to be taken.

Depending on the project, an employer must avoid the use of a harmful biological agent by replacing it with a biological agent which is not dangerous or is less dangerous.

It also provides that employers must, when requested, provide the competent authority with appropriate information on a series of important matters concerning the protection of workers and that they must take individual health and safety protection measures in the case of all activities for which there is a risk due to work with biological agents.

The planned Directive also includes provisions on the information and training of workers, the keeping of lists of exposed workers and health surveillance.

Finally, the text adopted provides for the Community classification of biological agents within six months of the date of application of the Directive.

THE DIGNITY OF WOMEN AND MEN AT WORK

The Council adopted a Resolution on the protection of the dignity of women and men at work (see Annex III).

EXCHANGES OF YOUNG WORKERS

The Council adopted the Decision amending Decision 84/636/EEC establishing a third joint programme to encourage the exchange of young workers within the Community.

The Decision adopted provides for the continuation of the third programme after 31 December 1990 until 31 December 1991 at the latest and for the Council to examine, no later than 31 March 1991, a Commission proposal for a new Community programme for exchanges of young workers.

BRIEFING BY THE GERMAN DELEGATION ON THE REUNIFICATION OF GERMANY, AS REGARDS SOCIAL MATTERS IN PARTICULAR

The Council heard a statement by the German delegation on the progress of the re-unification of Germany, in the social field in particular.

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At the close of the Council meeting the President mentioned the recent proceedings that within a few weeks had resulted in the adoption by the Council meeting on General Affairs on 7 May 1990 of the Regulation setting up a European Training Foundation and the Decision establishing the TEMPUS scheme, i.e. two instruments that would play an essential role in co-operation between the Community and the countries of Central and Eastern Europe. In that connection the information provided, while the Council meeting was in progress, by the Hungarian and Polish Ministers for Labour for their Community colleagues had been particularly useful.

Turning to the future, the President expressed the hope that the Commission would as soon as possible submit the first series of proposals provided for in its programme of action for the implementation of the Community Charter of the Fundamental Rights of Workers and in particular the proposals for the Directives on unusual work and the adaptation of working hours. As agreed in the framework of the Troika regarding social policy, the Italian and Luxembourg Presidencies would do everything possible to continue and conclude the proceedings on these proposals.

COUNCIL RESOLUTION

of

on action to assist the long-term unemployed

THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES,

Having regard to the Treaty establishing the European Economic Community,

Having regard to the commitment of the Community to economic and social cohesion,

Having regard to the conclusions drawn by the Chairman at the close of the thirty-seventh and thirty-eighth meetings of the Standing Committee on Employment on 12 May 1989 and 10 November 1989, respectively,

Whereas, in its Resolution of 19 December 1984 on action to combat long-term unemployment ⁽¹⁾, the Council considered that specific measures should be employed to take account of the serious problem of long-term unemployment, requiring both individual and joint action by governments and both sides of industry at local, regional and national levels, which should be supported at Community level;

Whereas, in its Resolution of 7 June 1984 on the contribution of local employment initiatives to combatting unemployment ⁽²⁾, the Council recognised the contribution which such initiatives could make to the objectives of the fight against unemployment by virtue of the possibilities they offered for the maintenance or creation of jobs, particularly in small undertakings;

Whereas, in its Resolution of 22 December 1986 on an action programme on employment growth ⁽³⁾, the Council considered that further action was urgently needed, inter alia, in promoting and encouraging schemes in Member States which would be of benefit to the long-term unemployed, in the adoption of a Community approach, taking account of the experience and individual circumstances of Member States, with regard to recruitment aids for the long-term unemployed and in the identification of other means of helping more long-term unemployed people into jobs following discussions of the means of doing so with both sides of industry;

(1) OJ No C 2, 4. 1.1985, p. 3.

(2) OJ No C 161, 21. 6.1984, p. 1.

(3) OJ No C 340, 31.12.1986, p. 2.

Whereas Article 4 of Regulation (EEC) No 2052/88 of 24 June 1988 on the tasks of the Structural Funds and their effectiveness and on co-ordination of their activities between themselves and with the operations of the European Investment Bank and the other existing financial instruments ⁽¹⁾ provides for partnership in relation to Community operations;

Whereas Article 3 of Regulation (EEC) No 2052/88 states that the European Social Fund has, as priority missions, to provide support throughout the Community for vocational training measures and aids for employment and for the creation of self-employed activities, in order to combat long-term unemployment,

HEREBY ADOPTS THIS RESOLUTION:

1. Seriousness of Long-term Unemployment

The Council notes that:

- there are at present over 7 million persons unemployed for over a year in the Community; long-term unemployment constitutes over 50% of total unemployment;
- for most Community countries, recent economic growth and decreases in unemployment have not contributed significantly to a reduction in the number of long-term unemployed;
- young people have benefitted more from the decline in unemployment than have older age groups;

(1) OJ No L 185, 15. 7. 1988, p. 9.

- the long-term unemployed are concentrated mainly in urban "black spots" which often suffer many disadvantages, including poverty, bad housing, high crime rates, health problems and poor education;
- long-term unemployment is a complex problem which, although it particularly affects workers with inadequate or obsolete skills and living in areas of high unemployment, can also affect workers who are skilled and/or are living in areas of low unemployment;
- the Community, in view of the demographic situation in most Member States, will need to utilise all its labour resources, including the long-term unemployed, in order to reach its economic potential.

2. Responses to Long-term Unemployment

- (a) The Council considers that the long-term unemployment of adults and young people is one of the essential labour market problems and that national and Community actions must reflect this.

While it is recognized that competence for labour market policies lies principally with the Member States, a response is called for at Community, national and local level, involving the Commission, governments, employers and trade unions, in order to make actions in favour of the long-term unemployed more effective.

(b) The Council recognizes that long-term unemployment is a social as well as an economic problem. Policy responses should aim primarily at re-insertion of the long-term unemployed into the labour market and must be relevant to the social circumstances of the long-term unemployed as well as the labour market situations that they face.

Thus, policy measures should:

- be appropriate for the individual's needs and circumstances;
- reflect the local and regional labour market needs and circumstances;
- subject to national labour market policies and practices, embody counselling, advice, support, work experience and efforts to assist the transition to stable employment in addition to whatever vocational training support is needed;
- combine the efforts of the various agencies concerned, especially at the local level;
- aim to prevent people entering long-term unemployment through a systematic approach to increased preventive measures in the form of information, counselling, aptitude testing and training.

3. Responsibilities for Action

- (a) The Council considers that public authorities, both sides of industry and individuals themselves have a distinct role to play, each within its own area of responsibility, in tackling the problem of long-term unemployment.

Public support can be strengthened by making measures fully relevant to individual and employers' needs.

- (b) Employer responses are crucial in the re-integration of the long-term unemployed.

Employers, in order to meet their own need for skilled workers, will need to turn to the long-term unemployed.

In addition, they should assist public authorities in identifying the most appropriate forms of support in order to assist the recruitment of the long-term unemployed.

- (c) Public authorities should pay special attention to coming up with specific measures designed to assist the re-insertion into the labour market of those long-term unemployed who are particularly disadvantaged.

4. Evaluation of Policy Measures

The Council recognises the need to continue and intensify the efforts of the Member States, with a view to bringing about a significant reduction in long-term unemployment.

In this connection, and while recognizing the primary role of the Member States in evaluating their own labour market policies, the Council awaits with interest the results of the evaluation of Community activities, notably within the framework of the European Social Fund and the ERGO and LEDA programmes.

5. Community Action

- (a) The Council takes note with interest of the Commission's intention to undertake actions in the framework of a Community initiative within the meaning of Article 11 of Regulation (EEC) No 4253/88 ⁽¹⁾, inspired particularly by successful actions already taken to assist the long-term unemployed.

The initiative would facilitate the transfer of good practices, assisting re-insertion of the long-term unemployed into the labour force, between Member States and between local labour markets, on the basis of experimental, innovative pilot projects.

Such projects would demonstrate the best ways of assisting re-insertion of the long-term unemployed into the labour force. The projects would cover such matters as particularly disadvantaged groups (such as those who have several personal disadvantages in obtaining work or who have been unemployed for a particularly long time). The projects would also cover preventive measures, guidance, counselling, relevant training, work experience, entrepreneurship, the role of employers, initiatives taken by the two sides of industry and integrated approaches to the problem of long-term unemployment.

(1) OJ No L 374, 31.12.1988, p. 1.

The Council notes that the Commission will involve the Member States in the drawing up of the guidelines and the selection of projects, in accordance with Articles 14 and 28 of Regulation (EEC) No 4253/88.

- (b) The Council, in the context of the partnership between the Commission and the Member States, attaches considerable importance to the principles underlying the actions which the Commission intends to undertake to assist the long-term unemployed. The Council considers that the Community initiative should in particular benefit specific target groups among the long-term unemployed.

The Council calls on the Commission to report to it on its proposals in the framework of the Community initiative, and their implementation, on a regular basis in the context of the reports provided for under Articles 25 and 31 of Regulation (EEC) No 4253/88.

RESOLUTION OF THE COUNCIL
AND THE REPRESENTATIVES OF THE GOVERNMENTS OF THE MEMBER STATES,
MEETING WITHIN THE COUNCIL,
of

on the fight against racism and xenophobia

THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES AND THE REPRESENTATIVES OF THE
GOVERNMENTS OF THE MEMBER STATES, MEETING WITHIN THE COUNCIL,

Having regard to the Treaties establishing the European Communities,

Having regard to the Opinion of the European Parliament ⁽¹⁾,

Having regard to the Opinion of the Economic and Social Committee ⁽²⁾,

(1) OJ No C 69, 20.3.1989, p. 43.

(2) OJ No C 23, 30.1.1989, p. 33.

Whereas the fight against racism and xenophobia forms part of the broader context of protecting fundamental rights; whereas the joint declaration by the European Parliament, the Council and the Commission on Fundamental Rights of 5 April 1977 ⁽¹⁾ bears witness to the prime importance that the Community institutions attach to respect for fundamental rights;

Whereas, in the Single European Act, the Member States stressed the need to "work together to promote democracy on the basis of the fundamental rights recognized in the constitutions and laws of the Member States, in the Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms and in the European Social Charter, notably freedom, equality and social justice";

Whereas, in its Resolution of 16 July 1985 concerning guidelines for a Community policy on migration ⁽²⁾, the Council stressed that "with a view to the harmonious coexistence of nationals of the Member States and migrant workers and their families, initiatives should be developed at Community, Member State and local level to inform and to promote awareness";

Whereas, in its Resolution of 16 January 1986 ⁽³⁾, the European Parliament, noting the recommendations contained in the Committee of Enquiry's report on the rise of racism and fascism in Europe, called on "the Commission, the Council, the other Community institutions, the parliamentary committees, the Bureau of the European Parliament and the governments and parliaments of the Member States to take the measures necessary to put them into practice";

(1) OJ No C 103, 27.4.1977, p. 1.
(2) OJ No C 186, 26.7.1985, p. 3.
(3) OJ No C 36, 17.7.1986, p. 142.

Whereas, on 11 June 1986, the European Parliament, the Council, the Representatives of the Member States, meeting within the Council, and the Commission, recognizing "the existence and growth of xenophobic attitudes, movements and acts of violence in the Community which are often directed against immigrants", adopted a declaration against racism and xenophobia ⁽¹⁾ "vigorously condemning all forms of intolerance, hostility and use of force against persons or groups of persons on the grounds of racial, religious, cultural, social or national differences; and looking upon it as indispensable that all necessary steps be taken to guarantee that their joint resolve to protect the individuality and dignity of every member of society and to reject any form of segregation of foreigners be carried through";

Whereas it behoves the institutions of the Communities and the competent authorities of the Member States, each in keeping with its powers, to take the necessary measures to implement this Resolution,

1. TAKE NOTE of the Commission communication on the fight against racism and xenophobia concerning the implementation of the Interinstitutional Declaration of 11 June 1986 against racism and xenophobia aimed at protecting in that respect everyone within Community territory;

(1) OJ No C 158, 25.6.1986, p. 1.

2. RECOGNIZE that acts inspired by racism and xenophobia may be countered by legislative or institutional measures such as the following:

(a) ratification, by those Member States which have not yet done so, of international instruments contributing to the fight against all forms of racial discrimination;

(b) recognition, by those Member States which have not yet done so, of the individual petitions referred to:

- in Article 25 of the European Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms and

- in Article 14 of the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination;

ratification, if necessary, of the Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights;

(c) resolute application of laws aimed at preventing or curbing discrimination or xenophobic acts and the preparation of such laws by those Member States which have not yet done so;

(d) efforts at national, regional and local level to integrate the different communities properly and, where appropriate, promotion of national mediation procedures;

- (e) the granting to the bodies concerned in the fight against racism and xenophobia of the right to institute or support legal proceedings, to the extent that this is compatible with the legal system in the Member State concerned;
 - (f) the development of legal assistance, available in accordance with the rules of the legal system of the Member State concerned, to enable those concerned to defend their rights;
 - (g) underlining the importance of substantial measures to counter the possible effects on children of discriminatory acts based on racism and xenophobia;
3. CALL UPON the Member States to adopt such measures as they consider appropriate, paying particular attention to those referred to in point 2;
4. CONSIDER that an effective preventive information and education policy is of considerable importance in the fight against racism and xenophobia, and, in this context:
- (a) in the field of information:
 - (i) note that the Commission, in compliance with Article 4 of the EEC Treaty:
 - will make a comparative assessment of the legal instruments implemented in the various Member States to combat all forms of discrimination, racism and xenophobia and incitement to hatred and racial violence;

- will contribute to improved dissemination of information on these legal instruments;
- will promote demoscopic studies on the perception of democratic values and on the state of relations between the various communities living in Europe;

(ii) invite the Member States to:

- draw attention to the role that the media can play in eliminating racial prejudice and promoting harmonious relations between the various communities living in Europe; encourage reflection on information when faced with instances of violence, particularly of a racial nature;

(b) in the field of education and young people:

(i) expect that the action taken to:

- promote a European dimension in education tailored to the specific situation of each Member State, such as will develop civic-mindedness and the values of pluralism and tolerance;
- promote exchange programmes for young people as a means of encouraging tolerance and understanding;

- develop and extend current community co-operation aimed at improving the education of migrant workers' children,

will make a significant contribution to, inter alia, reducing xenophobia and promoting and encouraging tolerance and mutual understanding;

(ii) recall the action already taken in this context, namely the:

- Resolution of the Council and the Ministers of Education, meeting within the Council, of 24 May 1988 on the European dimension in education ⁽¹⁾;
- Council Decision 88/348/EEC of 16 June 1988 adopting an action programme for the promotion of youth exchanges in the Community - "Youth for Europe" programme ⁽²⁾;
- Council Directive 77/486/EEC of 25 July 1977 on the education of the children of migrant workers ⁽³⁾;
- Actions to promote modern language teaching, actions for the schooling of the children of migrant workers and Community measures for the benefit of their languages and cultures of origin;

(1) OJ No C 177, 6.7.1988, p. 5.

(2) OJ No L 158, 25.6.1988, p. 42.

(3) OJ No L 199, 6.8.1977, p. 32.

(iii) invite the Member States to:

- encourage the civic and vocational training of teachers, particularly in areas with a large immigrant population, in order to introduce them to the characteristics of the various origins and cultures of their pupils and students;
- encourage knowledge of the languages and cultures of origin;

5. STRESS the importance of all appropriate forms of co-operation between the Community and the Council of Europe;

6. RECOGNIZE the significance of the action, and the initiatives promoted, by the United Nations in the fight against racial discrimination.

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COUNCIL RESOLUTION

of

on the protection of the dignity
of women and men at work

THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES,

Having regard to the Treaty establishing the European Economic Community,

Whereas unwanted conduct of a sexual nature, or other conduct based on sex affecting the dignity of women and men at work, including the conduct of superiors and colleagues, is unacceptable and may, in certain circumstances, be contrary to the principle of equal treatment within the meaning of Articles 3, 4 and 5 of Council Directive 76/207/EEC of 9 February 1976 on the implementation of the principle of equal treatment for men and women as regards access to employment, vocational training and promotion, and working conditions ⁽¹⁾, a view supported by case-law in some Member States;

Whereas, in accordance with the Council Recommendation of 13 December 1984 on the promotion of positive action for women ⁽²⁾, many Member States have carried out a variety of positive action measures and actions having a bearing, inter alia, on respect for the dignity of women at the workplace;

Whereas the European Parliament, in its Resolution of 11 June 1986 on violence against women ⁽³⁾, has called upon national authorities to strive to achieve a legal definition of sexual harassment and has called upon national governments, equal opportunities committees and trade unions to carry out concerted information campaigns to create a proper awareness of the individual rights of all members of the labour force;

(1) OJ No L 39, 14. 2.1976, p. 40.
(2) OJ No L 331, 19.12.1984, p. 34.
(3) OJ No C 176, 14. 7.1986, p. 79.

Whereas the Council is anxious to take account of the study which found that sexual harassment is a serious problem for many working women in the European Community and is an obstacle to the proper integration of women into the labour market ⁽¹⁾;

Whereas the Advisory Committee on Equal Opportunities between Women and Men, in its opinion of 20 June 1988, has unanimously recommended that there should be a Recommendation and Code of Conduct on sexual harassment in the workplace covering harassment of both sexes,

I. AFFIRMS that conduct of a sexual nature, or other conduct based on sex affecting the dignity of women and men at work, including conduct of superiors and colleagues, constitutes an intolerable violation of the dignity of workers or trainees and is unacceptable if:

(a) such conduct is unwanted, unreasonable and offensive to the recipient;

(b) a person's rejection of, or submission to, such conduct on the part of employers or workers (including superiors or colleagues) is used explicitly or implicitly as a basis for a decision which affects that person's access to vocational training, access to employment, continued employment, promotion, salary or any other employment decisions; and/or

(1) "The Dignity of Women at Work, Report on the problem of sexual harassment in the Member States of the European Communities, October 1987" (ISBN 92-825-8764-9).

(c) such conduct creates an intimidating, hostile or humiliating work environment for the recipient;

11. CALLS ON the Member States to:

1. develop campaigns of information and awareness for employers and workers (including superiors and colleagues), taking account of the best practice which exists in various Member States, to counter unwanted conduct of a sexual nature or other conduct based on sex affecting the dignity of women and men at work;

2. promote awareness that the conduct described in I may be, in certain circumstances, contrary to the principle of equal treatment within the meaning of Articles 3, 4 and 5 of Council Directive 76/207/EEC;

3. remind employers that they have a responsibility to seek to ensure that the work environment is free from:

(a) unwanted conduct of a sexual nature or other conduct based on sex affecting the dignity of women and men at work;

(b) victimisation of a complainant or of a person wishing to give, or giving, evidence in the event of a complaint;

4. develop appropriate positive measures in accordance with national legislation in the public sector which may serve as an example to the private sector;
5. consider that both sides of industry, while respecting their autonomy and subject to national traditions and practices, could examine in the context of the collective bargaining process the question of including appropriate clauses in agreements, aimed at achieving a work environment as described in paragraph 3;

III. CALLS ON the Commission to:

1. continue its efforts to inform and make aware employers, workers (including superiors and colleagues), lawyers and members of courts, tribunals and other competent authorities of the importance of the concept set out in I and of the fact that, in certain circumstances, failure to respect this concept may be contrary to the principle of equal treatment within the meaning of Articles 3, 4 and 5 of Directive 76/207/EEC;

2. draw up, by 1 July 1991, in consultation with both sides of industry and following consultation with the Member States and national equal opportunities authorities, a Code of Conduct on the protection of the dignity of women and men at work which will provide guidance, based on examples and best practice in the Member States, on initiating and pursuing positive measures designed to create a climate at work in which women and men respect one another's human integrity.

IV. CALLS ON the institutions and organs of the European Communities also to:

1. respect the concept set out in I;
2. develop positive action measures aimed at achieving a work environment as described in II 3.

COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES
GENERAL SECRETARIAT

PRESS RELEASE

6712/90 (Presse 78)

ien/AM/ved

1409th meeting of the Council
and the Ministers for Education

Brussels, 31 May 1990

President: Mrs Mary O'ROURKE

Minister for Education,
of Ireland

The Governments of the Member States and the Commission of the European Communities were represented as follows:

Belgium:

Mr P. DE KEERSMAEKER	State Secretary for European Affairs
Mr Daniel COENS	Minister for Education of the Flemish Community
Mr Yvan YLIEFF	Minister for Education of the French Community
Mr Bruno FAGNOUL	Minister for Education of the German-speaking Community

Denmark:

Mr Bertel HAARDER	Minister for Education and Research
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Germany:

Mr Jürgen MÖLLEMAN	Federal Minister for Education and Science
Mr Georg GÖLTER	Chairman of the Conference of the Ministers for Cultural Affairs of the "Länder"

Greece:

Mr Haris CARABARBOUNIS	Deputy Permanent Representative
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Spain:

Mr Javier ELORZA	Deputy Permanent Representative
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France:

Mr Robert CHAPUIS	State Secretary for Technical Education (Ministry of Education)
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31.V.1990

ien/AM/ved

Ireland:

Mrs Mary O'ROURKE

Minister for Education

Mr Frank FAHEY

Minister of State at the Department of
Education with special responsibility for
Youth and Sport

Italy:

Mr Sergio MATTARELLA

Minister for Education

Luxembourg:

Mr Marc FISCHBACH

Minister for Education

Netherlands:

Mr Jo RITZEN

Minister for Education and Science

Portugal:

Mr Roberto CARNEIRO

Minister For Education

Mr Alberto RALHA

State Secretary for Higher Education

United Kingdom:

Mr John MacGREGOR

Secretary of State for Education and Science

Mr Robert JACKSON

Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State,
Department of Education and Science

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Commission:

Mrs Vasso PAPANDEOU

Member

**INTEGRATION OF CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES INTO ORDINARY SYSTEMS
OF EDUCATION MEETING WITHIN THE COUNCIL**

The Council and the Ministers meeting within the Council approved the following Resolution:

THE COUNCIL AND THE MINISTERS FOR EDUCATION MEETING WITHIN THE COUNCIL,

Being convinced that the education policy of all the Member States is evolving towards integration, in all appropriate cases, of children and young people with disabilities into ordinary systems of education, with the support as appropriate of the specialized sector and/or services in varying degrees according to each State;

Taking into account the importance which Member States attach to the integration into mainstream education of children and young people with disabilities, as stated in the Conclusions of the Council and the Ministers for Education Meeting within the Council of 14 May 1987 ⁽¹⁾, and recognizing the specific positive contribution which integration can make both to children and young people with disabilities as well as to other pupils and students in the various sectors of mainstream education;

Taking into account the various conclusions and resolutions up to 1988 which have led to the emergence of a comprehensive and coherent policy in favour of people with disabilities and the setting up of a Second European Community Action Programme in favour of People with Disabilities (HELIOS) ⁽²⁾;

Taking account of the various initiatives in education undertaken to date under the HELIOS Programme and independently of the HELIOS programme;

Being convinced of the desirability of seeking to integrate into the ordinary systems of education those pupils and students with disabilities for whom such placement is appropriate and being of the view that the actions taken to achieve this aim in the framework of the educational systems of the Member States should be more dynamic and, in particular, should ensure that provision appropriate to individual needs and of the highest quality is made available;

(1) OJ No C 211, 8.8.1987.

(2) OJ No L 140, 23.4.1988.

HEREBY ADOPT THIS RESOLUTION:

1. The Member States have agreed to intensify, where necessary, their efforts to integrate or encourage integration of pupils and students with disabilities, in all appropriate cases, into the ordinary education system, within the framework of their respective education policies and taking due account of their respective education systems.
2. Full integration into the system of mainstream education should be considered as a first option in all appropriate cases, and all education establishments should be in a position to respond to the needs of pupils and students with disabilities. In this context links should be developed and fostered between the family, the school, the community, leisure activities and the world of work. Educational provision of the best possible quality for pupils with disabilities in mainstream education must be considered as an important and integral part of the promotion of the integration and of the autonomy of people with disabilities.
3. The work of special schools and centres for children and young people with disabilities should be seen as complementary to the work of the ordinary education systems. It should take due account of the individual needs of the children, young people and their parents, as well as of educational choices made on the basis of full information about the available options.
4. In addition the skills and teaching methods developed in special education should be at the disposal of mainstream education for the benefit of the children and young people with special needs who are educated there.
5. To promote the integration of children and young people with disabilities into the various sectors of mainstream education and so contribute to their acquiring autonomy and independence, co-operation between all the bodies with an interest in and involvement with children and young people with disabilities should be encouraged, whether these bodies represent school education, preparation for work, leisure activities, health, (including psychological and paramedical assistance) or the social services.
6. Increasing use should be made of the educational potential of new technology (computer assisted education, word processing, development and use of educational software, special adaptations, information technology and communication with the aid of computers in the learning environment) to aid communication and the development of language skills.

31.V.90

ien/AM/ved

7. The Council and the Ministers for Education recognize that achieving improved school integration requires a particular effort in education and consider it necessary, in the context of the report called for by July 1992, in Article 8 of the Decision of 18 April 1988 on the HELIOS Programme, also to report on the measures they have taken and the progress which they have made to:

(i) facilitate the integration of children and young people with disabilities into mainstream education with particular reference to the following areas:

- the initial and in-service training of teachers in the area of special needs;
- the participation of families and social and community agencies;
- the allocation of available resources for education;
- the most comprehensive possible support for the global needs of the child and adolescent by the implementation of an individual developmental, pedagogical, social and therapeutic plan;
- the creation of new resources;
- the availability of and access to suitable assessment services;
- the introduction of curricular innovations;
- the adaptation of the existing regulations and the organization of education so as to do away with structural barriers to integration;

(ii) develop the role played by specialized institutions and their teachers in promoting the development of integrated education, for example;

- by utilizing them, where they exist, as centres and resource teams for ongoing training of teachers who need more information on disability and special educational needs;
- by recruiting from them, where appropriate, peripatetic teachers to support children with disabilities in ordinary classes;
- by increasing the co-operation between mainstream schools and specialized institutions in developing special teaching programmes;
- by developing individualized programmes and teaching methods and, where necessary, other educational strategies which meet the needs of the children and young people;

31.V.90

ien/AM/jup

- (iii) develop active co-operation between the education services and the other services such as health services, social services etc. in preparing, promoting and ensuring continuity and consistency in the integration programme;
- (iv) encourage the formulation of comprehensive and coherent policies, with regard especially to the organization of educational provision, the supply and management of resources, the monitoring and evaluation of integration schemes and the dissemination of good practice;
- (v) overcome difficulties which curricula in mainstream education may present for children and young people with disabilities by developing individualized learning programmes and by promoting the use of new technology as an additional means of stimulating communication and learning in schools.

In the report the most significant projects and plans aimed at reinforcing the policy of integration into mainstream education systems in the Member States should be summarized. This report will be presented to the Education Committee and the Council.

Member States are invited to support the Commission in the preparation of an overall report on the implementation of the HELIOS Programme and on other developments in the integration of children and young persons with disabilities into mainstream education.

8. The Commission, in co-operation with the Education Committee and the Working Party on the educational integration of children and young people with disabilities, will ensure that all the activities and programmes which it supports in the areas of Education, Training and Youth Policy and transition to adult and working life generally endeavour to take account of the special needs of people with disabilities who wish to participate in them.

PREPARATION OF A NEW CONVENTION CONCERNING THE EUROPEAN SCHOOLS

The Council and the Ministers meeting with the Council approved the following conclusions:

The Council and the Ministers for Education meeting within the Council, taking into account the views of the Board of Governors of the European Schools, request that a draft convention should be prepared, codifying the Statute of the European School and the Protocol concerning the creation of European Schools, signed in Luxembourg on 12 April 1957, the Additional Protocol signed in Luxembourg on 13 April 1962 and in Luxembourg on 15 December 1975, as well as the accession agreements concerning new Member States beyond the original six.

A working draft of this convention will be submitted by the Commission for examination by the Education Committee and the Permanent Representatives Committee (acting as representatives of the governments of the Member States), without prejudice to the regulations and practices existing in the Member States for the establishment of multilateral agreements. The Board of Governors of the European Schools is invited to submit any suggestions which experience in the operation of the Schools has shown to be necessary. The new convention should be finalized by an intergovernmental Conference at Ministerial level, to be held before the end of 1991 and opened for signature, with subsequent ratification by the Member States in conformity with their respective constitutional rules.

ENHANCED TREATMENT OF EQUALITY OF EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITY FOR GIRLS AND BOYS IN
THE INITIAL AND IN-SERVICE TRAINING OF TEACHERS

The Council and the Ministers meeting within the Council approved the following conclusions:

THE COUNCIL AND THE MINISTERS FOR EDUCATION, MEETING WITHIN THE COUNCIL,

Having regard to their resolutions concerned with the achievement of equal opportunity in education, particularly that of 3 June 1985 containing an action programme in this field; ⁽¹⁾

Taking into account that the Commission guidelines for education and training in the medium term (1989-1992) place the issue of equality among the main objectives of the next phase of European educational co-operation and that the conclusions of the Council and Ministers for Education of 6 October 1989 on co-operation and Community policy in the field of education in the run-up to 1993 ⁽²⁾ identify equality of access to high-quality education as one of the basic elements for achieving a Europe of training;

Recognizing that the extent to which educational systems effectively deal with issues of equality of opportunity is an important indicator of the quality of the systems themselves;

Reaffirming their commitment to the objective of achieving equality of opportunity for girls and boys in education,

Conclude that:

- teachers have a fundamental role to play in achieving that objective;
- the nature and quality of initial and in-service training of teachers is a major factor influencing the extent to which that objective can be achieved;
- there is a need in the initial and in-service training of teachers to improve their awareness of equal opportunity in education and their skill in promoting it.

(1) OJ No C 166, 6. 7.1985.

(2) OJ No C 277, 31.10.1989.

Agree that, within the framework of the specific educational policies and taking into account the structures of each Member State:

- the competent authorities in the Member States should review the existing provision in relation to equality of educational opportunity in teacher education courses and examine, as far as is necessary, how this question could, to a greater extent, permeate the initial and in-service training of teachers or become an integrated component of such training as appropriate;
- the development of women's studies and research on gender issues in appropriate research institutions, in particular in higher education institutions, in the Member States should be encouraged and the links between those involved in such studies and research and those responsible for the training of teachers should be strengthened;
- the training of teacher trainers within the Member States on issues related to equality of educational opportunity should be a priority area, as a means of achieving the best results within the resources available;

Note that in connection with the Action Programme on Equality a pilot project of action research on equal opportunities in the initial and in-service training of teachers was established and that the results of it will be disseminated in due course;

Call on the Commission:

- to examine ways in which it can supplement and assist actions by the Member States on issues of equality of educational opportunity in the initial and in-service training of teachers;
- to arrange exchanges of information and experience between the Member States concerning examples of good practice in this field;
- to make, in collaboration with its advisory working party on equal opportunity in education, a progress report through the Education Committee to a future meeting of the Council, based inter alia on the experience of the Member States.

31.V.90
ien/AM/mn

DISTANCE EDUCATION AND TRAINING

The Ministers held a discussion which essentially revolved around three questions contained in a Note from the Presidency:

- On the eve of the completion of the internal market and in the context of respective national educational and training policies, what should be the main objectives of the Member States in distance education and training?
- In what priority areas of distance education and training would intensified Community co-operation have a real added value?
- What practical measures of European co-operation should be promoted?

Following the exchange of views, the Council and the Ministers expressed the wish that their comments be taken into account by the Commission when preparing the communication which the Commission intended to submit to the Council at the end of the year.

EDUCATION FOR ENTERPRISE

The Council and the Ministers had an exchange of views on the basis of a Note from the Presidency.

The Ministers in particular raised the following questions:

- the possibility of incorporating the concept of "education for enterprise" in the curriculum for all second level pupils;
- whether such education should be treated as a separate subject area in curricula or on a multi-disciplinary basis;
- the possibility of Community measures which would complement and enhance initiatives by Member States in this area.

At the close of the discussion, the Council and the Ministers expressed the wish that the Commission take account of the suggestions made as regards any possible action at Community level.

31.V.90
ien/AM/mn

TEMPUS, EUROPEAN TRAINING FOUNDATION AND GERMAN UNIFICATION

Mrs PAPANDEOU informed the Ministers of the recent adoption ⁽¹⁾ of the:

- Decision establishing the TEMPUS programme;
- Regulation establishing a European Training Foundation.

Mr MÖLLEMANN, German Minister for Education and Science, reported on the education problems in East Germany in connection with the unification process.

ERASMUS

Mrs PAPANDEOU informed the Ministers of the selection problems posed by the increasing number of applications in view of the limited financial resources. The Commissioner gave notice of the submission of a proposal aimed at extending the programme to EFTA countries as from 1992.

MUTUAL RECOGNITION OF DIPLOMAS

Mrs PAPANDEOU briefed the Ministers on the implementation of Directive 89/48/EEC on a general system for the recognition of diplomas.

(1) See Press Release, General Affairs Council on 7 May 1990, 6025/90 (Presse 55)

OTHER BUSINESS

The Council and the Ministers meeting within the Council approved the following conclusions:

MEETINGS OF SENIOR OFFICIALS IN THE EDUCATION SECTOR

1. The Council and the Ministers for Education meeting within the Council re-emphasize the importance they attach to
 - improving mutual understanding of the various educational systems in the Community;
 - ensuring continuous comparison of education policies, ideas and experience in the Member States;
 - ensuring that educational reforms within Member States can be designed in full awareness of the experience of other Member States;
 - the discussion of policy issues and problems which are of common concern to Member States so as to improve the quality of educational systems in the Community.
2. They reaffirm the usefulness of regular meetings at Community level between senior officials of the Member States contributing to the formulation of education policies and the Commission.
3. The Chairman for these meetings will be provided by the country holding the office of President of the Council. The Chairman will convene meetings on his own initiative or at the request of a Member State or the Commission. He shall submit, in consultation with the next two succeeding Presidencies, a draft work programme for these meetings to the Education Committee.

31.V.90

ien/AM/mn

4. The Council and the Ministers recognize the contribution that can be made by the EURYDICE network, as an essential instrument for improving mutual understanding of the educational systems of the Community as well as providing information for the comparison of educational developments within the Community.

Furthermore, they also recognize the contribution made by the ARION Study visits scheme for education specialists and administrators, which has enabled them to improve their knowledge of other European education systems. They agree that this scheme could include themes of common interest arising out of the meetings of senior officials.

5. The Presidency will evaluate the experience gained on the basis of these conclusions and the follow-up to the meetings and will report to the Education Committee and the Council during 1992.

