

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMITTEE  
OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES

# BULLETIN

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## INTRODUCTION

February was a month of great activity for Europe and for the Economic and Social Committee. Apart from adopting 11 Opinions and 2 studies at its plenary session, the Committee was also involved in spin-off activities from the most recent European Summit Conference. The Belgian Prime Minister, Mr TINDEMANS, who was invited by the Heads of State or of Government to submit a report on European union, received the Chairman of the Committee on 3 February 1975 and referred on this occasion to the positive contribution which could be made by the representatives of economic and social groups sitting on the Committee. To this end the Committee set up a 27-member subcommittee at its February plenary session to draw up an Opinion on this matter for June.

Another event of great historical importance to the Community and to international relations with which the Committee was closely associated was the conclusion of the Lomé Convention between the EEC and 46 African, Caribbean and Pacific States. Mr CHEYSSON, the member of the Commission responsible for conducting these negotiations, came to explain the various details of the agreement to the members of the Committee on the eve of its official signing and he also replied to numerous questions from members on the industrial, commercial, agricultural and trade union aspects of the agreement.

Finally, it may be said that this month belonged to Ireland, since the Committee was closely involved with this country on two occasions. The first of these was the official visit to Ireland of Chairman CANONGE and the second occasion was a meeting in Ireland of one of the study groups of the Section for Social Questions. At the end of the month there was also a working lunch which gave all the members of the Bureau the opportunity of meeting Dr Garret FITZGERALD, the Irish Minister for Foreign Affairs and President-in-office of the Council. The main topics discussed concerned institutional questions, in particular the involvement of both sides of industry in the decision-making process.

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I

128th PLENARY SESSION

The 128th plenary session of the Economic and Social Committee of the European Communities was held in Brussels on 26 and 27 February 1975 under the chairmanship of Mr Henri CANONGE, Chairman of the Committee.

Statement of Mr CHEYSSON

During the Session, Commissioner CHEYSSON spoke on the content of the Lomé Conventions. The Lomé Convention which the Community was about to sign with the ACP States was based on a concept of development aid which went beyond financial aid and which aimed at giving the recipient countries means of production, training structures, access to markets and guaranteed facilities during the initial period.

The Lomé Convention covered :

- a) financial cooperation;
- b) trade;
- c) institutional links.

As regards financial cooperation, the agreements of the Yaoundé Convention had been retained for those countries which they already covered from them and the other countries had been put on an equal footing. A total of 3,400 million u.a. had been earmarked, equivalent to 1/5th of American aid to developing countries and almost equal to the entire aid given by the nine Member States. 3,400 million units of account were being provided from

Community funds and the European Investment Bank was putting up 400 million u.a. Most of the resources provided would take the form of gifts and loans granted under particularly attractive conditions. They would also include venture capital, intended to facilitate the acquisition of holdings in firms already established in the ACP States.

It would be up to the beneficiary countries to work out their own development plans and allocate their share of the aid. In view of the different stages of development reached by the ACP countries, it had been decided to give the best conditions to the poorest countries, thus making aid proportional to needs. It was expected that financial cooperation would make it possible to develop small- and medium-sized businesses and carry out basic development in rural areas and elsewhere.

Regarding the free access of the 46 ACP countries to the common market, the reciprocity clause in the Yaoundé Convention had been dropped and no commitment had been asked for in that area. However, the Lomé Convention clearly stipulated most-favoured-nation treatment for imports from the EEC and also for exports from the ACP countries to the EEC. The difficulties about rules of origin which had arisen during the negotiations had finally been overcome.

The Convention also set up a mechanism for stabilizing export earnings, whereby ACP countries would be entitled to compensatory transfers if their earnings from exports of certain basic products to the Community fell below a certain level.

In the specific case of sugar, the Convention laid down a guarantee for the tonnage which the ACP States undertook to deliver. A floor price corresponding to the Community prices was guaranteed to the exporting countries, which nevertheless retained the right to negotiate higher prices with buyers.

Industrial cooperation should seek to improve infrastructures and training, and promote the creation of enterprises - in particular small- and medium-sized enterprises. The funds from the European Investment Bank were to play a special role with regard to the latter aspect. It was also important to associate the trade unions and economic operators - industrialists, bankers, etc. - in Europe with the industrial cooperation programme. Machinery - including an industrial cooperation committee - would be set up to that end.

On the institutional side, the Lomé Convention - like the Yaoundé Convention - provided for a council and committee of ambassadors, and for a joint consultative assembly. Ad hoc bodies could be set up to meet specific needs, and the Economic and Social Committee could make a useful contribution.

By way of conclusion, Mr CHEYSSON said that the convention to be signed in Lomé was unique in several respects. Firstly, it opened up a vast industrial market to the developing countries - a category into which all the countries of black Africa fell. The approach chosen by the ACP for the negotiations would have political repercussions in other bodies such as the UN and set an example for the thorny problem of primary commodities.

Furthermore, the agreement had to be considered as part of a greater design, which would also encompass the attitude of the EEC towards the Mediterranean countries. Europe had shown that it was capable of an imaginative effort and of providing effective Community aid at a time when bilateral policies had reached their economic limit. Aware of the special situation of the countries of Europe, the Community had given an example by opting for cooperation rather than confrontation with the developing countries, an attitude which could be called exemplary.

1. Present Economic Situation of the Community

(Rapporteur : Mr DE BIEVRE - Belgium - Employers)

The Economic and Social Committee adopted by a large majority, with 12 votes against, and 9 abstentions its Opinion on the above-mentioned subject.

In this Opinion the Committee, using its right of initiative, first of all describes the principal economic problems - structural as well as cyclical - now facing the Community. It then proposes the short-term policies that Member States must follow, laying particular emphasis on the need to restore a higher level of employment in 1975.

The Committee draws particular attention to the very serious structural changes that have occurred in the economies of certain Member States, largely arising from the four-fold rise in oil prices, and other serious increases in raw material costs. The Committee says that some structural problems must be taken into account when formulating 1975 short-term policy measures. Short-term economic policy proposals, therefore, are divided into those dealing with new structural problems and those dealing with the more normally-occurring cyclical business trends.

Short-term economic measures to tackle the structural problems, i.e. high energy costs, must be taken, says the Committee, on a Community-level basis. It says that a fall-off in the rate of economic growth is to be expected in 1975. The Community will have to bear this effective "loss", which is due to deteriorating terms of trade; it will have to bear this cost of foreign indebtedness and the cost of readapting its production resources. However, a start must be made immediately on adapting Member States' production resources to meet current and future export demand. This applies particularly to the energy production sector since this will stimulate domestic demand.

The Committee gives much emphasis to the need to create new employment opportunities, and to the training of labour to man the jobs. The Committee recognizes re-training and redeployment of labour as a massive undertaking, requiring considerable resources. However, as well as combating the uncommonly high level of unemployment, ways of minimizing its dire social effects must be given priority.

Medium-term structural economic problems will be dealt with by the Committee in its forthcoming Opinion on the Restructuring of the Economies. Regarding general short-term policy measures, the Committee offers specific recommendations on employment and unemployment, production, investment, prices, incomes, consumption, capital market, credit policy and interest rates, as well as budgetary and fiscal policy, balance of trade and balance-of-payments, and monetary policy.



The Committee concludes by urging that the Economic and Social Committee be consulted prior to Community-level decisions being taken to deal with these conjunctural problems. It suggests also that regular meetings be held with representatives of the Council of Ministers for an exchange of views on the same subject.

2. Concept of the origin of petroleum products

(Rapporteur : Mr CLARK - United Kingdom - Employers)

The Committee adopted its Opinion by 51 votes to 25, and with 14 abstentions on the

Proposal for a Regulation (EEC) of the Council on the common definition of the concept of the origin of petroleum products.

In its Opinion the Committee approves the proposal for a Regulation, whose adoption will mean that all industrial products will henceforth be subject to common definitions of origin. By a majority vote the Committee, however, rejected Article 8 of the proposal, which stipulates that the country of origin of the crude natural product from which the refined products are derived must be indicated. The Committee considers that this would lead to various difficulties for firms. These difficulties would be incompatible with the principle of simplifying administrative procedures, a principal that ought to underlie all Community regulations in the customs field.

The Committee holds the view that the object of Article 8, i.e. the collection of information needed for the establishment of a Community energy policy, should be pursued by other measures.

3. European Cooperation Grouping (ECG)

(Rapporteur : Mr FRIEDRICHS - Germany - Workers)

The proposed legal instrument provides a flexible framework for effective cooperation between undertakings in the Community. Undertakings which are based in different Member States can agree by contract to form a grouping on an equal footing in which the number of mandatory organs is kept at a minimum and the protection of third parties is assured by rules on publicity and liability.

Cooperation groupings, for example, can act as joint buying or sales offices, provide specialized services, represent members for the purpose of individual transactions or coordinate certain technical activities of its members.

Unlike the European Company, the European Cooperation Grouping is primarily intended to be a legal vehicle for the temporary association of economic interests which, owing to its flexibility, can be swiftly adapted to economic developments. On the other hand, the European Companies will involve very much closer links, which - in general - will be irreversible.

The European Cooperation Grouping possesses legal capacity but may neither employ more than 250 people nor make a profit.

There must be adequate legal protection of interested parties and effective competition must be safeguarded if the European Cooperation Grouping, a legal structure, is to function satisfactorily. In its basically positive Opinion the proposed Council Regulation on the subject must embody certain safeguards for the various interested parties, e.g. guarantees to the members in respect of the rights of minority groups. As regards the employees, it is to be noted that the ECG will, of course, be bound by the collective wage agreements in force in the Member State in which it has its head office or establishment. And finally, stringent liability requirements should be imposed in the interests of the creditors. The Economic and Social Committee considers it very important to establish that the European Cooperation Grouping will be fully subject to the supervision provided for under the laws on competition, in order to ensure that this Community legal instrument cannot be misused to bypass national and Community anti-cartel laws.

#### 4. Multiannual research

(Rapporteur : Mr SCHLITT - Germany - Various Interests)

By an unanimous vote, with one abstention, the Economic and Social Committee approved its Opinion on the

Communication from the Commission to the Council :  
New Proposals concerning the revision of the multi-  
annual research and training programme of the JRC and  
new activities for the Petten establishment.

The Committee which already on 28 November 1974 issued a favourable Opinion on the original revisions for the multiannual programme of the Community's Joint Research Centre (JRC), now gives its qualified approval to a new version of the revisions to the programme which includes changes relating specifically to the Petten research establishment in the Netherlands.

While supporting the Commission's plans to undertake research work on high-temperature materials which would ultimately permit the use of nuclear energy in industrial processes, the Committee feels that the studies already carried out on the project should be critically re-examined before work is begun. Should it transpire that the Petten establishment is insufficiently equipped to carry out the work, the Commission should examine the possibility of reinforcing the establishment by relocating national facilities there, or alternatively, transferring the project elsewhere.

The Committee considers that the proposal to reserve 600,000 u.a. or 1% of the Joint Research Centre's annual budget for the planning of future research programmes is justified. As a general principle, however, it supports the view that the proportion of a research budget allocated to the planning of future activities should be 5%.

#### 5. Hydrocarbon exploration

(Rapporteur : Mr NOORDWAL - Netherlands - Employers)

By 36 votes to 6 with 1 abstention, the Economic and Social Committee approved its Opinion on the

Proposed Council Regulation (EEC) concerning support to common projects for hydrocarbon exploration.

The Committee, subject to a number of recommendations, endorses the Commission's proposal to offer financial support to offshore hydrocarbons' exploration projects.

It feels that the principal objective of the proposal must be to promote the search for hydrocarbons which would improve the security of the Community's energy supply. With this in mind, the Committee suggests that, under certain conditions, onshore exploration work should also be brought within the scope of the proposed regulation.

Pointing to the high cost of exploration work, the Committee requests that adequate financial provision be made in the Community's budget. It also recommends that the ceiling for Community support as a proportion of the total cost of a project should be raised from the level of 25% proposed by the Commission to 40%.

While it is desirable that projects supported by the Community should be carried out jointly by a number of undertakings from several Member States, the Committee believes this should not be made an essential condition.

In addition, the Committee makes a number of detailed suggestions on the operation of the proposed regulation. In particular, projects undertaken in offshore conditions should include adequate provisions for worker safety and environmental protection. Disputes between the Commission and undertakings on the commercial viability of a project - which determines whether the financial support is to be repaid - should be referred to an independent arbitrator whose decision would be binding. The information which undertakings are to be obliged to submit should

be split into two categories : information which is required before the project is undertaken and that which is required after its completion. Finally, the proposed Community programme for exploration should take on a flexible and revolving character, while, at the same time, being integrated in the Community's energy targets for 1975.

6. Articles in contact with foodstuffs

(Rapporteur : Mrs EVANS - United Kingdom - Various Interests)

The Committee unanimously adopted its Opinion on the

Proposal for a Council Directive on the approximation of the laws of the Member States relating to materials and articles intended to come into contact with foodstuffs.

The Committee approved the proposal for an outline directive; the proposal should however state expressly that its provisions apply solely to those parts, materials and articles which actually come into contact with foodstuffs. In order to clarify the scope of the directive the proposal should also include a definition of "foodstuffs".

Checks should also be carried out at all production and distribution stages, taking particular account of the length of time for which the food is in contact with the possible contaminant.

Moreover, in the interests of consumer protection and public health, the provisions of the directive must be sufficiently rigorous and clear. Therefore the phrase "for food use" should appear in the national language or languages of the Member State where the product is sold, and should, like indication of the manufacturer's name and address, or his registered trade mark, be compulsory.

In this connection manufacturers must be encouraged to make increasing use of materials and substances which do not endanger human health in the production of packaging and which do not present particularly acute problems in respect of waste disposal.

An information campaign mounted at all stages and particularly at the production stage should help to solve any difficulties here and to inform consumers about the correct use of various types of packaging and in particular, their compatibility with food.

Finally the Committee recommends that sampling procedures and analysis methods used to check compliance with specific directives should be harmonized at Community level, in order to preclude differences between Member States.

#### 7. Wine Market

(Rapporteur : Mr GUILLAUME - France - Various Interests)

The Economic and Social Committee has unanimously adopted its Opinion on the

Opinion of the Economic and Social Committee on the Proposal for a Regulation (EEC) of the Council amending Regulation (EEC) No. 816/70 laying down additional provisions for the common organization of the market in wine, Regulation (EEC) No. 817/70 laying down special provisions relating to quality wines produced in specified regions, Regulation (EEC) No. 865/68 on the common organization of the market in products processed from fruit and vegetables and Regulation (EEC) No. 950/68 on the Common Customs Tariff.

It approves the Commission's proposals insofar as they are intended to improve the efficiency of the intervention machinery, obtain a better balance between supply and demand, improve consumer safeguards and maintain producers' incomes.

As regards the proposed intervention system, the Committee attaches special importance to the level of withdrawal prices. These must ensure a minimum income for producers during a serious crisis by paying a fair price for preventive distillation.

The Committee approves the Commission's proposals concerning planting but feels that they must take account of inter-regional economic, social and qualitative differences.

As regards the danger of structural surpluses, the Committee particularly stresses the desirability of encouraging the marketing of new grape-based products and the need to harmonize taxes at a level close to that found in the major producing countries, in order to encourage a rise in internal EEC demand.



8. Pollution of the aquatic environment

(Rapporteur : Mr SCHLITT - Germany - Various Interests)

The Economic and Social Committee has unanimously adopted its Opinion on the

Proposal for a Council Decision on the reduction of pollution caused by certain dangerous substances discharged into the aquatic environment of the Community.

Whilst endorsing the aim of the Commission's proposal, the Committee recommends that the number of conventions dealing with the protection of the aquatic environment should be reduced and that these conventions should be brought in line with the present draft Decision.

In addition, the Committee would stress the need to assess the economic and social repercussions which inordinately rigid standards and excessively short deadlines could have on undertakings located near tracts of water that come under the new rules.

Consequently, the Committee thinks that transition periods should be laid down for the enforcement of the proposed measures and that research should be conducted into water pollution with a view to establishing a certain balance between the financial and social aspects of environmental protection as such and its economic and social aspects.

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9. Gas meters

(Rapporteur : Mr CLARK - United Kingdom - Employers)

The Committee has unanimously adopted its Opinion on the

Proposal for a Council Directive on the approximation of the laws of the Member States relating to the scales of charges for the testing of gas meters.

The aim of the proposal for a Directive is to approximate the scales of charges made by the various national authorities for **testing** gas meters with a view to EEC-type approval and EEC initial verification.

In some Member States the bodies responsible for testing operate on a self-financing basis while in others controls are regarded as a public service, with the result that scales vary considerably from one Member State to another. These differences deflect trade and distort competition. The closer alignment foreseen by the Commission will have to be introduced in stages. The present proposal is for an initial narrowing of the range of charges.

The Committee approves the proposal for a Directive, but considers that this is only a first step towards harmonizing the charges levied for testing gas meters. Differences will continue in being, since the proposal only relates to minimum charges.

10. Radio interference

(Rapporteur : Mr CLARK - United Kingdom - Employers)

The Committee has unanimously adopted its Opinion on the

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Proposal for a Directive concerning the approximation of laws of Member States in respect of radio interference caused by equipment operating at radio frequencies in the range 10 kHz to 18 GHz - high frequency industrial, scientific and medical equipment and similar apparatus.

The draft Directive aims to approximate the laws of the Member States in respect of radio interference caused by industrial, scientific and medical equipment, and to remove technical barriers to trade in equipment of this kind.

The draft Directive follows a series of proposals already submitted by the Commission to the Council concerning :

- household electrical appliances and portable tools;
- fluorescent lamps;
- radio and TV receivers.

The annex to the proposal lays down the maximum radiation values for the different frequency ranges and the measuring methods to be used in each case.

"Total" harmonization is proposed; hence the technical requirements and the testing procedure laid down in the Directive will replace those already in force in the Member States.

The Committee Opinion approves the proposal for a Directive.

11. Duty-free import of small consignments

(Rapporteur : Mr DE GRAVE - Belgium - Workers)

The Economic and Social Committee has unanimously adopted its Opinion on the

Proposal for a Council Regulation providing for exemption from duties and charges on importation in respect of goods sent by a private person from a third country in small consignments of a non-commercial nature to another private person living in the customs territory of the Community and on the

Proposal for a Council Directive on the exemption from taxes on importation of small consignments from third countries of goods of a non-commercial nature.

Under these proposals goods sent from third countries in small consignments of a non-commercial nature are to be exempted from customs duties (Proposal for a Regulation) and from taxes (Proposal for a Directive).

To qualify for exemption, the goods must be sent by a private individual in a third country to a private individual living in the Community. They must not be worth more than 25 u.a. or exceed specific quantities.

The Council has, moreover, just adopted the Directive granting tax exemption for small consignments dispatched within the EEC, provided their value does not exceed 40 u.a.

The Committee endorses the Commission's proposals, though it thinks that the maximum authorized quantities are in many cases too small to be given as presents.

12. Study on pollution and nuisances originating from energy production

(Rapporteur : Mr GAILLEY - United Kingdom - Employers)

The Committee has unanimously adopted its study on the

Preliminary Report on problems of pollution and nuisances originating from energy production (with special emphasis on SO<sub>2</sub>, particulate matter, NO<sub>x</sub>, and thermal discharges).

The Committee considers that, in the fight against environmental pollution, forecasts and estimates of future consumption of the various types of fuel and of their use in various types of energy production, and estimates of the growth rate in fuel consumption are of vital importance for a serious approach to the problems caused by sulphur dioxide, nitrous oxides and thermal discharges.

Supplies of conventional fuels are becoming increasingly expensive and more difficult to obtain. A thorough study should therefore be made of other energy sources, such as nuclear energy, solar energy, wind energy and tidal power, with a view to meeting the Community's growing energy requirements.

In this context the Committee recommends the establishment of a list of priority measures to be taken at Community level. These should include harmonization of evaluation methods, emission values and the criteria used for defining quality standards, as well as Community guidelines in respect of types of energy production.

13. Study on the prevention of occupational accidents  
(Rapporteur : Mr EBOLI - Italy - Various Interests)

The Economic and Social Committee has unanimously adopted its study on the

Prevention of occupational accidents and the relevant laws of the Community.

The Committee points out that the gap between technical and technological progress on the one hand and progress in accident prevention on the other seems to be accompanied by a worsening of safety. Hence the need for a detailed analysis of the causes of accidents and of measures to diminish frequency rates.

The Committee then considers occupational accident statistics, which must be reliable and comparable. At present, comparisons between countries are practically impossible. The fundamental task is not just to evaluate hazards on a basis of past accidents, but also and above all to assess potential hazards by direct company-level studies.

The Committee reviews Member State legislation and accident prevention systems. One chapter analyzes legislation on and the organization of accident prevention.

The last two sections of the study include a number of suggestions as to how the Community could draw up mandatory minimum provisions. Community coordination is proposed for Member State applied research into accident prevention. This would avoid duplication and mutual exchanges of studies. The Committee proposes that the most modern data collection, storage and processing technology should be used.

The Committee urges the Commission and the Council to accept and follow up the proposals made in the study. It asks that draft Regulations and draft Directives be submitted as soon as possible.

## II

### EXTERNAL RELATIONS

#### 1. Meeting with Mr TINDEMANS

Mr CANONGE, Chairman of the Economic and Social Committee, accompanied by Mr AMEYE, Vice-Chairman, met Mr TINDEMANS on 3 February 1975, in connection with the mission entrusted to the Prime Minister of Belgium by the Paris Summit Conference.

The discussion focussed on how the Economic and Social Committee could help Mr TINDEMANS to succeed in this mission, which was important to the future of Europe. The Prime Minister showed particular interest in the Committee's views on the institutional machinery and the form which European Union might take.

#### 2. Chairman CANONGE in Ireland

The President of the Economic and Social Committee of the European Communities, Mr Henri CANONGE, paid an official visit to Ireland last week. Mr CANONGE (France) was received in Dublin on 6 and 7 February 1975 by the Prime Minister, Mr Liam COSGRAVE, the Minister for Foreign Affairs, Dr Garret FITZGERALD, and by Mr Michael O'LEARY, Minister of Labour, Mr Thomas O'DONNELL, Minister for the Gaeltacht and Mr Frank CLUSKEY, Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Social Welfare.

Mr CANONGE was accompanied by the Committee's two Vice-Presidents, Mr Louis AMEYE (Belgium) and Mr John CARROLL (Ireland) and the Secretary-General, Mr Delfo DELFINI.



The main purpose of the visit was to take up official contact with the Irish Government which has the chair at all Council meetings of the European Community until July this year.

Detailed discussions were held with the Economic and Social Ministries on the Social Action Programme of the European Community, its policy on unemployment, regional policy, the status of women and its pilot study on poverty.

Mr CANONGE also had consultations with the Irish Congress of Trade Unions, the Confederation of Irish Industries and the Federated Union of Employers. On Friday, 7 February he met the Irish Farmers' Association, Muintir na Tire (Development Board) and the Irish Creamery Milk Suppliers' Association. In addition there was a meeting with the Secretariat of the National Economic and Social Council.

### 3. Study Group on the "Situation of Women" in Ireland

Through implementation of the right of initiative, the Economic and Social Committee has this year also commenced work on a report and Opinion on the Economic and Social Situation of the Woman in the European Community. There are 130 million women in the Community and they make up over one-third of the Community's labour force and continue to be discriminated against whether as working woman, student, mother or housewife. Ireland was then chosen as the limited geographic framework in which the Study Group on the Situation of Women could work.

The Study Group on the Situation of Women, accompanied by the experts and Miss NONON, Representative of the EC Commission, and members of the Secretariat of the Economic and Social Committee, held their hearings with various representative of Irish women's organizations on 18 February 1975 at Dublin Castle, Dublin, and on 19 February 1975 in the Shannon Industrial Development area. The meetings were chaired by Miss MACKIE.

Mr Michael O'LEARY, Irish Minister of Labour, gave the opening speech at the first working meeting of the Study Group. He stressed the need for a Council Directive to outlaw all discrimination with regard to access to employment, vocation training and promotion.

The Study Group then had talks with representatives of the following women's organizations :

- Irish Women's Representative Committee
- Council for the Status of Women
- ICTU Women's Advisory Committee (Irish Confederation of Trades Unions)
- The National Association of Widows in Ireland and Association of Widows of Civil Servants
- Irish Women's Aid
- "Cherish" (Association of Unmarried Parents)
- The Women's Advisory Council of the Labour Party
- AIM (in order to raise the quality of life for Irish women, particularly within the legal system).

On 19 February 1975, the Study Group visited the Shannon SFADCO offices at the Shannon Free Airport and held open and frank discussions in the Shannon Community Centre with Irish women from all walks of life as well as with the Management of the Shannon Industrial Area. The Study Group also visited a comprehensive

co-ed school in Shannon, the textile factory BUTTE and the De Beers Diamond Company. During these visits, the Group engaged in discussions, working conditions, promotion possibilities, rate of salaries, job re-evaluation procedures and mental attitudes of men and women at work.

#### 4. Official Luncheon with Dr FITZGERALD

At a lunch given by the Bureau of the Committee in honour of Dr Garret FITZGERALD, Irish Minister for Foreign Affairs and President-in-office of the Council, Mr Henri CANONGE, Chairman of the Committee, discussed present-day problems in the construction of Europe.

Mr CANONGE stated that the first task was to implement the programmes which had already been adopted under the Treaty of Rome. The Regional Fund and the Social Fund had to be fully utilized, the European Parliament had to be given its proper role and the Commission had to be allowed to get on with its job as mainspring of the Community and custodian of the Treaty. If the President of the Council's intention was to mobilize public opinion, the social partners would have to be involved in the decision-making process. Mr CANONGE stated that the Committee was ready to assist here.

Dr FITZGERALD stated that at this crucial, policy-formulation stage, it was essential to establish closer links between the Council and the economic interests and social groups represented on the Committee. Dr FITZGERALD's view was that the Community should primarily address itself to the problem of employment.

The current social action programme had certain shortcomings. The next programme should take account of the needs of the unemployed, widows, pensioners and other vulnerable groups. Dr FITZGERALD trusted that a start could be made in this direction during Ireland's tenure of the presidency.

III

FUTURE WORK PROGRAMME

129th plenary session - April 1975

- 30,000 head of cattle
- Financing of nuclear power stations
- European Monetary Cooperation Fund
- Additional Opinion on the economic situation
- Data-processing policy
- Alcoholometers
- Number plates
- Towing hooks
- Headlights
- Side lights, rear lights and stop lights
- Protection of workers (mergers)
- Measures to combat poverty
- Education programme
- List of pollutants
- Monitoring of atmospheric pollution
- Protection of watercourses against pollution
- Water pollution (wood pulp mills)

130th plenary session - May 1975

- Veterinary Committee
- Common transport policy
- Radioactive waste
- Research and development programme (energy)
- Nuclear safety
- New energy policy strategy

- Restructuring of the economies
- Credit institutions
- Roll-over protection structures (tractors)
- Safety belts
- Head restraints
- Type-approval of motor cycles
- Medical equipment
- Constructional plant and equipment
- Gas appliances
- Situation of women
- Equality of treatment (men and women workers)
- Social Action Programme
- Bathing water
- PCB's
- Ceramic articles
- Pesticides

IV

PERSONAL NEWS

1. Death of Alfred MISSLIN

Alfred MISSLIN, Secretary of the European Trade Union Confederation and for the past seven years political secretary of the Economic and Social Committee's Workers Group, died suddenly on 27 February 1975 at the age of 41. The staff of the Secretariat, and particularly the editors of the Bulletin, who all knew well this dedicated worker who gave his life to the defence and promotion of his ideal, are all deeply shocked at this blow to the European trade union movement.

2. New members

Mr Jean ROUZIER, National Secretary of the French General Confederation of Labour - Force ouvrière (CGT-FO) was appointed a member of the Committee on 17 February 1975 as a replacement for Mr VENTEJOL, who had resigned from the Workers Group.

Mr Gabriel VENTEJOL was appointed a member of the Various Interests Group in his new capacity as Chairman of the French Economic and Social Council. He replaces Mr SOLAL-CELIGNY, who died on 18 November 1974.

BIBLIOGRAPHICAL SECTION

Publications obtainable from the Economic and Social Committee

- |   |      |
|---|------|
| 1. Bulletin (monthly publication)   | Free |
| 2. The Economic and Social Committee<br>A leaflet (January 1975)  | Free |
| 3. The Economic and Social Committee (April 1975)<br>(A descriptive brochure) 16 p.                                 | Free |
| 4. Progress Report on the Common Agricultural<br>Policy (February 1975) (Study) 52 p.                               | Free |
| 5. The Situation of Small- and Medium-sized<br>Undertakings in the European Community<br>(March 1975) (Study) 69 p. | Free |
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