

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMITTEE
OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES

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156th PLENARY SESSION

The Economic and Social Committee of the European Communities held its 156th Plenary Session in Brussels on 1 and 2 March 1978. The Committee's Chairman, Mr Basil de FERRANTI, presided.

Adoption of Opinions

1. FARM PRICES

Commission Proposal on the Fixing of Prices for Certain Agricultural Products and on Certain Related Measures

Gist of the Commission's Proposals

The Commission is proposing a 2% average increase in EEC farm prices for the 1978/79 farm year. As a result of the "agromonetary" measures, the increases in national currencies will diverge from this figure. Thus, in Germany the average increase will be around 0.86%, in the Benelux countries it will be 1.8%, in France 3.9%, in Italy 4%, in the United Kingdom 5.25% and in Ireland 2.3%. Pending verification of these calculations, all the figures are to be treated with some reservation.

Gist of the Committee's Opinion

The Economic and Social Committee adopted its Opinion by 48 votes in favour, 42 votes against, and 6 abstentions.

After noting that the Commission is proposing an average increase in farm prices of only 2%, the Committee has come out in favour of an increase of 4.2%.

The Committee believes that if the calculation system employed in previous years - the "objective method" - were used it would indicate an increase of 4.7%.

The price changes proposed by the Commission this year differ significantly from those which the "objective method" indicate to be necessary and the Committee thinks that this action is unjustified. The Committee has repeatedly endorsed the "objective method", and considers that this method, despite its shortcomings, is a useful instrument for determining what price changes are needed.

The Committee goes on to make some comments about a number of problemes connected with farm prices - agro-monetary measures, surpluses and production targets, employment and incomes in agriculture, and food price variations within the Community.

The Economic and Social Committee based its Opinion on material prepared by its Section for Agriculture under the chairmanship of Mr EMO CAPODILISTA - Italy - Various Interests. The Rapporteur was Mr SCHNIEDERS - Germany - Employers.

2. RESTITUTION PAYMENTS ON RICE AND CEREALS

Proposal for a Council Regulation (EEC) Amending Regulation (EEC) No. 2727/75 and No; 1418/76 as regards the Export Refunds for Cereals and Rice Exported in the form of Goods not Covered by Annex II to the Treaty

Gist of the Proposal

Article 16 of Council Regulation (EEC) No. 2727/75 and Article 17 of Council Regulation (EEC) No. 1418/76 permit the granting of refunds for basic products (cereals and rice) exported in the form of goods listed in the respective Annexes B to these Regulations.

The purpose of this draft Regulation is to extend the list of goods already given in the two annexes by adding those products shown in Articles 1 and 2. The lack of export refunds for Community products exported in the form of the goods listed in the draft has led important processing industries - for example producers of starch based enzymes and penicillins - to make increasing use of imported materials under t.p.a. arrangements, to the detriment of indigenous crops.

Gist of the Opinion

The Economic and Social Committee adopted its Opinion unanimously and approves the Commission's proposal.

The Economic and Social Committee based its Opinion on materail prepared by its Section for Agriculture under the chairmanship of Mr EMO CAPODILISTA - Italy - Various Interests. The Rapporteur was Mr DE TAVERNIER - Belgium - Various Interests.

3. MARKET IN RICE AND CEREAL

Proposal for a Council Regulation (EEC) Amending Regulation (EEC) No. 2727/75 on the Common Organization of the Market in Cereals, and the

Proposal for a Council Regulation (EEC) Amending Regulation (EEC) No. 1418/76 on the Common Organization of the Market in Rice

Gist of the Proposal

The purpose of these two drafts is to reintroduce production refunds for maize groats and broken rice used for brewing and for quellmehl used in baking.

These refunds were suppressed for groats in August 1975 and for quellmehl in August 1974. The European Court of Justice has recently ruled that such suppression was contrary to the principles of equality and has charged the appropriate Institutions to take the necessary steps to remedy the situation.

The proposals have been drawn up with the Court's ruling in mind.

Opinion of the Committee

The Economic and Social Committee adopted its Opinion unanimously and approves the Commission's proposal.

The Economic and Social Committee based its Opinion on **material** prepared by its Section for Agriculture under the chairmanship of Mr EMO CAPODILISTA - Italy - Various Interests. The Rapporteur was Mr DE TAVERNIER - Belgium - Various Interests.

4. SHUTTLE SERVICES (Amendment)

Proposal for a Council Regulation (EEC) amending Regulation (EEC) No. 516/72 on the Introduction of Common Rules for Shuttle Services by Coach and Bus between Member States

Gist of the Commission's Proposal

Simplification of paperwork (abolition of the requirement to supply copies of requests for permission to introduce shuttle services to Member States crossed in transit).

Opinion of the Committee

The Economic and Social Committee adopted its Opinion unanimously and approves the proposal. Article 13(2) should be amended, however, so that checks to ensure the non-abuse of the Regulation can be carried out.

The Economic and Social Committee based its Opinion on material prepared by its Section for Transport and Communications under the chairmanship of Mr HOFFMANN - Germany - Workers. The Rapporteur was Mr RENAUD - France - Employers.

5. COACH AND BUS SERVICES

Proposal for a Council Regulation (EEC) amending Regulation (EEC) No. 517/72 on the Introduction of Common Rules for Regular and Special Regular Services by Coach and Bus between Member States

Gist of the Commission's Proposal

It is proposed to make three amendments to Regulation (EEC) No. 517/72.

- The first two seek to simplify paperwork (it will no longer be necessary to forward certain information to the Commission (Article 12) and the annual report on the implementation of the Regulation is to be replaced by a triennial report);
- The third more radical amendment seeks to introduce provisional authorizations (maximum length 6 months) when the introduction of a special regular service is dictated by circumstances or by force majeure, or when a decision on an application for the renewal of an authorization or for a change in service cannot be taken before the authorization expires.

Gist of the Committee's Opinion

The Economic and Social Committee adopted its Opinion unanimously.

The Committee approves the proposal, which deals primarily with the simplification of the procedures set out in Regulation No. 517/72 on regular and special regular services. Both formal and to a certain extent - substantive changes are to be made.

The Economic and Social Committee based its Opinion on material prepared by its Section for Transport and Communications under the chairmanship of Mr HOFFMANN - Germany - Workers. The Rapporteur was Mr RENAUD - France - Employers.

6. PUBLIC WORKS CONTRACTS

Proposal for a Council Directive amending the Directive of 26 July 1971 concerning the Coordination of Procedures for the Award of Public Works Contracts

Gist of the Commission's Proposal

The Commission proposes that the European unit of account should be applied to the Council Directive of 26 July 1971 on Public Works Contracts, which stipulates that only public works contracts worth more than 1 million u.a. are to be coordinated. However, this unit of account is worked out as a function of the declared parity of national currencies on given dates and has thus been made meaningless by monetary upheavals in recent years. The utilization of the new EUA will mean the equal treatment of all Member States, which is not the case at the moment.

Gist of the Opinion

The Economic and Social Committee adopted its Opinion unanimously.

It would have been grateful if, when presenting this proposal, the Commission had taken stock of the extent to which the 1971 Directive has been applied by the Member States. It wonders whether it would not have been possible to improve on the level of compliance. Now that the Directive has been incorporated into the law of all the Member States, the Committee calls upon the Commission to ensure that the Directive is in fact applied properly in each Member State.

.../...

The Economic and Social Committee based its Opinion on material prepared by its Section for Industry, Commerce, Crafts and Services under the chairmanship of Mr HEMMER - Luxembourg - Employers. The Rapporteur was Mr DE GRAVE - Belgium - Workers.

7. FLUOROCARBONS

Proposal for a Council Recommendation on the Fluorocarbons in the Environment

Gist of the Proposal for Recommendation

Although it is not yet possible to make a definitive assessment of the impact of fluorocarbons on public health and the environment, the Commission considers that the associated problems must be given some serious thought within the context of the Community's environmental policy and the Community's continuing study of the impact of chemicals on the environment. This is made all the more necessary by the fact that roughly 40% of the worldwide production of chlorofluoromethanes is used in Europe and numerous jobs are linked either directly or indirectly to the production or use of fluorocarbons in the Member States.

The Commission therefore proposes firstly that research conducted at Community level into the effects of fluorocarbons on man and the environment should be intensified and measures should be taken to encourage the industrial users of these substances to step up research into substitute products; and secondly, that a further increase in the production facilities for these chemicals should be halted and both producers and users should be encouraged to prevent leakage of chlorofluoromethanes to the environment.

In addition, the Commission is closely studying the social and economic implications of regulations for fluorocarbons and aerosols along the lines of the regulations enacted in the Netherlands.

Gist of the Opinion

The Economic and Social Committee adopted its Opinion by 35 votes in favour, 17 against, and 3 abstentions.

It supports the steps taken by the Commission in the area of fluorocarbons with the aim of continuing and intensifying Community-level cooperation on research planning and the dissemination of research findings. It suggests that work be pursued within the Community under a programme of concerted action.

The Committee also thinks it right that measures should be adopted now, i.e. before the current investigations have been completed, to induce producers of the chlorofluoromethanes F-11 and F-12 to step up research into alternative products and to endeavour to ensure, as a precautionary measure, that there is no further expansion of F-11 and F-12 production capacity in the Community.

The Economic and Social Committee based its Opinion on material prepared by its Section for Protection of the Environment, Public Health and Consumer Affairs under the chairmanship of Mr ROSEINGRAVE - Ireland - Various Interests. The Rapporteur was Mr SCHLITT - Germany - Various Interests.

8. STARCH

Report on Starch Products in the Community and the Starch
Production Refund

Gist of the Commission document

In its Report the Commission first makes a thorough analysis of the trends in the starch industry. It concludes that :

- production refunds should be retained for starch manufactured for industrial and technical applications (glues, resins, etc.) as these products have to compete with synthetic products;
- production refunds should be phased out for starch products used in food. The refunds should be phased out in four annual stages, starting in the autumn of 1978, involving a reduction of 25%, 50%, 75% and finally 100% of the refund granted in 1977/78. Production refunds would be discontinued because this industry does not have to compete with other industries covered by the Common Agricultural Policy.

The Commission's conclusions will probably serve as the basis for its proposed amendments to the Regulations in this field.

Production refunds for starch products have been granted on an optional basis since 1962 and on an obligatory basis since 1967, with the aim of enabling the industries to secure supplies of raw

materials (particularly maize and wheat) at low prices so that they could compete with synthetic petrochemical products. Since 1975, however, the Council, acting on a proposal from the Commission, has been reducing these refunds. The first reduction came in August 1975, when the refunds in respect of maize were cut from 17.75 u.a. per ton to 10 u.a./ton, those in respect of wheat from 33 to 16.3 u.a./ton. and those in respect of broken rice from 18.27 to 12.30 u.a./ton. These reductions were made for two reasons. Firstly, the refunds were a considerable drain on the EAGGF (accounting for more than 1,000 million u.a. between 1962 and 1977). Secondly, there were no longer any grounds to fear competition from non-member countries as world prices were considerably higher than Community prices. In practice, the refunds were serving to subsidize imports of American maize.

Following the turnabout in world prices and the drop in production in this important industry, which provides jobs for 30,000 people in the Community, the Council increased the refunds in 1976 as follows : from 10 to 14 u.a./ton for maize, from 16.3 to 20 u.a./ton for wheat and from 12.3 to 17.2 u.a./ton for broken rice. The Commission proposes that the maximum price for a sufficient quantity of potatoes to produce one ton of starch be fixed at 178 u.a./ton.

Gist of the Opinion

The Economic and Social Committee adopted its Opinion with no votes against and 6 abstentions.

It applauds the Commission's initiative in submitting a report on starch products in the Community.

The Commission wishes to change over to selective support, keeping production refunds for industrial starch and phasing out those on starch used in food and animal feed.

As industry is a more important outlet to potato starch than for cereal starch, a switch to selective support on the above lines would thus probably hit the latter harder than the former though the two products could be made largely interchangeable.

The Committee considers that in practice it would be difficult if not impossible to operate such selective support and therefore disagrees with the Commission.

The Economic and Social Committee based its Opinion on material prepared by its Section for Agriculture under the chairmanship of Mr EMO CAPODILISTA - Italy - Various Interests. The Rapporteur was Mr MASPRONE - Italy - Employers.

9. HOPS

Commission Report to the Council on the Situation regarding the Production and Marketing of Hops : 1977 Harvest and the

Proposal for a Council Regulation (EEC) laying down, in respect of Hops, the amount of the aid to Producers for the 1977 Harvest

Gist of the Commission's Proposal

Given the difficulties encountered on the market in 1977, which was characterized by a reduction in prices and producers' incomes, the Commission drafted this report, in accordance with the wishes expressed by the Council, on the basis of provisional information communicated by the Member States, dealing with the varieties by groups in accordance with the amendments made to the basic Regulation on hops by Council Regulation (EEC) No. 1170/77 of 17 May 1977.

Gist of the Opinion

The Economic and Social Committee unanimously adopted its Opinion and approved the Commission's proposal.

The Economic and Social Committee based its Opinion on material prepared by its Section for Agriculture under the chairmanship of Mr EMO CAPODILISTA - Italy - Various Interests. The Rapporteur was Mr BIERNAERT - Belgium - Employers.

10. ENERGY OBJECTIVES 1985 (2nd REPORT)

Second Report on the Achievement of Community Energy Policy Objectives for 1985

Gist of the Communication

The report reviews national programmes in the light of the Community's energy policy objectives, set by the Council in its Resolution of 17 December 1974.

	<u>Community Objectives (17.12.1974)</u>	<u>National Programmes (mid-1977)</u>
Solid fuels	17	17
Oil	49	52-51
Natural gas	18	17-18
Hydro and geothermal	3	3
Nuclear	<u>13</u>	<u>11</u>
TOTAL	<u>100</u>	<u>100</u>

The Commission's conclusions - which imply certain changes in Member States' programmes - are as follows :

- oil imports should not exceed 500 m tons in 1985;
- the share of oil in gross energy consumption should be significantly reduced;
- the Community's dependence on imported energy should be limited to 50%;
- the energy conservation effort must be maintained and intensified;
- the restrictions on the use of heavy fuel oil in power stations must be tightened;
- nuclear programmes must move ahead without further delays;
- more coal should be burned in power stations;
- the Community should produce a minimum of 140 Mtoe of oil and 160 Mtoe of natural gas in 1985;
- intra-Community energy trade should be increased;
- efforts should be made to reach the desired level of natural gas imports;
- efforts to improve the Community's relations with its energy suppliers must be continued;

- more attention should be given to longer-term energy prospects beyond 1985.

The Council is asked to endorse the main conclusions in the form of a Resolution.

Gist of the Opinion

The Economic and Social Committee adopted its Opinion by 48 votes in favour, 6 against, and 3 abstentions.

The Committee approves this line of approach, without commenting on the figures given.

It recommends that, in future reports, the Commission should concentrate less on fluctuating medium-term forecasts and more on an up-to-date analysis of energy policy, concentrating on the extent to which the Member States have followed the guideline set by the Community.

The Committee goes on to comment on several of the main points made by the Commission in the different sectors.

Rational energy use : is regarded as an essential part of any solution. The different initial aspects should be reviewed so as to obtain a policy with the maximum useful effect.

Nuclear energy : An expansion of the nuclear programme, designed to provide part of the energy needed to attain the economic and social objectives of the Member States, must lead to production at reasonable cost and must not endanger the health of workers or the public.

.../...

Coal : The Community needs both indigenous and imported coal. The exact mix will be determined by the price the Community is prepared to pay to reduce imports. The Community should clearly state this price.

Domestic energy production : The Committee feels that recent forecasts for coal, oil and gas betray uncertainty. R & D on new energy sources should be stepped up.

Intra-Community trade : in energy presupposes appropriate legal and economic conditions. The promotion and protection of investments are particularly important. The Section would welcome the opportunity of commenting on the Commission's outline proposals in this field (loans, loan-guarantees, long-term contracts, minimum safeguard price).

The Economic and Social Committee based its Opinion on material prepared by its Section for Energy and Nuclear Questions under the chairmanship of Mr MILLER - United Kingdom - Employers. The Rapporteur was Mr BONOMI - Italy - Employers.

11. HOME STUDY COURSES

Proposal for a Directive on the Protection of Participants in Home Study Courses

Gist of the Proposal for a Directive

The proposal is made pursuant to the Preliminary Programme of the European Economic Community for a Consumer Protection and Information Policy. Its aim is to provide adequate protection for persons wishing to take correspondence and audio-visual training courses.

It also seeks to protect the legal and financial interests of such people by banning doorstep selling of home study courses and requiring certain specific information to be incorporated in contracts.

As national laws governing home study courses vary, the proposal for a Directive seeks to approximate the relevant areas of law in order to ensure participants in home study courses in the individual Member States the same degree of protection be they nationals or foreigners of the country concerned.

Gist of the Opinion

The Economic and Social Committee adopted its Opinion unanimously by 38 votes in favour and 1 against.

It approves the proposal in view of the fact that the number of students following home study courses is likely to increase in many countries. It considers that there is an important intra-Community trade in these courses.

The Committee acknowledges that, because of constitutional provisions on education in some Member States (notably the Netherlands), it is impossible to apply the principle that course organizers have to be accredited. It nevertheless considers that this omission could jeopardize the interests of students and reputable course organizers alike.

The Committee holds the view that the accreditation body should have a more important role than that assigned to it in the proposal : it should also inspect course curricula and the teaching

qualifications of the persons providing the tuition. The accreditation body could also be responsible for mediation in disputes between students and course organizers and for laying down the conditions under which students could terminate contracts.

The Economic and Social Committee based its Opinion on material prepared by its Section for Protection of the Environment, Public Health and Consumer Affairs under the chairmanship of Mr ROSENGRAVE - Ireland - Various Interests. The Rapporteur was Miss ROBERTS - United Kingdom - Various Interests.

12. EXPORT CREDIT ASSURANCE

Proposal for a Council Directive relating to common principles to be adopted in export credit insurance systems for medium and long-term transactions with public and private buyers

Gist of the Commission's proposal

Export credit plays a key role in international trade especially for capital goods, machinery and equipment, construction projects, etc. For exports of this type, not only does the duration of the export credit traditionally granted exceed two years, but international competition is also particularly keen and the intervention of the public authorities is likely to have a direct effect on the competitiveness of exporters.

The proposed directive has two objectives : (a) to eliminate differences between the systems of credit insurance and export credit guarantees in force in the Member States which are liable to distort competition between Community undertakings in markets in third countries, and (b) to facilitate cooperations between firms in different Member States in ~~competing~~ for external markets.

The proposal does not deal with the financial conditions on which export credits are granted, namely the rates of interest and the duration of the credits, since this question is dealt with in a wider context.

Since several previous Directives laying down standards insurance policies were found not to be working, the Commission has changed its approach and is now merely proposing common principles as a framework for policies.

Gist of the Opinion

The Economic and Social Committee unanimously adopted its Opinion.

The Committee welcomes the Commission's move towards harmonization of export credit insurance within the Community. At the same time, it feels that the present proposals should only be regarded as a step towards harmonization, which will provide the most favourable conditions for Community exports. Above all, it is essential that the conditions applicable to Community exporters are at least as favourable as those which apply to the exporters of the principle third countries.

The Committee suggests that representatives of the professional areas involved, in particular the Insured, should also sit on the proposed advisory committee for export credit insurance to which will be entrusted the task of the uniform application of the Directive.

The Committee draws attention to the apparent disequilibrium between the relative obligations of the Insurer and the Insured, and asks that this disequilibrium be corrected.

The Committee finally suggests that before the Council adopts this draft Directive, it notes the developments in the practice of credit insurance which have occurred since the Directive was drafted. For instance, the 95% maximum mentioned in Annex II is now out of line with some methods used, as is the minimum four months for payment of the loss.

The Opinion is based on a draft prepared by the Section for Industry, Commerce, Crafts and Services (Chairman Mr HEMMER - Luxembourg - Employers) under the Rapporteurship of Mr MILLER - United Kingdom - Employers.

II

EXTERNAL RELATIONS

Economic and Social Committee Delegation in Africa

A delegation from the European Communities' Economic and Social Committee has just made a fact-finding trip to Mali and Togo. The trip lasted from the 17 to 23 February. The delegation was headed by Mr Einar CARSTENS, Chairman of the Committee's Section for

External Relations, and included representatives of the various economic and social interest groups sitting on the Committee. The visit was part of the Committee's preparatory work for an Opinion on the implementation of the Lomé Convention and on follow-ups to it. The delegation met high-ranking government personalities and representatives of economic and social interest groups in the two countries.

The members of the Committee also visited a number of industrial, agricultural and port projects receiving financial and technical assistance from the Community. On February 22 they were presented by Mr Koffi DJONDON, Chairman of the Togo Economic and Social Council, to the President of the Republic of Togo, H.E. General Gnassingbe EYADEMA.

The delegation spent 23-28 February in Ghana and Cameroon. In Accra, the delegation was met by Dr GARDINER, Commissioner for Economic Planning, and had talks with leading figures from the trade union confederation, the national chamber of trade, the employers' association, the association of consumer cooperatives and the association of Ghanaian industrialists. Discussion centred around the economic and social situation in Ghana and the implementation of the various sections of the Convention of Lomé. Later, the delegation visited the Akosombo dam. During their stay in Accra, members of the ESC delegation met Mr J. Dennis AKUMU, the Secretary-General of OUSA (Organisation de l'Unité Syndicale Africaine).

As soon as it arrived in Douala, the ESC delegation met representatives of the chamber of trade and visited the SOCAPALM palm plantations. In Yaoundé, the delegation took part in searching

discussions with a delegation from the Cameroon Economic and Social Council, presided by Mr F. SABAI LECCO, the Prime Minister, Mr P. BIYA, the Minister for Labour and Social Security, Mr P. DONSTOP, the Minister for Social Affairs, Mrs D. TSANGA, and the Deputy Minister for the National Plan and Economic Affairs, Mr R. NAAH. In addition, a working meeting was held at the Yaoundé Chamber of Agriculture.

The contacts which the Committee's delegation had with the authorities and representatives of socio-economic circles in the four countries visited (Mali, Togo, Ghana and Cameroon) gave it a useful insight into the impact which EEC/ACP cooperation has had on their economic and social development and into the changes and suggestions which they would like to see put into effect during the forthcoming negotiations for a new Convention of Lomé.

Chairman of the ESC on an official visit to Madrid

On 6 and 7 March 1978 the Chairman of the Economic and Social Committee paid an official visit to Madrid. He was accompanied by Mr BERNIS, Vice-Chairman, and Mr SCALIA representing the Workers' Group. The delegation had talks with Spanish government officials and representatives of Spanish employers' associations, trade unions and other interest groups.

Meetings of the Committee away from Brussels

The Study Group on Hot Water Meters (Section for Industry, Commerce, Crafts and Services) held a meeting in Rheims, France, on 21 February 1978.

On 22 February 1978 the Study Group on the Present Economic Situation in the Community held a meeting in Copenhagen.



ESC delegation visiting the port of Lomé, Togo.

On 5 and 7 March a working party paid a visit to Donegal in the Republic of Ireland and Londonderry in Northern Ireland in order to study the question of cross-border infrastructure aid.

III

NEW REQUESTS FOR OPINIONS

In February the Council requested the Committee to deliver Opinions on :

Proposal for a Council Regulation concerning Accession to the United Nations Convention on a Code of Conduct for Liner Conferences

Proposal for a Council Decision empowering the Commission to issue loans for the purpose of promoting investment within the Community

Proposal for a Council Directive on the protection of groundwater against pollution caused by certain dangerous substances

Proposal for a Council Decision adopting a European Economic Community concerted action in the field of analysis of organic micropollutants in water

Proposal for a Council Decision adopting a European Economic Community concerted action in the field of physico-chemical behaviour of atmospheric pollutants

Proposal for a Council Regulation establishing a European Joint Trade Wine Organization

Proposal for a Council Regulation amending Regulation (EEC) No. 316/70 laying down additional provisions for the common organization of the market in wine.

Decision required

Proposal for a Council Decision concerning the Community's Acceptance of Resolution No. 212 (revised) of the Economic Commission for Europe and relating to the Facilitation of Health and Quality Inspection in the International Carriage of Goods by Rail as regards traffic between the Community and third Countries signatories to the Resolution.

IV

PROVISIONAL PROGRAMME OF FUTURE WORK

Plenary Session of 29 and 30 March 1978

Opinions requested by Institutions

- Mediterranean agriculture
- Common organization of the market in ethyl alcohol
- Wine acreage surveys
- Agricultural structures
- Organization of the Milk Sector
- Normalization of Railway Accounts
- Statistical returns in respect of carriage of goods by road
- Navigability Licences
- Reprocessing of Nuclear Fuels
- Fast-Breeders
- Radio-Active Wastes
- Minimum Oil Stocks
- Hot-Water Metres
- Prepackaged liquids

Own-Initiative Opinions

- Customs Union
- Education and Vocational Training (Young People)

Study

- Tax harmonization

Plenary Session of April 1978

Opinions requested by Institutions

- Fish : Conservation, control, aid measures
- VAT on Objets d'art
- Repayment of VAT

Own-Initiative Opinion

- Part-time work

Study

- Asbestos

Plenary Session of May 1978

Opinions requested by Institutions

- Economic situation in the Community
- Social situation
- Social security for self-employed
- Health and safety at work
- Shipbuilding
- Electrical equipment
- Machine tools

Own-Initiative Opinions

- Forestry
- Consumption of Medicines
- International Monetary Disarray

Study

- Relations between the Community and Greece

Subsequent Plenary Sessions

Opinions requested by Institutions

- Action in the Field of Culture
- Dangerous substances
- Fight against pollution

Own-Initiative Opinions

- Trans-Frontier Workers
- Lomé
- Flags of Convenience

Studies

- Relations between the Community and State-Trading Countries
- Relations between the Community and Spain
- Judicial protection of commerce
- Influence of local authorities

Information Report

- Londonderry/Donegal : Regional Development

MEMBERS' NEWS

Appointments

On 21 February 1978 the Council of the European Communities appointed Mrs Karen GREDAL and Mr T. ETTY members of the Economic and Social Committee.

Mrs GREDAL, Vice-Chairman of the Consumers' Council in Copenhagen, replaces Mrs Dorte BENNEDSEN who has resigned. She will join Group III (Various Interests).

Mr ETTY, Secretary of the International Department of the Dutch Trade Union Congress (FNV), replaces Mr de VRIES REILINGH. He will be a member of Group II (Workers).

Handelsblatt

HANDELSBLATT, Montag, 30. 1. 1978

Kj. DAVOJ. In einer Podiumsdiskussion von Spitzengewerkschaftlern aus Großbritannien, der Bundesrepublik und den USA forderte der Generalsekretär der britischen Transportarbeitergewerkschaft, Jack Jones, eine Reduzierung der wöchentlichen Arbeitszeit auf 35 Stunden und weniger. Jones führte die ganz wirtschaftliche Misere in seinem Land einseitig auf zu geringe Investitionen der Arbeitgeber, auf eine schlechte Arbeitsorganisation und auf den Wasserkopf der Verwaltungen zurück.

Für DGB-Chef Heinz Oskar Vetter kommt es bei einer partiell möglichen Partnerschaft in Wirtschafts- und Sozialleben darauf an, die natürlichen Konflikte zu kanalisieren, indem beide Seiten nicht gleich zu den letzten zur Verfügung stehenden Mitteln greifen. Viele Unternehmer hielten Partnerschaft für eine Einbahnstraße, wie die Forderung an die Arbeitnehmer zum Engerschnallen des Gürtels in der Rezession und die Verfassungsklage gegen die Mitbestimmung bewiesen.

Der Wirtschafts- und Sozialausschuß (WSA) der EG gebe zwar den Sozialpartnern eine in etwa ausgewogene Vertretung. Aber durch den Zwang, zu allen Richtlinien der EG-Bürokratie — vom Zuckergehalt von Wein bis zum Durchmesser von Flaschenverschlüssen — Stellung zu nehmen, werde die Erörterung der wesentlichen wirtschafts- und sozialpolitischen Grundsätze eingeengt. Leider habe man die Arbeitsweise des Beratenden Ausschusses der EGKS bisher nicht auf den WSA übertragen können.

LE SOIR

5 et 6 mars 1978

Le C.E.S. européen veut une hausse supérieure des prix agricoles

Le Comité consultatif économique et social de la C.E.E. a estimé, jeudi, que les 2 p.c. d'augmentation proposés par la Commission européenne pour les prix agricoles en 1978-79 étaient insuffisants.

Les 144 membres du Comité, qui doit être consulté par la Commission sur les questions agricoles, ont estimé dans un communiqué que les prix agricoles garantis pour la campagne prochaine devaient être augmentés de 4,2 p.c.

THE TIMES

21.2.1978

Pulling all the pressure groups together

One possible answer is to be found in the idea of an industrial forum. Although this was first mooted at the turn of the century and has since been restated periodically, more notably

in Winston Churchill's 1931 Romanes Lecture, it has up to now been most effectively put into action in Europe. Since the Second World War the majority of the members of the European Community have set up economic and social committees at a national level and an economic and social council has been set up at Community level. Could not such a body help in Britain?

DEUTSCHES HANDWERKSBLATT

1/78

Die Klein- und Mittelbetriebe im Kontext der Gemeinschaft

In einer Ende November 1977 vom Plenum verabschiedeten Stellungnahme befaßt sich der Wirtschafts- und Sozialausschuß (WSA) erneut mit den Klein- und Mittelbetrieben und ihrer Förderung im Rahmen der Gemeinschaft, nachdem seine Studie von 1974 über die Lage der Klein- und Mittelbetriebe (s. DEUTSCHES HANDWERKSBLATT 21/77, Seite 659), vielfache Beachtung gefunden hatte. Berichterstatter war wiederum Dr. Heinrich Kolben-schlag.

IL FIORINO

1.2.1978

CORSO DELL'UNIONQUADRI
SULLE RELAZIONI INDUSTRIALI

Con una prolusione del prof. Guido Zangari è stato inaugurato a Roma, nella sede Sociale di Piazza SS. Apostoli, il nuovo Programma di Formazione organizzato dall'Unionquadri in collaborazione con altre associazioni sindacali e professionali dei Quadri. Il Programma comprende un primo Corso di formazione dedicato ai Quadri dell'industria e del settore privato; ed un secondo destinato ai Quadri del settore pubblico, che avrà inizio il 1 marzo. Sono previste lezioni e conferenze di docenti ed esperti tra i quali, i professori Scoca, Giugni, Valentini, Salvati e molti altri.

Nella sua lezione inaugurale sul tema "Relazioni industriali e rappresentanza sindacale aziendale in Italia e nell'Europa comunitaria", il prof. Zangari ha riferito innanzitutto sui lavori del Ces che sta per approvare il "Libro Verde" sulla partecipazione dei lavoratori alla gestione delle imprese già approvato dalla Commissione in vista dell'emanazione della Va Direttiva. La nuova regolamentazione comunitaria, pur essendo stata ispirata a criteri di flessibilità e condizionata ad un periodo "transitorio", certamente imporrà una svolta nel nostro ordinamento interno, ancor oggi caratterizzato da una legislazione anacronistica e superata e da prassi e comportamenti sindacali ispirati alla conflittualità.

Successivamente, il prof. Zangari si è soffermato in un'analisi del diritto italiano, rilevando che la trasformazione progressiva dell'azione sindacale in azione politica, ha finito con ingenerare confusione nel corretto svolgimento delle relazioni industriali: queste oramai non esistono più come tali - ha concluso Zangari - perché esiste un unico dominus, il sindacato, e la posizione degli altri partners, imprenditorato e Governo, non ha quei caratteri di parità che sono necessari perché si abbiano relazioni bilaterali o multilaterali tra i vari protagonisti e si determini l'equilibrio indispensabile al corretto funzionamento del sistema economico.

BERLINGSKE TIDENDE
23.2.1978

Dansk økonomi under lup

Af
Ole Würtz

Danmark bliver det første EF-land, der får sin økonomi undersøgt og beskrevet af Det økonomiske og sociale Udvalg, der er et rådgivende EF-organ.

Det sker samtidig med, at de ni regeringer under dansk formandskab har forladt den åregamle tyrkeretro på den såkaldte lokomotiv-teori: at de økonomisk stærke overskudslande som Vesttyskland skal øge den økonomiske aktivitet for at trække de svage lande ud af vanskelighederne.

Udvalget, der består af 144 repræsentanter for arbejdsmarkedets parter, har nedsat en studiegruppe, som i går mødte i København. Normalt udsender Det økonomiske og sociale Udvalg kun to gange årligt en gene-

rel udtalelse om den økonomiske situation i EF, men nu ønsker udvalget at udbygge disse generelle bedømmelser med mere specifikke vurderinger af de enkelte lande.

En række eksperter fremlagde i går deres synspunkter for gruppen. Det var formanden for Det økonomiske Råd, Bent Rold Andersen, konsulent J. Børglum Jensen, Økonomiministeriet, direktør John Amundsen, Dansk Arbejdsgiverforening, underdirektør Jørgen Hansen, Industrirådet, LO-økonomen P. Nyrop Rasmussen og fuldmægtig Ole Klintgaard Larsen fra Landbrugsrådet.

Nyrop Rasmussen sagde på mødet at illustrere, hvad der kan udvirkes, hvis alle EF-lande gør sit for at ekspandere. Overskudslandene har dog et ansvar for, at underskudslandene kan gå

hurtigere frem, sagde han. Han hentydede til beregninger, der viser, at en stigning i den vesttyske vækstrate med én pct. om året i fire år vil resultere i 17.000 færre arbejdspladser og en milliard kr. mindre i betalingsbalanceunderskud i Danmark.

LA LIBRE BELGIQUE

8.2.1978

**Le Comité économique et social (C.E.E.)
se prononce
sur la « participation des travailleurs »**

Toutefois, le Comité considère qu'il ne convient ni de rechercher l'uniformité immédiate, ni d'entraver les évolutions allant dans le sens d'une harmonisation, l'objectif devant être par priorité la suppression des obstacles à l'harmonisation des structures et des politiques en la matière.

En outre, toute réglementation communautaire devrait assurer le respect des droits acquis par les travailleurs et tendre à la suppression des entraves éventuelles à leur participation.

Un consensus s'est réalisé au sein du Comité pour considérer que la participation des travailleurs, au sens le plus large, constitue une évolution souhaitable dans une société démocratique.

tés n'ayant pas d'organes comportant des représentants des travailleurs, la création d'un organe spécial au sein duquel les travailleurs seraient représentés et bénéficieraient de droits minima à l'information et à la consultation. Dans l'un et l'autre systèmes, les droits des travailleurs devraient être à peu près comparables.

En prenant position à l'unanimité sur le « Livre vert » relatif à la « participation des travailleurs », et la structure des sociétés dans la Communauté européenne », le Comité économique, et social s'est prononcé en faveur de règles souples. Elle prévoient notamment deux mesures pratiques, à savoir l'introduction, en tant qu'option, d'un système dualiste dans les États membres qui n'en disposent pas pour l'instant, et au niveau des grandes socié-

DAILY NATION
9. 2. 1978

EEC officials call on KFA chief

MEMBERS of the European Economic Community, led by Mr. Basil de Ferranti who is chairman of the Economic and Social Committee of the community, yesterday called on the managing director of the Kenya Farmers' Association, Mr. W. A. Kisiero and other senior officials of KFA at Nakuru.

The visitors exchanged views on farming as an industry with the KFA officials.

They noted with interest the way dividends are paid to KFA

members. They also expressed keen interest in Kenya's wool which was exported to the EEC member-countries, although, said Mr. Ferranti, unlike coffee and pyrethrum, wool from Kenya had not been discussed at EEC meetings.

Mr. Kisiero told the visitors that the KFA intended to go into farm machinery assembly although finance and technical know-how were the stumbling block.

Mr. Ferranti asked Mr. Kisiero to prepare a list of things that the KFA is interested in manufacturing for study by the EEC.

CAMEROON TRIBUNE

SAMEDI 25 FÉVRIER 1978

C.E.S. de la C.E.E.

Quatorze experts attendus au Cameroun aujourd'hui

Une délégation du Comité économique et social de la Communauté économique européenne dirigée par M. Einar Carstens, président de la section des relations extérieures du Comité, visitera la République unie du Cameroun du 25 au 28 février 1978.

Cette mission qui est composée de 14 opérateurs économiques des divers pays membres de la C.E.E. vise un triple objectif : s'informer sur les vues des autorités au sujet des questions d'intérêt commun, notamment sur différents aspects de la mise en œuvre de la Convention de Lomé ; établir un contact avec les milieux socio-économiques et en particulier avec le Conseil économique et social ; prendre une vue concrète de certaines réalités économiques et sociales africaines.

Pendant son séjour au Cameroun, la mission aura des réunions de travail avec les représentants du gouvernement, les divers organismes économiques et professionnels du pays et visitera, dans la limite du temps disponible, quelques opérations qui ont pu être réalisées avec le concours du Fonds européen de développement.

THE IRISH TIMES,

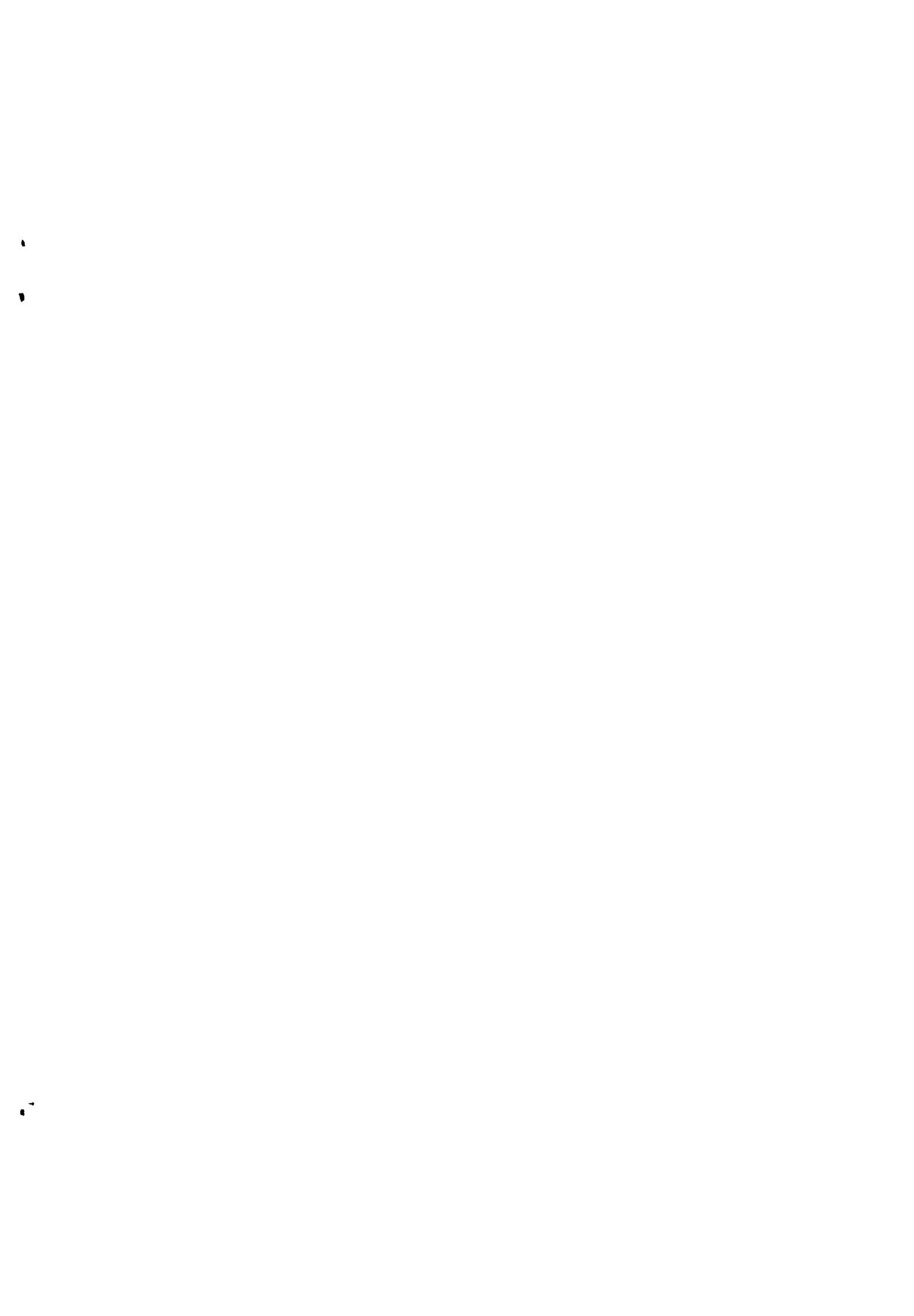
SATURDAY, MARCH 4, 1978

Cross-Border study for EEC group

A STUDY group to examine the findings of the cross-Border Communications Study for the Derry-Donegal region has been set up by the Economic and Social Committee of the EEC. The study group will make recommendations to the EEC Commission and the Council of Ministers after examining the report.

Lord Hamilton, a member of the EEC committee, will chair the study group and other members will include Mr Jack Curtis, of the General and Municipal Workers' Union, and three well-known Northern experts in various areas, Mr W. J. Blease, former Northern Ireland officer of the Irish Council of Trade Unions; Mr Ivor Canavan, an executive with De Pont and former Mayor of Derry, and Mr Charles Faulkner, senior supervisor of Public Works for Donegal County Council.

Members of the study group will visit the areas from today until Tuesday next.



**PUBLICATIONS OBTAINABLE FROM THE ECONOMIC
AND SOCIAL COMMITTEE**

Periodical

- Bulletin (monthly publication)

General Documentation

- The Economic and Social Committee (leaflet) (January 1975)
- The Economic and Social Committee (April 1975)
(A descriptive brochure) 16 p.
- Annual Report (1977) 70 p. (1976) 80 p. (1975) 62 p. (1974) 60 p.
(1973) 64 p.
- Directory (January 1978)
(List of members) 42 p.
- The Right of initiative of the Economic and Social Committee
(October 1977) 124 p.

Opinions and Studies

- EEC's Transport Problems with East European Countries
(December 1977) (Opinion) 164 p.
- Community Nuclear Safety Code (July 1977)
(Study) 50 p.
- Regional Development - Unemployment and Inflation (June 1977)
(Opinion) 130 p.
- Research and Development (November 1976)
(Study) 35 p.
- Systems of education and vocational training
(August 1976) (Study) 114 p.
- Regional Policy (March 1976)
(Opinion) 11 p.
- European Union (July 1975)
(Opinion) 33 p.
- Progress Report on the Common Agricultural Policy
(February 1975) (Study) 52 p.
- The Situation of Small and Medium-sized Undertakings in the
European Community (March 1975) (Study) 69 p.
- Industrial Change and Employment (November 1977)
(Opinion) 98 p.