

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL CONSULTATIVE ASSEMBLY

# BULLETIN

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ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMITTEE

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ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMITTEE  
Press, Information and Publications Division

Rue Ravenstein 2  
B-1000 Bruxelles

Tel. 519 90 11

Telegrams: ECOSEUR  
Telex: 25 983 CESEUR

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## 233rd Plenary Session

The 233rd Plenary Session of the Economic and Social Committee of the European Communities was held in Brussels on 29 and 30 January 1986. The Committee Chairman, Mr Gerd Muhr presided.

### **President's speech to the Plenary Assembly**

#### **Institutional problems of the Community**

'Apart from considerable political willpower, we will also need luck this year — we hardly need to be clairvoyant to predict that 1986 will be no easy year for the Community. The basic economic difficulties — I am, of course, mainly thinking of the employment situation — have still not been solved.

In institutional terms, the positive outlook resulting from the accession of Spain and Portugal, has been clouded by quite serious developments.

We are very concerned by certain reactions to the results of the inter-governmental conference in Luxembourg. It is clearly not our role to interfere in national political conflicts in one or several Member States.

I believe, however, that our position is clear, measured against the positions which we have worked out in the course of the years and which we have tried to integrate in the work of the inter-governmental conference, the result of the latest conference is no more than a minimal compromise. It would be more than disappointing if such a modest result proved to be beyond our grasp.

As representatives of the leading national associations, we also bear a certain responsibility of our own. It can only be hoped that the present state of affairs will change and that the final word has not been said.

#### **Plans for receiving Spanish and Portuguese Committee members**

As regards Spanish and Portuguese membership of our Committee, you will probably have already heard that the Spanish Members have now been appointed by the Council but the Portuguese list is not yet available.

We would be disappointed if the two delegations joined separately. We are therefore now trying (via the Council) to persuade the Portuguese Government to speed up the appointment procedure.

Our February meeting would be too early for the necessary arrangements to be made. Although we had not planned a Plenary Session for March, the new Members should work actively for at least some months of the present period in office. The presidency has therefore planned a special one day Plenary Session on 13 March. I would ask you to keep this day free so that we can greet our new colleagues with all due ceremony and — I hope — in our own building.

### **The ESC opposes racism and discrimination**

Since the Plenary Session last December we have been informed of a Draft Joint Declaration by the European Parliament, the Council and the Commission on attitudes and organizations motivated by racism and xenophobia.

The essence of the present version of this document reads as follows:

“Whereas respect of the dignity of man and the elimination of all forms of racial discrimination are part of the cultural and legal heritage of all the Member States and are enshrined in their national constitutions and legislation;

1. Vigorously condemn all forms of discrimination, defamation, racist theory or insult, expression of hate or violence in physical, spoken or written form directed against persons or groups of persons on the grounds of their origin, or their belonging or not to a particular ethnic group, nationality, race or religion;
2. Solemnly call on Member States to adopt the necessary measures to protect the identity and dignity of every member of society, regardless of race, religion, nationality or ethnic origin;
3. Recall the importance of disseminating balanced and accurate information to all citizens in response to the dangers of racism and xenophobia, and the need to ensure that all forms of discrimination are prevented or eliminated.”

In its Opinions, the Economic and Social Committee has frequently criticized the inadequacy of political responses to the increasingly alarming problems of migrant workers and their families. The Committee has called for a genuine Community policy on the rights of migrant workers and their families. It would apply in particular to entry, period of residence, accommodation, establishment and social security.

We have, moreover, called for greater integration of areas where immigrants settle. We were concerned to improve working conditions and terms of employment and proposed the following: a European Housing Fund to prevent ghetto areas arising; special aid for education and training; assistance with learning the language of the host country; measures to combat discrimination and to guarantee equal treatment at the workplace and also the freedom to follow and exchange cultural traditions. We also made a case for more standardized procedures as regards migrant workers' civil and political rights and especially the right to vote.

In view of the rising xenophobia, it is not merely in the interest of, but the duty of all democratic forces including the European 'social partners' represented here, to adopt all legal and practical measures which can guarantee mutual respect and social tolerance in Europe. We are fully aware that democracy also, or above all, involves the protection of minorities.

We should therefore have no reservations in supporting the spirit of the Declaration by the three Community bodies and the reflections it contains. It is in this sense that I would like to remind the President of the three Community bodies of the position of the ESC.'

## *OPINIONS AND REPORTS ADOPTED*

### 1. THE NEW TECHNOLOGIES — CORPORATE ENVIRONMENT (Information report)

#### **Gist of the information report<sup>1</sup>**

The main conclusions of the information report are:

from a company's point of view, the new technologies are an important element in innovation strategy and only innovative companies will survive the major changes which are under way;

a company can only develop new products if it has a thorough knowledge of the possibilities and effects of the new techniques needed;

successful innovation is the result of a number of factors both inside and — more especially — outside a company;

<sup>1</sup> CES 732/85 fin Appendixes 1 and 2.

Europe as a whole and the majority of European countries and companies must increase their innovative capacity if they wish to remain competitive;

Europe has everything it needs (and in some cases has proved it) to be as innovative and efficient as the USA and Japan;

awareness of the gap between practice and potential has increased, and in recent years there have been many moves to close it;

the successful examples of cooperation in large-scale projects help show the path to take in the future.

The Committee feels that the Community can play a crucial role by taking action in three main areas:

The first type of action involves directly and specifically increasing familiarity with new technologies. The aim must be to avoid dangerous gaps in the fabric of knowledge which would gradually weaken the whole structure. The targets of these measures would be public and private-sector research centres and companies. The instruments would be the usual ones: Community programmes, laying great stress on international cooperation.

The second kind of action involves the creation of a genuine large internal market. The Commission White Paper is fundamental to this. The proposed time-schedule is certainly extremely demanding, and will require a full commitment and a will to succeed on the part of all the Member States and social groupings involved. We must realize that a further failure or excessive delay could mean the definitive failure of the plan to build a true Community. The creation of a Continent-wide market could give rise to beneficial cooperation and rationalization. In the public supply sectors (energy, transport, telecommunications, etc.) in particular, this could lead to the creation of real plurinational companies.

The third area in which the Community can deploy resources to maximum effect is that of large-scale projects. The basic features of this new initiative should be the commissioning from international consortia of prototype products or systems (as a rule, the minimum unit value of projects should be not less than 100 to 150 million ECU). The items to be commissioned should be close to the marketing stage and have a high new-technology content.

European industry can meet the challenge posed by the new technologies. However, promotional action at international and Community level must be strengthened and made more effective.

*The information report was drawn up by the Section for Industry, Commerce, Crafts and Services, chaired by Mr de Wit (Netherlands — Employers). The rapporteur was Mr Arena (Italy — Employers).*



The Committee decided with no dissenting votes and 1 abstention to send this information report to the Council and the Commission.

## 2. THE NEW TECHNOLOGIES — COMMUNITY R & D (Information report)

### **Gist of the Information report<sup>1</sup>**

The information report analyses in particular the Commission proposal for a European Technological Community and the Eureka project. The report gives full support to the Commission's proposals but demands that a larger share of the Community budget be devoted to technological R & D activities. The report likewise welcomes the philosophy behind the Eureka project, which seeks especially to encourage cooperation among European firms. Nevertheless, it is considered essential for the Eureka project to be brought in line with the Commission proposals. The Commission should have full responsibility for coordinating all technological R & D activities at European level, not only to ensure that they are complementary but also to make possible better balanced technological development within the European Community.

The report stresses the urgent need for rapid progress in such fields as completion of the internal market, dissemination of information on technological R & D, access to research results, increasing cooperation on a European scale, particularly between universities and firms, mobility of researchers and reorganization of education with a view to gearing the educational system more to technology.

The report also stresses the importance of socio-cultural factors in the acceptance of innovation, encouragement for marketing of the results of technological R & D and stimulation of a process leading to a European Technological Community. Bearing in mind the tensions aroused by the development of new technologies, special attention must be given to the effects on workers and consumers, the environment and society in general. In this context, the report particularly welcomes IRIS (Initiative for Research on Informatics applied to Society).

As regards rates of utilization of financial resources, the report notes significant imbalances in the commitment of credits allocated for achieving each of the aims of the framework programme of Community scientific and technical activity for 1984-87, and expresses concern that these discrepancies might distort the implementation of the framework

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<sup>1</sup> CES 851/85 fin.

programme as a whole. The report therefore recalls the recommendation, made by the Committee in its Opinion on research priorities, that the overall financial requirements of the framework programme be adopted at an early stage. This would make it possible to draw up a consistent strategy for scientific and technical research. The report stresses that the framework programme must be the pivot of Community action on technological research and development.

*The rapporteur was Mr Tomas Roseingrave (Ireland — Various interests). The report was drawn up by the Section for Energy and Nuclear questions, chaired by Mr Romoli (Italy — Employers).*

The Economic and Social Committee decided unanimously, with no votes against and one abstention, to forward its information report to the Commission and the Council of the European Communities.

### 3. THE NEW TECHNOLOGIES — SOCIAL ASPECTS (Information report)

#### **Gist of the information report<sup>1</sup>**

Society as a whole must decide how technological change is to be organized. Technological determinism without social priorities will not work. The Economic and Social Committee came to this conclusion in its information report.

In themselves new technologies are neither positive nor negative. Their impact depends purely and simply on the way people apply them. That is the red thread running through the report drawn up by the consultative assembly of socio-economic groups in the Community.

From the outset care must be taken to avoid harmful social repercussions. Technological innovations should be introduced only when the conditions appear appropriate or acceptable. Considered from the angle of 'social acceptability', the ESC sees a need to discuss (a) which technologies the Community needs urgently, (b) what resources are needed in this connection and (c) the manpower, institutional and organizational requirements. In this context, social acceptability means that the situation of those concerned is not worsened but as far as possible improved by the innovation. Technological development must be geared to human needs. Efficient use presupposes economic, institutional and social changes.

From the economic angle, the ESC report regards new technologies as an opportunity for improving the Community's competitive position

<sup>1</sup> CES 671/85 fin.

*vis-à-vis* the United States and Japan and for stimulating fresh economic growth. In the commercial sector, for instance, the use of electronic cash systems is likely to produce productivity savings of up to 40%; Lufthansa achieved a 90% productivity increase in transmission and distribution of texts. On the other hand, this trend simultaneously pushes up unemployment.

40%-50% of all jobs will be affected by the introduction of new technologies. Positive effects on employment cannot be expected yet as the technologies currently being introduced are increasingly affecting low-skill groups — i.e. jobs lending themselves to automation. In the Community metalworking and mechanical engineering industries alone 160 000 to 400 000 jobs will be shed due to the introduction of robots and automated machinery. Offsetting this, an estimated 4 to 5 million jobs should have been created by 1995 as a result of new technologies in the Member States.

In the light of this situation, the ESC urges that greater emphasis be placed on qualifications. As the report points out: 'People working in the areas affected must acquire new skills in order to keep pace with the introduction of new technologies and to remain eligible for satisfying work'. It is also important to make training staff aware of the interrelationship between new technologies, organization of work, and skills.

Another key issue which the report tackles is 'participation'. Trust must be established between employers and work-force and a common social approach agreed for the efficient introduction of new technologies. The involvement of everyone working with the new equipment must be ensured. 'Effective participation and cooperation by employees is becoming increasingly important (from the point of view also of existing acceptance problems).'

The impact of technological change is not confined to the workplace. Information and communications technologies will affect virtually all areas of the economy and society. The boundaries between the place of work and the private sphere are becoming blurred as a result of this transformation. Experts forecast that by 1990 approximately 20% of all office jobs in the United States will have shifted to private households in the shape of home terminal work.

Many questions still remain unanswered as to the effects on individuals and society of introducing new technologies. The report advocates a special department within the European Foundation for the Improvement of Living and Working Conditions in Dublin to deal with the application of new technologies and their social consequences. In addition, a promotion and research programme on new technologies and social conditions should be launched. This programme should be

geared to man's need for a way of life that is humane and in tune with nature — this should be the yardstick for technology. Socially acceptable growth areas in which new technologies can be used to good effect include (a) improved use of energy, (b) promotion of forward-looking basic and advanced training, (c) promotion of intra-Community development and (d) implementation of biotechnology projects. The economic challenge of new technologies must not be considered 'in isolation from social objectives and the progress which their introduction ought to bring about'.

*The report was compiled by the Section for Social Questions, chaired by Mr Kirschen (Italy — Workers). The rapporteur was Mr Herbert Nierhaus (Workers — Member of the National Executive Committee of the German Employees' Trade Union).*

The Plenary Committee decided, with no votes against and one abstention, to forward the report to the Council and the Commission.

#### 4. RECOGNITION OF DIPLOMAS

**'Proposal for a Council Directive on a general system for the recognition of higher education diplomas' (COM(85) 355 final)**

##### **Gist of the Commission document**

The proposal for a directive falls within the scope of action relating to the White Paper on Completing the Internal Market (COM(85) 310). It contains proposals for the introduction of a new system aiming to bring about a real breakthrough in the sphere of the right of establishment through the recognition of diplomas with no preceding harmonization of different types of training but in combination with a system of compensation in the form of professional experience.

The progress made to date on the issue of the right of establishment has in fact been minimal, largely because of the complications involved in the process of the harmonization of professional qualifications. The new system is intended to remedy this state of affairs and will make it possible to eliminate the obstacles to free establishment which a national from one Member State may encounter if he wishes to exercise a professional activity in a self-employed or employed capacity in a different Member State.

The new system proposed by the Commission takes the following form:

the system is general in the sense that it defines rules and introduces a procedure which would make it possible to respond swiftly and directly to the individual and immediate needs of all those who

possess a diploma of higher education and wish to exercise a professional activity in a different country to where they received their training;

the system is based on the comparability of levels of training. The university-level training courses provided by the different Member States are very similar. Since this principle does not, however, always hold, the system provides for compensatory measures which are based on professional experience or the completion of a period of supervised practice in the host country;

the system calls for greater cooperation between the Member States. This cooperation, based on mutual confidence, is essential if the system is to function well. Information exchange and coordination are prerequisites for the success of the procedure which has been introduced; the system is evolutive. The results of the operation of the system could lead to a new definition of its field of application and, possibly, its extension to other categories of individuals who do not possess higher education diplomas.

### **Gist of the Committee Opinion<sup>1</sup>**

In its Opinion, adopted by 55 votes for, 3 votes against and 6 abstentions, the Committee approves measures to facilitate the free movement of Member State nationals who wish to practise their profession in a Member State other than that in which they obtained their higher education diploma and supports the Commission's proposal to introduce a new system whereby holders of higher education diplomas obtained (after a course of study lasting at least three years, following a complete course of secondary education) in one Member State (country of origin) may pursue the profession for which they are qualified in another Member State (host country) under certain conditions. This system does not involve prior harmonization of education/training and provision is made for compensation through relevant professional experience or a period of supervised practice in cases where diplomas are not equivalent.

Moreover, the system does not preclude the introduction at a future date of specific Community rules on certain professional activities.

As it is impossible at this stage to foresee all the difficulties which might be encountered in the practical implementation of a new general system for the recognition of diplomas, the Section feels that a shorter deadline should be set (e.g. three years after the entry into force of the Directive) for the Commission's report to the Council on the state of the

<sup>1</sup> CES 90/86.

application of the system and for proposing any changes that might be needed.

*This Opinion was drawn up in the light of the work produced by the Section for Industry, Commerce, Crafts and Services, chaired by Mr de Wit (Netherlands — Employers). The rapporteur was Mr De Bièvre (Belgium — Employers).*

## 5. RESIDUES

**'Proposal for a Council Directive concerning the examination of animals and fresh meat for the presence of residues' (COM(85) 192 final)**

### **Gist of the Commission document**

The basic purpose of this proposal is to protect human health from the possible ill effects of certain residues, mainly of a pharmacological (including hormonal) nature, which may be found in animals and hence in meats.

This subject has been dealt with in a number of previous directives, and the purpose of the present proposal is to establish detailed arrangements for control and sampling of such animals and meats.

The proposal will also remove barriers to intra-Community trade in animals and meats resulting from differences between the health requirements of Member States.

### **Gist of the Committee Opinion<sup>1</sup>**

This Opinion was adopted unanimously.

The Committee welcomes the initiative of the Commission in putting forward this proposal. In the Committee's view however, a number of major amendments are required to the text. The Committee particularly regrets the fact that the proposal covers only control of existing residues. It should also cover the prevention of the occurrence of residues.

The Committee urges that the sampling methods for residue control be examined with a view to ensuring that they are used as effectively as possible.

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<sup>1</sup> CES 89/86.

Furthermore two official analytical methods should be available for each substance, where possible, and international standards for residue levels should be agreed.

*This Opinion was drawn up in the light of the work produced by the Section for Protection of the Environment, Public Health and Consumer Affairs, chaired by Mr De Grave (Belgium — Workers). The rapporteur was Mr Storie-Pugh (United Kingdom — Various interests).*

## 6. MANUFACTURED TOBACCO

**'Proposal for a Council Directive amending Directive 72/464/EEC on taxes other than turnover taxes which affect the consumption of manufactured tobacco: sixth extension of the second stage of harmonization' (COM(85) 683 final)**

### **Gist of the Commission document**

The structures of excise duties on cigarettes are to be harmonized in several stages. The transition from one stage to the next is decided on by the Council on a proposal from the Commission, taking into account the effects produced during the stage in progress by the measures introduced by the Member States (Article 1(4) of Council Directive 72/464/EEC of 19 December 1972).

The first stage of harmonization began on 1 July 1973 and was originally intended to last two years. After four extensions, it ended on 30 June 1978.

The second stage began on 1 July 1978 and was due to end on 31 December 1980. It has since been extended four times and expired on 31 December 1983. On 1 July 1980, the Commission laid before the Council a proposal for a Directive concerning further harmonization during a third stage. At the Parliament's request, the Commission carried out an in-depth study on the implications of proceedings with the harmonization of excise duties on manufactured tobacco. The Parliament rejected the proposed Directive on the third stage of harmonization on 19 November 1982 and shortly afterwards, on 14 December 1982, adopted a resolution confirming its opposition to the proposal and to the conclusions reached in the Commission's study.

As the Commission maintained its original proposal and the Council did not take a decision to move on to the third stage of harmonization, the second stage was extended until 31 December 1985.

As it is unlikely that the Council will take a decision before 31 December 1985 and it is difficult to predict when it will do so, the Commission proposes that the second stage be extended indefinitely, so as to preserve what has been accomplished so far.

### **Gist of the Committee Opinion<sup>1</sup>**

This Opinion was adopted by 76 votes for, 2 votes against and 11 abstentions.

Mindful of the need to safeguard what has already been achieved at Community level beyond 31 December 1985, the Committee is not opposed to the Commission's proposal.

Nevertheless, it is disturbed by this indefinite extension of the second stage, and feels obliged to urge the competent Community bodies to take a rapid decision on this matter.

The Committee would also reiterate the recommendations it made in its Opinion and report of February 1981, which put forward an alternative solution. The Committee points out that the creation of an internal Community market necessarily requires the elimination of fiscal frontiers and the harmonization of excise duties.

*This Opinion was drawn up in the light of the paper produced by the Section for Economic and Financial Questions, chaired by Mr Marvier (France — Various interests). The rapporteur was Mr Bazianas (Greece — Various interests).*

## **7. NATIONAL REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT AIDS (CES 613/85 fin.)**

### **Gist of the Committee Opinion<sup>2</sup>**

In its Opinion, adopted unanimously, the Committee summarizes the main guidelines and conclusions of the information report which it drew up on the same subject in May 1985.

Since ERDF aid tops up national aid and since regional development is mainly the responsibility of national governments and involves the Community only to a limited extent, the Committee decided that an analysis of national regulations on regional development aid was called for. This would make it possible to obtain a better impression of the total volume of aid and to understand the reasons for discrepancies in development.

The regulations on aid were found to be scarcely comparable and difficult to review because of wording which was frequently ambiguous.

<sup>1</sup> CES 91/86.

<sup>2</sup> CES 92/86.



In its Opinion, the Committee therefore devotes its main attention to the legitimacy of regional aid in the light of the regulations in the Treaty of Rome concerning distortions of competition.

The central question is how to reconcile the objectives of regional policy (and hence, regional aid) — which is to promote convergence by developing the less-favoured regions — with the requirement that trading conditions should not be subject to intervention. This requirement is embodied in particular in Articles 92 and 93 of the Treaty which authorize State subsidies (or national aid) only in certain exceptional and clearly-listed cases.

The Committee expresses the view that the Member States should be granted a certain amount of flexibility for rectifying internal regional imbalances as long as certain criteria — to be defined at Community level — for assessing the extent of regional needs are adhered to.

*This Opinion was drawn up in the light of the paper produced by the Section for Regional Development, chaired by Mr Dassis (Greece — Workers). The rapporteurs were Mr Broicher (Germany — Employers) and Mr Della Croce (Italy — Workers).*

## 8. 21st VAT DIRECTIVE — GREECE

**‘Proposal for a 21st Council Directive on the harmonization of the laws of the Member States relating to turnover taxes — deferment of the introduction of the common system of value added tax in the Hellenic Republic’ (COM(85) 821 final)**

### **Gist of the Commission document**

In the Commission proposal the Hellenic Republic is called upon to implement the common system of value-added tax at the earliest opportunity and by 1 January 1987 at the latest.

In the explanatory memorandum the Commission describes the background to this problem and points out that deferment of the introduction of the VAT system in Greece until 1 January 1987 will not have any financial implications for the Community budget, since Greece has undertaken to pay its 1986 contribution on the basis of the VAT base laid down.

### **Gist of the Committee Opinion<sup>1</sup>**

This Opinion was adopted by 85 votes for, 0 against and 7 abstentions.

<sup>1</sup> CES 93/86.

The Committee draws attention to its earlier Opinion on this matter in which it expressed understanding with regard to the technical problems preventing the introduction of VAT in Greece by 1 January 1984.

The reasons for deferment currently advanced by the Greek Government seem justified. Furthermore, the proposed deferment will not affect the sum to be contributed by Greece in 1986 to the EC budget, calculated on the basis of VAT receipts. The Committee does, however, wish to point out to the Council that the completion of the internal market is made that much more difficult if one Member State does not introduce the common basis of the VAT system.

The Committee proposes that the Commission provide all possible assistance to the Greek authorities to enable them to bring in a VAT system which accords with the systems used in the other Member States.

*The rapporteur-general for this Opinion was Mr Dassoulas (Greece — Various interests).*

#### **CORRIGENDUM**

In the 12/1985 issue of the ESC's Bulletin, the caption under the photo on page 5 was incorrect and should have said that Mr Andriessen, Vice-President of the Commission, was in the middle.

## External relations

### **Activities of the Chairman**

The Chairman of the ESC, Mr Gerd Muhr, had a meeting with the Permanent Representative of the United Kingdom, Sir David Hannay, and the Permanent Representative of the Netherlands, Mr M.H.J. Ch. Rutten, on 29 January 1986.

On 30 January 1986, the Chairman had a lunchtime meeting with a delegation from the Federation of Spanish enterprises (CEOE) which was headed by Mr Cuevas.



## New consultations

Since the last Plenary Session, the Economic and Social Committee has been requested to deliver Opinions on the following subjects:

**Proposal for a Council Directive on information to be published when major holdings in the capital of a listed company are acquired or disposed of (COM(85) 791 final)**

**Proposal for a Council Directive on the harmonization of the laws of the Member States relating to turnover taxes — VAT rules applicable to the operation of a future cross-Channel fixed link (COM(85) 858 final)**

**Proposal for a Council Decision adopting the European Community action scheme for the mobility of university students (Erasmus) (COM(85) 756 final)**

**Communication from the Commission to the Council on a medium-term Community programme (1986-1990) on equal opportunities for women (COM(85) 801 final)**

**Proposal for a Council Directive on water-quality objectives for chromium (COM(85) 733 final)**

**Communication from the Commission to the Council on the signature by the Community and the Member States of the European Convention for the protection of vertebrate animals used for experimental and other scientific purposes (COM(85) 637 final)**

**Proposal for a Council Directive on the legal protection of original topographies of semi-conductor products (COM(85) 775 final)**

**Proposal for a Council Regulation amending Regulation (EEC) No 1900/85 of 8 July 1985 introducing Community export and import declaration forms (COM(85) 688 final)**

**Proposal for a Council Regulation laying down the provisions applicable to goods brought into the customs territory of the Community (COM(85) 766 final)**

**Proposal for a Council Directive amending Directive 77/93/EEC on protective measures against the introduction into the Member States of organisms harmful to plants or plant products, to take account of the**

**accession of the Kingdom of Spain and the Republic of Portugal  
(COM(85) 784 final)**

**Proposal for a Council Directive on the coordination of laws, regulations  
and administrative provisions relating to the reorganization and the  
winding-up of credit institutions (COM(85) 788 final)**

# Provisional future work programme

## February 1986 Plenary Session

### *Opinions upon consultation*

- Consumer education
- Major accident hazards
- R & D environment
- Cancer prevention programme
- 10th ERDF Report
- Export and import declaration forms
- Facilitation of formalities/carriage of goods

## Subsequent Plenary Sessions

### *Opinions upon consultation*

- VAT rules on operation of cross-Channel fixed link
- Dumping of waste at sea
- Dangerous substances
- Water quality objectives for chromium
- Quality of surface fresh water
- Protection of vertebrate animals
- Foodstuffs
- Asbestos pollution
- Shipbuilding (additional Opinion)
- Public supply contracts
- Customs warehouses
- Conditions under which non-resident carriers may operate road haulage
- Conditions under which non-resident carriers may transport by inland waterway
- Maritime transport (Part 2)

Meat products  
Future of the CAP (follow-up)  
Farm prices  
Interim report on the economic situation  
Standstill on VAT and excise duties  
Information to be published on holdings in the capital of a listed company  
Protection of workers from exposure to benzene  
Erasmus programme  
Equal opportunities for women  
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Legal protection of land surfaces

*Own-initiative Opinions*

Financial integration in the Community  
Local job-creation initiatives  
Criteria and effectiveness of integrated operations  
Shared-cost Community research  
Farm workers  
GATT  
Relations with the USA and Japan  
EEC/ASEAN relations

*Information report*

Development of mountain regions  
Health problems  
Islands  
SMEs in the tertiary sector  
Stock-taking and outlook of a rail policy  
Improvement of the energy supply in DCs  
Interlinking of national energy systems.



# PUBLICATIONS OBTAINABLE FROM THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMITTEE

## General documentation

The other European Assembly, January 1986 (CES 86-001)  
European Union, a people's Europe and the Economic and Social Committee  
(Committee Chairman Muhr's speeches to the *ad hoc* Committees for  
Institutional Affairs and a People's Europe), 1985 (EX-43-85-35)

## Opinions and studies

Consumer-producer dialogue (Opinion) (January 1985) (ESC 84-011)  
Europe and the new technologies — Conference report (January 1985)  
(ESC 84-016)  
Irish border areas (Information report) (February 1984) (ESC 84-002)  
Tourism (Opinion) (June 1984) (ESC 84-004)  
The economic and social situation in the Community (2 opinions) (July 1983)  
(ESC-83-013)  
Youth employment (Opinion) (June 1983) (ESC-83-011)  
Transport policy in the 1980s (Opinion) (March 1983) 99 pp. (ESC 83-003)  
Guidelines for Mediterranean agriculture (4 opinions) (September 1982) 64 pp.  
(ESC 82-010)  
The economic and social situation of the Community (2 opinions) (July 1982)  
57 pp. (ESC 82-008)  
The promotion of small and medium-sized enterprises (Opinion) (June 1982)  
70 pp. (ESC 82-007)  
Agricultural aspects of Spain's entry into the EC (Opinion) (February 1982)  
107 pp. (ESC 81-017)  
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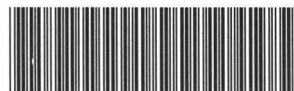
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