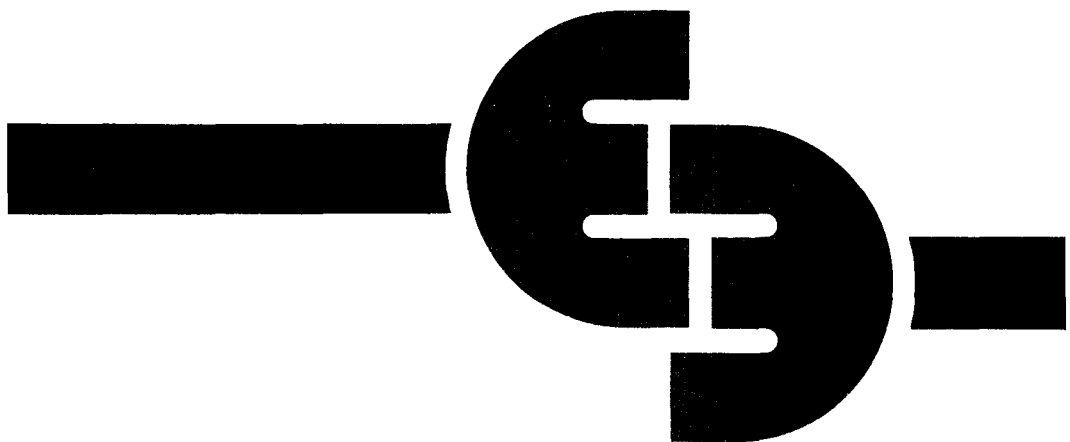


# BULLETIN



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# CONTENTS

	<i>Page</i>
<b>226th PLENARY SESSION</b>	3
Summary of speech by Mr Muhr, ESC Chairman	3
Summary of speech by Mr Pflimlin, President of the European Parliament	4
Debates	5
<b>Opinions adopted</b>	7
1. 9th ANNUAL ERDF REPORT	7
2. REMISSION OF IMPORT OR EXPORT DUTIES	9
3. CUSTOMS DEBT	10
4. BORDER CONTROLS/MEMBER STATES' NATIONALS	12
5. TECHNICAL HARMONIZATION AND STANDARDS	13
6. RESTRICTION OF THE MANNHEIM CONVENTION	15
7. STARCH PRODUCTS	16
8. NARROW-TRACK TRACTOR/ROLL-OVER PROTECTION	18
9. NATIONAL REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT AIDS (Information report)	20
<b>227th PLENARY SESSION</b>	23
Summary of statement by Mr De Michelis, Italian Minister for Social Questions and Employment	23
<b>Opinions adopted</b>	25
1. MIGRATION	25
2. OCCUPATIONAL CANCER (Own-initiative opinion)	26
3. INTEGRATED MEDITERRANEAN PROGRAMMES	28
4. TELECOMMUNICATIONS TECHNOLOGIES	28
5. CONTROL OF POLLUTION/DISCHARGES AT SEA	29
6. PROTECTION OF FAUNA AND FLORA	30
7. DANGEROUS SUBSTANCES	30
8. CONSUMER ACCIDENTS	31

9. TEMPORARY IMPORTATION ARRANGEMENTS	32
10. ILLUSTRATIVE NUCLEAR PROGRAMME	33
Summary of statement by Mr Mosar, Member of the Commission	33
<b>EXTERNAL RELATIONS</b>	37
Meeting between ESC and EFTA in Vienna	37
Other activities	37
<b>NEW CONSULTATIONS</b>	41
<b>PROVISIONAL FUTURE WORK PROGRAMME</b>	43
<b>PERSONAL NOTICES</b>	45

We wish to apologize to readers of the Bulletin for the delay in publication of the issue relating to the April plenary session. This delay was caused by a terrorist bomb attack directed at a neighbouring building which occurred in the early hours of 1 May, killing two firemen as well as causing severe damage to the headquarters of the Economic and Social Committee.

The offices were closed for over a week while the most urgent repairs were carried out, but even after re-opening, normal functioning could not immediately be resumed due to extensive damage to machinery and equipment which has caused great disruption in the production and printing services.

For this reason, it has been decided to produce Bulletin Nos 4 and 5 in a joint issue. We ask for your understanding.

The editor

## 226th PLENARY SESSION

The European Communities' Economic and Social Committee held its 226th plenary session in Brussels on 24 and 25 April 1985. Its Chairman, Mr Gerd Muhr, presided.

The session was marked by the presence of Mr Pierre Pflimlin, President of the European Parliament.

### Summary of speech by Mr Muhr, ESC Chairman

In his welcoming speech to Mr Pflimlin, Mr Gerd Muhr, Committee Chairman, congratulated the European Parliament on having launched the idea of what might be called a new European constitution, i.e. European Union.

Mr Muhr stated *inter alia*:

'New constitutions have in the past come about almost always in exceptional circumstances through war, *coup d'état* or revolution. A high price has always had to be paid. We must therefore consider ourselves all the more fortunate that the European Parliament's initiative has been taken in time of peace and in a spirit of mutual understanding and that its implementation can be an evolutionary process.

As far as the content is concerned, the Committee has for years been advocating moves that are in harmony with the stance the Parliament has adopted. The first essential point here is the strengthening of the legislative function. We are indeed in a paradoxical situation, in that the pluralist parliamentary democracy is the foundation of all political systems in the Member States, whereas the European-level parliament is devoid of legislative powers. This situation is highly unsatisfactory.

The second point is the need for greater accountability of the executive *vis-à-vis* the European Parliament. Whether we like it or not, Community decision-making is to a large degree characterized by a symbiosis of the national and Community bureaucracies. A stronger role for the European Parliament is needed here as a corrective. In this connection we would of course like an appropriate place in the system to be assigned to

the advisory function, for this, too, contributes to transparency and provides an input of the expertise of the major economic and social groupings into the political decision-making process. Such an input in advance of the parliamentary decisions is not only conceivable but also necessary and the Committee has accordingly been striving to assist the work of the European Parliament over the past 10 years or so. Such a trend must of course be strengthened in future.'

Mr Muhr concluded as follows:

'What might be called a European culture is gradually coming into being. We must encourage this development for it has a direct bearing on the lives of our citizens. European political parties are an essential component of this, just as are European socio-economic organizations. Such a European culture must be reflected in appropriate institutions and that this will indeed come about is a hope we would express in conjunction with your initiative.'

### **Summary of speech by Mr Pflimlin, President of the European Parliament**

After having thanked the Committee for its invitation to be present, Mr Pflimlin declared:

'I personally attach great importance to relations between the institutions; ... in particular a way of strengthening cooperation between the Committee and the Parliament must be found.'

He then made a rapid survey of recent developments, such as:

the agreement on Spain and Portugal's accession to the Community on 1 January 1986;

the Ministers of the Ten's agreement on a budget for the whole of 1985;

the climate of frankness and trust established with the new European Commission, whose aims accorded with the priorities set by the European Parliament and supported by the Committee, namely the completion of the internal market and the free movement of goods and people, the development of the European Monetary System and increased efforts in the field of new technology R&D. Referring to the latter point, Mr Pflimlin welcomed the Committee's initiative in holding the first conference on new technologies.

'What is important', Mr Pflimlin went on to say, 'is that, in the face of these priorities and urgent problems each and everyone

realizes that European Union is more necessary than ever before and that the Community's ability to take decisions and take action must be restored. This is what will be at stake at the next summit in Milan. The Draft Treaty on European Union refers expressly to the Economic and Social Committee by granting it an important role.'

After recalling the origin of the Spaak II Committee (later to become known as the Dooge Committee), which had just issued a report drawn up by Mr Maurice Faure, the President noted that 'this report echoes the European Parliament's views on the need for a new treaty establishing a European Union. Firstly, there is consensus on the need to grant the European Parliament at least some legislative power, in order to make controls more democratic; the Economic and Social Committee could play a useful part in this.'

A further element in this reinforced institutional machinery was the way decisions were taken within the Council of Ministers. The proposals contained in Mr Faure's report were acceptable, as they would not completely abolish the unanimous vote system, but would reduce it to a limited number of specific cases.

The Milan Summit would consider the conclusions to be drawn from the report. Parliament felt that priority must be given to the organization of an inter-governmental conference for drawing up a draft treaty of European Union.

Concluding, the President declared:

'I am speaking to the socio-economic organizations of the Community and of our countries, who have long been aware that the development of the Community will be in their interest. I hope that in 1985 the Economic and Social Committee will be a driving force for the unification of Europe.'

## Debates

Mr Hans-Werner Staratzke (Germany, Chairman of Employers' Group) welcomed President Pflimlin's emphasis on the urgent need to set up a single Community-wide market. The task of the Community and its institutional machinery was to provide a framework for opening up frontiers and markets, eliminating barriers, subsidies and protectionism. How could economic growth be achieved, how could long-term plans be made, if the requisite decisions were not made? It was unacceptable that 40 draft regulations and directives removing trade barriers should still be blocked before the Council.



*Mr Pflimlin, President of the European Parliament, speaking before the plenary session. At his side, Mr Muhr and Mr Louet, Chairman and Secretary-General of the ESC.*

(Yves Smets, Photo News, Brussels)



Mr René Bonety (France, Vice-Chairman of the Workers' Group) regretted President Pflimlin's reference to the ESC as an 'organ' of the Community. For reasons of efficiency, it was better to call it an 'institution' of the Community.

It was to be hoped that a new treaty would not just make a polite reference to the ESC, but give it a major institutional role, comparable to that of socio-economic organizations in their countries.

Referring to Mr Pflimlin's statement that the ESC should be a driving force for European unification, Mr Bonety pointed to the limited financial resources of the ESC. It did not have the money needed to gain access to opinion leaders.

The people's Europe was also a workers' Europe. At a time of high unemployment, the social progress referred to by the Rome Treaty was no longer the motivation of citizens.

Mr Alfons Margot (Belgium, Vice-Chairman of the Various Interests' Group) referred to the excellent track record of ESC-European Parliament cooperation in 1983, the year of small business. He endorsed the need for a Community-wide market, for elimination of frontier barriers. He hoped that formalities would be completed at Community level, as was already the case in the Benelux. He also trusted that cooperation on high technologies would bring the Community into the van of world progress. But it was essential to be selective and to stimulate investment, which created jobs. If the tendency to try and do everything technically possible continued, we would slide towards a more dehumanized Community. Quality of life and human relations were crucial. Not everything that was technically possible was also humanly desirable.

## **Opinions adopted**

### **1. 9th ANNUAL ERDF REPORT**

**'Ninth report from the Commission to the Council —  
European Regional Development Fund'<sup>1</sup>**

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

The ninth report, focusing on activity in 1983, was submitted by the Commission in October 1984. ERDF aid in 1983 totalled 2 121 million

<sup>1</sup> COM(84) 522 final.

ECU, a 12% increase on 1982. The ERDF now accounts for 8.7% of the Community budget, compared with 4.9% in 1975, the year of its inception. 1983 was a transitional year in anticipation of the Fund review, with 95% of aid still going to the quota section, and 5% to the non-quota. Geographical concentration on the least favoured regions increased, with three quarters of aid going to 15 regions (as against two thirds in 1982).

Sectoral bias remains strong, with just 11% of aid going to industrial projects and services (against an average of 18% between 1975 and 1982). All the rest went on infrastructure.

However, the report points out that infrastructure investment has also indirectly boosted employment. Energy and water engineering are the main areas for infrastructure projects, with transport coming only third.

A miniscule portion of the Fund (0.3% or 5.5 million ECU) was earmarked for feasibility studies, although this was double the 1982 figure.

Member States' slowness in implementing the non-quota programmes, which are multiannual and began with five programmes in 1980 and a further eight in 1981 and 1982, meant that appropriations had to be transferred back to the quota section. This will not affect the specific Community measures (non-quota) which will continue in 1984 and 1985 with the scheduled finances.

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

The Committee feels that if there is no increase in funding the effectiveness of the available funds will have to be increased by involving the regions more directly in finding solutions to their specific solutions and by defining more accurately the goals to be achieved and the available sources of finance. The Committee adopted its opinion unanimously, less two abstentions.

The ninth report demonstrates that initial steps have already been taken to achieve these objectives. The report also highlights the fact that per capita aid has sometimes been greater in the non-assisted areas than in the assisted areas. This is not a desirable state of affairs and it requires justification. Another regrettable feature revealed in the report is that nine tenths of the aid is spent on infrastructures which are always given very preferential treatment by the Member States.

<sup>1</sup> CES 394/85.

The Committee calls for a more analytical approach to regional policy with analyses being carried out both prior to and subsequent to investments with a view to ensuring maximum effectiveness. Effectiveness would be measured by the number of direct and indirect jobs created. This would mean, amongst other things, that measures taken to help small and medium-sized businesses should not directly preclude the provision of aid to larger industries as analyses could show that aid to these latter industries would lead to the establishment of new smaller businesses.

The Committee also comes out in favour of the new approach in the form of integrated programmes, provided that these programmes are also subject to proper economic analyses and monitoring during their implementation. For this reason the Committee welcomes the fact that a whole series of prior studies in this field are to be financed. Development models should be assessed in pilot projects which could provide useful lessons for regional development as a whole.

*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 rapporteur was Mrs Moyra Quigley (United Kingdom - Various interests).*

## **2. REMISSION OF IMPORT OR EXPORT DUTIES**

**'Proposal for a Council Regulation (EEC) amending for the third time Regulation (EEC) No 1430/79 on the repayment or remission of import or export duties'<sup>1</sup>**

### **Gist of the proposal for a directive**

Council Regulation (EEC) No 1430/79, which was amended by Regulation (EEC) No 1672/82, determines the conditions under which the competent authorities grant the repayment or remission of import or export duties.

Under Regulation (EEC) No 1430/79, import duties, in certain cases, are repaid or remitted when the goods are re-exported out of the customs territory of the Community or destroyed under the supervision of the customs authorities. Even if procedural requirements are not observed, an application for repayment or remission can be sent in to the Commission, which is the only body authorized to take decisions under the present rules. Experience has shown that this power to take decisions can be transferred to the Member States themselves without further ado.

<sup>1</sup> COM(84) 757 final.

To ensure compliance with procedural requirements, it is suggested that the amount of repaid import duty should be cut by 10% (up to a ceiling of 1 000 ECU) in the event of non-compliance.

A new case should be added to the special circumstances under which import duties are to be repaid or remitted; namely that of goods which are found not to have complied with the rules in force concerning their use when released for free circulation, and which therefore cannot be used for the purpose intended by the consignee.

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

The Committee adopted its Opinion unanimously less two abstentions and welcomes the Commission proposal that the responsibility — hitherto borne by the Commission — for deciding on the repayment or remission of duties be transferred to the Member States.

It endorses the view that the right to repayment or remission should be forfeited in cases where non-compliance with the procedural requirements is due to serious negligence or deception on the part of the person concerned.

It cannot, however, endorse the proposal to cut the amount of repaid or remitted duty by 10% (up to a ceiling of 1 000 ECU), since such a measure is unjustifiable and would also lead to different legal treatment for comparable circumstances.

*This Opinion was drawn up in the light of the paper produced by the Section for Industry, Commerce, Crafts and Services, chaired by Mr de Wit (Netherlands - Employers). The rapporteur was Mr Broicher (Germany - Employers).*

## **3. CUSTOMS DEBT**

**'Proposal for a Council Regulation (EEC) on the entry in the accounts and terms of payment of the amounts of the import duties or export duties resulting from a customs debt'<sup>2</sup>**

### **Gist of the proposal for a regulation**

The entry in the accounts of import or export duties is currently dealt with only in Council Directive 78/453/EEC (on the deferred payment of import or export duties), the scope of which is limited to import or export duties in respect of goods entered for a customs procedure which

<sup>1</sup> CES 398/85.

<sup>2</sup> COM(84) 739 final.

entails the obligation to pay such duties. All other cases are governed by Member States' national laws. This lack of harmonization leads to major divergences in the application of the various customs rules concerned.

In order to lessen as much as possible the present disparities, the following points in particular need to be determined:

the time at which payment must be made of amounts of duty in respect of which no deferment of payment has been granted;

the types of payment facility which may be granted besides deferred payment;

the terms under which such payment facilities may be granted and the circumstances in which credit interest is due;

the consequences, for the person liable for payment of amounts of duty, of late payment or non-payment of such amounts.

Lastly, the position in which the customs authorities find themselves as a result of having to repay amounts of duty levied unduly must be regulated at Community level (should repayment be coupled with the payment of interest).

A further aim of the proposed regulation is to ensure greater transparency in the system of own resources, and hence its smoother operation.

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

In its Opinion adopted unanimously, the Committee welcomes the proposal, but recommends that the proposed provisions and the related provisions with regard to customs debts and the persons liable for payment should be embodied in one regulation instead of three.

It also advocates the deletion of the provision stating that deferment of payment should be refused in the case of a post-clearance recovery of duty if the entry in the accounts has been delayed for administrative reasons.

*This Opinion was drawn up in the light of the paper produced by the Section for Industry, Commerce, Crafts and Services, chaired by Mr de Wit (Netherlands - Employers). The rapporteur was Mr Broicher (Germany - Employers).*

<sup>1</sup> CES 396/85.

#### **4. BORDER CONTROLS/ MEMBER STATES' NATIONALS**

**'Proposal for a Council directive on the easing of controls and formalities applicable to nationals of the Member States when crossing intra-Community borders'<sup>1</sup>**

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

It was decided at the European Council Summit in Fontainebleau in June 1984 that real progress should be made in the first half of 1985 towards abolishing the border checks on travellers within the Community.

The measures proposed with regard to customs and passport formalities should be based on the principle of free movement within the Community for Member State nationals who conform with the provisions on the movement of goods, irrespective of the mode of transport used.

This presupposes of course that the officials responsible for border checks must be capable of ascertaining that the persons presenting themselves are indeed Member State nationals. In the same way, the Member States must still be able to carry out spot checks, albeit on a small proportion of travellers. Finally, it must still be possible to apply more stringent controls for limited periods in exceptional cases in order to take account of the legitimate interests of the Member States in matters of security.

The philosophy underlying such a system is based on the arrangements in force between France and Germany under the terms of a bilateral agreement signed on 13 July 1984.

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

In its Opinion adopted unanimously, the Committee welcomes this intention to abolish police and customs checks. It denotes a turning point in the Community's history and will lead to a standardization of regulations at the Community's internal borders, including a further improvement in the most advanced positions reached under bilateral treaties. Such improvements must be brought in not only at road and rail crossings, but also at various airports in the Member States.

<sup>1</sup> COM(84) 749 final.

<sup>2</sup> CES 399/85.

The Committee points out that some Member States believe they can resolve their currency problems by imposing exchange controls on travellers. Such controls, whose legal basis has been challenged, are carried out by the customs authorities. The controls themselves are prejudicial to the free movement of persons. The Committee therefore considers it vital, if this major difficulty is to be removed, to strengthen European monetary policy solidarity and to move further along the road towards a common currency.

As far as the control of non-commercial goods carried by travellers is concerned, further tax harmonization and an increase in the value and quantity of goods entering duty-free is desirable.

*This Opinion was drawn up in the light of the paper produced by the Section for Industry, Commerce, Crafts and Services, chaired by Mr de Wit (Netherlands - Employers). The rapporteur was Mr Mourgues (France - Workers).*

## 5. TECHNICAL HARMONIZATION AND STANDARDS

### **'Technical harmonization and standards: A new approach (Communication from the Commission to the Council and to the European Parliament)'<sup>1</sup>**

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

The new approach is presented on the basis of the finding that a revision is needed of the methods and procedures regarding technical harmonization in the Community to realize the objective of the completion of the internal market.

The outline of a directive concerning the approximation of Member States' legislation for the elimination of technical barriers to trade using the 'general reference to standards' approach involves the development of a general approach which the Commission intends to apply, according to the legislative requirements of sectors or groups of products as well as of categories of hazards, in drawing up proposals for directives based on Article 100 of the EEC Treaty.

Some priority sectors or areas to which the approach should initially be applied have been chosen, in the light of both the need to make up for lost time and the opportunity to profit from what can be considered to be favourable conditions. As the word 'priority' suggests, the choice of

<sup>1</sup> COM(85) 19 final.

these areas does not imply the exclusion of other areas or sectors to which the approach could be applied in the future.

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

By a narrow majority the Committee approved the new approach proposed by the Commission to overcome the difficulties involved in removing technical barriers to trade of which mutual recognition of certification is the most important element.

The Committee also considered that where consumers and/or workers interests are at stake in the laying down of standards, representatives of these groups should be effectively involved in decision-making by the European Standards Centre and the European Electricity Standards Centre.

It stressed, however, that the new strategy should not lead to a jettisoning of the old approach, which has achieved satisfactory standardization results in such sectors as motor vehicles, metrology and electrical products.

The Committee feels that because of the Commission's new approach, the Council will have to adopt directives to establish a general safety policy for products placed on the market or used within firms.

Further it invites the Commission to consider what steps to take against non-member countries which take unfair advantage, without offering reciprocity, of the scope for penetrating the Community market offered by intra-EEC standardization.

The opinion was adopted by 53 votes to 39, with 1 abstention.

The Workers' Group voted against the opinion. In a minority statement it said that this was because the Committee had rejected their call for creation of a tripartite standards body for preparing draft security standards. The Workers' Group nevertheless supports the principles of technical harmonization and standards.

*This Opinion was drawn up in the light of the paper produced by the Section for Industry, Commerce, Crafts and Services, chaired by Mr de Wit (Netherlands - Employers). The rapporteur was Mr Pearson (Ireland - Employers).*

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<sup>1</sup> CES 401/85.



## 6. RESTRICTION OF THE MANNHEIM CONVENTION

**'Proposal for a Council Regulation (EEC) laying down the conditions for access to the arrangements under the Revised Convention for the Navigation of the Rhine relating to vessels belonging to the Rhine Navigation'<sup>1</sup>**

### **Gist of the Commission proposal**

Additional Protocol No 2 to the Revised Convention for the Navigation of the Rhine (Mannheim Convention) was signed in anticipation of the opening of the Rhine-Main-Danube canal. It seeks to protect the fleets of the contracting States (Belgium, France, Germany, the Netherlands, the United Kingdom, Switzerland) from outside competition on the Rhine Navigation market. Traffic on the Rhine (i.e. between two points on the Rhine or its tributaries as laid down in the Mannheim Convention) is restricted to vessels belonging to the Rhine Navigation. Vessels must substantiate this right by means of an appropriate document issued by the relevant authorities.

The Protocol of Signature to Additional Protocol No 2 states that this document is only to be issued to vessels which have a genuine link with a contracting State. The contracting States are to be treated equally when determining what constitutes a genuine link. Vessels having a genuine link with another Member State should also be guaranteed an equal footing.

The Central Commission for the Navigation (CCR) acts as guardian of the Mannheim Convention. Within this body, the contracting States drew up implementing provisions to lay down the conditions for issue of the above-mentioned document. Despite the international agreement, operations on the Rhine come under the common transport policy, and the implementing provisions decided by the CCR must therefore be translated into Community law and brought into line with Community rules and procedures. This is the aim of the present proposal.

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

In line with its unanimous Opinion and on account of the need for smooth coordination between the two international systems (i.e. on the one hand, the international Rhine régime and the CCR and, on the other, the Community and its institutions) the Committee agrees that

<sup>1</sup> COM(85) 10 final.

<sup>2</sup> CES 397/85.

an EEC Regulation should lay down provisions which will make possible the entry into force in all the Member States of the CCR.

The Committee also has certain reservations about the Commission proposal, however. It is of the utmost importance that the provisions of the EEC Regulation and the CCR's Implementing Regulation should be completely identical with each other, in order to preclude differences of interpretation as far as possible. The Committee also thinks that it would be better and simpler to incorporate the CCR's Implementing Regulation word-for-word and in its entirety in the regulation in the form of an annex, merely adding those provisions that are necessary in order to facilitate communication between the CCR and the Community Member States that do not have any direct link with the CCR, as well as those provisions that are necessary for the incorporation into Community law of measures to apply the CCR's implementing provisions.

*This Opinion was drawn up in the light of the paper produced by the Section for Transport and Communications, chaired by Mr Delourme (Belgium - Workers). The rapporteur was Mr Fortuyn (Netherlands - Employers).*

## 7. STARCH PRODUCTS

**'Proposal for a Council Regulation (EEC) amending Regulation (EEC) No 2727/75 on the common organization of the market in cereals;**

**Proposal for a Council Regulation (EEC) amending Regulation (EEC) No 1418/76 on the common organization of the market in rice;**

**Proposal for a Council Regulation (EEC) establishing general rules applying to production refunds in the cereals and rice sector;**

**Proposal for a Council Regulation (EEC) laying down certain detailed rules for applying production refunds in the cereals and rice sector in respect of potato starch'<sup>1</sup>**

### **Gist of the Commission proposal**

The purpose of this proposal is to restrict refunds to starch used in sectors that are not protected by the CAP, thereby giving the starch industry access to raw materials at world prices.

<sup>1</sup> COM(84) 620 final.

The starch sector is complex; it involves various basic products (maize, corn, rice and potatoes) and various user industries (food, biotechnology, chemicals, textiles, paper mills, etc.). There is competition from sugar as an alternative raw material. The essential feature of the policy pursued until now has been the granting of a production refund fixed annually by the Council in connection with the farm prices negotiations and amounting to about 10% of the value of the raw material used.

The economic justification for this aid is the fact that imports of non-food starch products can enter the Community more or less freely. Imports of starch-based foodstuffs, on the other hand, are subject to variable levies. Thus, the present arrangements represent a kind of fixed-rate compensation to enable Community manufacturers to meet the competition from imported industrial products which have been made from starch purchased at world market prices and against which there is no real protection.

The new arrangements make a clear distinction between 'protected' starch (mainly starch for food purposes) and industrial starch, the products of which do not enjoy any external protection. The proposal provides for the abolition of the production refund for 'protected' starch, the dismantling of the present fixed-rate system and the parallel introduction of arrangements based on the granting of a refund solely for starch used in the 'non-protected' sector.

As from the 1985/86 marketing year, the starch industry will in principle obtain its supplies for 'non-protected' uses at the world price, subject to the monthly fixing of production refunds (where appropriate, by invitation to tender). A detailed list of these 'non-protected' uses will be drawn up and updated under a flexible Management Committee procedure to keep abreast with rapid changes in the industries concerned.

To ensure balanced treatment for the various categories of starch, the level of the refund may be differentiated according to the nature of the raw material used; in particular, a distinction will be made between wheat and other raw materials. Where the potato starch industry is concerned, the present special arrangements should be continued, maintaining the system of minimum guaranteed prices for producers and the direct linkage with maize for the purposes of the refund. The special premium for the potato starch industry is incorporated in the monthly refund by applying the special coefficient for potato starch.

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

The Committee adopted its Opinion unanimously.

While supporting the aim of the Commission proposals, the Committee points out that the proposals do not seem to stem from a precise and definite scheme for agricultural policy.

More particularly, the Committee feels that:

transitional compensatory measures are needed for the maize-meal industry;

measures are needed to avoid a drop in the use of Community raw materials due to greater recourse to substitutes;

acquaintance with proposals for sucrose would give a clearer, fuller picture of the Commission proposals;

introduction of the new system on 1 August 1985, with no transitional arrangement, would create serious problems for some areas of industry.

The Committee also thinks that the proposals will affect production of potato starch. These effects are as yet unknown, but they may be negative.

The abolition of the 'equilibrium' premium for potato producers is not adequately offset by applying a coefficient of 1.65 to maize refunds.

The list of products eligible for refund is to be drawn up by the Management Committee at a later date. The Committee feels that this deferral is one of the more negative aspects of the proposal.

In conclusion, the Committee thinks that the proposed regulations are fraught with difficulties and dangers for cereal and potato starch production, and for the food industry and other user industries.

*This Opinion was drawn up in the light of the paper produced by the Section for Agriculture, chaired by Mr Lauga (France - Various interests). The rapporteur was Mr Della Croce (Italy - Workers).*

## 8. NARROW-TRACK TRACTOR/ ROLL-OVER PROTECTION

**'Proposal for a Council directive on the approximation of the laws of the Member States relating to roll-over protection structures incorporating two pillars and moun-**

<sup>1</sup> CES 400/85.

## **ted in front of the driver's seat on narrow-tracked wheeled agricultural or forestry tractors'<sup>1</sup>**

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

This proposal comes within the scope of the EEC type-approval procedure and concerns the provisions relating to the roll-over protection structures of narrow-track agricultural tractors (so-called vineyard tractors). These provisions supplement those contained in two directives already adopted by the Council relating to the roll-over protection structures of standard tractors and static testing. In the case of these narrow-track tractors it has been necessary to differentiate between two categories, depending on the type of protection structure adopted, namely structures incorporating two or four pillars fixed at the rear of the driver's seat and structures incorporating two pillars located in front of the driver's seat. The provisions of this proposal are concerned with the latter category, a proposal on the former having already been presented by the Commission.

The main purpose of the proposal is not only to remove technical barriers to trade due to disparities in national regulations but also to ensure road traffic safety and safety at work.

The field of application is limited to wheeled agricultural or forestry tractors, as defined in Article 1 of Directive 74/150/EEC, with a maximum ground clearance of 600 mm, a minimum track width of both axles of less than 1 150 mm, a maximum track width of both axles of less than 1 360 mm and a mass of between 600 and 3 000 kg.

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

In its Opinion, adopted unanimously, the Committee supported the proposal, which seeks to improve the safety of narrow-track tractors, which are the type most prone to lateral tilt, as part of the process towards the abolition of technical barriers to trade.

In its technical comments, the Committee notes that unlike the previous directive, the present proposal specifies maximum track width as well as minimum. The Committee wonders why such an addition has been made, and calls for the deletion of the reference to maximum width.

*This Opinion was drawn up in the light of the paper produced by the Section for Industry, Commerce, Crafts and Services, chaired by Mr de*

<sup>1</sup> COM(84) 400 final.

<sup>2</sup> CES 395/85.

*Wit (Netherlands - Employers). The rapporteur was Mr Masprone (Italy - Employers).*

## **9. NATIONAL REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT AIDS** (Information report)

### **Purpose of the report**

The European Regional Development Fund grants are supposed to supplement national grants, and are only a small proportion of national support. The Section, therefore, wished to evaluate national support for regional development, in order to gauge the total volume of support and the reasons for development disparities.

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

The central argument of the information report adopted unanimously by the Economic and Social Committee at its plenary session is that regional aid measures do not themselves distort competition but are finely-tuned instruments for correcting existing distortions in so far as they tackle the root causes of regional distortions of competition and are differentiated according to the severity of regional problems.

By contrast, aid to individual sectors and branches of the economy can very easily distort conditions of competition. Sectoral aid should therefore only be granted under exceptional circumstances so as not to have an adverse effect on internal Community trade.

The Committee therefore recommends that the Commission should adopt a more flexible approach to the provisions of Articles 92 and 93 of the EEC Treaty (compatibility of State aids with EEC competition rules). This recommendation is in accord with the demand for increasingly 'regionally-oriented' national aid and subsidies.

In the view of the Economic and Social Committee the Rome Treaties underestimate the importance of regional policy for European integration and political union. Despite the unambiguous wording of the preamble, regional policy has not been accorded the attention it should have. Linking regional aid with the rules on competition does not redress this shortcoming; on the contrary, it tends rather to bring additional problems.

Whilst pondering the relationship between regional policy and Community competition policy, the European Community still has the

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(<sup>1</sup>) CES 202/83 fin.

task of setting differentiated ceilings for regional aid and graduating such ceilings according to the severity of the regional problems in question. Although it must in the first instance refer to indicators based on the Community average, regional aid should nevertheless take into consideration national regional imbalances. This alone will ensure that the most eligible areas receive absolute priority and will guarantee Member States' rights to develop all sectors of their national economies and ensure that the responsibilities they shoulder in the field of development can be justified in the eyes of public opinion.

The Committee considers it particularly important for measures to be concentrated so that tangible results can be achieved more quickly. This applies also to Member States designated wholly or to a large extent as assisted areas.

Member States are advised to use a more balanced system of granting aid as regards discretionary procedures and the automatic granting of aid. More frequent use of the automatic aid grant procedure would be desirable in cases where a clear-cut policy framework exists. Limiting discretionary powers has the advantage of making it possible for aid to be calculated in the interests of industry.

The last link in the chain to provide a comprehensive analysis and evaluation of regional aid measures must be a system for monitoring results. But whilst the Member States and the Community already have a thoroughly sound platform for the development of a system for evaluating the severity of regional problems, the scientific basis and practical experience needed to develop a system for monitoring results barely exists as yet. In the view of the Committee this is an important task for the European Community.

*The information report was drawn up by the Section for Regional Development and presented to the plenary session of the Economic and Social Committee of the European Communities by the rapporteur, Mr Paul Broicher (Germany - Employers), and the co-rapporteur, Mr Luigi Della Croce (Italy - Workers).*

The plenary session decided to send the report to the Council and Commission of the European Communities.





## 227th PLENARY SESSION

The European Community's Economic and Social Committee held its 227th plenary session in Brussels on 29 and 30 May 1985. Its Chairman, Mr Gerd Muhr, presided.

The session was attended by Mr Gianni De Michelis, the Italian Minister for Social Questions and Employment and President of the EC Council of Ministers, and Mr Nicolas Mosar, Member of the EC Commission, who took part in the debate on nuclear industries in the Community.

### **Summary of statement by Mr De Michelis, Italian Minister for Social Questions and Employment, President-in-Office of the Council**

In his speech on 20 May, Mr De Michelis stressed how urgent it was for the Community to find a way out of the current stagnation. If some governments refused to shoulder their responsibilities and take the decisions which were required, the Council would have to act. But even the Council had for years failed to take decisions on important issues, such as the Vredeling Directive on the provision of information for workers. It was difficult to stimulate people's enthusiasm for Europe whilst there was stagnation and problems remained unsolved.

Mr De Michelis said that absolute priority should be given to dealing with unemployment. He called upon the European Commission to take effective measures to overcome economic recession at last. This would show the people of Europe that the Community was capable of acting and finding a real solution to their everyday problems. The role of the Economic and Social Committee meant that it could give added impetus and support to the execution of this task; indeed it was important for consultations with socio-economic interest groups to remain at the centre of decision-making.

Turning to the aim recently set by the Commission under Mr Delors, Mr De Michelis took the view that the definition of new objectives to bring about economic recovery should take account of the basic characteristics of Europe. Our problems would not be solved by transposing Japanese or American solutions to Europe. A 'social'



*On the right, the Italian Minister for Social Questions and Employment, being met by the ESC Chairman, Mr Mühr on his arrival at the plenary session. On the left, the ESC Secretary-General, Mr Louet.*

(Photo News, Brussels)

Europe had to be created in parallel with the vast European market. If we were incapable of finding answers to the problems arising from under-use of human resources, there would be total disaster and a return to national protectionism.

Employment remains a central problem which was unfortunately far from being solved; it must not be forgotten that economic revival, by accelerating the introduction of new technologies, productivity, concentration, etc., would cause unemployment, especially among young people, to go on rising.

A purely macroeconomic response to these urgent problems would not be enough. Governments and public bodies must take action at national and supranational levels.

Mr De Michelis believed that measures had to be taken as soon as possible to:

expand training and education;

reorganize the labour market;

create new firms;

implement special programmes to create new jobs (a sort of 'Marshall plan' for Europe).

## **Adoption of opinions**

### **1. MIGRATION**

**'Guidelines for a Community policy on migration'<sup>1</sup>**

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

In its Opinion which was adopted by 65 votes for, 11 votes against, and 28 abstentions, the Committee supported the aims of the communication from the Commission, and welcomed the ideas contained in the initial explanatory chapter on the creation of a Community policy.

However, it regretted that the proposals made in the draft Council resolution dealt only partially, if at all, with certain problems and that no plans had been made to deal with xenophobia, racism and discrimination. It urged that special priority be given to the political and civil rights of immigrants.

<sup>1</sup> COM(85) 48 final.

<sup>2</sup> CES 470/85.

The Committee felt that draconian measures were needed at Community level to combat illegal employment and illicit traffic in labour.

On the question of social security, the Committee stressed the need to:

take the necessary steps at Community level to bring social security systems closer together,

pattern social security conventions with third countries on a Community model,

guarantee immigrants the same social security benefits as nationals.

The Committee referred back to its own-initiative Opinion of 25 October 1984, which remained fully valid. The general and specific comments contained in that Opinion formed the basis of the present Opinion.

*This Opinion was drawn up in the light of the paper produced by the Section for Social Questions, chaired by Mr Kirschen (Italy - Workers). The rapporteur was Mr Dassis (Greece - Workers).*

## **2. OCCUPATIONAL CANCER (Own-initiative Opinion)**

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

A very serious problem facing society today is that of occupational cancer.

The Economic and Social Committee adopted unanimously an own-initiative Opinion on this subject in which it stressed the need for the introduction of European legislation on the prevention and control of cancer risks at the workplace, not only in industry but also, for example, in agriculture. How can such prevention and control be achieved? By banning exposure to the agent or process which has been proved to be highly carcinogenic. However, in cases where exposure cannot be avoided, the use of the agent or process in question should be banned.

The Committee notes that work has been carried out by specialized international organizations (WHO, ILO) in the field of risk prevention, making it possible to list agents and processes the carcinogenic potential of which is proven, probable or questionable.

<sup>1</sup> CES 468/85.

Occupational cancer has the following characteristics:

- there is no proof of the existence of a safe level of exposure;
- there is usually a long latent period between exposure and the appearance and diagnosis of the disease;
- the disease is difficult to predict, and screening procedures are only applicable to certain forms of cancer;
- the susceptibility of individuals to the risks and effects of occupational cancer is impossible to determine.

To limit these risks the Committee urgently recommends that a risk limitation plan be drawn up, giving priority to technical measures covering agents and processes proved to have a high carcinogenic potential. This requires joint efforts by governments and employers on the one hand, and workers and their representatives at various levels on the other. In connection with this suggestion, the Committee calls, among other things, for special attention to be given to the problem of the introduction of new materials. However, prevention comes up against one major obstacle — the lack of knowledge of the carcinogenic potential of agents and processes at the workplace and of the dangers involved. There is therefore an urgent need for relevant, complete information to be made available to employers, workers and their representatives, environmental health specialists and researchers.

Thus the Committee takes the view that the system of death registers should be improved and efforts should be made to improve the registration of the results of medical and biological examinations of workers exposed to carcinogenic agents, with a view to creating better conditions for medical and epidemiological research.

Finally, the Economic and Social Committee recommends that the European Community:

- draw up a special directive under the framework directive, dealing with the use of carcinogens at the workplace in which each relevant substance could be treated separately;
- urging those Member States which have not yet ratified existing relevant international instruments to do so;
- inclusion of research into the prevention of occupational cancer as a priority in the Community's action programme.

*This Opinion was drawn up in the light of the paper produced by the Section for Social Questions, chaired by Mr Kirschen (Italy - Workers). The rapporteur was Mr Etty (Netherlands - Workers).*

### 3. INTEGRATED MEDITERRANEAN PROGRAMMES

#### **'Proposal for a regulation instituting integrated Mediterranean programmes'<sup>1</sup>**

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

The Economic and Social Committee adopted its Opinion unanimously, less 7 abstentions.

But it regretted that the Commission had not indicated where it was to get the 2 500 million ECU which, whatever happened, would have to come from a real increase in structural funds to attain the 4 100 million ECU scheduled in the budget for the seven-year period of the programmes. The Committee hoped that this would not jeopardize the fundamental objectives which led the Commission to propose the IMPs, i.e. to enable the Mediterranean regions of the present Community to catch up structurally, economically and socially, and to bring about the adjustment of these regions to the new conditions which will be created by the accession of Spain and Portugal.

The Committee stressed the need — now more essential than ever — to ensure that social, occupational and local representatives are included in an adequate fashion in the planned collaboration between national and Community authorities.

*The rapporteur-general for this Opinion was Mr Lauga (France - Various interests).*

### 4. TELECOMMUNICATIONS TECHNOLOGIES

#### **'Proposal for a Council decision on a preparatory action for R&D in advanced communications technologies for Europe (RACE); and the**

#### **Report from the Commission to the Council on RACE'<sup>3</sup>**

#### **Gist of the Committee Opinion<sup>4</sup>**

In its Opinion, adopted unanimously, the Committee generally supported the Commission's plans with regard to RACE (R&D in

<sup>1</sup> COM(85) 180 final.

<sup>2</sup> CES 473/85.

<sup>3</sup> COM(85) 145 final.

<sup>4</sup> CES 474/85.

advanced communications technologies for Europe) and, in particular, the proposal for a preparatory action (RACE — Definition phase).

The Committee considered it of fundamental importance that there should be a clear definition of national and EC roles. Networks would develop in the initial stage within the EC Member States.

The main task of RACE would be one of constantly coordinating developments at national level with the objectives of the Community, in order to ensure that integration was not delayed or rendered more difficult by divergent technology. The Committee regarded the development of an Integrated Broadband Communication (IBC) reference model as a matter of particular importance and urgency, as it would provide a clearer picture of technological data and basic conditions. This would be of value when national political decisions were being taken. The Committee suggested that the problem of language barriers be taken into account when the IBC reference model was being prepared.

The Committee called upon the Council to take all the necessary steps forthwith to ensure that there were no delays in starting and implementing this essential programme.

*This Opinion was drawn up in the light of the paper produced by the Section for Industry, Commerce, Crafts and Services, chaired by Mr de Wit (Netherlands - Employers). The rapporteur was Mr Nierhaus (Germany - Workers).*

## 5. CONTROL OF POLLUTION/DISCHARGES AT SEA

**'Proposal for a Council decision amending Decision No 81/971/EEC establishing a Community information system for the control and reduction of pollution caused by hydrocarbons discharged at sea'<sup>1</sup>**

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

The Opinion was adopted unanimously.

It welcomed the draft decision as it was fully in accordance with the Opinion issued by the Committee on 4 July 1984.

<sup>1</sup> COM(85) 123 final.

<sup>2</sup> CES 475/85.

It endorsed in its entirety the proposed inclusion of substances other than hydrocarbons in the information system for the control and reduction of maritime pollution.

The Committee recognized the scientific and technical difficulties involved in producing an exhaustive list of harmful and dangerous substances in this field. In the Committee's view it was, however, necessary to envisage the drawing-up of guidelines in respect of the harmful and dangerous substances to be covered by the decision.

*The rapporteur-general for this Opinion was Mr Zoli (Italy - Various interests).*

## 6. PROTECTION OF FAUNA AND FLORA

**'Proposal for a Council Regulation (EEC) amending Regulation (EEC) No 3626/82 on the implementation in the Community of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora'<sup>1</sup>**

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

In its Opinion, adopted unanimously, the Committee approved the Commission proposal on this subject.

## 7. DANGEROUS SUBSTANCES

**'Proposal for a Council directive on limit values and quality objectives for discharges of certain dangerous substances included in List I in the annex to Directive No 76/464/EEC'<sup>3</sup>**

### Gist of the Committee Opinion<sup>4</sup>

The Committee adopted its Opinion unanimously.

Although it urged a number of amendments, the Committee broadly endorsed the draft directive. It asked the Commission to push ahead with full implementation of the framework directive.

<sup>1</sup> COM(85) 128 final.

<sup>2</sup> CES 469/85.

<sup>3</sup> COM(84) 772 final.

<sup>4</sup> CES 477/85.



This draft directive, on a number of dangerous substances discharged into water, implements a framework directive (No 76/464/EEC) adopted nearly 10 years ago on 4 May 1976. The objective is to monitor and prevent harmful effects.

*This Opinion was drawn up in the light of the paper produced by the Section for Protection of the Environment, Public Health and Consumer Affairs, chaired by Mrs Heuser (Germany - Various interests). The rapporteur was Mr Vercellino (Italy - Workers).*

## 8. CONSUMER ACCIDENTS

**'Proposal for a Council decision relating to the setting up of a Community surveillance system for accidents in which consumer products are involved'<sup>1</sup>**

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

Problems of safety in relation to consumer goods and public health are not at present covered by any specific measures or adequate system at Community level which might prevent accidents to consumers. In order to remedy this deficiency and in response to the growing public interest, the Economic and Social Committee is proposing a far more radical approach to the issue than that envisaged by the Commission of the European Communities.

The Committee believes the Commission proposal to be too vague and generally lacking in suitable procedures and calls for the setting up of a European system which would not merely make it possible to monitor accidents but would also be an effective channel for informing, educating and warning consumers about dangerous products.

To do this, collecting statistics cannot be regarded as an end in itself. In order that necessary action be taken in respect of products found to be dangerous, the Committee demands that such products and/or their manufacturers must be appropriately and clearly identified. Precaution, however, must be exercised to prevent the dissemination of irresponsible and unsubstantiated information which could be to the detriment of manufacturers. Measures should be taken as soon as possible to ensure that dangerous products are redesigned or recalled and to establish standards at Community and international level.

So that the system can be put into operation as quickly as possible, the Committee strongly recommends drawing on the experience of such

<sup>1</sup> COM(84) 735 final.

<sup>2</sup> CES 471/85.

countries as the United Kingdom, the Netherlands or the United States which already benefit from surveillance systems for domestic accidents. The EEC should also develop an information exchange network with non-member countries including the Third World where protective measures are not adequately implemented.

On the question of terminology, the ESC considers it necessary to widen the scope of the proposed measures by replacing the term 'consumer products', which, although accepted usage, is too limiting, by the term 'consumer products and features'. This more precise definition is better suited to encompass all accident sources other than road accidents or accidents at work. The Committee also recommends adopting an acronym to help popularize the system.

The Committee regards the budget proposed by the Commission as very inadequate. Unlike the Commission, the Committee still believes that the heaviest expenditure should be calculated for the first years of operation, possibly with a progressive reduction in subsequent years. This is essential to put the system on a viable, solid footing.

Finally, the ESC is very much aware of the confidential nature of the doctor-patient relationship and of the need to protect manufacturers against unfounded and unwarranted charges; it is however recognized that certain information may sometimes — with the patient's authorization — have to be divulged to the public if a repetition of certain accidents is to be avoided.

*This Opinion was drawn up in the light of the paper produced by the Section for Protection of the Environment, Public Health and Consumer Affairs, chaired by Mrs Heuser (Germany - Various interests). The rapporteur was Mrs Williams (United Kingdom - Various interests).*

## 9. TEMPORARY IMPORTATION ARRANGEMENTS

### **'Proposal for a Council Regulation (EEC) amending Regulation (EEC) No 3599/82 on temporary importation arrangements as regards the date of its implementation'**<sup>1</sup>

This relates to the temporary importation of goods in the Community.

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

The Economic and Social Committee adopted unanimously an Opinion approving the Commission's proposal.

<sup>1</sup> COM(85) 173 final.

<sup>2</sup> CES 476/85.

*The rapporteur-general for this Opinion was Mr Broicher (Germany - Employers).*

## **10. ILLUSTRATIVE NUCLEAR PROGRAMME**

**'Nuclear industries in the Community — Illustrative nuclear programme under Article 40 of the Euratom Treaty — 1984'<sup>1</sup>**

### **Summary of statement by Mr Mosar, Member of the Commission**

Profiting from this first meeting with the full Committee on 30 May, Mr Mosar, the Commissioner responsible for energy expressed:

'his hopes for continued cooperation between the Commission and the ESC. The best example of the potential benefits of stepping up such cooperation was Mr Querleux's excellent report on the Community's indicative nuclear programme which was to be discussed at the session'.

After a quick review of such energy issues as refineries, gradual introduction of the ECU to pay for oil imports, financial support for the Community energy conservation pilot projects and financial support for the oil technology project, Mr Mosar announced that two new topics for reflection were to be submitted to the Council for the first time.

The first was renewal of the arrangements applicable for State aids to the coal industry. This new decision should reconcile three aims, in the shape of:

- compliance with the general rules on State aids recently laid down by the Commission;
- contributing to the general aims of the Community's energy policy;
- facing up to the social and regional side-effects of rationalization in the coal industry.

The second was the determination of new long-term Community aims in the energy sector. Mr Mosar stressed the importance of the relevant communication since it laid down a reference framework for all Community energy developments over the next 10 years.

<sup>1</sup> COM(84) 653 final.



*Commissioner Mosar (on the right) addressing the plenary session. Next to him, the ESC Chairman, Mr Muhr.*

(Photo News, Brussels)

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

With no votes against and 4 abstentions, the Committee adopted an opinion endorsing the indications programme proposed by the Commission. The Committee suggests that a number of changes be made in order to:

highlight the major importance of greater Community political will in the implementation of programmes concerning the various aspects of nuclear energy.

specify more clearly the action to be effectively embarked upon by the end of the century in the crucial areas of the reprocessing and interim storage of irradiated fuel elements and the management of radioactive waste; this should be done with the aid of an initial set of indicative deadlines to be updated in subsequent editions of the programme by means of rolling plans.

*This Opinion was drawn up in the light of the paper produced by the Section for Social Questions, chaired by Mr Romoli (Italy - Employers). The rapporteur was Mr Querleux (France - Employers).*

<sup>1</sup> CES 472/85.



## EXTERNAL RELATIONS

### Meeting between ESC and EFTA in Vienna

In the framework of the ceremonies which took place in Vienna for EFTA's 25th anniversary there was a joint session of delegations from the Economic and Social Committee of the European Community and of the Consultative Committee of the European Free Trade Association on 8 May.

The joint meeting, the 12th, discussed the state of relations between the European Community and the European Free Trade Association one year after the Luxembourg declaration which pledged greater cooperation and free trade between the Member States of the two areas. It examined the situation in relation to non-tariff barriers, rules of origin and customs formalities. The meeting heard also what is being done in the field of scientific and technological cooperation between the EC and EFTA, especially on the new technologies.

The Committee's delegation was led by Mr Gerd Muhr, ESC Chairman, and by Mr Maurice Zinkin (UK - Employers), Chairman of the Committee's External Relations Section.

### Other activities

On 10 April, Mr Narjes, Commissioner responsible for industrial affairs, information technologies, research and science, delivered a statement to the ESC's Section for Industry, Commerce, Crafts and Services on the progress of the Community's work in the field of telecommunications.

On 10 April, Mr Breitenstein and Mr Zinkin, ESC members, took part in a meeting on US trade policy organized by the Conseil national du Patronat français (CNPF) in Paris.

On 10 and 11 April, the Committee's Vice-Chairman, Mr Noordwal, attended an inter-governmental conference on new technologies organized in Venice by the Italian Government.

On 16 April, Mr Schwarz, Mr Dassis and Mr Regaldo, ESC members, went to London for the official presentation of the information report on the integrated operation for the County of Clwyd



*On the left, the ESC Secretary-General, Mr Louet, with the two Vice-Chairmen, Mr Emo Capodilista and Mr Noordwal, greeting Pope John-Paul II on 20 May during his visit to Brussels.*

(North Wales) drawn up by the ESC's Section for Regional Development. During the visit they met the Secretary of State for Wales, Mr Nicholas Edwards.

Mr Noordwal, Vice-Chairman of the Committee, attended a conference on computer-aided trade organized by Euomatica in London on 16 and 17 April 1985.

Mr Pfeiffer, Commissioner responsible for economic affairs and employment, attended a joint meeting on 23 April of the Committee's Sections for Social Questions and Economic and Financial Questions.

On 23 April, Mr Anastassopoulos, Chairman of the European Parliament's Committee for Transport, and Mr Smith, ESC rapporteur, had talks with Mr Signorile, Italian Minister for Transport and President-in-Office of the Council, during which they stressed the need



for the Council to arrive at a decision rapidly on lorry-drivers' driving, rest and break periods.

On 9 and 10 May, Committee members, Mr Hannon and Mr Murphy attended a conference hosted by the European Foundation in Dublin on 'The necessity of shift work in the brewing industry, and the economic and social consequences of changes'.

On 22 and 23 May, Committee member Mr Roseingrave attended a seminar organized by the European Foundation in Dublin on 'An investigation of activities for the unemployed'.



*The presentation of the information report on the County of Clwyd to the British Minister in London. From left to right: Mr Schwarz, the ESC member who led the study group which visited the region, Mr Edwards, Secretary of State for Wales, Mr Regaldo (rapporteur), Mr Dassis, Chairman of the Section for Regional Development, and Mr McLaughlin, Director in the ESC Secretariat.*

(Crown copyright)

## NEW CONSULTATIONS

At the 226th Plenary Session in April the Council of Ministers decided to consult the Economic and Social Committee on the:

*Communication from the Commission to the Council entitled 'Progress towards a common transport policy — maritime transport' (COM(85) 90 final);*

*Communication from the Commission to the Council on 'Public supply contracts — conclusions and perspectives' (COM(84) 717 final);*

*Proposal for a Council Regulation (EEC) on a Community aid scheme for non-documentary cinema and television co-productions (COM(85) 174 final);*

*Proposal for a Council directive laying down certain rules on indirect taxes which affect the consumption of alcoholic drinks; and*

*Proposal for a Council directive concerning the harmonization of excise duties on fortified wine and similar products (COM(85) 150 and 151 final);*

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



# PROVISIONAL FUTURE WORK PROGRAMME

## JULY 1985 PLENARY SESSION

### **Opinions concerning issues referred to the Committee**

Rules of Procedure

Economic situation, mid-1985

Social developments in the Community

Modified starches

Infant formulae

Waste oils

Demonstration projects

Strengthening of EEC-Latin American relations

Health problems — animal imports

Equal tax treatment

Counterfeit goods

Specific training for general practitioners

18th VAT Directive

19th VAT Directive

Health problems — residues in meat

Detergents

### **Information reports**

Demographic situation

Energy options — environmental constraints

## SUBSEQUENT PLENARY SESSIONS

### **Opinions concerning issues referred to the Committee**

Air transport

Transport infrastructure guidelines

Non-quota measures  
Shipbuilding aids  
Telecommunications standards  
Cross-border company mergers  
Mortgage credit  
14th competition report  
Public purchasing  
Seaports/hinterland  
Sea transport  
Future of the CAP

**Committee own-initiative Opinions**

Criteria and functioning of integrated operations GATT/GSP

**Information reports**

Effects of changes in the CAP on the situation of paid agricultural workers  
Shared-cost research programme  
Upland areas  
SME research/interface

## PERSONAL NOTICES

### **New members**

The Council of Ministers has appointed Mr Michel Saiu (France), National Secretary of the French Confederation of Executive Staffs (CGC), to replace Mr Bordes-Pages; Mr Guy Drilleaud (France), national delegate of the French Christian Workers' Federation (CFTC) to replace Mr Bornard; Mr René Bleser (Luxembourg), General Secretary of the Luxembourg federation of railway and transport workers, civil servants and employees (FNCTTFEL), to replace Mr Schneider; and Mr Michael Geuenich (Germany), member of the federal committee of the German trade union confederation (DGB), to replace Mr Pfeiffer.

### **Deaths**

Mr Halle (France) and Mr ter Heide (Netherlands), former members of the Economic and Social Committee, died recently.





## PUBLICATIONS OBTAINABLE FROM THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMITTEE

### General documentation

- The Economic and Social Committee (leaflet) (January 1980)
- The Economic and Social Committee (December 1982) (a descriptive brochure) 16 pp
- The other European Assembly, June 1985 (CES 85-006)
- 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

- Irish border areas (Information report) (February 1984) (ESC 84-002)
- Tourism (Opinion) (June 1984) (ESC 84-004)
- Consumer-producer dialogue (Opinion) (January 1985) (ESC 84-011)
- Europe and the new technologies — Conference report (January 1985) (ESC 84-016)
- Inaugural conference — 1983: the European Year of Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (Proceedings) (December 1983) (ESC 83-016)
- 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)
- Inaugural conference — 1983: The European Year of SME (February 1983) 27 pp. (ESC 83-002)
- 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)
- The EEC's external relations — Stocktaking and consistency of action (Study) (January 1982) 139 pp.
- Genetic engineering (Colloquy) (October 1981) 120 pp. (ESC 81-014)
- Economic pointers for 1982 (Opinion) (August 1981) 32 pp. (ESC 81-010)
- Problems of the handicapped (Opinion) (September 1981) ± 46 pp. (ESC 81-013)
- Present situation in the Community's building sector (Opinion) (September 1981) ± 24 pp. (ESC 81-011)
- Community competition policy (Opinion) (ESC-81-008)
- Development policy and working conditions (September 1980) (Opinion) 61 pp. (ESC 80-012)
- The organization and management of Community R&D (February 1980) (Study) 168 pp. (ESC 80-001)
- Agricultural structures policy (November 1979) (Opinion) 90 pp. (ESC 79-003)
- Enlargement of the European Community Greece-Spain-Portugal (September 1979) (Study) 75 pp. (ESC 79-002)
- The Community's relations with Spain (June 1979) (Study) 112 pp. (ESC 79-001)
- Community shipping policy — flags of convenience (April 1979) (Opinion) 170 pp.
- Youth unemployment — Education and training (November 1978) (5 opinions) 97 pp.

The stage reached in aligning labour legislation in the European Community (June 1978) (Documentation) 60 pp.

Monetary disorder (June 1978) (Opinion) 98 pp.

Industrial change and employment (November 1977) (Opinion) 98 pp.

EEC's transport problems with East European countries (December 1977) (Opinion) 164 pp.

Systems of education and vocational training (August 1976) (Study) 114 pp.



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