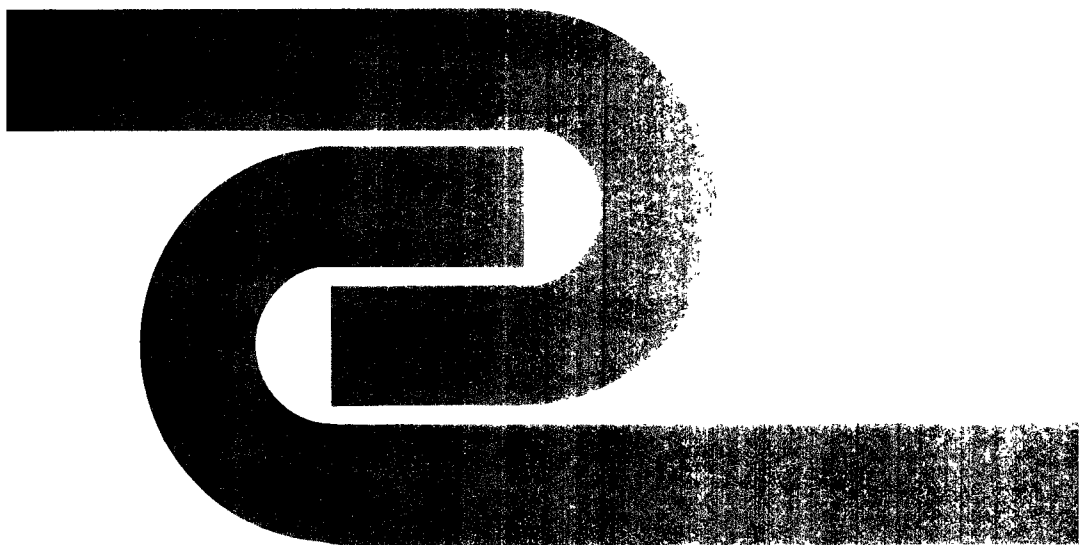


ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMITTEE
OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES

BULLETIN



Brussels - No. 12/1984

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222nd PLENARY SESSION

The 222nd Plenary Session of the Economic and Social Committee of the European Communities was held in Brussels on 12 and 13 December 1984. The Chairman, Mr Gerd Muhr, presided.

Opinions adopted

1. VETERINARY MATTERS/HORMONES

“Proposal for a Council Directive amending Directive 81/602/EEC concerning the Prohibition of Certain Substances having a Hormonal Action and of any Substances having a Thyrostatic Action”⁽¹⁾

Gist of the Commission Proposal

The Commission feels that it is necessary to supplement the provisions already laid down by Directives 64/433/EEC, 71/118/EEC and 81/602/EEC.

It proposes that Member States may authorize the administering to farm animals, for fattening purposes, of œstradiól-17B, testosterone and progesterone and those derivatives which readily yield the parent compound on hydrolysis after absorption from the site of application.

Member States shall ensure that the aforementioned substances are:

- only administered to farm animals by implantation which is located in a part of the animal which must be discarded at slaughter;
- only administered to animals which are identified at the time of implantation and that these animals are not slaughtered before the expiry of the delay period;
- administered by a veterinarian.

Before 1 April 1986 the following shall be established:

⁽¹⁾ COM(84) 295 final

- a list of products containing as active substances the substances referred to which may be approved for marketing and use in the Community;
- the conditions of use of products contained in the abovementioned list, in particular the delay period necessary and detailed provisions concerning the control of these conditions of use;
- the means of identification of animals.

Without prejudice to the provisions of Directive 64/433/EEC, Member States shall ensure that *a*) checks on compliance with the prohibitions, *b*) checks on farm animals, the meat of such animals and the meat products obtained therefore to detect the presence of residues of hormonal substances and *c*) checks on compliance with the conditions of use of products are carried out in their territory in accordance with the provisions of this Directive.

Gist of the Committee Opinion⁽¹⁾

European Community Member States should retain the right to ban the use of five hormones used to fatten animals for human consumption. This is the central message of an Opinion given by the Economic and Social Committee and adopted by 76 votes to 5 with 7 abstentions. Governments should be allowed to ban the growth-promoting hormones until they are proved harmless.

Opposing the Proposal to revoke the right to ban the use of three of the hormones, the Committee accused the Commission of trying to abolish measures that protect consumers and public health — guaranteed until now by both European and national legislation. According to the Opinion, the Commission should have awaited a special report on the toxic effects of two of the hormones: zeranol and trenbolone. Had it taken account of this Report, says the Committee, the Commission would have considered more thoroughly the health, quality and economic issues involved.

Claiming that the new Proposal to allow the use of three of the hormones (progesterone, testosterone and oestradiol 17B) does not meet the aims of consumer health and economic interests, the Committee pointed out that representatives of consumers and workers “have for a long time been unequivocally opposed to the use of growth-promoting hormones in livestock fattening”.

Neither farmers’ organizations nor meat processors and traders have taken an official stand at EC level on whether to allow or forbid

⁽¹⁾ Doc. CES 1177/84



John Searle
7. XI. 84

"Nothing to worry about old boy. He's probably been treated with hormones".

use of the hormones in the Community. Not only are the Proposals objectionable from the point of view of the safety, health and well-being of the population, it is also highly unlikely that the different national and Community bodies can reach agreement on them.

The Committee called instead for measures that ensure respect for the present laws allowing Member States to ban all five hormones, laying down the conditions for their use, until the special Scientific Committee reports to the Commission and providing for the labelling of meat obtained with hormones, with evidence that they are safe.

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 Jaschick (Germany - Various Interests).

2. FISHERY PRODUCTS — COMMON ORGANIZATION OF THE MARKET

“Proposal for a Council Regulation (EEC) amending Regulation (EEC) No. 3796/81 on the Common Organization of the Market in Fishery Products”⁽¹⁾

Gist of the Commission Proposal

Under Article 20(1) of Council Regulation (EEC) No. 3796/81 of 29 December 1981 on the common organization of the market in fishery products, customs duties on imports of dried and salted cod are suspended in their entirety.

Moreover, the Community has granted, in the framework of international commitments and fishery agreements, tariff concessions for salted cod in particular.

The prospects of development of Community production should, however, in the short term substantially change the supply conditions of the Community market. It now therefore seems no longer justified, in the Commission's view, to maintain the total, permanent and quantitatively unlimited suspension of Common Customs Tariff duties on the products in question.

The Commission therefore proposes that total suspension of CCT duties shall apply only to tuna for the industrial manufacture of products falling within heading No. 16.04.

⁽¹⁾ COM(84) 483 final

Gist of the Committee Opinion⁽¹⁾

The unanimously adopted Committee Opinion welcomed the proposed Regulation and drew attention to the potential advantages for relations with certain non-member countries (Canada, Greenland) and current fishery negotiations in preparation for the accession of Spain and Portugal.

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 Morselli (Italy - Various Interests).

3. IMPACT OF EMS ON THE CAP

“Proposal for a Council Regulation (EEC) amending Regulation (EEC) No. 652/79 on the impact of the European Monetary System on the Common Agricultural Policy”⁽²⁾

Gist of the Commission Proposal

In February 1980, the Commission forwarded to the Council three Draft Regulations codifying the then existing agrimonetary rules. These included a proposal making permanent the use of the ECU in the CAP. At the time, these proposals were rejected, because of political disagreements on the nature and timing of terms for reducing monetary compensatory amounts. These disagreements were, however, largely settled at the time of the 1984/85 price package. The Commission, therefore, now proposes again that the ECU be introduced permanently into the CAP.

Gist of the Committee Opinion⁽³⁾

In a unanimously adopted Opinion, the Committee approved the proposed Regulation which seeks to introduce the use of the ECU, on a permanent basis, in the CAP.

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 Schnieders (Germany - Employers).

⁽¹⁾ Doc. CES 1170/84

⁽²⁾ COM(84) 565 final

⁽³⁾ Doc. CES 1171/84

4. CUSTOMS DEBT

“Proposal for a Council Regulation on Customs Debt”⁽¹⁾

Gist of the Commission Proposal

Council Directive 79/623/EEC of 25 June 1979 on the harmonization of provisions laid down by law, regulation or administrative action relating to customs debt⁽²⁾ specifies those cases in which an obligation arises to pay the import duties or export duties to which goods are liable. It also specifies the moment when that obligation arises and the circumstances in which it is extinguished.

At that time the Commission did not have all the information it needed on certain aspects of the problem and therefore proposed issuing a Directive, although a Council Regulation would have been preferable.

After clearing up the outstanding points, i.e. after completing its study to determine the persons liable for payment of a customs debt, the Commission submitted to the Council a proposal for a Regulation on the subject⁽³⁾.

The Commission document points out that the Economic and Social Committee stressed the importance of such a measure in its Opinion⁽⁴⁾ on the proposal for a Regulation determining the persons liable for payment of a customs debt.

This proposal for a Regulation is very largely based on the text of Directive 79/623/EEC.

It contains additions and amendments on the following points:

- partial relief from import duties for temporary use;
- incurrence of a customs debt in the event of the unlawful import or export of goods;
- determination of those cases in which a customs debt on importation could arise in respect of goods placed in a free zone;
- determination of the special conditions governing the incurrence and extinction of a customs debt in the case of international agreements such as those with the EFTA countries and the candidate States;

⁽¹⁾ COM(84) 395 final

⁽²⁾ OJ No. L 179 of 17 July 1979, page 31

⁽³⁾ OJ No. C 340 of 28 December 1982, page 5

⁽⁴⁾ OJ No. C 211 of 8 August 1983, page 1

- non-determination of the moment from which a customs debt falls due (with a view to including such provisions in a specific proposal for a Regulation).

Gist of the Committee Opinion⁽¹⁾

In an Opinion, adopted unanimously, the Committee stated that the upgrading of Customs Directives into Regulations ties in with its support for progressive harmonization of EC law in the interest of greater legal security and the operation of the customs union.

The Committee considered that this goal could be most readily achieved by the establishment of a uniform EC customs code. Bearing in mind the work already in progress and the preliminary draft documents which have been drawn up, the question arises as to whether the upgrading of Directives into Regulations should not be looked upon merely as a step towards the establishment of the customs code and whether the Regulations should not be brought into effect concurrently with the customs code rather than separately. This would prevent overlapping and repetitions and would avoid burdening administrations and the economy with more frequent changes in the law. For this reason the Committee urged that the work on the customs code be concluded as soon as possible.

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).

5. GENERALIZED PREFERENCE SCHEME

“Amended proposals for Council Regulations (EEC)

- **applying generalized tariff preferences for 1985 in respect of certain industrial products originating in developing countries**
- **applying generalized tariff preferences for 1985 to textile products originating in developing countries**
- **applying generalized tariff preferences for 1985 in respect of certain agricultural products originating in developing countries”⁽²⁾**

⁽¹⁾ Doc. CES 1173/84

⁽²⁾ COM(84) 630 final

Reason

On 16 July 1984 the Commission sent the Council a proposal fixing the Community's Generalized Preference Scheme for 1985 (COM(84) 378 final).

The Council subsequently referred the matter to the Committee which issued its Opinion at the October 1984 Plenary Session (CES 983/84).

Meanwhile Denmark has requested that Greenland be added to the list of GSP beneficiaries from 1 January 1985. Greenland was of course an integral part of the Kingdom of Denmark until 1979 when it was granted Home Rule (the devolved Government is sovereign in all matters except defence, currency and external relations for which Denmark retains responsibility). Greenland has now decided to withdraw from the Community on 1 January 1985. From that date it should therefore be treated as a Danish Overseas Territory. The Commission proposal springs from the fact that overseas territories have traditionally benefited from GSPs since their inception.

Commission Proposal

The Commission accepts Greenland's addition to the list of GSP beneficiaries. Greenland's territorial waters have however been traditional fishing grounds for many Community fishermen and the Commission therefore proposes that continued free access to Greenland's territorial waters be made a precondition for admitting Greenland's fishery products to the Community market.

Gist of the Committee Opinion⁽¹⁾

This Opinion was adopted unanimously with 6 abstentions. Although it approved the Commission proposal for the Community's Generalized Tariff Preferences Scheme for 1985 allowing Greenland to benefit from the GSP arrangements when it becomes an "overseas territory", it deplored the fact that fishery products, which are Greenland's main exports, are to be excluded.

The Opinion called upon the Commission to submit proposals providing free access for EC fishing boats to Greenland's territorial waters and abolishing the restrictions on Greenland's eligibility for tariff preferences regarding fishery products.

⁽¹⁾ Doc. CES 1175/84

This Opinion was drawn up in the light of the paper produced by the Section for External Relations, chaired by Mr Zinkin (United Kingdom - Employers). The Rapporteur was Mr Cremer (Germany - Workers).

6. EUROPEAN SOCIAL FUND

“Statistical machinery to establish the order of priority to be applied when granting European Social Fund assistance to regions”⁽¹⁾

Gist of the Commission document

On adopting the instruments concerning the tasks of the European Social Fund, and especially Article 7(3) of the Decision 83/516/EEC⁽²⁾ which makes certain provisions about the allocation of resources from a regional point of view, the Council requested the Commission “to continue its studies with a view to achieving reliable statistical machinery, taking account inter alia of the criterion of per capita GDP, and to present suitable proposals on the subject before 1 July 1984 to enable the Council to act before 31 December 1984.

Pending the development of a new method of evaluating the priority regions for Fund assistance, the Commission decided to draw up a list of these regions for 1984 and 1985 on the basis of:

- the list, drawn up in 1983, of priority regions for Fund assistance in respect of youth unemployment;
- areas in receipt of national aid to promote regional economic development in accordance with Article 92 of the Treaty and eligible for ERDF assistance (quota section);
- certain other regions added due to their economic situation, particularly ERDF non-quota regions.

The Commission has in the meantime continued its studies and, in close collaboration with the Member States’ statisticians, has drawn up a method for calculating indicators which makes it possible to ensure comparability between figures for Community countries and update the statistics to reflect the recent position.

“Long-term unemployment” was eliminated from the calculation of the unemployment indicators due to the lack of reliable statistics.

⁽¹⁾ COM(84) 344 final

⁽²⁾ Decision 83/516/EEC on the tasks of the European Social Fund, formally adopted on 17 October 1983, OJ No. L 289, 22.10.83.

Gist of the Committee Opinion⁽¹⁾

In its Opinion, adopted unanimously with 2 abstentions, the Economic and Social Committee expressed strong reservations regarding plans to introduce statistical machinery for the European Social Fund.

While welcoming the proposal to use statistical machinery as a guide for managing the Fund, the Committee criticized the Commission's jettisoning of long-term unemployment as an indicator and was sceptical as to the possibility of carrying out the concrete measures needed to assist the long-term unemployed. Rejecting the Commission's argument that figures for unemployment are not comparable, the Committee insisted that it is possible to locate reliable and sufficiently comparable statistics amongst the national employment offices.

Alternative suggestions made by the Committee included the granting of more even weighting for employment and per capita GDP per area. This runs counter to the proposed ratio of 70% for unemployment and only 30% for per capita GDP, but would, the Opinion claims, be better suited to meeting the aims of regional and area aid. The Committee pointed out however that the proposed machinery is not purely technical but would be used to determine the allocation of roughly half the Fund's aid.

The Committee also urged the inclusion of a review clause in the Fund's rules which would allow adjustments to changes in labour market patterns.

Finally, the Opinion insists that the statistical index be regarded as a guide only, and that it be assessed in a broader context, involving both sides of industry. In this connection the Committee would stress the role of the Fund Committee.

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 Beretta (Italy - Workers).

7. SAMPLING AND ANALYSING OF FOODSTUFFS

"Proposal for a Council Directive concerning the introduction of Community methods of sampling and analysis for the monitoring of foodstuffs intended for human consumption"⁽²⁾

⁽¹⁾ Doc. CES 1174/84

⁽²⁾ COM(84) 39 final

Gist of the Commission Proposal

This Proposal is a follow-up to the Foodstuffs Labelling Directive of 1978 (79/112 of 18 December 1978) which provides that a list of ingredients appears on the label.

There are currently no accepted EEC methods of sampling and analysing for checking the accuracy of the information on the label, and the present proposal is designed to provide for the adoption of such methods.

Gist of the Committee Opinion⁽¹⁾

While supporting the Commission proposal, the Committee pointed out, in its unanimously adopted Opinion, that the proposed harmonization of monitoring procedures raised important problems which might necessitate administrative, legislative and financial adjustments by Member States not carrying out tests at factory level.

It agreed that the aim should be to provide for sampling and analysis at all appropriate stages in production, manufacture and distribution.

The Committee also considered that Community-level harmonization of methods of sampling and analysis could prevent, or even resolve, disputes about the results of analyses.

The Opinion stated that the analysis methods should be interpreted flexibly to allow Member States to maintain different analysis and monitoring methods, provided that these lead to the same results in intra-Community trade in food products.

Against this background the Opinion urged that the proposal be expanded to provide for temporary derogations to alleviate the burden which an abrupt transition to the new system would impose on certain Member States.

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).

8. MEAT AND MEAT PRODUCTS — HEALTH PROBLEMS

“Proposals for Council Directives amending Directives

⁽¹⁾ Doc. CES 1167/84

- 64/433/EEC on health problems affecting intra-Community trade in fresh meat;
- 71/118/EEC on health problems affecting trade in fresh poultrymeat;
- 77/99/EEC on health problems affecting intra-Community trade in meat products”⁽¹⁾

Gist of the Commission Proposal

This is a Proposal for a Directive to amend three existing Directives on fresh meat (64/433), fresh poultrymeat (71/118) and meat products (77/99) in the light of a Commission Report, prepared by experts on the annual medical examination of staff handling meat and meat products.

The proposed amendments envisage the replacement of the annual examination by rules on staff training and health supervision, which it is claimed will offer consumers improved safeguards.

Gist of the Committee Opinion⁽²⁾

This Opinion, which the Committee adopted unanimously, approved the Commission's proposals but warned that the new procedure would only improve standards if it were clearly defined and carefully applied. As a safeguard, it proposed to continue the practice of annual medical examinations for employees, and to intensify workers' obligations regarding medical certificates. The Opinion also suggested that doctors themselves be given a greater role both with regard to the notification of illnesses and regarding health training. While responsibility for health training should lie with employers alone, it should be shared with the workforce in matters of general hygiene.

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 Brassier (France - Various Interests).

9. VETERINARY MATTERS/AFRICAN SWINE FEVER

“Proposal for a Council Directive amending Directive 64/432/EEC as regards certain measures relating to classical swine fever and African swine fever

Proposal for a Council Directive amending Directive 72/461/EEC as regards certain measures relating to classical swine fever and African swine fever

⁽¹⁾ COM(84) 337 final

⁽²⁾ Doc. CES 1172/84

Proposal for a Council Directive amending Directive 80/215/EEC as regards certain measures relating to African swine fever”⁽¹⁾

Gist of the Commission Proposal

In view of the spread of classical swine fever in certain parts of the territory of the Community, the Commission considers that the measures relating to trade should be strengthened and the circumstances in which the status of the officially swine fever-free regions should be altered in the event of an outbreak of the disease should be more clearly defined.

Even if it occurs only exceptionally in certain parts of the territory of the Community, African swine fever constitutes a risk of contamination to the pig herds of the Member States. The Commission therefore considers that rules should be established laying down protective measures to be applied in intra-Community trade in live pigs and pigmeat-based products which have not undergone treatment to destroy the virus of the disease.

Gist of the Committee Opinion⁽²⁾

In an Opinion, adopted unanimously, the Committee broadly endorsed the Draft Directives but pointed out that the proposed rules must not be open to abuse for the purpose of securing trading advantages.

The Committee also proposed that the current Directives covering Classical Swine Fever and African Swine Fever be codified in a clearer form.

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 Wick (Germany - Workers).

10. COMMUNITY INTER-INSTITUTIONAL INFORMATION SYSTEM (INSIS)

“Proposal for a Council Decision on the Coordination of the Activities of the Member States and Community Institutions with a View to Setting up a Community Inter-Institutional Information System (INSIS)”⁽³⁾

⁽¹⁾ COM(84) 500 final

⁽²⁾ Doc. CES 1169/84

⁽³⁾ COM(84) 380 final

Gist of the Commission Proposal

The purpose of the future inter-institutional information system INSIS is to make the management of Community affairs more efficient by improving the circulation of information between the Community institutions and bodies and the Member State administrations. This system will make the widest possible use of the new information technologies best suited to these requirements.

A system of this kind can only be set up gradually; the first operational components should be available in 1986 but not until 1990 will it reach its full size.

The various types of services that will be made available to users have to be developed and tested by means of pilot projects⁽¹⁾ which demonstrate their feasibility and economic use. The current INSIS programme is designed to develop these pilot projects on the basis of criteria and priorities defined by the future users of the system.

There are two objectives:

- to rationalize the procedures for the exchange of and access to information and thus make better use of the available resources;
- to ensure that the development of INSIS will have a favourable effect on industry and the operators of telecommunications services.

This requires that:

- the transmission media are “transparent” to users, i.e. there is end-to-end compatibility of exchange systems;
- all participants should play an active part in the process of creating INSIS right from the initial stage of defining the projects to be included, since INSIS is intended in particular to promote the creation and use of standards approved at international level.

The Council decided on 13 December 1982⁽²⁾ in agreement with the Community institutions that the Member States and the Commission should coordinate their activities with a view to:

- the identification and assessment of user needs;
- if necessary, the preparation of proposals for a design and implementation programme;

⁽¹⁾ — STRADA: System for rapid transmission of administrative documents

— ISEM: Inter-institutional service of electronic mail

— Teleconferencing systems: EVE, European Videoconference Experiment, and CEPT, European Conference of Postal and Telecommunications Administrations.

⁽²⁾ OJ No. L 368/40 of 28 December 1982

- the establishment of joint agreements for exchanges of information not specific to individual manufacturers, taking account of international standardization.

The work on the creation of a Community inter-institutional integrated services information system is being done by an advisory committee set up by the Council and composed of representatives of the Member States and the Community institutions and bodies.

So far the advisory committee has identified five categories of needs:

- electronic text transmission to reduce delivery times for documents;
- electronic message systems, written or vocal, with a facility for temporary storage of messages for correspondents who are temporarily absent;
- easier access to relevant information in data bases of interest to the Community including the possibility of communications between different data bases;
- the establishment of teleconference systems (audio- or videoconferences) to reduce the cost and time wasted in travel by participants coming from a distance;
- the general need for horizontal integration of services to facilitate access by those who are not computer professionals to the various services listed above, for example by installing single terminals and compatible facilities capable of communicating with each other.

The funds required for the development and implementation of the system are to come from users' contributions (Member States and bodies). Community financial aid will average about 8 million ECUs per year.

Gist of the Committee Opinion⁽¹⁾

The Committee supported the Commission's plan in its Opinion which was adopted unanimously. If the Member States and the Community's institutions were not to go their own separate ways, the consultations required to coordinate activities must be embarked on without delay and concluded as quickly as possible.

Emphatic support was given to the planned coordinating committee consisting of representatives of the Member States and the Community's institutions and bodies. It was assumed that the Economic and Social Committee will also be represented on this committee.

⁽¹⁾ Doc. CES 1168/84

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).

11. SMALL CONSIGNMENTS

“Proposal for a Council Regulation Amending Regulations (EEC) No. 918/83 and No. 950/68 in Respect of the Tariff Treatment Applicable to Goods Contained in Travellers’ Personal Luggage or Sent in Small Consignments to Private Individuals”⁽¹⁾

Gist of the Commission Proposal

Regulation (EEC) No. 918/83 concerning the Community system of reliefs from customs duty provides for the goods in question to be admitted free of customs duty up to certain ceilings expressed in ECU.

The ceilings for goods contained in travellers’ personal luggage (Article 47) or sent in small consignments to private individuals (Article 29) were fixed in 1981. The same is true of the ceiling for the flat-rate duty (Appendix to Regulation (EEC) No. 950/68).

The Commission, therefore, considers that these ceilings should be raised and the following amendments made to Regulation (EEC) No. 918/83:

- In Article 29(2) third indent 35 ECU is replaced by 45 ECU.
- In Article 47, 45 ECU and 23 ECU are replaced by 60 ECU and 30 ECU respectively.

In Section II c(1), (5) and (6) of the preliminary provisions of the Common Customs Tariff annexed to Regulation (EEC) No. 950/68, the amount 115 ECU is replaced by 150 ECU.

Gist of the Committee Opinion⁽²⁾

The Economic and Social Committee unanimously welcomes the proposal of the Commission that from 1 January 1985 the system of reliefs from customs duty be further extended by increasing the ceiling for goods contained in travellers’ personal luggage and for small, non-commercial consignments from private individuals in a third country to another private individual in the Community customs area.

⁽¹⁾ COM(84) 626 final

⁽²⁾ Doc. CES 1176/84

The Rapporteur-General for this Opinion was Mr Flum (Germany - Workers).

12. INTEGRATED MEDITERRANEAN PROGRAMMES⁽¹⁾

Gist of the Committee Opinion⁽²⁾

The Economic and Social Committee adopted this Opinion by a large majority with 1 vote against and 11 abstentions. It notes with concern the accumulation of delays in the adoption and implementation of the Integrated Mediterranean Programmes, which should have been launched before the end of 1984.

The Committee, as the body representing European socio-economic interest groups, has twice come out unanimously in favour of this initiative, whose prime aim is to bring about an equitable balance between the various regions of the Community in accordance with the objectives of the Treaty of Rome.

The Committee again urges the relevant Community authorities to act within their respective spheres of competence and take the decisions required for rapid implementation of this action.

The Rapporteur-General for this Opinion was Mr Lauga (France - Various Interests).

⁽¹⁾ COM(83) 24 final, COM(83) 495 final, COM(83) 641 final

⁽²⁾ Doc. CES 1207/84

EXTERNAL RELATIONS

- On 5 December 1984, the Chairman, Mr Muhr, attended an informal meeting of workers' and employers' representatives. The meeting, held in Brussels, was chaired by the President-in-Office of the Council (Minister for social and labour issues), Mr Ruairi Quinn, Irish Minister for Labour.
- An ESC Drafting Group composed of Mr Amato, Mr Dassis and Mr Sharp, visited Greece from 25 to 27 November 1984 (in connection with the work of the Study Group on Mountain Regions).
- A delegation from the Economic and Social Committee, led by Mr Pelletier (France - Employers), made a fact-finding tour of Tunisia from 29 November to 1 December 1984. Delegates had talks with the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, H.E. Mr Ben Arfa, the Minister for the Plan, Mr Ismail Khelil, the Minister for the National Economy, Mr Rachis Sfar, and with the leaders of UNAT (National Union of Tunisian Farmers) and UTICA (Tunisian Union for Industry, Commerce and Crafts). The delegation also met the Managing Director of the Office for the Promotion of Employment and the Managing Director of the Office for Oil.

The delegation, which also paid a visit to the south of Tunisia, collected useful information on the local economic and social situation and on the development of trade with the Community, which would be taken into consideration when drafting the ESC Opinion on relations between the EEC and the Mediterranean countries in the context of enlargement.
- Mr Graziosi (an ESC Director) attended a conference at the National Centre for Young French Farmers (CNJA) in Ouagadougou (Burkina Faso) from 3-7 December 1984.

NEW CONSULTATIONS

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

“Proposal for a Council Regulation (EEC) on a programme of support for technological development in the hydrocarbons sector” (COM(84) 658 final)

“Nuclear Industries in the Community (Illustrative Nuclear Programmes)” (COM(84) 653 final)

“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 mounted in front of the driver’s seat on narrow-track wheeled agricultural or forestry tractors” (COM(84) 400 final).

PROVISIONAL FUTURE WORK PROGRAMME

JANUARY 1985 PLENARY SESSION

Opinions upon consultation

- 16th VAT Directive
- Tax treatment: company losses
- Raising of capital
- Railway infrastructure
- Relaxing of Social Regulation (road transport)
- Animal feed
- Fresh meat health checks
- Mediterranean policy of the enlarged Community
- Noise level of motorcycles

Information Reports

- Integrated operation in Wales
- Hydrocarbon exploitation

Own-initiative

- Community research priorities

SUBSEQUENT PLENARY SESSIONS

Opinions upon consultation

- Worker protection
- Dangerous substances
- High-technology drugs
- Health protection programme
- Frozen food
- Economic/social situation in the regions
- 9th ERDF Annual Report

- Air transport
- Protection of Mediterranean environment
- Acid rain (2nd additional Opinion)
- Shipbuilding aids (additional Opinion)
- Telecommunications standards
- Strengthening of EEC-Latin American relations
- Tractor protective devices
- Financing EAGGF
- 18th and 19th VAT Directive
- Starch products
- Programme support technological development hydrocarbons
- Indicative programme for nuclear industries

Information Reports

- European Monetary System
- Demographic situation
- Shared-cost research programmes
- Community fisheries policy
- National regional development aids
- Energy options: environmental constraints
- Development of upland areas.

MEMBERS' NEWS

Death

Mr Edmond Renaud (France), former member of the Economic and Social Committee, died on 9 December 1984 at the age of 81. Former President of the National Federation of Road Hauliers of France (Fédération nationale des Transports Routiers de France), Mr Renaud was a member of the Committee from 1962 to 1982, and Vice-Chairman from 1978 to 1980. Mr François Ceyrac (ESC Chairman from 1982 to 1984) and Mr Roger Louet (Secretary-General) represented the Committee at his funeral.

SCHEDULE FOR PLenary SESSIONS

JANUARY

MONDAY	7	14	21	28	
TUESDAY	1	8	15	22	29
WEDNESDAY	2	9	16	23	30
THURSDAY	3	10	17	24	31
FRIDAY	4	11	18	25	
SATURDAY	5	12	19	26	
SUNDAY	6	13	20	27	

FEBRUARY

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	5	12	19	26
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3	10	17	24	

MARCH

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	5	12	19	26
	6	13	20	27
	7	14	21	28
1	8	15	22	29
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3	10	17	24	31

APRIL

MONDAY	1	8	15	22	29
TUESDAY	2	9	16	23	30
WEDNESDAY	3	10	17	24	
THURSDAY	4	11	18	25	
FRIDAY	5	12	19	26	
SATURDAY	6	13	20	27	
SUNDAY	7	14	21	28	

MAY

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JUNE

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Plenary Sessions

JULY					
MONDAY	1	8	15	22	29
TUESDAY	2	9	16	23	30
WEDNESDAY	3	10	17	24	31
THURSDAY	4	11	18	25	
FRIDAY	5	12	19	26	
SATURDAY	6	13	20	27	
SUNDAY	7	14	21	28	

AUGUST				
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SEPTEMBER					
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OCTOBER					
MONDAY	7	14	21	28	
TUESDAY	1	8	15	22	29
WEDNESDAY	2	9	16	23	30
THURSDAY	3	10	17	24	31
FRIDAY	4	11	18	25	
SATURDAY	5	12	19	26	
SUNDAY	6	13	20	27	

NOVEMBER				
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DECEMBER					
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1	8	15	22	29	

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 p.
- Annual Report 1983

Opinions and Studies

- 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 p. (ESC 83-003)
- Inaugural Conference — 1983: The European Year of SME (February 1983) 27 p. (ESC 83-002)
- Guidelines for Mediterranean Agriculture (4 Opinions) (September 1982) 64 p. (ESC 82-010)
- The Economic and Social Situation of the Community (2 Opinions) (July 1982) 57 p. (ESC 82-008)
- The Promotion of Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (Opinion) (June 1982) 70 p. (ESC 82-007)
- Agricultural Aspects of Spain's Entry into the E.C. (Opinion) (February 1982) 107 p. (ESC 81-017)
- The EEC's External Relations — Stocktaking and Consistency of Action (Study) (January 1982) 139 p.
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