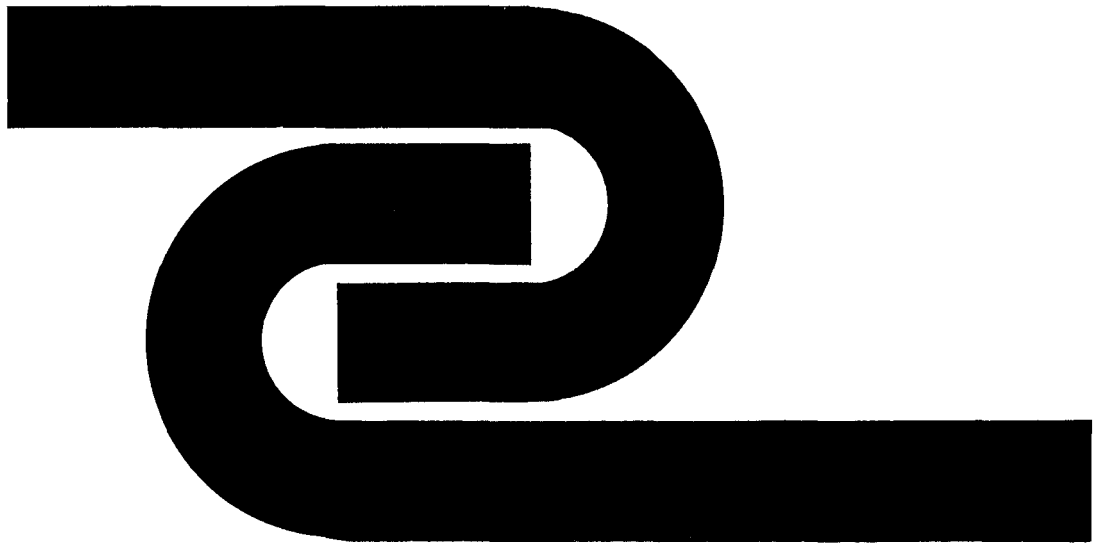


ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMITTEE
OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES

BULLETIN



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218th PLENARY SESSION

The 218th Plenary Session of the Economic and Social Committee of the European Communities was held in Brussels on 4 and 5 July 1984. The Chairman, Mr François Ceyrac, presided.

This session was attended by Mr Ivor Richard, Commissioner, who took part in the debates on the economic situation in mid-1984 and social developments in the Community in 1983. (It proved necessary at the end of the Session to defer the adoption of the Opinion on social developments until September).

Opinions adopted

1. ECONOMIC SITUATION FIRST SIX MONTHS OF 1984 (Own-initiative Opinion)

Background to the Committee Opinion

It has become an established practice for the ESC to issue two Opinions each year on the economic situation in the Community.

The first of these Opinions is drawn up on the ESC's own initiative, while the second is issued in response to a request from the Council and is based on a specific Commission document, viz. the annual economic report, which is published around the end of October each year.

The Bureau of the Section for Economic and Financial Questions considers that the first Opinion (an Own-initiative Opinion) is more a reflection of the ESC's position on Community economic policy.

The object of this Opinion, dealing with the first six months of the current year, is as follows:

- to inform the Council about the measures advocated by the Community's socio-economic organizations in the area of economic and budgetary policy. By delivering its Opinion at the end of the first six months of the year, the ESC makes its views on economic policy known to the Economic Policy Committee and the coordinating

group at the Council in time for them to be taken into account in the final discussions on the preliminary economic budget. Council decision 74/120/EEC provides that at the end of the second quarter "the Council shall lay down appropriate guidelines for the main elements of the preliminary economic budgets. Within this framework, quantitative guidelines for the draft public budgets for the following year shall be fixed before these budgets are finally adopted and shall cover developments in government expenditure and revenue, the nature and extent of budget surpluses and deficits and the way the latter are to be financed or used. The guideline figures for the draft public budgets shall not be published at this juncture";

- to serve as guide to the Commission concerning the various positions of the socio-economic interest groups on economic questions when it is drawing up its annual economic report;
- to briefly inform the economic and social councils and the socio-economic organizations of the Member States (through their representatives on the ESC) of how the ESC assesses economic developments in the Community as a whole. It is hoped that circulation of the ESC's Opinion to the advisory bodies of the Member States will enable the latter to take account of this European position on economic policy and possibly incorporate it in their proposals to their national government in connection with the national budget.

At the same time as the report on the economic situation in the Community the Section draws up a report on the economic situation in the Member State holding the Presidency of the Council in the first six months of the current year. The country in question this year is France.

Summary of the statement by Mr Ivor Richard, Commissioner

Mr Ivor Richard expressed broad agreement with the conclusions of the two opinions and said:

"The view that the Community must pursue a more energetic and coordinated economic and social policy as a response to the crisis is happily becoming more and more acceptable to the peoples of Europe. Both these reports reflect a desire to meet the legitimate aspirations of our citizens yet, at the same time, place proposals for action in a realistic framework. ... They reflect in essence what is becoming more obvious all the time, that the Community needs policies to solve our economic and social problems which are not motivated by a single ideology or a tunnel vision view of the economic circumstances of the world."

Mr Richard then reviewed the Community's main strategy on employment and the action undertaken by the Commission in this field.

He listed the Commission's special action programmes, on training in the 80s and the new information technologies, and expressed satisfaction that the European Social Fund in its new guise had become more relevant in dealing with the problems of unemployment than had previously been the case.

He turned to the introduction of new technologies and underlined the need to carry the workforce along in order to obtain change, a requirement which implied the necessity of having to inform and consult them.

On the question of the reduction and reorganization of working time, Mr Richard outlined the progress which had been made in agreements reached between the two sides of industry in several countries despite many initial hesitations, agreements which seem to have had an effect on reducing unemployment.

Nonetheless, in spite of some signs of economic improvement, our situation remained grave, he said. "For the harsh fact of the matter is that even if we are able to achieve a significant measure of economic recovery, this would not in itself solve the unemployment problem. We need in the Community to achieve a growth rate of 3% simply to stand still in employment terms. And even when we have achieved that 3% growth we have got to translate it into 1 million new jobs a year. And that is simply to stand still in employment terms." But even this prospect was optimistic and it meant that the Community was prepared to accept a permanent level of unemployment of 12-15 million people with unemployment rates well over 10%. "We should, in my view, regard this not only as intolerable but more importantly as completely unacceptable. We must subject our economic policies to rigorous examination and identify those policies which help to create and sustain mass unemployment, and, having identified them, change them. We must have a very substantial increase in both public and private investment. But we must not expect that this alone is going to solve the problem." He warned of the danger of the Community becoming divided into two groups of people; those in work and relatively comfortable and those out of work and increasingly resentful.

It is towards preventing this situation that much of our economic and social effort must be aimed, Mr Richard concluded.

Gist of the Committee Opinion⁽¹⁾

At a time when Europe is losing momentum in the face of competition from the rest of the world, it would seem that steps to solve Europe's

(1) Doc. CES 670/84



View of the Plenary Session at the Borschette Centre in Brussels.



From left to right: Mr Roger Louet, ESC Secretary-General, Mr François Ceyrac, ESC Chairman, and Mr Ivor Richard, Member of the Commission.

structural problems would significantly hasten the economic upturn and alleviate unemployment. This is the message contained in the ESC's Opinion adopted by a large majority (4 votes against and 7 abstentions). One of the major concerns voiced by the Committee in this Opinion is to see a speedy, sustained recovery in growth, which would make it possible to combat unemployment. This means that the spotlight must be turned on proposals likely to stimulate job-creating investment. The Opinion is also concerned to emphasize Europe's identity both with regard to the international monetary system and the Community's common commercial policy.

The Opinion notes that there has been an upturn in economic activity in the Community (2% rise in GDP in 1984), although this situation must not blind us to the considerable differences between Member States of the Community. Moreover the upturn is far behind that of the United States or Japan. Furthermore, a large number of industries are still suffering from structural difficulties: steel, shipbuilding, the building industry, the oil industry. Finally, unemployment showed a further rise in 1983 while employment declined again. No major improvement can be expected in the Community labour market in 1984.

The ESC notes that the fragile recovery is severely handicapped by the weakness of the Community's internal markets and that the Community's scope for influencing the economic situation is limited.

It urges a renewal of joint economic action, singling out a few major priority areas. Hence it recommends a special employment policy (dealt with in another Opinion) and a return to vigorous, lasting growth by reactivating investment. Regarding the latter point, some suggestions are offered:

- a coherent, purposeful policy to ensure the mobilization of private savings;
- a review of the system of corporate savings;
- Community investment projects.

The ESC also advocates a Community programme to simplify procedures: the proliferation of rules and regulations obscures the Community's fundamental objective, i.e. the achievement of an operational internal market. The Committee suggests that the Council could instruct the Commission to analyse the obstacles impeding the creation and operation of firms. It could then make recommendations on ways and means of simplifying procedures and abolishing superfluous regulations by giving Community law precedence over national law.

Another priority is to adapt competition policy: the Commission must allow European firms to use the same weapons as competitors from other countries. This implies substantial flexibility in applying

Articles 85 and 86 of the Treaty of Rome. The ESC also believes that it is important to pursue and further develop a joint research policy.

The Community, as the world's leading trading power, should be much more active in the quest for a basic solution to the crisis in the international monetary system, in accordance with the pledges made at Williamsburg. According to the ESC the role of the EMS needs to be strengthened and the task of creating a reserve currency, namely the ECU, must be pursued in all seriousness. It is also highly desirable that the United Kingdom join the EMS.

The Community should give thorough consideration to a number of fundamental problems, in particular the need to bridge the technology gap. It also considers that one of the key components of the Community's trade policy should be Commission assistance for Community firms which have obviously been brought before the courts of non-member countries for no good reason.

Finally, according to the ESC, the Community must assert itself as a force in its own right vis-à-vis the outside world and must not hesitate any more to display all the economic and political assets at its disposal.

This Opinion was drawn up in the light of the paper produced by the Section for Economic and Financial Questions, chaired by Mr Marvier (France - Various Interests). The Rapporteur was Mr Pelletier (France - Employers).

2. ENLARGEMENT (Own-initiative Opinion)

“Enlargement of the Community to include Portugal and Spain”

Gist of the Committee Opinion⁽¹⁾

The Committee adopted its additional Opinion on this subject by a large majority (1 vote against and 23 abstentions), after having adopted an initial Opinion on the same subject on 24 November 1983. It thinks that Portugal and Spain should join the Community simultaneously on 1 January 1986.

The Committee emphasizes in the Opinion that enlargement is not only politically necessary but also a historical challenge. It is to be expected, however, that enlargement will aggravate existing social and economic difficulties.

⁽¹⁾ Doc. CES 666/84

The Community must have the political will to take the necessary measures in order to strengthen and further the integration process; in particular it must increase its own resources.

With regard to the gradual implementation of freedom of movement for workers, the Committee is in favour of a short transitional period. It goes without saying that Portuguese and Spaniards living in the EEC prior to accession have the same rights as other Community migrants.

The quota and fiscal imbalances that distort competition must be rectified immediately after accession. Existing state monopolies must also be brought in line with Treaty provisions.

In the industrial sector the Committee proposes the gradual abolition of customs duties and other barriers to trade over a transitional period of seven years.

The Committee expects Spain to introduce VAT on 1 January 1986 and Portugal three years later.

The Committee assumes that on accession:

- Spain will restructure its steel industry in line with ECSC policy and ECSC provisions on aid, production quotas and export quotas.
- Spain will reduce its production capacity in the shipbuilding industry, just as the Member States are doing at present.
- The textile agreement reached with Portugal will remain in force (controls over textile trade for three years — four years if one includes a reciprocal safeguard clause).

The Committee proposes a transitional period of seven years for the purposes of integrating Spanish agriculture in the CAP. At the same time account will have to be taken of the need to:

- exempt sensitive products for three years (milk, meat);
- progressively take over the financing of Spanish agriculture (eight years for olive oil and wine).

A special solution nevertheless seems to be called for in the case of agricultural products where Spain feels heavily discriminated against because other non-EEC countries enjoy substantial preferences which would not even be enjoyed by Spain after accession. After accession and during the transitional period Spain would in fact continue to be treated as a non-Member State with its exports to the Community still subject to levies.

The Committee accepts that Portugal's agriculture, where there are production shortfalls, should be progressively financed by the Commu-

ity over a period of ten years, with exemptions made in the case of milk for four years.

The Committee finally makes the point that current fisheries discussions must not lead to delays in negotiations. The solution adopted, however, must on all accounts open the way for the integration of the fishing industries of the Community, Portugal and Spain within a transitional period not exceeding the transitional period set for agriculture.

This Opinion was drawn up in the light of the paper produced by the Section for External Relations, chaired by Mr Zinkin (UK - Employers). The Rapporteur was Mrs Strobel (Germany - Various Interests).

3. ENVIRONMENT - RESEARCH AND INFORMATION

“Proposal for a Council Regulation (EEC) Establishing a Community Scheme to Provide Forests in the Community with Increased Protection Against Fire and Acid Rain”⁽¹⁾

Gist of the Commission document

In view of the widespread damage being caused to forests in the Community by fire and acid depositions, the Commission has submitted a draft Regulation on forest protection which would cover:

Fire

Under the proposed Community scheme, the following steps are proposed:

- the strengthening of preventive measures;
- the introduction of firefighting measures.

Acid depositions

The following steps are proposed:

- the setting-up of a network of monitoring posts for acid depositions in forest areas;
- the setting-up of teams of scientists to look into the matter and devise preventive techniques;
- the coordination of scientists' work by the Commission;
- the establishment of experimental pilot projects in forest areas.

Expenditure totalling 100 million ECU is envisaged from 1985-88.

⁽¹⁾ Doc. COM (83) 375 final

Gist of the Committee Opinion⁽¹⁾

In its Opinion, which was adopted unanimously, the Committee notes that forest fires and atmospheric pollution (acid rain) are posing an increasing threat to the Community's forests, which not only provide an important raw material but are also of irreplaceable value in that they help to maintain the hydrological balance and keep the air clean.

All Member States must be made more aware of the acid rain problem, which is now assuming catastrophic proportions and can easily spread to other Member States which have hitherto been scarcely affected or have been thought to be safe.

The ESC is aware that scientists have still not fully determined the relative importance of the various factors causing acid rain and the ways in which it damages forests. However, there are a number of indications that atmospheric pollution is detrimental to the health of forests.

It therefore stresses the need to empower the Commission to carry out in all the Member States the surveys envisaged in the Draft Regulation. Surveys of this kind of damage have so far been limited. According to initial estimates, about 30% of German forests are affected; the direct damage caused totals about DM 20,000 million — a figure which increases each year by between DM 2,000 and 3,000 million.

The ESC is seriously concerned at the continuing spread of this phenomenon, and at the fact that forest varieties other than the Swiss pine are now affected — which implies a threat to all Community forests.

As regards forest-fire damage, the ESC notes that in 1983, in the Mediterranean forests alone, 10,965 fires destroyed 145,000 hectares of forests; in addition, 272,000 hectares of forest and woodland were affected by fire.

If one bears in mind the French Forest Authority's estimates that one hectare of forest destroyed, plus the value of new growth lost, plus the cost of reforestation, represents between 10,000 and 12,000 ECU, it is easy to see that this damage has considerable economic impact.

The increase in the number of fires and in the surface area burnt cannot, however, be halted solely by providing more fire-fighting resources. Protection of forests must be part of a long-term policy designed to improve tree varieties and provide incentives for exploitation and use by wood-processing industries.

⁽¹⁾ Doc. CES 654/84

In conclusion, the ESC makes the point that the implementation of individual measures which are effective in the short term must not cause people to forget that the protection of forests should form part of a fully-fledged common policy which the Community should draw up as soon as possible.

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 Schnieders (Germany - Employers).

4. OIL SPILLS AT SEA

“Proposal for a Council Directive on the Drawing-up of Contingency Plans to Combat Accidental Oil Spills at Sea”⁽¹⁾

Gist of the Proposed Directive

The proposed Directive is part of the action programme on costs and the reduction of pollution caused by oil spills at sea adopted by the Council on 26 June 1978.

At the time, the Council stated that the Community should do more to prevent such pollution.

The Commission is therefore proposing that the Member States take appropriate steps in their own countries to improve and speed up efforts to combat accidental oil spills at sea and make such efforts more effective, and adopt joint measures to combat accidental oil spills in maritime areas where they may have common interests with other Member States and may have to act at the same time.

The proposal also requires that Member States are asked to carry out periodic trials, in the form of simulation exercises, to determine the effectiveness of their anti-pollution capacities.

Finally, the Commission proposes that a scheme be set up to provide information about any plans adopted by any one country or groups of countries and to assess the effectiveness of such plans.

⁽¹⁾ Doc. COM(83) 520 final

Gist of the Committee Opinion⁽¹⁾

In its Opinion adopted unanimously less 6 abstentions, the Committee broadly endorsed the Draft Directive, but felt that it should be replaced by a Regulation.

It felt that the Directive should cover not only emergency action against Oil Spills but also accident prevention, preventive action on the high seas and rehabilitation of the environment after disasters. It felt that the Directive should empower the Community and the Member States to take action not only in territorial waters but also in economic zones and, if necessary, beyond the 200 mile limits.

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 Zoli (Italy - Various Interests).

5. PROTECTION OF THE MARINE ENVIRONMENT IN THE CARIBBEAN

“Commission Communication to the Council Concerning the Outcome of the Negotiations with a view to the Signing of the Convention for the Protection and Development of the Marine Environment of the Wider Caribbean Region”

and the

“Proposal for a Council Decision Concerning the Signing of the Protocol on Cooperation in Combating Oil Spills in the Wider Caribbean Region and Proposal for a Council Decision on the Conclusion of the Convention for the Protection and Development of the Marine Environment of the Wider Caribbean Region and also of the Protocol on Cooperation in Combating Oil Spills in the Wider Caribbean Region”⁽²⁾

Gist of the proposed Council Decision

After taking part in the negotiations on the Convention for the protection and development of the marine environment of the wider Caribbean region, the Commission is recommending that the Council sign the Protocol on cooperation in combating oil spills and complete the

⁽¹⁾ Doc. CES 664/84

⁽²⁾ COM(83) 733 final

procedures required for conclusion of the above Protocol and Convention.

This Convention, which was signed on behalf of the Community by the persons empowered to do so on 24 March 1983, stipulates that it is impossible to become a Contracting Party to the Convention without at the same time signing the Protocol.

Gist of the Committee Opinion⁽¹⁾

In its unanimously adopted Opinion, the Committee agreed that this Convention should be signed and drew the Commission's attention to various difficulties in implementing a similar Mediterranean Convention (Barcelona Convention 1976).

The Committee trusted that the Commission would be able to learn from this experience and would thus avoid such difficulties.

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

6. TELEMATIC MANAGEMENT OF AGRICULTURAL INFORMATION

“Proposal for a Council Decision Concerning the Coordination of the Actions of the Member States and the Commission related to the Implementation of a Long-term Programme for the Use of Telematics for Community Information Systems Concerned with Imports, Exports and the Management and Financial Control of Agricultural Market Organizations CADDIA”⁽²⁾

Gist of the Commission's proposal

In its Decision 82/607/EEC of 28 July 1982, which the Economic and Social Committee approved unanimously on 28 October 1981, the Council decided that Member States should coordinate with the Commission a series of preparatory activities with a view to analysing the needs, feasibility, costs and benefits of a concerted 10-year development

⁽¹⁾ Doc. CES 665/84

⁽²⁾ COM(84) 119 final

programme for the use of telematics systems for the processing of data on imports/exports and on the management and financial control of agricultural market organizations (CADDIA).

A Preliminary Task Force (PTF), consisting of representatives of the Member States and of the Commission services, was set up to undertake the preparatory activities and Part I of the PTF report, including Findings, Recommendations and the Outline Development Programme, is appended to the Commission's Communication to the Council as a result of this work.

Apart from the Communication, which gives an account of the Commission's strategy for implementing CADDIA over a 7 to 10-year period and (in Annex A) goes into detailed activities and work plans, the present document contains a concrete proposal for a Council decision. This particularly stresses the importance of:

- the adoption and implementation of standards to meet CADDIA requirements. The use by the Commission and the Member States of the same data and message standards is the key to the development of systems to meet the CADDIA long-term objectives. It is essential, therefore, to give priority to the adoption and implementation of agreed data and message standards to meet CADDIA requirements. In order to facilitate the international exchange of data, the Commission considers, as a matter of policy, that recommended international standards, particularly those of the International Standards Organization (ISO), the Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) and the Customs Cooperation Council (CCC), should be used by the Community.
- cooperation between the Member States and the Commission in the implementation of those projects in which both parties are involved;
- cooperation between the Member States and the Commission in defining the facilities and actions needed to meet the CADDIA long-term objectives, such as internal communications systems within the Commission and communications systems for the transmission of urgent and regular CADDIA data between the central/regional points of collection in the Member States and the Commission, and between Member States;
- cooperation between the Member States and the Commission in defining the actions which are necessary to CADDIA. Certain of the facilities outlined are already available, others will require the development of an advanced telematics infrastructure as well as comprehensive data processing facilities in the Member States. As some Member States have already developed extensive data processing facilities, and are planning to develop them still further, the Commission and the Member States will need to collaborate very

closely in preparing their development plans in order to ensure the coordinated development of computerized administrative procedures. Since the first step in the process will be for the Commission and the Member States to analyse the user and technical requirements and then reach agreement on outline specifications of the facilities required to meet the CADDIA long-term objectives, the Commission therefore proposes that it should start this work together with the Member States early in 1984. Once agreement is reached on the specifications, the Commission will examine with each Member State how the implementation of such plans fits in with the Member States' own plans for extending their computer networks, and the related costs and benefits of meeting the CADDIA requirements.

Gist of the Committee Opinion⁽¹⁾

The Committee unanimously approved the Commission's plan including its Proposal for a Council Decision. The systems in use at present for the collection, processing and evaluation of data were still not fully coordinated and were in urgent need of a thorough overhaul. There were four reasons for this:

- costs;
- the Community authorities must be able to react swiftly and flexibly, especially where the organization of agricultural markets is concerned;
- readily understandable economic data must be available for Community policy-making;
- the proper documentation of quantitative and qualitative data is required for the exchange of information between the Community and its Member States.

This Opinion was based on material prepared by the Section for Industry, Commerce, Crafts and Services under the Chairmanship of Mr De Wit (Netherlands - Employers). The Rapporteur was Mr Nierhaus (Germany - Workers).

7. PATENT LICENSING AGREEMENTS

“Proposal for a Commission Regulation (EEC) on the Application of Article 85(3) of the Treaty to Certain Categories of Patent Licensing Agreements⁽²⁾ (doc. 84/CC/1)”

⁽¹⁾ Doc. CES 662/84

⁽²⁾ IV/586/rev. 83/1

Gist of the Commission document

The definition of the relationship between the rules of competition on the one hand and industrial property rights on the other is a decisive factor in the establishment and development of a free market in technology.

The key objective is to reconcile the unity of the Community market with respect for the protection of industrial property. By making a distinction between the clauses in licences which qualify for exemption and those which do not unless examined individually, the draft Regulation aims to guarantee firms the legal security to which they are entitled.

With a view to attainment of these objectives, the Commission has drawn up the draft Regulation, notably in the light of experience drawn from the Court's judgement in the Maize Seed case.

Under the competition rules laid down in the Treaty of Rome all agreements caught by Article 85(1) are automatically void unless they qualify for individual or block exemption; the latter is particularly advantageous to firms in that they do not have to notify their agreements.

A licensing agreement is not in itself caught by the ban in Article 85(1) where the patentee merely thereby authorizes a third party to exploit the protected invention and the related know-how, against payment of royalties. The problem in applying Article 85 arises where the authorization to exploit the patent or any other industrial property right is accompanied by clauses which restrict competition without being justified by protection of the existence of the industrial property right.

The problem of applying Article 85(1) arises in particular in relation to exclusive territorial licences; their assessment was dealt with by the Court in the abovementioned Maize Seed case.

In its judgement the Court drew a distinction between an "open" exclusive licence, where the licensor is only prevented from granting other licences or exploiting himself in the territory granted to the licensee so that parallel importers and other licensees remain free to sell in that territory, and a "closed" exclusive licence, where the licensor is also under an obligation to prevent others from importing the product into the licensee's territory, the licensee thus being given absolute territorial protection.

The Court pointed out that the granting of an "open" exclusive licence, was not in itself incompatible with Article 85(1), but that the absolute territorial protection given to the licensee was caught by Article 85(1) and could not qualify for exemption.

Gist of the Committee Opinion⁽¹⁾

In a unanimously adopted Opinion the Committee welcomed the latest version of the Draft Regulation of the Commission (84/CC/1).

It felt that if too many obstacles were put in the way of the patent licensing process, resort to that method of promoting technical progress might be inhibited.

The Committee's recommendations were presented under four headings:

- The treatment of exclusive sales obligations built into patent licensing agreements;
- The treatment of field-of-use restrictions;
- The treatment of know-how agreements mixed with patent licensing;
- Other comments and recommendations.

This Opinion was based on material prepared by the Section for Industry, Commerce, Crafts and Services under the Chairmanship of Mr De Wit (Netherlands - Employers). The Rapporteur was Mr Poeton (United Kingdom - Employers).

8. FIRE SAFETY IN EXISTING HOTELS

“Proposal for a Council Recommendation on Fire Safety in Existing Hotels”⁽²⁾

Gist of the Commission Proposal

The present proposal is for the adoption of a Recommendation on the establishment of common minimum fire safety regulations for hotels in the EEC Member States.

In all the Member States, hotel fire safety regulations have been laid down in the last ten years or are in preparation. However, these differ from country to country, and different regulations apply to new and to old hotels.

The proposals set uniform minimum standards for alarm systems, marking of escape routes, structural requirements, interior fittings, electrical installations, ventilation, staff fire training, etc.

⁽¹⁾ Doc. CES 658/84

⁽²⁾ COM(83) 751 final

Hotels which conform to the regulations will be identifiable to guests by an EEC symbol of conformity.

Gist of the Committee Opinion⁽¹⁾

In its Opinion, adopted unanimously, the Committee endorsed the proposal, with the following qualifications:

The Committee:

- acknowledged that the choice of a “Recommendation” was justified in the present case; though it would have preferred a more binding legal instrument such as a Regulation or a Directive;
- proposed that a claim be included in the accession contracts of future Member States requiring them to apply the Recommendation;
- hoped that types of public buildings other than hotels might be covered at a later stage;
- covered several technical points including staff training, the banning of electric fires and fuel burning stoves; the Committee also felt that notices should be in the various EEC languages, and that the certificate of conformity should not depict flames.

This Opinion was drawn up in the light of the paper produced by the Section of the Environment, chaired by Mrs Heuser (Germany - Various Interests). The Rapporteur was Mr Van Melckenbeke (Belgium - Employers).

9. INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL - IRELAND

“Proposal for a Council Directive prolonging the Derogation accorded to Ireland relating to the Rules governing Turnover Tax and Excise Duty applicable in International Travel”⁽²⁾

Gist of the Proposed Directive

Council Directive 78/1032/EEC authorized Ireland to exclude goods exceeding 77 ECU in value from the general tax-free allowance for goods contained in the luggage of intra-Community travellers. The Irish Government has applied for an extension of this derogation on the grounds that it fears that if the derogation in question were not extended, there would be an increase in cross-border shopping which

⁽¹⁾ Doc. CES 655/84

⁽²⁾ COM(83) 786 final

would have a noticeable effect on national tax revenues and create serious problems for traders operating close to the border. The Commission accepts this argument and proposes a five-year prolongation of the derogation up to 1988. However, this time the derogation is restricted; it applies only to the goods presenting the most serious risk and envisages progressive increases in the unit value limit.

Gist of the Committee Opinion⁽¹⁾

In an Opinion adopted unanimously the Committee endorsed the Commission's proposal. It acknowledged the special difficulties facing Ireland but nonetheless considered that there had to be a gradual harmonization as proposed by the Commission.

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).

10. INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL

“Proposal for a Council directive Amending Directive 69/169/EEC on the Harmonization of Provisions Laid Down by Law, Regulation or Administrative Action Relating to Exemption from Turnover Tax and Excise Duty on Imports in International Travel”⁽²⁾

Gist of the Commission's proposal

In parallel with its proposal for a Directive of 8 April 1983 concerning the tax-free allowances granted to travellers coming from Member States of the Community, approved by the ESC in January 1984, the Commission is now proposing to increase the tax-free allowance granted to travellers coming from third countries on the basis of a multi-annual programme which would successively raise the value of this allowance to 60, 70, 80 and 85 ECU. The proposal would also, on the same basis, increase the allowance for travellers under 15 years of age, although Member States may reduce the exemption for under-15s to 23 ECU.

⁽¹⁾ Doc. CES 657/84

⁽²⁾ COM(84) 182 final

Gist of the Committee Opinion⁽¹⁾

In an Opinion adopted by a large majority, with 9 votes against and 3 abstentions, the Committee approved the Commission's initiative to increase third country allowances. It considered the proposed increases to be insufficient, however, and recommended that they be raised in alignment with the levels of the semi-automatic adjustment for intra-Community allowances proposed by the Commission on tax-paid allowances granted to travellers of 6 April 1983 (6th Directive).

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 Noordwal (Netherlands - Employers).

11. DUTY-FREE FUEL ADMISSION/EXEMPTION FROM VAT

“Proposal for a Council Directive Amending Directive No. 83/181/EEC determining the scope of Article 14(1)(d) of Directive No. 77/388/EEC as Regards Exemption from Value Added Tax on the Final Importation of Certain Goods”, and the

“Proposal for a Council Directive Amending Directive No. 68/297/EEC on the Standardization of Provisions regarding the Duty-Free Admission of Fuel Contained in the Fuel Tanks of Commercial Motor Vehicles”⁽²⁾

Gist of the Commission document

Under Council Directive 83/181/EEC of 28 March 1983⁽³⁾, a minimum of 200 litres of fuel in the fuel tanks of commercial vehicles travelling between Member States must be exempted from VAT at the border.

Council Directive 83/127/EEC of 28 March 1983⁽⁴⁾, which amended Council Directive 68/297/EEC of 19 July 1968⁽⁵⁾, also specifies that a minimum of 200 litres of fuel in Commercial vehicles' fuel tanks may be admitted duty-free at the Community's internal borders. Directives 83/127/EEC and 83/181/EEC are due to enter into force on 1 July 1984.

⁽¹⁾ Doc. CES 667/84

⁽²⁾ COM(83) 405 final

⁽³⁾ OJ No. L 105 of 23 April 1983, page 38

⁽⁴⁾ OJ No. L 91 of 9 April 1983, page 28

⁽⁵⁾ OJ No. L 175 of 23 July 1968, page 15

The Commission is now proposing that all the fuel in commercial vehicles' tanks be exempted from VAT and duty.

The aim of this proposal is to simplify border formalities.

Gist of the Committee Opinion⁽¹⁾

The Committee adopted unanimously its Opinion approving the proposed directives which represented a logical continuation of the transport policy-makers' endeavours to remove technical and administrative barriers to Community trade and to facilitate border crossings for vehicles and goods.

The Committee assumed that these measures would provide a new stimulus to the harmonization of the conditions of competition in EEC goods transport, and that the differences in the rates of tax on fuel, derv in particular, in the Member States would be reduced as soon as possible. It was therefore vital that the Commission again submit to the Council a proposal for the alignment of the taxes in question; this was essential for the development of a common transport market.

This Opinion was drawn up in the light of the paper produced by the Section for Transport and Communications, chaired by Mrs Weber (Germany - Workers). The Rapporteur was Mr Binnenbruck (Germany - Workers).

12. ACCESS TO THE OCCUPATION OF CARRIER OF GOODS BY WATERWAY/MUTUAL RECOGNITION OF DIPLOMAS FOR THIS OCCUPATION

“Proposal for a Council Directive on Access to the Occupation of Carrier of Goods by Waterway in National and International Transport and on the Mutual Recognition of Diplomas, Certificates and Other Evidence of Formal Qualifications for this Occupation”⁽²⁾

Gist of the Commission Document

The Commission considers that there must be uniform rules throughout the Community on access to the occupation of carrier, which in turn means that the mutual recognition of diplomas, certificates and other evidence of formal qualifications for the carriage of goods and passengers must also be regulated.

⁽¹⁾ Doc. CES 659/84

⁽²⁾ COM(83) 720 final

In the field of passenger and goods transport by road, Directives 74/561/EEC and 74/562/EEC of 12 November 1974 dealt with the question of access to the occupation and Directive 77/796/EEC of 12 December 1977⁽¹⁾ regulated the mutual recognition of diplomas, certificates and other evidence of formal qualifications.

Proposals for the inland waterway sector were also submitted by the Commission in 1975⁽²⁾ and referred to the Economic and Social Committee for its Opinion, but these proposals were not regarded as urgent by the Council of Ministers and did not get anywhere. As a result the Commission withdrew its proposals in 1982⁽³⁾ in order that it could thoroughly revise them and resubmit them in another form.

The Commission's proposal is based for the most part on the abovementioned Directives for road transport, though the requirements with regard to good repute and financial standing have been dropped.

Finally it should be mentioned that the Commission considers it neither advisable nor feasible to accede to the request made in certain quarters that the provisions dealing with access to the occupation should not apply to *a)* firms engaged in own-account transport, *b)* owner-operators belonging to a group established for the purpose of acquiring loads and *c)* firms which act exclusively as sub-contractors for inland waterway shipping companies.

Gist of the Committee Opinion⁽⁴⁾

In its Opinion adopted unanimously less 2 abstentions, the Committee basically approved the Draft Directive.

It considered, however, that the carriage of passengers by waterway should also be covered by the proposed provisions.

For safety reasons the Committee attached considerable importance to adding the need to provide proof of the requisite cover in respect of insurance and liability to the requirements for admission to the occupation of carrier.

Finally, the Committee proposed that an additional Annex be appended to the Directive comprising a survey of the national provisions on access to the profession of inland waterway carrier in national and international transport and listing the responsible authorities.

⁽¹⁾ OJ No. L 308 of 19 November 1974

⁽²⁾ OJ No. L 334 of 24 December 1977

⁽³⁾ OJ No. C 1 of 5 January 1976

⁽⁴⁾ Doc. CES 673/84

This Opinion was drawn up in the light of the paper produced by the Section for Transport and Communications, chaired by Mrs Weber (Germany - Workers). The Rapporteur was Mr Cremer (Germany - Workers).

13. ABOLITION OF RECORD SHEETS — BILATERAL/COMMUNITY QUOTAS

**“Proposal for a Council Regulation Amending Regulation (EEC) No. 3164/76 on the Community Quota for the Carriage of Goods by Road between Member States”, and
“Proposal for a Council Directive Amending Directive 65/269/EEC Concerning the Standardization of Certain Rules Relating to Authorizations for the Carriage of Goods by Road between Member States”⁽¹⁾**

Gist of the Commission Document

In its proposal for a Council Regulation (EEC) of 9 July 1982 simplifying customs formalities in trade within the Community⁽²⁾, the Commission proposes the use of a single document to replace the various national or Community forms currently used in trade. It would be possible to obtain from this single document all the information or estimates which the statistical analysis of journey record sheets provides at present.

Therefore, in order to avoid duplication, the Commission now proposes the abolition of journey record sheets and their replacement by this single document once the latter is brought into use.

This measure is also designed to simplify customs formalities in trade within the Community and to further the creation of one single market in the Community as provided for, inter alia, by Council Directive 83/643/EEC of 1 December 1983 on the facilitation of physical inspections and administrative formalities in respect of the carriage of goods between Member States⁽³⁾.

Gist of the Committee Opinion⁽⁴⁾

In its Opinion, adopted unanimously, the Committee approved the Commission's proposal to abolish the books of journey record sheets

⁽¹⁾ COM(83) 395 final

⁽²⁾ OJ No. C 203 of 6 August 1982, page 5

⁽³⁾ OJ No. L 359 of 22 December 1983, page 8

⁽⁴⁾ Doc. CES 660/84

relating to the Community quota and bilateral quotas and to replace them by the single document once this had been introduced.

The Committee hoped that the Commission proposal would be taken into account by the Council of Ministers as soon as possible, given the overriding need to facilitate the crossing of frontiers within the European Community. Action was all the more necessary as the European Council had recognized the need for a single document since its meeting in Copenhagen in 1982.

This Opinion was drawn up in the light of the paper produced by the Section for Transport and Communications, chaired by Mrs Weber (Germany - Workers). The Rapporteur was Mr Bonety (France - Workers).

14. TEMPORARY IMPORTATION OF MEANS OF TRANSPORT

“Proposal for a Council Regulation (EEC) on the Temporary Importation of Means of Transport”⁽¹⁾

Gist of Proposal

This proposal:

- establishes a uniform procedure for the importation, free of customs duties, of means of transport intended to stay temporarily in the customs territory of the Community and then to be re-exported. Such arrangements already exist under a number of multilateral conventions, to which all or some of the Member States are party;
- lays down implementing provisions, to be adopted by the Committee for Customs Procedures with Economic Impact which will be set up under Article 16 of the Regulation on Inward Processing Arrangements once it is adopted by the Council in order to guarantee the most uniform possible application of the proposed Directive throughout the customs territory of the Community;
- includes a commercial policy provision to the effect that means of transport pallets and containers shall be admitted under the temporary importation arrangements without prohibitions or import restrictions provided that they are re-exported. This provision is common to all international conventions on temporary importation of means of transport to which the Member States are party.

⁽¹⁾ COM(83) 741 final

Gist of the Committee Opinion⁽¹⁾

In its Opinion, adopted unanimously, the Committee approved the Draft Regulation on the temporary importation of means of transport. On the basis of international customs agreements in this field, the Regulation paves the way for the introduction of a standard procedure in the Member States, some of which are still applying differing rules.

For reasons of competitiveness, the Committee took the view however, that the application of the rules to non-EC countries should be dependent upon reciprocal treatment by the third countries concerned.

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).

15. FLORICULTURE

“Proposal for a Council Regulation (EEC) Laying Down Further Provisions in Relation to Regulation (EEC) No. 234/68 in Respect of Certain Floricultural Products”⁽²⁾

Gist of the Commission Proposal

Since 1980 the Commission has set signal prices for the following products:

- American carnations;
- Spray carnations;
- Baccara roses;
- Sonia roses;
- Mercedes roses.

The signal prices fixed for the Member States are based on the average of the prices recorded on producer markets over the three previous years.

Signal prices are fixed on a four-weekly basis in order to take account of seasonal fluctuations.

They are designed (a) to facilitate comparison of producer prices (communicated regularly by the Member States) with average prices

⁽¹⁾ Doc. CES 656/84

⁽²⁾ COM(83) 798 final

over the previous three years and (b) to pinpoint abnormal fluctuations in the prices of domestic products in relation to the signal price.

The drawback of the system is that price comparisons are made on a purely national scale and that no Community-level comparisons can be made.

The Commission proposals have an internal facet and an external facet.

Gist of the Committee Opinion⁽¹⁾

In its Opinion (adopted by 90 votes to 4, with 7 abstentions) the Committee observed that production and marketing methods in the floriculture sector closely resembled those for highly perishable vegetable products.

The importance of the floriculture sector for the Community, inter alia in relation to other agricultural sectors, called for measures to protect producers against temporary market disruption.

The ESC felt that the statistics compiled should make it possible to pinpoint those varieties subject to the greatest disruption. On this basis it would look favourably at any measures designed to protect the income of producers who have been excluded from market organizations.

The Committee welcomed the proposals for a Community signal price, but felt that the lack of adequate arrangements eroded the credibility of the proposals as an effective contribution to improved market organization.

This Opinion was drawn up in the light of the paper produced by the Section for Agriculture, chaired by Mr Emo Capodilista (Italy - Various Interests). The Rapporteur was Mr van der Veen (Netherlands - Various Interests).

16. EMULSIFIERS

“Proposal for a Council Directive Amending for the Third Time Directive 74/329/EEC on the Approximation of the Laws of the Member States Relating to Emulsifiers, Stabilizers, Thickeners and Gelling Agents for Use in Foodstuffs”⁽¹⁾

⁽¹⁾ Doc. CES 669/84

⁽²⁾ COM(84) 4 final

Gist of the Commission document

In processing of foods for human consumption it is common to use additives which are known as:

- emulsifiers and stabilizers which disperse non-mixable substances uniformly;
- thickeners which increase viscosity;
- gelling agents which increase consistency by causing the foodstuff to gel.

One or more of the above additives will appear on the list of ingredients of nearly all processed foodstuffs on public sale.

In 1974, the Council adopted a Directive (74/329) establishing an authorized list of emulsifiers, etc. for use within the Community. This list was divided into two categories:

- Annex I lists these substances which are authorized permanently;
- Annex II lists those which are authorized temporarily up to 31.12.1984.

It was envisaged that further research could result in the status of substances on one list or the other being changed.

A first amendment to the original Directive was issued in 1978, and a second amendment in 1980, both of which made some alterations in the lists.

A third amendment has now been proposed, incorporating the following points:

- the extension of deadlines in respect of action on Tragacanth gum (E 413), Karaya gum (E 416), thermally oxidized soya bean oil and various polyoxyethylenes (E 432 to E 436),
- the amalgamation of pectin and amidated pectin under one heading E 440.

Gist of the Committee Opinion⁽¹⁾

In its Opinion, adopted unanimously, the Committee re-stated that public health and safety are its prime concerns in matters dealing with food additives; it also expressed reservations concerning the practice of considering each additive in isolation, in view of possible cumulative adverse effects.

⁽¹⁾ Doc. CES 668/84

The Committee endorsed the Commission's technical proposals except for reservations regarding the extension of the deadline for tragacanth gum (which is related to allergy problems), thus lengthening the period of uncertainty for consumers.

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 (UK - Various Interests).

17. COFFEE AND CHICORY EXTRACTS

“Proposal for a Council Directive 77/436/EEC on the Approximation of the Laws of the Member States Relating to Coffee Extracts and Chicory Extracts”⁽¹⁾

Gist of the Commission proposal

A basic Directive on the approximation of the laws relating to coffee and chicory extracts was adopted in 1977 (Council Directive 77/436/EEC of 27/6/1977).

The object of the present proposal is to make a number of up-dating amendments to the original Directive, which are justified in the light of other Directives since adopted and of technological progress.

The proposed amendments cover the following points:

- labelling;
- the extraction ratio;
- dry-matter content;
- concentrated liquid extracts.

Gist of the Committee Opinion⁽²⁾

The Committee unanimously endorsed the proposal, stressing the benefits arising from the application of improved technological methods developed since the original Directive.

The Committee also made a number of observations of a technical nature covering anti-caking products, pack sizes, length of transition period and relationship to other relevant EEC legislation.

⁽¹⁾ COM(84) 138 final

⁽²⁾ Doc. CES 663/84

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 Storie-Pugh (UK - Various Interests).

18. EXPORT REFUNDS

“Proposal for a Council Regulation (EEC) Amending Regulation No. 136/66/EEC and Regulations (EEC) No. 804/68, 805/68, 727/70, 1035/72, 2727/75, 2759/75, 2771/75, 2777/75, 1418/76, 516/77, 337/79 and 1837/80 with regard to the Fixing of Export Refunds for Certain Agricultural Products by Tendering Procedure”⁽¹⁾

Gist of the Commission proposal

Under the present draft Council Regulation, amending several Regulations on the common organization of markets in agricultural products, each Regulation is to contain provision for fixing export refunds by tendering procedure, increasing control over the amounts exported and/or reducing the costs to the Community.

The Commission considers this step to be a prerequisite if the Community is to start monitoring a given sector's exports of agricultural products in receipt of refunds as soon as the need arises.

In some cases, the proposed measure would also help to bring refunds on individual exports more closely into line with economic circumstances and genuine requirements, because the successful tenderer would receive no more than the rate he had originally proposed.

The Community therefore stands to make considerable savings.

Gist of the Committee Opinion⁽²⁾

In an Opinion, adopted by a large majority and 2 votes against, the Committee recognized that curbs on exports and cuts in Community expenditure might in certain circumstances be facilitated by extending the scope for fixing export refunds by tendering procedure. The Committee felt however that as far as most marketing organizations were concerned, the tendering procedure would be inadequate for fixing

⁽¹⁾ COM(84) 135 final

⁽²⁾ Doc. CES 672/84

export refunds. The tendering procedure would permit budgetary savings in a very few cases only. The Committee felt that the risks inherent in such arrangements were the result of the following factors:

- the tendering procedure would oust small firms from the export market;
- export business was made more difficult, as the uncertain level of the export refund made firm deals impossible;
- rather than leading to savings, the tendering procedure might even lead to heavier burdens on the Community budget, should exporters make arrangements between themselves;
- the proposed Regulation was inconsistent with efforts to stimulate the export of products with high added-value;
- the proposed Regulation would seriously harm the export position which European business has painstakingly built up over many years on these third-country markets.

This Opinion was drawn up in the light of the paper produced by the Section for Agriculture, chaired by Mr Emo Capodilista (Italy - Various Interests). The Rapporteur was Mr Schnieders (Germany - Employers).

19. FOOT-AND-MOUTH DISEASE — SWINE VESICULAR DISEASE

“Proposal for a Council Directive Amending Directive 64/432/EEC as Regards Certain Measures Relating to Foot-and-Mouth Disease and Swine Vesicular Disease”⁽¹⁾

Gist of the Commission proposal

Council Directive 64/432/EEC lays down the conditions to be met, as regards health, by live cattle and pigs intended for intra-Community trade.

Member States currently apply different policies in the matter of the control and prevention of foot-and-mouth disease. The Commission feels it is important to provide all the Member States, regardless of the health policy pursued, with appropriate guarantees, which are strictly necessary until such time as harmonized measures to combat foot-and-mouth disease are implemented.

Certain guarantees which may be required in respect of swine vesicular disease must be maintained within the framework of the rules applicable to intra-Community trade in live pigs.

⁽¹⁾ COM(84) 217 final

Gist of the Committee Opinion⁽¹⁾

In its Opinion, adopted unanimously, the Committee welcomed the efforts made by the Commission to put an end to the exceptional arrangements which have existed for many years in Ireland, North and South.

However, in view of the importance of the livestock industry for both parts of Ireland, the Committee was aware of the anxieties created by the Commission proposals.

This Opinion was drawn up in the light of the paper produced by the Section for Agriculture, chaired by Mr Emo Capodilista (Italy - Various Interests). The Rapporteur was Mr Storie-Pugh (UK - Various Interests).

⁽¹⁾ Doc. CES 661/84

EXTERNAL RELATIONS

Activities of the Chairman

- On 29 May the Chairman, Mr Ceyrac, accompanied by the Vice-Chairmen, Mr Margot and Mr Pfeiffer, and by Mr Louet, Secretary-General, met COREPER (Committee of Permanent Representatives) members at a lunch.
- On 27 June the Chairman and the Secretary-General met Mr Leprette, Permanent Representative of France.

Other activities

- Mr Braibant, French “Conseiller d’État”, representing Mr Fiterman, President-in-office of the Transport Council, attended the meeting held by the Committee’s Transport Section on 20 June.
- On 13, 14 and 15 June Mrs Heuser, Chairman of the Committee’s Section for the Environment, attended the Annual Congress of the European Association of Mass-Consumption Pharmaceutical Specialists held in Paris.
- On 25 June the EFTA-ESC liaison group met in Brussels.
- On 28 and 29 June Mr Carroll represented the Committee at the conference hosted by the European Foundation in Dublin on “Studies on Technological Development and its impact on shiftwork in the printing industry”.

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 Decision adopting a research and development programme for the optimization of the production and utilization of hydrocarbons 1984-1987” (COM(84) 273 final)

“Proposal for a Council Decision adopting a research and training programme (1985 to 1989) in the field of controlled thermonuclear fusion”

and on a:

“Proposal for a Council Decision complementing Council Decision 84/1/EURATOM, EEC of 22 December 1983 — Realization of a tritium handling laboratory” (COM(84) 271 final)

“Proposal for a Council Decision establishing a third joint programme to encourage the exchange of young workers within the Community” (COM(84) 265 final)

“Proposal for a Council Directive on the financing of health inspections and controls of fresh meat” (COM(84) 291 final)

“Proposal for a Council Directive on the approximation of the laws of the Member States concerning the lead and benzene content of petrol”

and on a:

“Proposal for a Council Directive amending Council Directive 70/220/EEC on the approximation of the laws of the Member States relating to measures to be taken against air pollution by gases from engines of motor vehicles” (COM(84) 226 final)

“Proposal for a Council Directive amending Directive 77/93/EEC on protective measures against the introduction into the Member States of harmful organisms of plants or plant products”

and on a:

“Proposal for a Council Directive amending Directive 77/93/EEC on protective measures against the introduction into the Member States of harmful organisms of plants or plant products (Greece)” (COM(84) 288 final).

“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” (COM(84) 295 final)

The Commission of the European Communities has consulted the Economic and Social Committee on the following subjects:

“Proposals concerning the implementation of a Mediterranean policy for the enlarged Community” (COM(84) 107 final)

“Communication from the Commission to the Council on telecommunications — Progress Report on the thinking and work done in the field and initial proposals for an action programme” (COM(84) 277 final).

PROVISIONAL FUTURE WORK PROGRAMME

SEPTEMBER 1984 PLENARY SESSION

Opinions upon consultation

- Technological change and social adjustment
- Shipbuilding aid
- Common customs tariff/returned goods
- Generalized tariff preferences
- Milk and dairy product names
- Social situation in 1983

Own-initiative

- Social security
- Yugoslavia
- Migrant workers

SUBSEQUENT PLENARY SESSIONS

Opinions upon consultation

- Equal treatment for men and women
- 13th Competition Report
- Railway infrastructure
- Easing of social regulation 543/69 (road transport)
- Radioactive waste
- Biotechnology
- Action to help women
- 3rd programme for young workers
- Economic and social situation in the regions
- Air transport
- Stimulation of scientific and technical cooperation and exchanges
- Thermonuclear fusion programme
- Hydrocarbons R & D programme

- Fresh meat health inspections
- Lead in petrol
- Annual economic report
- Limitation of air pollution
- Consumer protection: non-food prices
- Consumer protection: indication of food prices
- Food sampling methods
- Environmental protection — Mediterranean basin
- Migration of constituents
- Plant pests
- Strengthening of EEC-Latin American relations
- Mediterranean policy of enlarged Community
- Telecommunications
- Ban of certain substances having a hormonal action
- Toxicology and health protection
- Medical examination of staff handling meat and meat products
- Summer-time

Own-initiative

- Occupational medicine
- Community research priorities

Information Reports

- Shared-cost research programmes
- Energy options — environmental constraints
- Community fisheries policy
- Hydrocarbon exploration
- European Monetary System (EMS)
- Demographic situation
- Development of upland areas
- Clwyd integrated operation
- National regional development aids
- EEC-Mediterranean relations.

PERSONAL NOTICES

Death

Mr Loughrey (Ireland), who had just resigned from the Committee, died on 14 June.

Appointment

The Council appointed Mr Henry Hannon (Ireland), Director of the Irish Brewers' Association, as Mr Loughrey's replacement on the Committee.

Former Committee members re-elected to the European Parliament

At the 17 June elections, Mr Bonaccini, Mr Dido, Mr de Ferranti, Mr Hoffmann, Mr Maher and Mr Vetter were re-elected to the European Parliament.

Documents bearing the reference "ESC" can be obtained from the Committee. "COM" documents are obtainable from the European Commission.



PUBLICATIONS OBTAINABLE FROM THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMITTEE

Periodical

- Bulletin (monthly publication)

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.
- Genetic Engineering (Colloquy) (October 1981) 120 p (ESC 81-014)
- Economic Pointers for 1982 (Opinion) (August 1981) 32 P (ESC 81-010)
- Problems of the Handicapped (Opinion) (September 1981) ± 46 p. (ESC 81-013)
- Present situation in the Community's Building Sector (Opinion) (September 1981) ± 24 p. (ESC 81-011)
- Community Competition Policy (Opinion) (ESC-81-008)
- Development Policy and Working Conditions (September 1980) (Opinion) 61 p. (ESC 80-012)
- The Organisation and Management of Community R&D (February 1980) (Study) 168 p (ESC 80-001)
- Agricultural Structures Policy (November 1979) (Opinion) 90 p (ESC 79-003)
- Enlargement of the European Community Greece-Spain-Portugal (September 1979) (Study) 75 p (ESC 79-002)
- The Community's Relations with Spain (June 1979) (Study) 112 p (ESC 79-001)
- Community Shipping Policy Flags of Convenience (April 1979) (Opinion) 170 p.
- Youth Unemployment — Education and Training (November 1978) (5 Opinions) 97 p
- The Stage reached in aligning labour legislation in the European Community (June 1978) (Documentation) 60 p
- Monetary Disorder (June 1978) (Opinion) 98 p
- Industrial Change and Employment (November 1977) (Opinion) 98 p.
- ELC's Transport Problems with East European Countries (December 1977) (Opinion) 164 p
- Systems of education and vocational training (August 1976) (Study) 114 p
- Regional Policy (March 1976) (Opinion) 11 p
- European Union (July 1975) (Opinion) 33 p



Obtainable from GOWER Publishing Co. Ltd., 1 Westmead, Farnborough, Hants GU 147RU:

- Community Advisory Committee for the Representation of Socio-Economic Interests (£8.50)
- European Interest Groups and their relationship to the Economic and Social Committee (£25)

Obtainable from EDITIONS DELTA, 92-94 Square Plasky, 1040 Brussels:

- Action by the European Community through its financial instruments (Brussels 1979) (425 BF)
- The Economic and Social Interest Groups of Greece (350 BF)
- The Right of Initiative of the ESC (400 BF)

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