

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMITTEE  
OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES

# BULLETIN



Brussels - No. 5/1984

---

**When notifying us of  
CHANGES OF ADDRESS,  
you are asked to send back the envelope with your old address as printed by  
our addressograph machine. This helps us to trace you.**

---

# CONTENTS

	<i>Page</i>
<b>217th PLENARY SESSION</b>	3
<b>Adoption of Opinions</b>	3
1. INTEGRATED MEDITERRANEAN PROGRAMMES	3
2. CONSUMER/PRODUCER DIALOGUE (Own-initiative Opinion)	9
3. WASTE (Own-initiative Opinion)	10
4. LOCAL EMPLOYMENT INITIATIVES	12
5. UNEMPLOYMENT AMONGST WOMEN	14
6. 12th DIRECTIVE — VAT	15
7. PARENTAL LEAVE	17
8. EUROPEAN EMERGENCY HEALTH CARD	20
9. 8th ANNUAL ERDF REPORT	21
10. NITROGEN DIOXIDE	22
11. PRE-PACKAGED PRODUCTS	22
12. EXTRACTION SOLVENTS	23
13. AGREEMENT OF SPAIN ON COMBINED CARRIAGE OF GOODS	24
14. NOISE EMISSION OF RAIL-MOUNTED VEHICLES	25
15. ROAD SAFETY	26
16. CLASSICAL SWINE FEVER	27
17. AGREEMENTS RELATING TO RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT	28
18. COCOA AND CHOCOLATE	30
ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMITTEE CALLS FOR CHEAP BUTTER TO BE OFFERED TO THE UNEMPLOYED	31
<b>EXTERNAL RELATIONS</b>	33
Chairman's activities	33
Meeting of former members	33
<b>NEW CONSULTATIONS</b>	35
<b>PROVISIONAL FUTURE WORK PROGRAMME</b>	37
<b>MEMBERS' NEWS</b>	39



## 217th PLENARY SESSION

The Economic and Social Committee held its 217th Plenary Session at the Albert Borschette Conference Centre, 36, rue Froissart, 1040 Brussels on 23 and 24 May 1984. Its Chairman, Mr François Ceyrac, presided.

### Adoption of Opinions

#### 1. INTEGRATED MEDITERRANEAN PROGRAMMES

##### **“Commission’s Proposals on Integrated Mediterranean Programmes”**

##### **Gist of the Commission proposals**

The Integrated Mediterranean Programmes cover regions in Greece, Italy and France. Generally speaking the programmes are in two sections: first, measures to improve production, marketing and processing structures, and to bring agricultural production more into line with market requirements; secondly, measures to create alternative employment by developing other economic activities in rural areas, and to provide the facilities needed to repair certain weaknesses in the regional socio-economic fabric.

As regards the fishing industry the measures envisaged are aimed primarily at promoting the development of the whole industry in order to make the most of the great potential of the regions in question, to obtain the best return for the products, to increase the productivity of the manpower and inputs employed, and lastly to improve the incomes of those working in the industry.

The measures for job creation in non-agricultural sectors are of vital importance in the general conception of the programmes. More generally, they must improve the socio-economic fabric of the regions by making it more dynamic.

With this end in view, the non-agricultural measures in the integrated programmes are geared as a matter of priority to promoting small and medium-sized business and craft industry.

These measures will be supplemented by other specific measures. These concern a range of activities linked directly to agriculture, namely the agri-foodstuffs and farm equipment industries, and other potential fields of development, namely rural tourism and renewable energy sources.

As regards Greece, it is also planned to finance programmes to relocate activities away from Athens.

The programmes also take account of environmental aspects, insofar as conservation of the environment constitutes a vital factor in the development of these regions.

The Commission proposes that the amounts allocated annually to the programmes should be entered in the Community budget in a single chapter entitled "Mediterranean Programmes".

### **Gist of the Opinion<sup>(1)</sup>**

Proper implementation of the Integrated Mediterranean Programmes (IMPs) calls for coordination, dialogue between the Community authorities and the economic and social groups of the regions concerned, and flexible management of financing. This is the thrust of the Opinion adopted by the Economic and Social Committee.

In its Opinion the Committee unanimously endorsed the Commission's initiative concerning the implementation of integrated Mediterranean programmes. The Committee document stressed that it was vital to achieve a better balance between Community regions and do something about the backwardness that had built up in Mediterranean areas of the Community.

The present Opinion assesses the contents of the programmes, and the manner in which they are to be implemented, as set out in the Commission document.

It must be remembered that Mediterranean regions are structurally backward and bear a resemblance to less developed countries. It also

---

<sup>(1)</sup> Doc. CES 537/84

has to be recognized that the funds, actions and procedures brought into play both at national and Community level have failed to close the gap between the Mediterranean regions and the other regions of the Community.

Since the basic aim of the integrated Mediterranean programmes is to raise income levels and improve the employment situation in the rural areas of Mediterranean regions, it is vital that the measures taken embrace all economic activities in the regions in questions, viz.:

- the key primary sector (agriculture, forestry, fishing);
- other economic activities (craft trades, industry, distributive trades and rural tourism);
- infrastructure, whose role is essential from the point of view of opening up peripheral regions and preparing the ground for the development of economic activity at a satisfactory level of productivity.

The Committee nevertheless underlines that the implementation of IMPs should not result in the Community abandoning its global Mediterranean policy.

Action taken within the framework of IMPs must not result in the mere transfer of resources without making any structural improvements to the regions economic fabric.

### **Coordination of the conditions for implementation of the IMPs**

To implement IMPs, a great deal of close coordination will be needed at both Community and regional level. The Committee thinks in this connection that a single fund would have been the most suitable instrument. Activities will have to be coordinated, and to this end there must be uniform development criteria which IMPs must seek to follow. The Committee calls upon the Commission to make good this shortcoming without delay.

The Committee stresses the importance of close cooperation between the Commission and the various other relevant authorities and emphasizes that the Commission should maintain a close dialogue with all economic and social groups in the regions concerned.

### **An additional 11,000 MECUs**

An additional 11,000 MECUs<sup>(1)</sup> is to be spent on the IMPs as a whole over a six-year period, with the Community contributing 6,600 MECUs, i.e. 60%. The break-down of contributions per Member State is as follows: Italy 44.5%, Greece 38.4% and France 17.1%.

The Community's total contribution of 6,600 MECUs breaks down as follows: 2,657 MECUs (40%) for agriculture, 385 MECUs (6%) for forestry, 352 MECUs (5%) for fisheries, 470 MECUs (7%) for the processing and marketing of agricultural products, 709 MECUs (11%) for infrastructures, 1,465 MECUs (21%) for non-agricultural development, and 547 MECUs (8%) for back-up measures.

The Committee nevertheless regrets that the Commission has not supplied any information about the analyses underlying this sectoral allocation of Community funds earmarked for IMPs.

The Committee also regrets that the Commission makes no attempt to evaluate the economic and social value of the various types of action.

Although primary sector branches such as agriculture, forestry and fisheries will have to be restructured and ways found of increasing their productivity if there is going to be any increase in earnings therefrom, it is nevertheless true that the development of infrastructure is essential if economic activities are to be linked with markets.

Given this, the funds earmarked for infrastructure would generally seem to be rather on the low side.

### **A degree of flexibility in the management of finances**

It is necessary to institute budgetary procedures which make it possible:

- a) to transfer appropriations from one operation to another (up to 10% of total sum allotted to the country concerned);
- b) to increase, within certain as yet undefined limits, the size of Community allocations for operations likely to use up all their funds before the end of the six-year period allowed for implementing the IMPs;
- c) to prolong the application of a number of measures in order to be able to complete certain operations subject to delays.

<sup>(1)</sup> Value of Ecu on 21 May 1984

FB/FLUX conv.	45.5993	DKR	8.21181
fin.	46.2062	FF	6.89216
DM	2.24394	LIT	1382.78
HFL	2.52443	IRL POUND	0.730077
POUND ST	0.582720	DRA	88.2476



The Committee feels that the success of operations in the agricultural sector is to a large extent dependent on the background against which the operations are put into effect.

The Committee finds the Commission proposal that the IMPs cover the structural problems of fisheries surprising and even worrying. It would have expected a previous proposal on access, technical conservation and management measures, and the social aspect.

The measures proposed for industry, and for small and medium-sized firms are by and large attuned to meet the objectives laid down for these sectors. The Committee also underlines the importance of vocational training.

Finally with regard to infrastructure, the Committee notes the vital importance of equipping certain regions with the trunk communications that they at present lack.

*This Opinion was based on material prepared by the Sub-Committee on Integrated Mediterranean Programmes under the chairmanship of Mr Dassis (Greece - Workers). The Rapporteur was Mr Lauga (France - Various interests).*

The Economic and Social Committee invited representatives of the regional economic and social interest groups of the three countries where Integrated Mediterranean Programmes are to be introduced (Italy, Greece and France) to attend the Plenary Session. Some of the representatives are photographed below.



## 2. CONSUMER/PRODUCER DIALOGUE

(Own-initiative Opinion)

### **“Conditions for an Improved Dialogue and Cooperation between Consumer, Producer and Retail Representatives”**

#### **Gist of the Opinion<sup>(1)</sup>**

In a market economy consumers must have a free choice of goods and services and at the same time enjoy adequate protection. This requirement is not satisfied in practice however. This observation forms the point of departure of an Own-initiative Opinion which the Economic and Social Committee adopted by 63 votes to 48 with 27 abstentions and in which it called for a number of measures to improve the dialogue between producers and consumers.

The Committee considers that such a dialogue at both national and Community level accords with the general principle of subsidiarity between government and private initiatives and therefore might contribute to the development of EEC consumer policy by backing up existing legislation with a voluntary and more flexible element.

In most Member States some form of dialogue, whether institutionalized or not, is currently in operation; in some Member States some form of voluntary codes or agreements are either in force or under negotiation, and in all Member States there are procedures for the enforcement of consumer rights, although the quality, accessibility and effectiveness of these procedures vary greatly.

Furthermore, agreements and codes, voluntary or otherwise, have been introduced in several Member States in recent years with regard to both goods and services. However, coordination between the Member States is either inadequate or non-existent. For this purpose the idea of the dialogue should be developed further at Community level, where it can supplement the traditional means of conducting consumer policy.

A framework Directive which embraces the various forms of dialogue, agreements and codes, as well as the means of enforcement and redress, should be drawn up. This framework Directive should be sufficiently broadly based to allow each Member State to adopt implementing provisions of its own to suit its own situation and level of developments, it should also be sufficiently broad to allow for considerable variation in points of detail, as long as this does not obstruct the rational functioning of the EEC.

---

(<sup>1</sup>) Doc. CES 530/84

Voluntary agreements or codes whose observance cannot be ensured are not of much use in many cases. The Committee therefore considers that such agreements and codes could include provisions for ensuring their observance.

In addition to the existing forms of dialogue at local, regional, national and Community level, action should be taken to improve and extend the dialogue at Community level between consumers and other socio-economic groups in other areas, e.g. the dialogue between consumers and industry/trade with regard to public services and the compiling of information material and material for consumer education. At the same time consideration should be given to improving and, where necessary, extending consumer information and advisory systems. The European Commission should initiate and promote action in this field.

The Committee is convinced that the dialogue between consumers and industry/trade can be intensified given greater support from the Commission.

*This Opinion was based on material prepared by the Section for Protection of the Environment, Public Health and Consumer Affairs under the chairmanship of Mr Schneider (Luxembourg - Workers). The Rapporteur was Mr Hilkens (Netherlands - Various interests).*

### **3. WASTE (Own-initiative Opinion)**

#### **“Waste Management, Treatment and Recycling”**

#### **Gist of the Opinion<sup>(1)</sup>**

In an own-initiative Opinion, adopted unanimously, the Economic and Social Committee of the EC called for a European Waste Management Programme. Opening with a review of the harmful effects of waste on the environment and human health, the Committee went on to stress that both the public authorities and the man in the street have a number of responsibilities and duties relevant to the basic objectives, i.e. the reduction, recycling and harmless disposal of waste.

Bearing in mind that the Community has not yet proposed all the necessary measures in this field, the introduction of a European Waste Management Programme should help to enable it effectively to implement the abovementioned objectives.

Waste management measures have so far failed to place sufficient emphasis on reducing waste. The Committee said that efforts in this

---

<sup>(1)</sup> Doc. CES 540/84

area would have to be stepped up in the future. A cutback on packaging material coupled with increased durability for consumer goods would, for instance, have a major impact on the amount of household waste produced each year. Steps should also be taken to encourage the production of repairable products and in suitable cases of standardized products and spare parts.

Even if greater efforts were made to reduce the amount of waste produced, and to increase recycling, considerable quantities of waste would still remain, and its safe disposal would therefore continue to be an urgent necessity; the competent national authorities should always ensure that waste disposal was carried out according to the regulations in the interests of health and environmental protection.

This was particularly true of hazardous waste, to which the national authorities and Community bodies should pay particular attention.

Derelict tips where dangerous waste has been dumped without the requisite safety precautions were a special problem. These dumps should be listed systematically and closed off to access by unauthorized persons, in particular children. The scale of any damage to health and the environment should then be assessed and where appropriate, the requisite rehabilitation measures should be taken.

Each of these objectives of waste management policy could only be achieved by means of comprehensive management. This should be introduced as soon as possible and cover the entire "lifetime" of the waste. This lifetime in many cases began as early as the compilation of a product range and the design of the individual product, and could occur at a still earlier stage, e.g. with the introduction of a new line of production or the setting-up of a new production plant.

The European Programme should be based on the most advanced scientific knowhow. A pre-requisite here was the promotion and coordination of research into waste.

It was also vital to increase information and public awareness of waste. This involved the establishment of outline conditions for the development of waste management.

The Committee also called for the introduction of a Community data bank system. This would not only boost cooperation between the public authorities and the two sides of industry, it would also ease the incorporation of waste management policy into the economic policy of the Member States.

An inspection system should be set up to monitor the effective enforcement and observance of waste management legislation. The

Committee saw this as a guarantee for workers health and the selection of waste processing sites.

The implementation of a Waste Management Programme must be closely monitored. The Committee therefore urged the Commission to publish regular detailed reports on the state of waste management in the Community. These reports should also include details of available primary and secondary raw materials.

*This Opinion was based on material prepared by the Section for Protection of the Environment, Public Health and Consumer Affairs under the chairmanship of Mrs Heuser (Germany - Various interests). The Rapporteur was Mr Kölblé (Germany - Various interests).*

#### **4. LOCAL EMPLOYMENT INITIATIVES**

##### **“Commission’s Communication to the Council on Community Action to Combat Unemployment — The Contribution of Local Employment Initiatives”**

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

The document considers the part that worker cooperatives, local community enterprise and other types of local employment creation initiatives are playing in the fight against unemployment. It concludes that such “grass-roots” initiatives are making a useful contribution by creating additional jobs, particularly for those relatively disadvantaged groups on the labour market. At least a million jobs have been identified which have resulted from local employment initiatives (half of them in worker cooperatives), and the number is continuing to grow.

The growth in employment in worker cooperatives over the last five years has alone been around a quarter of a million jobs, an increase from around 300,000 to 550,000. It has been estimated that around 85% of all those presently employed in employment initiatives undertaken locally were previously among the Community’s jobless.

Not only do these initiatives create jobs, but they prepare the ground for the future development of areas suffering from high levels of unemployment by rebuilding confidence, maintaining or developing job skills, and restoring the capacity for individual and collective enterprise.

A series of policy guidelines are proposed to Member States which aim to develop strengthened and more coherent policies regarding employment creation:

- encouraging cooperation at the local level between all interested parties;

- setting up support structures to help new small businesses develop;
- making better use of available funds;
- reviewing legislation so as to encourage the creation of new enterprises, including cooperatives;
- meeting the specific training and learning needs of local employment initiatives.

Community support action is proposed, using the resources of the European Social Fund and the European Regional Development Fund, and the Commission also proposes to examine the requirements of local employment initiatives for loan finance in order to test the potential of global loan practice for borrowing by very small enterprises.

The Community also proposes to continue to promote and publicise local employment initiatives by financing a further series of local discussions and consultations between parties concerned, and by financing a Community-wide exchange of information about practices and experiences between bodies within individual Member States representing, or in close contact with, local employment initiatives.

### **Gist of the Opinion<sup>(1)</sup>**

In an Opinion, which was adopted unanimously the Economic and Social Committee welcomed the Communication. Whilst expressing concern that the spontaneous growth in local employment initiatives (LEIs) is not backed up by high-level official action to tackle unemployment, it considers that viable LEIs deserve greater recognition and more energetic financial and organizational support.

The Committee called for an in-depth study into the start-up, role and objectives of LEIs in the local community setting and their provision of certain market commodities and services, without detracting from the work and responsibilities of small firms and the public authorities.

The Economic and Social Committee supported the proposals to carry out further research, to involve full consultation with both sides of industry and a more punctilious and representative survey. Special consideration should also be given to bankruptcy regulations and ways of salvaging viable parts of bankrupt firms.

*This Opinion was based on material prepared by the Section for Social Questions under the chairmanship of Mr Houthuys (Belgium - Workers). The Rapporteur was Mr Roycroft (United Kingdom - Various interests).*

---

<sup>(1)</sup> Doc. CES 529/84

## **5. UNEMPLOYMENT AMONGST WOMEN**

### **“Draft Council Regulation Concerning Action to Combat Unemployment Amongst Women”**

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

On 16 November 1983, the Commission submitted to the Council a communication on women's unemployment in the Community. This set out guidelines for action under the two Council Resolutions adopted on 27 May 1982, regarding Community action to combat unemployment and to promote equal opportunities for women.

The Standing Committee on Employment discussed the Communication at its 26th meeting on 22 November 1983.

Its Chairman concluded that the Commission had been asked to make provisions for the Council to discuss the matter in the light of the outcome of this meeting of the Standing Committee on Employment.

The draft Resolution is based on the Commission's guidelines for action contained in the Communication, with reference to the conclusions drawn by the Chairman of the Standing Committee on Employment.

The draft Resolution refers to a number of preconditions for the implementation of these measures:

- the equal right of men and women to work and to seek economic independence, regardless of the economic situation;
- the extension of equal opportunities between men and women in the context of measures to stimulate economic recovery and to promote employment growth;
- the development of positive measures to correct de facto inequalities and thereby improve female employment prospects and promote the desegregation of employment.

The Commission proposed guidelines for action in the following areas:

- job creation and recruitment;
- education and vocational guidance;
- role of employment agencies, guidance and advisory centres;
- gathering information on the situation of women in the labour market.

The draft Resolution also refers to the role of the European Social Fund and stresses the importance of back-up measures, particularly where social infrastructure is concerned.



### Gist of the Opinion<sup>(1)</sup>

Unemployment amongst women in the Community is at a much higher level than male unemployment and certain groups — young women, unmarried mothers and women immigrants, for example — are particularly badly affected. Recognizing the gravity of this situation, the Committee welcomes, in its Opinion the proposal that positive measures be taken to step up efforts to achieve equality of opportunity for women. This Opinion was adopted by 83 votes to 21, with 8 abstentions.

Whilst recognizing that it will only be possible to effect a gradual reduction in unemployment amongst women if overall unemployment levels are brought down, the Committee nonetheless draws attention to the following factors:

- it is women's jobs, in particular, which are lost as a result of the introduction of the new technologies;
- when there is an upturn in the economy women are less readily able to find new jobs than men;
- economies in the public sector have led to large-scale cuts in jobs in family-support services, thus making it generally more difficult for women to take up gainful employment;
- women who have devoted a number of years to family duties have particular difficulty in resuming working careers;
- the small number of occupations in which particularly large numbers of girls and young women are employed present relatively poor prospects.

Special programmes and other measures are therefore required — in addition to general measures to promote growth — in order to tackle unemployment amongst women. If these measures are to have a lasting success they must take account of the particular features of unemployment amongst women.

*This Opinion was based on material prepared by the Section for Social Questions under the chairmanship of Mr Houthuys (Belgium - Workers). The Rapporteur was Mrs Weber (Germany - Workers).*

## 6. 12th DIRECTIVE — VAT

**“Proposal for a Twelfth Council Directive on the Harmonization of the Laws of the Member States Relating to Turnover Taxes — Common System of Value Added Tax: Expenditure Not Eligible for Deduction of Value Added Tax”**

<sup>(1)</sup> Doc CES 532/84

### **Gist of the Commission's proposal**

There are considerable differences in the Member States' rules on deductibility of input VAT on expenditure which is not strictly business-related (food and drink, accommodation, private cars, entertainment and presents).

The Draft Directive seeks to align national legislation on this area in regard to taxable persons. The Commission argues that the differences in national practices lead to distortions of competition in international trade in goods and services. Additionally, some types of expenditure, even within the confines of normal business, frequently have a private aspect and there is no fool-proof way of distinguishing between the private and business components. The right to deduct input VAT is therefore open to abuse and tax evasion.

The Commission has made the following proposals:

1. flat-rate deductibility (50%) in respect of expenditure on vehicles;
2. similar arrangements for expenditure on travel for business purposes;
3. expenditure on accommodation, food and drink in connection with business travel is to be non-deductible;
4. expenditure on entertainment is to be non-deductible;
5. full deductibility may be granted subject to production of evidence that expenditure listed under headings 1, 2 and 3 is solely for business purposes.

### **Gist of the Opinion<sup>(1)</sup>**

The ESC adopted its Opinion unanimously with one abstention.

In examining the proposal, the Committee assumes that input tax deductibility is to be contingent on the expenditure being business related. It therefore proposes that the following points be taken into account:

For simplicity, deductibility in respect of expenditure on vehicles should be granted (on a percentage basis to be determined), without production of evidence as to business-related use. The Committee proposes that three different rates be used (for example 25%, 50% and 75%) in order to take account to some extent of the real tax burden borne by various entrepreneurs. Entrepreneurs who produce individual evidence of wider business use will be entitled to deductibility over and

---

<sup>(1)</sup> Doc. CES 528/84

above standard rates. Evidence as regards the running costs of vehicles will however be strictly vetted.

Expenditure on travel should qualify for 100% deductibility subject to production of evidence that it is business-related. Strict vetting criteria will apply here also. For example travel to conferences, seminars etc. will have to be for staff-training purposes in order to qualify as business-related.

Expenditure on accommodation, food and drink in connection with business travel should also be deductible on production of evidence that the trips are business-related. The Committee proposes however that ceilings be fixed here.

Expenditure on entertainment should also be eligible for deductibility subject to production of evidence that it is business-related and appropriate. Ceiling should be fixed here also.

100% deductibility in respect of scheduled expenditure should be contingent on production of cast-iron evidence that the expenditure is business-related.

*This Opinion was based on material prepared by the Section for Economic and Financial Questions under the chairmanship of Mr Marvier (France - Various interests). The Rapporteur was Mr Broicher (Germany - Employers).*

## **7. PARENTAL LEAVE**

### **“Proposal for a Council Directive on Parental Leave and Leave for Family Reasons”**

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

This proposal is part of the Community Action Programme on the Promotion of Equal Opportunities for Women (1982-1985).

Parental Leave is granted to enable working parents to spend a period of time at home caring for very young children following the termination of maternity leave. It exists in different forms in several Member States, often discriminating explicitly against working fathers, and in some cases being wrongly counted as maternity leave. The aim of this proposal is to establish common statutory provisions throughout the Community governing these specific aspects of working conditions; this not only accords with the principle of equal treatment between men and women, but will also encourage a more equal sharing of family responsibilities between parents and increase equality between men and women on the labour market.

A minimum period of leave of three months is proposed as a non-transferable individual entitlement for all workers with children under the age of two years, or five years in the case of adopted or handicapped children. To avoid parental leave being used as a discreet way of encouraging the permanent withdrawal of working mothers from the labour market, the proposed Directive contains several guarantees regarding entitlements acquired during employment and resumption of working.

Given the present difficult economic situation, the Commission leaves the Member States free to decide whether the parental leave shall be paid or not. It does however state that the principle of a parental leave allowance does not seem any the less desirable in that it establishes, progressively, equality in practice between men and women in respect of parental leave. It further states that any allowance should be paid from public funds, e.g. within the social security system. The cost of such measures should not be overestimated, taking into account for instance the replacement of workers on parental leave by unemployed workers and the very real contribution it makes to the overall charge to society of the care and early education of young children.

Leave for family reasons enables workers to take leave to attend to emergency or exceptional situations arising in the home, such as illness, or the death of a spouse or child. The Directive lays down the right to such leave, which is already very well established in the Community, in both national legislation and collective agreements. The Member States are free to fix the minimum number of days leave per year to which workers will be entitled.

### **Gist of the Opinion<sup>(1)</sup>**

In an Opinion adopted by 87 votes to 53 with 8 abstentions, the Economic and Social Committee supports the aim of establishing throughout the Community minimum standards on parental leave, more particularly in order to comply with existing Community law on equal treatment of men and women.

It further believes in this connection that the Commission's proposals will provide increased equality of opportunity in employment and could, over time, lead to a greater sharing of family responsibilities.

The Committee subscribes to the view that, more particularly bearing in mind the increased number of women combining paid work with raising a family, and changed attitudes to the devision of responsibilities

---

(<sup>1</sup>) Doc. CES 535/84

for bringing up children at an early age, measures need to be taken to recognize some of the problems facing young parents. The responsibility of the work place which was previously largely the man's, and the responsibility for managing the home which used to devolve largely on the woman, have more recently become intermeshed, and it is therefore understandable that measures are being proposed to make arrangements for men and women to be able to discharge professional and domestic responsibilities in parallel and without conflicts of loyalty. The beneficial effects of such measures for society as a whole need to be taken into account.

The Opinion, however, points out that the measures may affect job opportunities for young people of reproductive age, as long as the present economic constraints on labour costs persist. Such measures run the risk of leading employers to concentrate their recruitment in an unbalanced way on an older age group.

While the Committee recognizes that payment for parental leave is left to be determined by the Member States, and if provided, ought to be an allowance paid from public funds, and not a charge on employers, nevertheless additional indirect costs are likely to be incurred by employers in terms of economic and administrative disruption and inconvenience and possibly the need to, and difficulties of, recruiting and training temporary replacements for those on leave. These difficulties are likely to be exacerbated in the context of small undertakings or establishments, for which possible forms of compensation ought to be looked into.

Moreover, the Opinion considers that there could be further indirect costs both for employers and employees, at least in some countries, given the Commission's proposal that periods of parental leave are to be credited in the same manner as periods of maternity leave for the purposes of social security insurance. But it must also be pointed out that if parental leave encourages parents to enlarge their families it will go some way to ameliorate the present unfavourable demographic trends in most Member States.

It is possible that some of these indirect costs could be offset by recruitment of trainees or other categories not requiring the same level of payment as the parent on leave. Parental leave could also be a more cost effective way of facilitating not only a return to work but also a return on training investment than is now often the case where previously employed women do not, or cannot always return to work after motherhood.

The Employers Group, having voted against the Opinion, made the following declaration:

The Employers' Group endorses maternity leave but cannot agree with the Commission proposal to introduce 3-month parental leave for either parent. The Group vigorously opposes this proposal.

*This Opinion was based on material prepared by the Section for Social Questions under the chairmanship of Mr Houthuys (Belgium - Workers). The Rapporteur was Mr Fuller (United Kingdom - Employers).*

## **8. EUROPEAN EMERGENCY HEALTH CARD**

### **"Draft Council Recommendation Concerning the Adoption of a European Emergency Health Card"**

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

The aim of this proposal is to provide for a European emergency health card which

1. will contain essential information to assist doctors to administer treatment to the cardholder in emergencies;
2. will simplify examination and minimise medical expenses by referring to a code number giving access to the card holder's medical file.

The card is designed to help the 8 to 10% of the population suffering from serious or chronic illnesses, and will be issued only on request, and would be used only for the information of doctors in emergencies.

#### **Gist of the Opinion<sup>(1)</sup>**

In a unanimous opinion, the Committee broadly endorsed the introduction of a health card, but proposed a number of technical amendments concerning:

- the information to be given on the card;
- the languages to be used;
- the procedures for obtaining and issuing the card;
- the persons entitled to see it.

*This Opinion was based on material prepared by the Section for Protection of the Environment, Public Health and Consumer Affairs under the chairmanship of Mrs Heuser (Germany - Various interests). The Rapporteur was Mr Brassier (France - Various interests).*

---

<sup>(1)</sup> Doc. CES 523/84

## **9. 8th ANNUAL ERDF REPORT**

### **“The European Regional Development Fund, Eighth Report from the Commission to the Council”**

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

The Commission's annual report on the activities of both the quota and non-quota sections of the European Regional Development Fund was first issued in 1975. This year's report shows that in 1982 almost 90% of grants went to infrastructure projects, whilst industrial and craft projects received only 13%. The report explains very clearly how grant applications should be submitted and how the European Social Fund Committee works. It also explains how loans are arranged and checks carried out to ensure that projects are completed. One chapter is devoted to publicity through the press, publication in the Official Journal and by the Member States themselves. The ERDF's activities from 1975 to 1982 are reviewed in the last chapter. This chapter attempts to clear up common misunderstandings on the principles and concepts of complementarity, the concentration and/or accumulation of financial aid, integrated operations and programmes, etc.

The report would seem to be better documented and more complete than in previous years.

#### **Gist of the Opinion<sup>(1)</sup>**

The Opinion broadly approved the content of the 8th Annual Report. It deplored the Council's failure to adopt the revised regulation submitted in 1981, and the inadequate increase in ERDF resources.

It hoped that investment would in future be more fairly distributed between infrastructure and industry, crafts and services. It also hopes that applications for aid would be more evenly distributed throughout the year, rather than piling up at the end of the year as they do at present. The Economic and Social Committee deplored the serious delay in allocating the non-quota funds available for 1978-1982.

The Economic and Social Committee also felt that the Member States should be asked to provide statistics, broken down by region and if possible by sector, on the number of jobs created as a result of regional policy.

---

<sup>(1)</sup> Doc. CES 524/84

*This Opinion was based on material prepared by the Section for Regional Development under the chairmanship of Mr Milne (United Kingdom - Workers). The Rapporteur was Mr Cavazzuti (Italy - Workers).*

## **10. NITROGEN DIOXIDE**

### **“Proposal for a Council Directive on Air Quality Standard for Nitrogen Dioxide”**

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

Nitrogen dioxide (NO<sub>2</sub>) is a pollutant produced by a number of scattered sources in areas of urban and industrial development, for example power stations, domestic heating equipment and traffic.

In combination with other pollutants it contributes to photochemical smog and acid rain and is a danger both to human health and to the environment.

The proposed Directive is within the framework of the Environmental Action Programmes, and its purpose is to lay down air quality standards for NO<sub>2</sub>.

#### **Gist of the Opinion<sup>(1)</sup>**

In its Opinion, which was adopted unanimously, the Committee supported the Commission's proposal, but made various recommendations.

It also expressed the hope that exemptions would be used sparingly and that every effort be made to reduce the implementation time scale and exemption date limit.

*This Opinion was based on material prepared by the Section for Protection of the Environment, Public Health and Consumer Affairs under the chairmanship of Mrs Heuser (Germany - Various interests). The Rapporteur was Mr de Normann (United Kingdom - Employers).*

## **11. PRE-PACKAGED PRODUCTS**

### **“Proposal for a Council Directive Amending Directive 80/232/EEC on the Approximation of the Laws of the Member States Relating to the Ranges of Nominal Quantities and Nominal Capacities Permitted for Certain Pre-packaged Products”**

(<sup>1</sup>) Doc. CES 521/84



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

The value ranges of nominal quantities for cereals and cereal flakes authorized under Directive 80/232/EEC are the same even if these two categories of product differ greatly, particularly as regards their density.

For the packaging of cereal flakes, the European Industries concerned employ a limited number (about 10) of container types which are suitable for the nominal content quantities specified in Annex I; the same types of container are used to package cereals, though in different nominal quantities.

The requirement laid down in Directive 80/232/EEC that cereals too must be marketed in the nominal quantities specified in Annex I has certain economic consequences. Since the containers in which the cereal flakes are marketed cannot be used to package cereals in the stipulated quantities, other packages must be employed and the filling machines now in use must be modified.

The Commission therefore considers it necessary to restrict the range of nominal quantities referred to in Annex I to ready-to-serve cereal flakes and, to define another range for cereals at a later stage.

It also proposes the amendment of two further points in Directive 80/232/EEC in order to render the texts unambiguous.

### **Gist of the Opinion<sup>(1)</sup>**

*The Committee unanimously adopted the Opinion which 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 Flum (Germany - Workers).*

## **12. EXTRACTION SOLVENTS**

**“Proposal for a Council Directive on the Approximation of the Laws of the Member States on Extraction Solvents Used in the Production of Foodstuffs and Food Ingredients”**

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

Extraction solvents are substances used in the processing of foodstuffs to extract an unwanted element (for example extracting caffeine to produce de-caffeinated coffee), but which may leave residues behind.

---

<sup>(1)</sup> Doc. CES 525/84

Solvents in some cases are dangerous for human health and the aim of the present proposal is to establish a list of solvents which require further testing before being completely acceptable for human health requirements.

### **Gist of the Opinion<sup>(1)</sup>**

In an Opinion which was adopted unanimously the Committee approved the proposal as a step in the right direction, but proposed a number of alterations to the draft Directive.

These proposed alterations derived from discrepancies between the original report by the Scientific Committee for Food, the present draft Directive, and the current state of the art and involving such matters as classification definition, purity criteria, derogation, notification, etc.

*This Opinion was based on material prepared by the Section for Protection of the Environment, Public Health and Consumer Affairs under the chairmanship of Mrs Heuser (Germany - Various interests). The Rapporteur was Mrs Williams (United Kingdom - Various interests).*

## **13. AGREEMENT OF SPAIN ON COMBINED CARRIAGE OF GOODS**

**“Proposal for a Council Decision on the Conclusion of an Agreement between the European Economic Community and the Kingdom of Spain on the International Combined Road/Rail Carriage of Goods”**

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

Council Directive No. 75/130/EEC (OJ No. L 48 of 22 February 1975, page 31), as last amended by Council Directive No. 82/603/EEC (OJ No. L 247 of 23 August 1982, page 6), abolished all quota restrictions and authorization arrangements in respect of certain transport operations in intra-Community combined road/rail carriage of goods.

In view of the expected accession of Spain to the EC, the Commission is proposing to the Council that an agreement be concluded between that country and the Community, providing for the removal of quantity restrictions, in particular quotas and authorization arrangements in transport operations between the EC and Spain. The Commission expects that such an agreement will promote advances in road/rail

<sup>(1)</sup> Doc. CES 522/84

transport techniques, thereby easing the burden on road transport, improving transport safety and helping to protect the environment.

The proposed agreement is to last five years but provision is made for the agreement to be replaced by clauses in the act of accession in the event of Spain's joining the Community. In order to prevent abuse the draft agreement includes control measures, as did Council Directive No. 75/130/EEC.

### **Gist of the Opinion<sup>(1)</sup>**

In an Opinion, which was adopted unanimously, the Committee endorsed the Commission's proposal.

*This Opinion was based on material prepared by the Section for Transport and Communications under the chairmanship of Mrs Weber (Germany - Workers). The Rapporteur was Mr Schneider (Luxembourg - Workers).*

## **14. NOISE EMISSION OF RAIL-MOUNTED VEHICLES**

### **“Proposal for a Council Directive on the Approximation of the Laws of the Member States Relating to the Noise Emission of Rail-Mounted Vehicles”**

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

The Commission proposal seeks to limit the impact on the population of noise from rail traffic, taking the same approach as with road and air traffic — limitation of noise emission at source by harmonized methods. The directive will apply to rail-mounted vehicles to be introduced to the national railway networks of the Member States (i.e. not existing vehicles but new trains, including future high-speed trains).

The Commission takes the view that the rolling-stock market is at best stagnant, and considers that the proposal would strengthen the efforts already being made by Member States to encourage the revival of this industry.

Comparative studies of road and rail noise show that the main difference is that railway vehicle noise reaches much higher peak values and that it lasts for a much shorter period of time.

---

<sup>(1)</sup> Doc. CES 526/84

Thus, on a multiple railway track, the 60 dB(A) level is generally only exceeded for 10% of the time. A main road in an urban area generally exceeds the same level for more than 80% of the time.

Apart from these physical differences and the psycho-acoustic consideration that railway noise would appear to be less annoying than road traffic noise, it should be noted that, if a map of the railway networks in the Member States is superimposed on a demographic map of the EEC, there is clearly a large variation in the number of people exposed to railway noise in the different Member States.

For this reason, the proposed directive allows individual Member States to adopt additional local restrictions to meet particular needs — without raising barriers to free trade or distorting competition.

### **Gist of the Opinion<sup>(1)</sup>**

In an Opinion adopted by 72 votes to 7 with 4 abstentions the Committee endorsed the Commission proposal but felt that there was a need to indicate more clearly that it applies only to new rolling stock or to stock ordered after the Directive comes into force, and city underground trains and trams are not covered.

The Committee approved the Commission's attempt to improve the future competitiveness of this mode of transport by striking a balance between the different requirements and taking account of the campaign against environmental noise. The Directive should have positive economic and industrial repercussions.

*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 Masprone (Italy - Employers).*

## **15. ROAD SAFETY**

### **“Draft Council Decision on the Implementation of a Community Programme on Road Safety”**

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

The Commission notes first of all that, despite a certain improvement recently, the number and seriousness of road accidents in the EC remains considerable. About 50,000 people are killed each year in road

<sup>(1)</sup> Doc. CES 533/84

accidents in the EC and more than 1.5 million are injured. According to estimates made by experts the economic and social costs of these accidents for the Member States exceed 2% of their GNP.

The Commission therefore considers that the Community should intensify its efforts to reduce these accidents. EC endeavours should also be coordinated with measures already being taken at international level (e.g. UN and OECD) and national and local level.

In the draft Council Resolution the Commission is called upon to take the following measures:

- to draw up a road safety programme by 31 December 1984. The programme should set out measures in respect of transport users, vehicles and roads;
- to submit particularly urgent proposals within one year of this deadline;
- to set up a committee of experts on road safety to back up the work of the Commission.

### **Gist of the Opinion<sup>(1)</sup>**

In a unanimously adopted Opinion the ESC basically welcomes and approves the draft Resolution. It regards the draft document as constituting an important — albeit very much belated — step towards the systematic programming of road safety measures at EC level.

*This Opinion was based on material prepared by the Section for Transport and Communications under the chairmanship of Mrs Weber (Germany - Employers). The Rapporteur was Mr Masprone (Italy - Employers).*

## **16. CLASSICAL SWINE FEVER**

### **“Proposal for a Council Directive Amending Directive 80/217/EEC Introducing Community Measures for the Control of Classical Swine Fever”**

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

In view of the way in which classical swine fever has developed, the Commission proposes that the existing protective measures be reinforced.

---

(<sup>1</sup>) Doc. CES 539/84

It is proposed that the conditions for carrying out the protective vaccination of herds threatened with contamination and the conditions for controlling the movement of livestock should be specified.

In the event of the disease assuming serious epizootic proportions, it must be possible to make regional measures in particular protective vaccination, compulsory. To this end, provision should be made for a rapid procedure for initiating close cooperation between the Member States and the Commission.

### **Gist of the Opinion<sup>(1)</sup>**

In a unanimously adopted Opinion the Committee recognizes that the Commission proposal is very necessary because the position regarding the incidence of outbreaks of Classical Swine Fever is deteriorating seriously. The Committee is, however, of the Opinion that the measures proposed do not go far enough. Indeed, current legislation together with the new amending proposals are not technically adequate to reverse the present trend unless an even more stringent approach is accepted and enforced.

The Committee is of the opinion that Community financial aid should be suspended in the near future until a tougher and more realistic eradication programme can be agreed upon and established with a real commitment and responsibility on the part of the Member States to make such a programme work.

*This Opinion was based on material prepared by the Section for Agriculture under the chairmanship of Mr Emo Capodilista (Italy - Various interests). The Rapporteur was Mr Storie-Pugh (United Kingdom - Various interests).*

## **17. AGREEMENTS RELATING TO RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT**

### **“Draft Commission Regulation (EEC) Concerning the Application of Article 85(3) of the Treaty to Categories of Agreements Relating to Research and Development”**

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

##### **Objectives**

R & D is a key factor in future production and in ensuring the competitiveness of European industry. Cooperation between firms in this

---

<sup>(1)</sup> Doc. CES 534/84

sphere must therefore be encouraged when it furthers technical or economic progress and cuts down costs. Accordingly the Commission proposes to enlist the "block exemption" formula provided for in Article 85(3) of the EEC Treaty for the purpose of authorizing agreements.

### **Scope**

The block exemption would apply to all forms of R & D and production agreements in all sectors of the economy. The agreement could simply provide for the exchange of R & D findings or for the setting up of joint undertakings.

The exemption will also apply when all or part of an R & D programme is subcontracted to other firms or specialized organizations or universities. Where the agreement also covers product manufacture, cooperation can take the form of specialization or joint production by a joint undertaking. Joint subcontracting of the whole or part of the production is also covered by the exemption.

The draft Regulation contains an exhaustive list of all the other restrictive obligations which are covered by the block exemption. For the most part these obligations are necessary to protect the legitimate interests of the parties involved in respect of existing technology communicated to the other participants and R & D findings.

### **Agreements excluded from automatic authorization**

The draft Regulation will apply generally to all sectors of the economy. However, certain types of agreements likely to have detrimental effects on competition are excluded from the automatic exemption. These are:

- agreements in which two or more of the three actually or potentially leading undertakings in the relevant field participate;
- agreements extending cooperation between large firms with a turnover exceeding 500 million ECU to the production stage.

All agreements falling within these categories may, however, be exempted provided that they are notified to the Commission and that the Commission does not raise any objections to them within 6 months. In this way the Commission will be able to exercise some control over potentially dangerous agreements and provide firms with a maximum of legal certainty. This time limit is reduced to 3 months in the case of agreements concerning projects of common European interest with which the Commission will usually already be largely familiar.

### **Gist of the Opinion<sup>(1)</sup>**

The ESC adopted its Opinion by 91 votes to 1 with 5 abstentions.

It has constantly endorsed the efforts of the Commission and Council to strengthen the capacity of European firms to innovate and carry out research. The Committee is accordingly sympathetic to the thinking underlying the present draft Regulation.

Nevertheless the Committee expressed fundamental criticism of the proposed restrictions on exemption, particularly with regard to the 500 million ECU threshold.

These criticisms are so strong that the Committee believes the Commission would be well advised to revise its draft Regulation.

The Committee felt in particular that the 500 million ECU threshold was an arbitrary figure, and would probably be hard to monitor. It also felt that the definition of "actually or potentially leading undertakings" in any given area could be stretched ad infinitum by any excessive fragmentation of production sectors, thus giving rise to dubious interpretations.

*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 Mourgues (France - Workers).*

## **18. COCOA AND CHOCOLATE**

### **"Proposal for a Council Directive on the Approximation of the Laws of the Member States Relating to Cocoa and Chocolate Products Intended for Human Consumption"**

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

The main purpose of the proposal is to codify the amendments made to Directive 73/241/EEC since its adoption.

Other amendments to this Directive are proposed.

They concern:

- the use of vegetable fats other than cocoa butter;
- the use of three emulsifying agents:
  - ammonium phosphatides (YN) (442)
  - polyglycerol polyricinoleate (R 476 PGPR)
  - sorbitan tristearate (492);

---

(<sup>1</sup>) Doc. CES 526/84



- the use of two coating agents, magnesium silicate (553a) and shellac (904);
- the use of sugars;
- the individual weights for chocolate bars and tablets;
- the alignment of the Directive on the Directive on labelling;
- the labelling rules concerning products not intended for the ultimate consumer;
- a new procedure for adaptation to technical progress.

### **Gist of the Opinion<sup>(1)</sup>**

In a unanimously adopted Opinion the Committee approved the Commission's proposal subject to several comments on the different Articles.

Given the importance of the market for cocoa and chocolate products, the Committee welcomed the proposal to consolidate the provisions implementing the basic labelling Directive and to harmonize further the legal provisions which have hitherto acted as a barrier to trade.

*This Opinion was based on material prepared by the Section for Agriculture under the chairmanship of Mr Emo Capodilista (Italy - Various interests). The Rapporteur was Mr Stahlmann (Germany - Employers).*

## **ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMITTEE CALLS FOR CHEAP BUTTER TO BE OFFERED TO THE UNEMPLOYED**

The Chairman of the EC Economic and Social Committee, Mr François Ceyrac, has written to the Commission — in response to a call from the Chairmen of the Committee's three Groups — urging it to consider the possibility of making available butter at reduced prices to the unemployed. It should not be difficult for the Community to accede to this proposal as the existence of considerable surpluses of butter means that the necessary preconditions are met.

Butter stocks have more than quintupled since 1980 and now amount to approximately 1 million tonnes, not to mention the 1 million tonnes of milk powder also held in stock. Current annual EC expenditure on storing and disposing of surplus butter alone is far in excess of DM 2,000 m. Schemes for reducing these surpluses have either proved

<sup>(1)</sup> Doc. CES 527/84

to be fruitless (e.g. "Christmas butter") and have been cancelled in order to prevent the whole price support system from collapsing or they have led to political disputes, as was the case with the sales to the Soviet Union.

The sale of cheap butter as proposed above would first of all be in the interests of social justice as it would provide assistance to those in the weakest social position. At the same time it would enable surpluses to be reduced and economies to be made in storage costs. The question of whether such a scheme could be a paying proposition will have to be considered. Administrative costs would be small as the people eligible could be readily identified.

**CORRECTION to Bulletin 1/1984, page 16:**

**"7. PREPACKAGED LIQUIDS..."**

**Please add following paragraph to the Gist of the Opinion:**

**0012" The Committee proposes that Article 5(4) of Directive 79/1005/EEC be maintained until it is replaced by a corresponding provision in another Directive."**

## EXTERNAL RELATIONS

### **Chairman's activities**

- On 12 April 1984, the Chairman, François Ceyrac and the Secretary-General, Roger Louet met Mr Pietro Calamia, the Italian Permanent Representative to the European Communities.
- On 28 April 1984, the President of the Environment Council, Mrs Bouchardeau, attended a meeting of the Environment Section. The Chairman and the Secretary-General met Mrs Bouchardeau during lunch after this meeting.
- On 2 May 1984, the Chairman and the Secretary-General received a delegation from the Israeli Economic and Social Council and offered them lunch.
- On 15 May 1984, the Chairman addressed the Association of Former Students of the Free University of Brussels on the theme "Europe against the Crisis".
- On 23 May 1984, the Chairman met Mr Malcolm Rifkind, United Kingdom Minister of State at the Foreign Office.

### **Meeting of former members**

- On 27 April 1984, the Association of Former Members of the Economic and Social Committee held its 2nd General Meeting. A resolution calling upon all Europeans to vote in the European Parliament elections was adopted unanimously and sent to the heads of Community institutions and trade organizations.



## NEW CONSULTATIONS

Since the last Plenary Session the Council requested the Committee to deliver Opinions on the following subjects:

*“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” (COM(84) 182 final)*

*“Draft Council Recommendation on the promotion of positive action for women” (COM(84) 234 final)*

*“Communication from the Commission to the Council on the protection of the environment in the Mediterranean basin” (COM(84) 206 final)*

*“Proposal for a Council Directive laying down the list of simulants to be used for testing migration of constituents of plastic materials and articles intended to come into contact with foodstuffs” (COM(84) 152 final)*

*“Proposal for a Directive amending Directive 64/432/EEC as regards certain measures relating to foot-and-mouth disease and swine vesicular disease” (COM(84) 217 final)*

*“Proposal for a Regulation amending Regulations Nos 136/66/EEC, EEC/804/68, EEC/805/68, EEC/727/70, EEC/1035/72, EEC/2727/75, EEC/2759/75, EEC/2771/75, EEC/1418/76, EEC/516/77, EEC/337/79 and EEC/1837/80 concerning the fixing of export refunds for certain agricultural products (tendering procedure)” (COM(84) 135 final)*

*“Proposal for a Directive on the designations used in the marketing of milk and milk products” (COM(84) 5 final)*

*“Communication from the Commission to the Council on stimulating European cooperation and scientific and technical interchange — plan 1985-1988” (COM(84) 215 final)*

*“Proposal for a Council Decision adopting a programme on the management and storage of radioactive waste (1985-1989)” (COM(84) 231 final)*

*“Proposal for a Council Decision adopting a multiannual research action programme of the EEC in the field of biotechnology (1985-1989)” (COM(84) 230 final)*

The Commission has requested the Committee to issue Opinions on the following subjects:

***“Second Periodic Report on the economic and social situation in the regions of the Community” (COM(84) 40 final)***

***“Communication concerning guidelines for the strengthening of relations between the Community and Latin America” (COM(84) 105 final).***

# PROVISIONAL FUTURE WORK PROGRAMME

## JULY 1984 PLENARY SESSION

### Opinions upon consultation

- Economic situation mid-1984
- Social developments in 1983
- Technological change and social adjustments
- Forest protection (additional Opinion)
- Fire risks in hotels
- Temporary admission of means of transport
- VAT waiver for Ireland
- Competition — patents (additional Opinion)
- Tax-free imports for international travellers
- Tax-free fuel in tanks
- Monitoring equipment in transport
- Access to the occupation of carrier
- Abolition of quota record sheets

## SUBSEQUENT PLENARY SESSIONS

### Opinions upon consultation

- Shipbuilding aids
- Enlargement (additional Opinion)
- Equal treatment for men and women
- Railway infrastructure
- Action to help women
- Economic and social situation in the regions
- Air transport
- Annual economic report
- Limitation of air pollution
- Consumer protection: non-food prices
- Consumer protection: food prices

- Food sampling methods
- Emulsifying agents
- Environmental protection — Mediterranean basin
- Coffee/chicory extracts
- Telematic information management (CADDIA)
- CCT — returned goods
- 13th competition report
- Stimulation of scientific and technical cooperation and exchanges
- Radioactive waste
- Milk and dairy product names
- Swine vesicular disease
- Export refunds on certain agricultural products
- Strengthening of EEC-Latin American relations

#### **Own-initiative Opinions**

- Migrant workers
- Social security
- Yugoslavia
- Industrial medicine
- Community research priorities

#### **Information Reports**

- Energy options — environmental constraints
- Oil use
- European Monetary System
- National regional development aids
- Development of upland areas
- Shared-cost research programmes
- Community fisheries policy
- EEC-Mediterranean relations.



## MEMBERS' NEWS

### **Appointment**

The Council of Ministers has appointed Mr P.A.A. Spijkers (Netherlands) a member of the ESC in place of Mr Wagenmans. Mr Spijkers is a member of the Executive Bureau of the Industry Union of the Dutch Trade Union Federation (FNV).



## 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.
- EEC'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)

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMITTEE  
Press, Information and Publications Division

Rue Ravenstein 2  
1000 Brussels

Tel 512 39 20  
513 95 95

Telegrams ECOSEUR  
Telex 25 983 CESEUR

Catalogue Number ESC-009-84-EN