

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMITTEE
OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES

BULLETIN



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From left to right: Mr Ceyrac, Chairman of the ESC, Mr Dumas, French Minister responsible for European Affairs, Mr Leprette, Permanent Representative of France to the European Communities, and Mr Louet, Secretary-General of the ESC.

EXTRACT FROM THE SPEECH MADE BY Mr FRANÇOIS CEYRAC,

**at the symposium held at the “Centre de Recherche
et d’Étude des Chefs d’Entreprise”,
Paris, on 12 January on**

(“Courses of action open to the European Economic Community. The role of the two sides of industry”)

The present crisis is at once economic, political and social. It is economic because of the objective facts of stagnation, the relative decline of the European economy, and the transformation of industry and technology. In reality it is less a crisis than a lasting change in the pattern of production and consumption, trade flows, and the very nature of the activities of economic operators. It is a transition towards a new form of world economy involving new relationships in industry and new patterns of individual behaviour.

For this reason, it is also a social crisis. The channels for employer/employee relations, and the customary substance of the agreements between the two sides of industry are being called into question. Trade unions and managers alike must devise new forms of negotiation and new objectives. A mere dialogue between employers and employees is itself in some cases obsolete. The whole organization of society is being called into question, so that it is logical to involve representatives of other groups, such as the self-employed and consumers.

Because of the extent of the changes which are taking place, the crisis is also a political one. The room for manoeuvre governments have is becoming more and more restricted. Sometimes they seem to be almost powerless.

This tends to undermine the confidence of socio-economic operators in decisions taken by those with political responsibility so that the latter's ability to act is further diminished. It is therefore necessary to take action on the economic, social and political fronts simultaneously.

Economic factors, which are demonstrable facts, have an "educational" value. Being inexorable, they eventually influence minds and behaviour. This trend, which has been evident for several years, is quite remarkable (for example, account is being taken of the need for competitiveness, the vital role of the undertaking, the danger of disturbing the balance achieved in major areas). Realism is getting the better of ideology.

Since it is a question of transforming the whole structure of society, a degree of consensus is required on the objectives. All available channels should be used to this end.

The socio-economic organizations have a vital part to play here, but this implies a fundamental change in their role, which can no longer consist solely in the pursuit of their respective demands but must also involve explanation and education.

If they are to succeed in this task, a number of conditions must be fulfilled. Firstly, they must share a certain idea of the type of society that is desirable; there must be a common attachment to the pluralist democratic system. This is true of Europe as a whole.

They must also understand what is going on so that they can make a correct analysis of the situation and distinguish between what is possible and what is not. Considerable progress is already being made in this respect in European workers' and employers' organizations.

It should now be possible, therefore, to resume and to extend the consultation and dialogue between the two sides of industry. But:

- the new content and the form of this employer/employee dialogue must be worked out; an attempt must be made to arrive at a common vision of the society we are aiming for and the conditions which must be accepted if it is to come into being smoothly;
- this dialogue must be conducted simultaneously at national and European level. Here, too, it will be necessary to define the content of the Community-level dialogue and overcome the present stagnation. A dialogue at European level between the two sides of industry could make a decisive contribution to providing Europe with the political substance it lacks. It may even be the only means of achieving this.

214th PLENARY SESSION

The Economic and Social Committee held its 214th Plenary Session at its headquarters in Brussels on 25 and 26 January 1984. The Committee's Chairman, Mr François Ceyrac, presided.

The highlight of the Session was the attendance of Madame Catherine Lalumière, French Secretary of State for Consumer, Financial and Economic Affairs, Finance and the Budget. Madame Lalumière, in her role as President-in-office of the Council, presented the programme for France's sixmonth term.

Extracts from speech by Madame Lalumière, French State Secretary for Consumer, Financial and Economic Affairs

Europe is in the throes of a long-standing crisis even if it took the Athens Summit to actually bring the starkness of the situation home to the public at large.

This crisis is basically due to the failure to adjust to modern conditions. In Athens itself the Summit broke its back on a number of old, well-worn problems. We nevertheless need to be optimistic about the future since the ten countries of the Community are all perfectly aware that Europe is of paramount importance if the economic crisis is to be overcome and adjustments made in the light of the changing industrial scene. About this there are wide areas of agreement.

Today, Europe's aspirations fall far short of the ambitious objectives set by its founders. However, neither politically nor economically does Europe enjoy its rightful place in the international arena. Internecine quarrels and the deadening weight of the many bureaucratic procedures and customs have sapped Europe's strength and curbed progress.

The French presidency is going to try and solve current disputes and give Europe a fresh impetus. To achieve this objective we need to be both realistic and ambitious, i.e. we need to both respect the Treaty with its many superb qualities and riches, and yet at the same time open up new avenues. To do this we can count on the Commission's experience and capacity for drawing up proposals; we can rely on the support of the elected representatives of the peoples of the Community; and we can



Madame Lalumière with Mr Ceyrac at the Plenary Session.

also count on your support since we are aware of the great importance attached by the socio-economic organizations you represent to the building of Europe. The Common Agricultural Policy has had some resounding successes but it was drawn up in a different era and now requires adjustments, particularly in cases where there are surpluses.

We need to address ourselves to the real reasons for surpluses and take account of social realities. We also need to restore a single market, protect and strengthen Community preference, and defend the place of the Community in international trade in agricultural products.

The functions of structural funds should be clarified so that the funds can better serve the policies laid down by the Community:

- in reforming the European Social Fund, priority is quite rightly being given to jobs for young people;

- the reform of the Regional Fund must be carried through in order to secure a better balance between the regions, account being taken of the need for new industries in areas of industrial decline;
- the EAGGF will still be confined to action taken within the framework of the common agricultural policy.

All the Member States are forced to pursue stringent budgetary policies. We must also control the growth of the Community's budget, which does not of course mean that future policies must be starved of funds. Europe must be able to devise new areas of Community responsibility which implies that the Community will need further financial resources. This ought to be possible when other major questions have been settled, particularly the correction of budgetary imbalances.

The presidency attaches particular importance to the development of all types of Community action likely to improve the international competitiveness of European firms, including the promotion and practical application of research and innovation, the exchange of research workers, and joint programmes. The presidency is also interested in seeing the ESPRIT programme carried to a rapid conclusion (only the financial question remains to be discussed). The presidency will also have to continue the debate on energy research programmes and basic technologies.

We shall also have to give thought to further action in the fields of telecommunications and biotechnologies. Last but not least, we shall need to continue to find ways of stimulating scientific and technical potential and to continue the examination of the structures and procedures of Community research.

We must encourage European firms to cooperate and even join forces, particularly in the fields of advanced technologies. To be able to do this firms need to operate within a common legal framework.

The EEC's internal market must be more unified if we are to create an environment that will permit European firms to work together satisfactorily. Creating a genuine internal market implies first of all that compartmentalization is broken down. Progress has already been made in this field since the Council of Copenhagen but we need to go even further.

We must give practical form to the guidelines on European standardization adopted by the Council; standardization is of particular importance, especially in the field of new technologies. We must continue our scrutiny of legal texts on the simplification of controls at frontiers. We must also make sure that the public contracts sector is increasingly opened up in the interests of European firms, particularly in the field of new technologies.

A more unified internal market nevertheless implies, as a corollary, affirmation of the Community's external identity. The Community must therefore strengthen the cohesiveness of its common commercial policy. To do this it needs funds to be able to defend its policies and protect its interests on terms similar to those enjoyed by its principal rivals. Discussions are continuing, on the basis of a Commission proposal, with a view to adopting a new common commercial policy instrument. The aim of the presidency will be to bring these discussions to a successful conclusion.

The social plank of our policies is of quintessential importance. It is more profitable to tackle jointly rather than separately the problems arising as a result of large-scale unemployment and adjustments to new technologies. The Community must not try to take the place of the Member States or the two sides of industry and must respect their autonomy; but at the same time, it must lay down guidelines and perfect the means it has at its disposal. The presidency attaches importance to progress on current proposals and projects, particularly in the field of youth employment and the adjustment of working hours. It also attaches importance to the possibility of Member States taking joint action on (i) the social aspects of new technologies, (ii) demography in Europe, and (iii) the future of our social security systems. Finally, the presidency will take the necessary initiative and join forces with labour and management to find ways of strengthening the "labour relations" dialogue at European level, thus making a contribution to the creation of a real social forum in Europe.

With regard to consumer policy, action should be based on the following guidelines:

- in the context of an economic crisis, consumer policy is a social necessity and one of the primary goals of the Treaty of Rome, i.e. to improve the living conditions of the peoples of the Community;
- consumer policy is also an economic necessity insofar as the satisfaction of consumers' needs is a precondition for business competitiveness;
- issues involving consumer protection and information must not be treated in isolation from other questions dealt with by the Community, particularly the unification of the Community's domestic market, competition, the harmonisation of legislation, and the common agricultural policy.

These guidelines will be translated into an effort to improve the free movement of goods in order to widen and diversify the choice offered to consumers, without this leading to a reduction of the quality and safety guarantees so valued by the consumer.

The French presidency also attaches importance to market "transparency" via measures to provide adequate information about products and services. It would also like to see progress concerning (a) measures to protect consumers against unlawful trading practices and (b) measures to compensate consumers for product-related damage.

With the help of the Commission the French presidency will also support all new and existing measures aimed at ensuring a more effective application of common rules: cooperation and the exchange of information between inspection departments, regular examinations of inspection procedures and methods, experiments in the joint training of inspectors from the different Member States.

Finally, the French presidency attaches great importance to the more systematic involvement of European-level consumer representatives (CCC) in policy-making and in the selection of priorities in areas of direct concern to them.

Adoption of Opinions

1. INTERNATIONAL TRAFFIC (6th Directive)

"Proposal for a Sixth 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"

Gist of the Commission's proposal

The proposal aims at a four-stage increase in the allowances granted to travellers within the Community from 210 to 400 ECUs. These allowances increased on 1 January 1983 to 210 ECUs, a 16.66% rise from the 180 ECUs which had been in force since 1 January 1979. However, the increase compensates only slightly for the rise in the consumer price index in the Community and, except in Belgium and Luxembourg, in no way contributes to an increase in the real value of the allowance (see table appended). The proposal remedies this situation by providing for gradual increases in the value of the allowance and by introducing a semi-automatic procedure designed to maintain the value and to take account of any parity readjustments.

The wine allowance is also to be increased from 4 to 6 litres.

Gist of the Opinion⁽¹⁾

In an Opinion, adopted unanimously with two abstentions, the Economic and Social Committee welcomes the Commission's proposal.

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 De Grave (Belgium - Workers).

2. INTERNATIONAL TRAFFIC

(7th Directive)

"Proposal for a Seventh 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"

Gist of the Commission's proposal

The proposed 7th Directive seeks to clarify the legal position of some of the provisions relating to tax exemption in respect of goods acquired by air or sea travellers within the Community.

The Commission proposes that Member States should be free to authorize shops under customs control in airports or ports, as well as airline and shipping companies, to continue to make tax-free sales to intra-Community travellers, but to restrict these sales to the value and quantity limits applied for travellers coming from third countries. For persons travelling to third countries, Member States will remain entirely free to lay down the conditions governing sales of tax-free goods.

It should also be noted that in 1972 the Commission submitted a proposal for the gradual abolition of tax-free sales in the Community, a more ambitious proposal than the ones under consideration here. The Committee approved this earlier proposal in its Opinion of 29 November 1972 (see OJ No. C 142 of 31 December 1972) but the proposal was subsequently withdrawn (in 1978) as the Council was unable to accept it.

Attention should also be drawn to the judgement of the Court of Justice in case No. 158/80 which appears to imply that the sale of goods free of customs duties and agricultural levies to persons travelling within the Community is not compatible with Community law.

⁽¹⁾ Doc. CES 90/84

Gist of the Opinion⁽¹⁾

Duty-free sales to travellers between Member States are acceptable provided certain conditions are met, says the Committee in an Opinion adopted by 92 votes to 13, with 19 abstentions. The Committee feels that the limits for duty-free purchases should not be based on the allowances for travellers coming from non-member countries. They should — in contrast to the Commission proposal — be aligned on the arrangements for travellers between Member States. The maximum allowance for such travellers (currently 210 ECU and rising to 400 ECU by 1987) should apply to duty-free purchases.

The retention of allowances for duty-free purchases will help to reduce differences between the national taxation policies and further the elimination of trade barriers.

The Committee argues that a large number of high-quality articles produced in the Community reach the customer through inter alia airport shops, which means that they also reach the world market. A reduction in the scope for sales of these articles would lead to the loss of jobs, not only in the transport sector but also in other economically important and labour-intensive sectors.

The Committee also proposes that responsibility for complying with the limits should lie with the buyer rather than the seller.

The Committee also considers that the mere fact of requiring the seller to check sales, as proposed by the Commission, will not allow a reduction in customs checks on arrival. Purchases far in excess of the permitted levels could be made by buying goods from different shops (on departure and on return, in the airport of departure or transit, on the aircraft and in various shops at the same airport).

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 De Grave (Belgium - Workers).

3. LINDANE DISCHARGES

“Proposal for a Council Directive on limit values and quality objectives for discharges of hexachlorocyclohexane, and in particular lindane”

⁽¹⁾ Doc CES 89/84

Gist of the Commission proposal

Within the framework of the Environmental Action Programmes, a framework Directive on the discharge of dangerous substances into the aquatic environment was adopted in 1976 (76/464/EEC). This established a Black List of very toxic substances which should be eliminated and a Grey List of less toxic substances which should be reduced.

Eight categories of toxic substances appear on the Black List, one of which is organohalogen compounds which are used as pesticides; a proposal has already been submitted but not yet adopted for one category of these pesticides, the so-called "three-drins" (aldrin, dieldrin and endrin), and the present proposal is in respect of a second category of pesticides, those containing hexachlorocyclohexane (HCH). Lindane is the main substance in this category.

The object of the present proposal is to eliminate pollution caused by HCH effluent by establishing:

- a) limit values in respect of emissions;
- b) deadlines for implementation;
- c) provisions for a monitoring procedure and a method of analysis.

Gist of the Opinion⁽¹⁾

By a unanimous vote, the Committee unreservedly endorses the Commission proposal, in view of the harmful effects on the environment of the disposal of waste from the production process for hexachlorocyclohexane and, in particular, lindane.

The Committee further notes that some agricultural products treated with HCH-based pesticides and imported from non-Community countries, and the treatment of wood and electric cables with HCH, can also cause pollution. With a view to solving this problem, the Commission should give it the necessary priority in its research programmes.

Finally, the Committee proposes that the Commission regroup dangerous substances with similar properties in a single Directive so as to simplify presentation and discussion of them in the various relevant bodies.

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

⁽¹⁾ Doc. CES 84/84

4. ENVIRONMENT — RESEARCH AND INFORMATION

“Proposal for a Council Decision revising the sectoral research and development programme in the field of environment (environmental protection and climatology) —indirect and concerted action — 1981-1985”

Gist of the Commission’s Proposal

This programme was approved in March 1981 with a provision that it be re-examined at the end of 1983. The present proposal is to revise the programme and request supplementary funding for the period 1984-1985, in order

- to place more emphasis on:
 - (i) acid rain (ecological effects of air pollutants)
 - (ii) waste management
- to extend and revise work on;
 - (i) atmospheric pollutants
 - (ii) micropollutants in water
 - (iii) sewage sludge
 - (iv) coastal eco-system
- to initiate new action in respect of:
 - (i) effects of air pollutants on eco-systems
 - (ii) indoor air quality
 - (iii) bird protection.

The funds estimated as necessary for the extension of the revised programme amount to 54.5 mio. ECU instead of 42 mio. as in the original programme.

Gist of the Opinion⁽¹⁾

In its Opinion, adopted unanimously, the Committee supports the revised sectoral R & D Research Programme on the environment, but makes the following observations:

- the current proposal should preferably not be dealt with in isolation now or in the future, but should be considered in the context of all other relevant research programmes;
- particular importance should be attached to those aspects of the Programme linked with acid rain;
- when the next Programme is drawn up in two years time the priorities should be thoroughly reviewed and if necessary new ones should

⁽¹⁾ Doc. CES 88/84

be set. The following priorities are suggested:

- the development of technology which causes less damage to the environment;
- the effect of environmental conditions on human and animal health;
- systematic study of the economic consequences of ecological damage, and comparison with the costs of protecting the environment;
- measures to protect woodlands until the measures against air pollution begin to take effect;
- problems of single-crop areas;
- in climatology, the problem of the occurrence and effects of frost and mist.

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

5. STANDARD EXCHANGE ARRANGEMENTS

“Proposal for a Council Regulation (EEC) on standard exchange arrangements”

Gist of the Proposal for a Regulation

In the context of the international division of labour, many Community firms have recourse to standard exchange arrangements, i.e. the importation of goods which are replacements for Community goods exported for repair.

The standard exchange arrangements are governed at Community level by Council Directive No. 78/1018/EEC of 27 November 1978, unanimously approved by the Committee in November 1978; the rules are virtually identical to those contained in the base Directive on outward processing (No. 76/119/EEC).

The Commission Proposal (together with the Proposal for a Regulation on Outward Processing (COM(83) 358 final) calls for:

- the conversion of Directive No. 78/1018/EEC into a Proposal for a Regulation, and
- a greater delegation of powers of implementation and administration to the Commission, these powers to be exercised by the intervention of the already existing Committee for Customs Procedures with Economic Impact.

Gist of the Opinion⁽¹⁾

By a unanimous vote the Committee adopted an Opinion in which it welcomes the Commission proposal. However, it considers that it would have been better to include the provisions in a separate title in the planned regulation on outward processing. This would not only have been more systematic but the standard exchange arrangements as a whole could have been made simpler and clearer.

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 Broicher (Germany - Employers).

6. OUTWARD PROCESSING RELIEF ARRANGEMENTS

“Proposal for a Council Regulation (EEC) on outward processing relief arrangements”

Gist of the Commission’s Proposal

The proposal, which is closely linked to the proposal on standard exchange arrangements, makes provision for:

- the changing of Council Directive 76/119/EEC of 18 December 1975 on outward processing relief arrangements, into a proposal for a Regulation, and
- a greater delegation of powers of implementation and administration to the Commission, these powers to be exercised in liaison with the Committee for Customs Procedures with Economic Impact.

Gist of the Opinion⁽²⁾

In a unanimous Opinion, the Committee welcomes the proposal for a Regulation on outward processing relief arrangements. However, it would have liked the present proposals to have included the provisions on standard exchange arrangements. It feels too that, in the interests of codification, it would be a good idea, at some future date, to bring together all the provisions on outward processing, including those on economic outward processing arrangements.

⁽¹⁾ Doc. CES 85/84

⁽²⁾ Doc. CES 86/84

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 Broicher (Germany - Employers).

7. PREPACKAGED LIQUIDS

“Proposal for a Council Directive amending Directive 25/106/EEC on the approximation of the laws of the Member States relating to the making-up by volume of certain prepackaged liquids”

Gist of the Commission Proposal

The draft Directive seeks to amplify Directive 75/106/EEC as amended by Directive 79/1005/EEC. The purpose is to achieve total harmonization of the nominal volumes for products of the wine sector by 31 December 1988. The parent Directive originally provided for optional harmonization in order to allow each Member State to permit the use of certain nominal volumes not specified in the Directive, in addition to the Community range. It is therefore now proposed that Article 5 of Directive 75/106/EEC be amended.

The Commission also considers that package recycling should be examined within an appropriate framework. It regards Article 5 (4) of Directive 75/106/EEC as superfluous and therefore proposes that it be deleted.

Although it does not make a formal proposal, the Commission is also anxious to ascertain the Committee's views on the amplification of the parent directive to permit wine packages with a nominal volume of 4 litres to be sold on the Community market.

Gist of the Opinion⁽¹⁾

With no dissenting votes and one abstention, the Committee welcomes the Commission's proposal for a Directive. It concurs with the exemption enabling Australian wine to continue to be sold in 4-litre bottles for a period of 2 years, but stipulates that any extension of this exemption period must be completely ruled out.

⁽¹⁾ Doc. CES 91/84

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 Flum (Germany - Workers).

8. HARMONIZATION OF TOBACCO TAXES

“Proposal for a Council Directive amending Directive 72/464/EEC on taxes other than turnover taxes which affect the consumption of manufactured tobacco”

Gist of the proposed Directive

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

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

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

The Commission is persisting with its original proposal and it would seem that the Council now has all the ingredients needed for a thorough discussion in order to lay down definite guidelines for harmonization.

The Commission is therefore proposing that the second stage of harmonization be extended for a further year, i.e. up to 31 December 1984.

Gist of the Opinion⁽¹⁾

This Opinion, adopted with no dissenting votes and four abstentions, approves the Commission proposal for a fifth extension to the second

stage of harmonization, up to 31 December 1984, and refers in this connection to earlier Committee Opinions.

The Rapporteur-General was Mr Swift (United Kingdom - Employers).

(¹) Doc. CES 87/84

EXTERNAL RELATIONS

Chairman's Activities

Since the last Plenary Session, Mr François Ceyrac, ESC Chairman

- had a meeting on 20 December 1983 with Mr Herman and Mr Moreau, members of the European Parliament (Rapporteur and Chairman of the special committee on economic revival);
- had a meeting on 6 January with Mr Roland Dumas, French Minister for European Affairs;
- spoke on 12 January at a Colloquium held under the auspices of the Centre de Recherche et d'Étude des Chefs d'Entreprise (managers' research and study centre) in Paris;
- spoke on 14 January at a Colloquium of the Association "Femmes Avenir" (Women's future) in Paris;
- had meetings on 16 January with Mr de Pasquale, Papastratiou and Poniowski, European Parliament committee chairmen, in Strasbourg;
- had meetings on 17 January with Mr Dankert, President of the European Parliament, and with Mr Thorn, President of the Commission of the European Communities; he also made a speech to the "Kangaroo Group" (European Parliament), Strasbourg;
- had a meeting on 25 January with Ambassador Rafajowski, Head of the Yugoslav Delegation to the European Communities;
- had a meeting on 26 January with Mr Richard, member of the European Commission;
- spoke at the European Parliament's Regional Policy Conference in Strasbourg;
- made a speech on 27 January at a working dinner organized by the Association "Réflexion — Action — Prospective" in Colmar.

NEW CONSULTATIONS

Since the December Plenary Session, the Council has asked the Economic and Social Committee to give its Opinion on the following questions:

“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” (COM(83) 720 final)

“Proposal for a Fourth Council Directive amending Directive 74/651/EEC on the Tax Reliefs to be allowed on the Importation of Goods in Small Consignments of a Non-Commercial Character within the Community” (COM(83) 730 final)

“Proposal for a Council Regulation on the Rules for the Temporary Admission of Means of Transport” (COM(83) 741 final)

“Proposal for a Council Directive on the Limitation of Emissions of Pollutants into the Air from Large Combustion Plants” (COM(83) 704 final)

“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” (COM(83) 786 final)

“Draft Council Recommendation Concerning the Adoption of a European Emergency Health Card” (COM(83) 750 final)

“Proposal for a Council Directive on Consumer Protection regarding Price Labelling on Non-food Products” (COM(83) 754 final)

“Proposal for a Council Decision concerning the Signing of the Protocol on Cooperation in Combatting Oil Spills in the Wider Caribbean Region and the Conclusion of the Convention for the Protection and Development of the Marine Environment of the Wider Caribbean Region” (COM(83) 733 final).

PROVISIONAL FUTURE WORK PROGRAMME

FEBRUARY 1984 PLENARY SESSION

Opinions on consultation

- 12th VAT Directive
- Amendment of ERDF regulation
- Uniform application of CCT nomenclature
- Small packages
- Data processing
- Fuel rationing
- Internal frontier barriers
- Cross-frontier radiological problems
- Milk and dairy products markets
- Fats and oils taxes
- Dismantling of MCAs
- Trade in cattle and pig sperm
- Butter aid
- Agricultural structures
- Plant products
- Fats and oils markets
- Plant residues in animal feed

SUBSEQUENT PLENARY SESSIONS

Opinions on consultation

- Environmental information scheme
- Extraction solvents in food
- 8th ERDF Annual Report
- Transport — access to occupation and mutual recognition of qualifications
- Tax derogation for Ireland
- Data processing market development programme

- Nitrogen dioxide quality standards
- Emergency health card
- Temporary admission of means of transport
- Accidental oil spills at sea
- Integrated Mediterranean Programmes
- Annual economic report 1984-85
- Economic situation mid-1984
- Local job-creation schemes
- Parental leave
- Social developments in 1983
- Acid rain (additional Opinion)
- Consumer protection in non-food matters
- Limitation of air pollution
- Protection against oil spills in the Caribbean region
- Noise level of railed vehicles
- Competition — patents (additional Opinion)
- Competition — R & D (additional Opinion)
- Farm prices for 1984
- Enlargement (additional Opinion)

Own-initiative Opinions

- Waste management
- Migrant workers
- Social security
- Industrial medicine
- Producers/consumers dialogue
- Yugoslavia

Information reports

- National regional development aids
- Community fisheries policy.

MEMBERS' NEWS

Appointments

The Council of Ministers has just appointed two new members to the Economic and Social Committee. They are Mr E. A. B. Hammond, OBE (United Kingdom), General Secretary of the Electrical, Electronic, Telecommunications and Plumbing Union, and Mr F. F. Jarvis (United Kingdom), General Secretary of the National Union of Teachers. They replace Mr Chapple and Mr Drain.

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
- The Other European Assembly (May 1983) (I SC 83-007)
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