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1. 40-hour week, four weeks paid annual holiday;
2. Equal pay for men and women;
3. Mass dismissals;
4. Social Fund aid for migrant and physically handicapped workers;
5. Industrial safety;
6. European Foundation for improving the environment, living and working conditions.

ANNEX 2 gives a review of the action already taken or currently under consideration in these various fields.

\*\* The European Commission is actively promoting the implementation of its ACTION PROGRAMME FOR THE ENVIRONMENT (see IRT No 185).

A short note showing how far the work has progressed is given in ANNEX 3.

\*\* ANNEX 4 contains a selection of RECENT PUBLICATIONS acquired by the Scientific and Technical Library of the Commission of the European Communities. These works may be consulted in the library (1 ave. de Cortenberg, 1040 Brussels, Loi Offices, 1st floor, No 43) or borrowed.

\*\* With the aim of reducing ACCIDENTS INVOLVING HEAVY VEHICLES and promoting A ROAD SAFETY POLICY, the European Commission is studying proposals for Community measures concerning the transport of dangerous goods, the checking of alcohol levels in the blood, and speed limits. This was the reply given to a question from Lord O'Hagan, Member of the European Parliament. The Commission would also draw attention to its proposed Community directives concerning the harmonization of laws relating to licences to drive road vehicles and the approximation of the laws of Member States

on the technical inspection of motor vehicles and their trailers. In the social field, a recent Regulation ((EEC) No 543/69) on the harmonization of certain provisions of social legislation on road transport also has a bearing on road safety.

\*\* The advantages of the COMMON AGRICULTURAL POLICY, for both producers and the consumers, are recapitulated by the European Commission in a memorandum recently submitted to the Council of Ministers for the purpose of adjusting the common agricultural policy over the period 1973-1978. This programme, designed to improve the policy on prices, markets and agricultural structures, is directly concerned with consumer protection: in particular, the Commission proposes to promote high-quality products and their supervision and also research into the effects of fats consumption on human health.

\*\* UNDERTAKINGS THEMSELVES SHOULD BEAR THE COST OF RIDDING THE ENVIRONMENT OF THE HARMFUL EFFECTS OF THEIR ACTIVITIES; aid can be considered only in cases where it can be shown that application of the "polluter pays" principle in its entirety would be liable to raise special difficulties, particularly of a regional or sectoral nature, and where such aid could serve to overcome these difficulties by enabling the undertakings concerned to carry out the necessary modifications to their existing plant. This was the substance of the European Commission's reply to a written question from Lord O'Hagan, Member of the European Parliament, concerning draft Belgian legislation to subsidize up to 60% of the expenditure incurred by undertakings investing in water purification equipment.

\*\* The European Commission has recently invoked, for the first time, the procedure for adaptation to technical progress in order to amend the February 1970 directive of the Council of Ministers of the Community on MOTOR VEHICLE EXHAUST SYSTEMS. This deals with the use of fibrous materials in motor vehicle exhaust systems. As these systems have undergone rapid technological development, the provisions adopted would soon become inadequate.

\*\* Mr Spinelli, Member of the European Commission with special responsibility for industrial affairs, will make an important statement on the policy of authorities towards SMALL BUSINESSES AND THE SELF-EMPLOYED in industrialized, free-enterprise countries at a Congress organized by the Institut international d'études des classes moyennes, to take place in Brussels on 28, 29 and 30 November.

\*\* Under the sponsorship of the European Commission, a European Conference on the APPLICATION OF MEASUREMENT, CONTROL AND ANALYSIS IN THE IRON AND STEEL INDUSTRY is to be held in Luxembourg from 2 to 5 April 1974.

\*\* A study entitled "Scientific and Technological Aspects of the RADIATION PASTEURIZATION OF EGG PRODUCTS" has recently been published by the European Commission.

THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY AND MULTINATIONAL COMPANIES

The development of an undertaking on multinational lines meets the optimum operating requirements of the prevailing social and economic environment; to a certain extent it also meets the need to overcome the obstacles that governments have allowed to persist in international trade. This is the underlying consideration in a communication on MULTINATIONAL COMPANIES that the European Commission has just forwarded to the Council of Ministers of the Community.

As far back as 1970 the European Commission had, at Community level, deplored in its memorandum on industrial policy the fact that too many European industrial undertakings were still operating in a purely national context and were slow to adapt, as regards size and geographical scope, to the new European economic area.

The Commission's present proposal takes account of the need to encourage the transnational integration of the member countries' industrial structures by cooperation, mergers and even the formation of multinational companies when the latter can make a worth-while contribution towards fulfilling the the economic and social aims of the Community.

And yet, the growing hold exercised by multinational companies on the economic, social and even political activity of the countries where they operate has caused deep and sufficiently widespread concern, especially in the fields of employment, competition, tax avoidance and monetary disturbance, to demand the attention of the authorities.

The main reason for this is that these companies have attained such a size and such a geographical expansion that the effectiveness of traditional action by the authorities and the trade-union organizations, who have not yet reached a comparable level of international cohesion or integration,

is called into question. Some data are given below to illustrate the extent of this phenomenon:

- (a) The real value of industrial assets under foreign control in the world in 1972 may be estimated at 240,000 million dollars, two-thirds of which was in the industrialized countries.

The corresponding turnover may be valued at 320,000 million dollars, i.e., the same order of magnitude as world trade.

- (b) The proportion accounted for by foreign investments in the economies of the Member States fluctuates at around 15%: approx. 9% in the United Kingdom, 10% in France, 14% in Italy, 15% in the Netherlands, 18% in W. Germany, 33% in Belgium.

On average, two-thirds of the investment comes from outside the Community.

It is well known that in several important sectors of Community industry there is a marked, or in some cases predominant, foreign influence, examples being computers, hydrocarbons, foodstuffs, plastics, electrical engineering and the motor industry.

The European Commission therefore believes that solutions will not be found nor anxiety allayed in this field unless the authorities introduce appropriate counteractants at Community and international level. However, any action taken should not impede the development of a process which affords acknowledged economic and social advantages but should simply aim to safeguard the Community, by means of appropriate legal machinery against secondary effects. This legal machinery should not in any way be discriminatory and would apply equally to individuals and undertakings whether of national, multinational, Community or non-Community origin.

The magnitude of some problems, in particular as regards security of employment, tax avoidance and currency speculation, warrants the adoption of mandatory measures. Moreover, the solution inevitably involves the introduction of a series of coherent measures guaranteeing undertakings the degree of autonomy which is essential for them to pursue their economic and social objectives but should be sufficiently clear-cut to prevent them from engaging in any activities deemed undesirable by the Community.

The measures in question, some of which are already the subject of formal proposals by the Commission and which should help to solve many of the problems involved, deal with the following areas:

- (a) Safeguarding the public interest (in the fields of taxation, security of supply, balance of payments and monetary stability, outbidding for public aid, protection of shareholders and others dealing with the company).
- (b) Protection of workers (security of employment and creation of a trade-union counterweight).
- (c) Maintenance of competition.
- (d) Take-over methods (Community regulations on take-over bids, coordination of supervision of Stock Exchange dealings; conditions governing investment and take-over operations).
- (e) Equality of conditions governing authorization to set up multinationals.
- (f) Protection of developing countries.
- (g) Improvement of information.

The draft resolution of the Council of Ministers of the Community which accompanies the European Commission's proposal specifies a number of decisions to be taken in these fields regarding:



- (a) the protection of workers during take-over operations;
- (b) the drawing-up of Community regulations dealing mainly with Stock Exchange transactions and the origin of funds invested.
- (c) establishing coordination between the national bodies responsible for supervising Stock Exchange operations;
- (d) measures for international aid and cooperation concerning formation, tax inspection and recovery, and in particular the determination of a common system of inter-company sales prices and licence fees;
- (e) a law governing groups of companies;
- (f) collection of adequate information on the international activities of undertakings.

PRIORITY MEASURES OF THE COMMUNITY SOCIAL ACTION PROGRAMME

The SOCIAL ACTION PROGRAMME which the European Commission has recently sent to the Council of Ministers of the Community contains a number of priority actions to be undertaken without delay. They concern, in the order shown:

1. 40-hour week, four weeks paid annual holiday.
2. Equal pay for men and women.
3. Mass dismissals.
4. Social Fund aid for migrant and physically handicapped workers.
5. Industrial safety.
6. European Foundation for improving the environment, living and working conditions.

1. 40-hour week and four weeks paid annual holiday

Objective: To obtain the 40-hour week by 1975 and four weeks paid annual holiday by 1976 in all sectors of employment throughout the Community.

Present situation: The general trend throughout the Community is towards the 40-hour week and four weeks paid annual holiday. Various collective agreements between employers and trade unions and various national laws tend in this direction but their application has not been extended to all sectors.

Means:

- (a) The Commission will call upon the Council of Ministers to obtain a general commitment from the Member States to introduce the 40-hour week by 1975 and four weeks paid annual holiday by 1976.
- (b) The Commission will invite the European representatives of the trade unions and employers to start negotiations at European level.

2. Equal pay

Objective: To ensure that the principle of equal pay for men and women on the basis of "equal pay for equal work" is fully implemented throughout the European Community.

Present situation: Although such equality was inherent in the Treaty of Rome, a recent report on how this principle was actually being applied by the six original EEC Member States shows that a number of serious infringements persist.

Means: The Commission is preparing a new Community agreement to ensure that this principle is properly implemented.

Ultimately, the Commission intends to take a number of other measures, including:

- (a) Penalties for those Member States which have not yet complied with the obligations imposed on them by the Treaty of Rome.
- (b) An invitation to employers and unions to meet at a European level to negotiate a European framework agreement, aimed especially at eliminating the misuse of job classification systems.
- (c) Preparation of a supplementary report on the subject before the end of the year.

### 3. Mass dismissals

Objective: To improve the protection of workers' rights in cases of mass dismissals.

Present situation: A draft directive for harmonizing provisions prevailing in the Member States was submitted to the Council of Ministers in November 1972. The Council requested the opinions of the European Parliament and the Economic and Social Committee, whose replies were given in March and June 1973 respectively.

Means: The Commission intends to present a draft amendment to the Council for action before the end of this year.

#### 4. Social Fund aid for migrant and physically handicapped workers

##### (a) Migrant workers:

Objective: To improve living conditions for migrant workers and obtain equality of treatment between national and foreign workers.

Present situation: The Social Fund has already been used, although to a limited extent, to finance projects for facilitating mobility of workers, This action should be extended, in view of the growth in migration movements.

Means: The Social Fund could be used to underpin operations involving the vocational training of and removal and reception facilities for migrant workers, as well as the training of social advisers, the education of the children of migrant workers and housing aid.

A much more comprehensive programme is being prepared in which the important question of the total involvement of migrants in their living and working environment will be examined.

##### (b) Handicapped workers:

Objective: To facilitate the social and vocational integration of handicapped persons.

Present situation: The Social Fund already gives help on a limited scale to various national projects in favour of handicapped workers.

Means: The European Commission proposes that handicapped workers be entitled to assistance from the Social Fund with the aim of:

- (a) ensuring that essential facilities for vocational readaptation are available at certain approved centres, a list of which will be drawn up every year by the Commission on proposals from the Member States;
- (b) developing at local and regional level vocational adaptation or re-adaptation measures ensuring long-term coordination between the services involved and not isolating handicapped persons from other social groups.

5. Action programme for handicapped workers in an open-market economy.

Objective: To enable the greatest number of handicapped persons to be fully integrated into society and earn their own living in normal circumstances.

Means: A six-year action programme is proposed, providing mainly for collaboration between model rehabilitation centres and support from the Community for short-term training projects in local centres, selected according to the quality and effectiveness of their methods. Action should also be taken which is likely to result in the creation of permanent centres.

Furthermore, the Commission is setting up a new consultative body, the European Committee for the Rehabilitation of Disabled Persons, to help it coordinate this programme.

6. Industrial safety

(a) The General Safety Committee

Objective: To promote a Community policy on industrial safety.

Present situation: There is general agreement on the need to set up a permanent body for industrial safety which will ensure that safety measures are adopted and applied in the Community and coordinate research and information. There have also been many requests for European codes of good practice to be drawn up.

Means: The European Commission proposes the setting-up of a General Safety Committee whose terms of reference will cover industrial medicine, safety, hygiene and the environment. The Committee will have the specific task of helping the Commission prepare and develop a Community safety policy, for which purpose it will have a general mandate.

(b) Extension of the Mines Safety and Health Commission

The European Commission proposes that the terms of reference of the Mines Safety and Health Commission be extended immediately to cover all types of underground mines, and to cover open-cast mining by 1976.

7. European Foundation for improving the environment and living and working conditions

Objective: To promote research into the factors which are changing the structure of society and the style and conditions of life and work in the Community, with a view to clarifying the long-term policy options and thereby assisting decision-making at national level.

Present situation: The Community action programme for the environment (see IRT No 185) includes a proposal for a European Foundation for the Environment and the Commission has decided to enlarge its field of activity to include living and working conditions, thus avoiding any duplication of effort.

Means: The Commission proposes the creation of a European Foundation to promote long-term research in accordance with the aims of the social and environment policy of the Community. The Foundation would operate as a clearing house, disseminating information, coordinating, directing and financing research carried on in research institutes in the Community and maintaining contacts with researchers and organizations working outside the Community. The problems involved in improving working conditions will have a special place in this research programme.



Progress by the European Commission in work on the environment1. Objective evaluation of pollution hazards to human health and health standards

Preliminary reports are now being prepared on first-grade pollutants - lead and its compounds, organohalogen and organophosphorus compounds, hydrocarbons - and these will be available in December 1973 or early 1974. Meetings of experts from the Member States will be held during the first half of 1974.

As far as air pollutants are concerned, a report on sulphur compounds and suspended particles will be available in January 1974.

A meeting of experts from the Member States on oxides of nitrogen is planned for 14 and 15 January 1974.

A symposium on the effects of carbon monoxide on health will be held in Luxembourg starting on 17 December 1973.

As regards noise pollution, a preliminary general meeting with Member State experts will be held in Luxembourg from 28-30 November 1973.

The directive dealing with permissible noise levels and motor vehicle exhaust systems is being revised.

2. Quality objectives

The European Commission is currently preparing a draft directive on the quality required of surface water for conversion to drinking water. Work on the definition of quality objectives for bathing and washing water will begin in November.



### 3. Products

A draft directive on the lead content of petrol is in the process of being approved by the European Commission.

A draft directive on the sulphur content of diesel oil will be presented to the Council before the end of the year.

A draft directive for regulating the lead and cadmium content in cooking utensils is being prepared, together with other draft directives on pesticides, detergents and tractors.

#### 4.1 Marine pollution

Representatives of the European Commission were invited to attend as observers a Conference held in Paris on 17-21 September 1973, the aim of which was to conclude a convention on the fight against marine pollution from sources on land. The Commission is also continuing to keep track of the work of the various international organizations concerned with marine pollution (IMCO, Conference on the Law of the Sea).

#### 4.2 Pollution of the Rhine

The European Commission has been invited to participate as observer in the work of the International Commission for the Protection of the Rhine against Pollution.

### 5. Waste

The work of the departments concerned with the disposal of waste oil is sufficiently advanced for the European Commission to have been able to notify its intention of drawing up a proposal for a directive on this

subject, which may be ready in February 1974.

Studies on toxic waste and waste from the manufacture of titanium dioxide are in progress.

6. Economic aspects

A report on the nature, scope and detailed rules (including exceptions) for applying the "polluter pays" principle will be forwarded to the Council of Ministers of the Community before the end of the year.

7. Improvement of the environment

The work scheduled in the programme for improvement of the environment (see IRT No 185) is progressing in all sectors (agriculture, depletion of some natural resources, urbanization and improvement of natural amenities, improvement of the working environment, bringing home to the general public the problem of the environment).

The proposal for the creation of a European Foundation for the improvement of living and working conditions will be submitted to the Council of Ministers before the end of the year.



RECENT PUBLICATIONS

acquired by the Scientific and Technical Library of the Commission of the European Communities. These works can be consulted in the library (1 ave. de Cortenberg, 1040 Brussels, Loi Offices, 1st floor, No 43) or borrowed

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- Cable Television: A Guide for Education Planners  
(EU 4575 (R-1144))  
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Rand Corporation, Santa Monica, Calif., May 1973
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(EU 4575 (R-1142))  
Kletter, Richard C.  
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(EU 4575 (R-1140))  
Yin, Robert K.  
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- Cable Television: Citizen Participation after the Franchise  
(EU 4575 (R-1139))  
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- Cable Television: Technical Considerations in Franchising Major Market Systems (EU 4575 (R-1137))  
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