

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMITTEE  
OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES

# BULLETIN



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## EXTRACTS OF THE OPENING ADDRESS OF Mr. ROSEINGRAVE, PRESIDENT OF THE ESC

“This assembly of representatives of economic and social life is deeply concerned with the present state of the Community. The Community is besieged with great problems and we sometimes wonder if the Member States still have the political will and the strength to tackle them.

Everybody should be worried indeed about the growing lack of cohesion inside the Community. Europe faces countries and trading blocs which have clear and unified policies which can be translated into political and economic actions while here the lack of unity and purpose is paralysing us at a time when unemployment is rising monthly. If we do not have a common approach to our trading relations with other countries, then the alternative for these countries will be to deal in bilateral negotiations. This will only undermine further the process of Europe's unity. Forms of protectionism, as we can see, have been spreading against third countries and they make themselves felt stronger and stronger even between the Member States of the Community.

Already a new concept of ‘reciprocity’ in trading relations has been strongly advocated in the United States and this surely is a concept which, if pushed to its logical conclusion, will mean the end of free market trading and a return to the worst days of the 1930s — a situation which both the United States and Europe strongly wish to avoid.

This lack of cohesion of the Community overshadows its relationships with the big trading partners of the world. Only recently this Committee has emphasized in a Study on our External Relations that the contradictions and inconsistencies of Community policies and actions stem from the lack of a general, broad framework for the action which the Community has been taking on different fronts over the last decades. As we said in this Study, there has never been, in fact, any exhaustive, realistic political debate on the Community's fundamental objectives. It is time, I think, for such a coherent approach.”



# I

## 195th PLENARY SESSION

The Economic and Social Committee of the European Communities held its 195th Plenary Session at its headquarters in Brussels on 24 and 25 February 1982. Its Chairman, Mr Tomás Roseingrave, presided.

The Session was attended by Mr Hansenne, the Belgian Minister of Labour and Employment, in his capacity as President-in-Office of the Council, and Mr Andriessen, the EC Commissioner. They spoke in the debates on the coordination of employment policy instruments and the tenth report on competition policy, respectively.

### ADOPTION OF OPINIONS

#### 1. COORDINATION OF LABOUR MARKET INSTRUMENTS (own-initiative Opinion)

##### **Extracts from speech by Mr Hansenne, President-in-office of the Council**

Mr Michel Hansenne began by thanking the Committee for its action, and its contribution towards improving the operation of the labour market and thus to combatting unemployment. The Committee had encouraged all those responsible for economic and social activities to react positively towards the main objective of the general economic policy and the labour policy. No stone should be left unturned in the fight against unemployment, and an all-out effort had to be made to improve the employment situation. It was essential that employers and trade unions should take an active part in implementing the labour-market policy if action was to be effective.

Mr Hansenne said he felt that there should be a debate on the entire unemployment issue at the next Council meeting on social questions (27 May). The debate would provide an opportunity for taking up any specific practical suggestions and he was sure that the Commission would bear them in mind in the Communication to the Council which it was drawing up. The debate could be prepared at an informal meeting



Mr Hansenne, President of the Council (right), in conversation with ESC President, Mr Roseingrave

of the Ministers for Labour of the Member States, which he was going to call for 5 and 6 April and which would be attended by Mr Richard.

Subject to the decisions taken by the Council, the Committee Opinion could have a powerful role in suggesting fresh measures and ways of cooperating to effectively further labour policies.

There was a moral and not just a political obligation to consider pragmatically, and where resources allowed to implement, any feasible reforms of labour market policy at Community and national level which were likely to eliminate even some of the present unemployment.



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

The Committee believes that the need to use various means for halting the deterioration of the employment situation throughout the European Community requires a coherent arsenal of policies and instruments which will boost the overall level of employment by properly coordinated structural measures and ensure prompter and better matching of job applications and vacancies.

This Own-initiative Opinion, which was adopted unanimously, pays particular attention to the decentralization of employment services, the role assigned to the representatives of the two sides of industry in the administration of the various employment services and the predominant role of state-run employment agencies in the labour market. It examines the computerization of employment services, funding, the various functions performed (unemployment services, guidance, training, placement, etc.) and the notification of vacancies.

The Committee makes a number of concrete proposals designed to improve and expand coordination throughout the Community. The principal recommendations are:

- Community-wide surveys of the major trends in the labour market should be drafted and disseminated;
- statistics should be more readily comparable and better use should be made of data-processing techniques in order to produce results which can be compared and used for operational purposes;
- Community schemes for the continuous training of employment service personnel should be supported;
- policies on specific issues (structure of services, notification of vacancies, illegal immigration, mass redundancies, etc.) should be coordinated;
- the European communicating system for jobs available and jobs wanted (SEDOC) should be improved and made more effective;
- resources of the European Social Fund should be earmarked for pilot schemes designed to create new jobs involving new skills and manufacturing processes;
- cooperation procedures among the heads of employment services should be reviewed (establishment of an ad hoc committee backed by a small secretariat).

In examining the functions performed by employment services, the Committee recalls that almost all Member States are curbing public spending — something which is bound to have repercussions on labour

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(1) Doc. CES 187/82.

market policies and the financial and human resources assigned to their implementation. This is not without risks, for such public spending policies may well help to shift the emphasis away from the prevention of unemployment to the mere financing of unemployment benefits. More particularly, any decline in the calibre or fall in the numbers of those working for employment services can only result in false economies and an actual swelling of the ranks of the unemployed.

*This Opinion was based on material prepared by the Section for Social Affairs under the chairmanship of Mr Houthuys (Belgium - Workers). The rapporteur was Mr Vanni (Italy - Workers).*

## 2. COMPETITION POLICY

*"Tenth report on the European Commission's competition policy"*

**Extracts from speech by Mr Andriessen,  
member of the Commission**



From right to left: Mr Andriessen, member of the Commission, Mr Roseingrave, ESC President, Mr Louet, ESC Secretary-General and Mr van Campen, Chairman of the Industry Section

Mr Andriessen, Member of the Commission with special responsibility for competition, reiterated his desire for a closer dialogue between the Commission and the Committee, which had a major advisory role to play. Friendly relations with all parties concerned were a *sine qua non* for an effective Community competition policy. Such a policy was not an end in itself but a means of promoting the welfare of consumers and workers, among others.

Turning to the 10th Competition Policy Report, he said "I sometimes get the impression that employers, employees and national Governments, in their concern over the recession, only look at the immediate problems instead of taking a long-term view of changing industrial patterns. This is particularly true of State aids."

All measures adopted in the field of competition had to take account of other policies.

Mr Andriessen also pointed out that the Commission's work on competition had embraced new areas such as shipping and air transport. New regulations were being drawn up for both sectors. Lastly, he advocated a fresh approach to mergers.

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

It is the first time that the Committee has been asked for an Opinion on this topic and the letter containing the request specifies that it will become a regular practice to consult the Committee on the Annual Report on Competition Policy each year.

In its Opinion, adopted by 56 votes in favour and 15 abstentions, the Economic and Social Committee notes that throughout the EEC there are still wide social, economic and political disparities between the Member States. It follows that, when implementing competition policy, due consideration must be given to other policies. There are many instances of protectionist measures being adopted by Member States' governments to help their own industries, particularly in time of recession and falling employment. These measures include discrimination, taxation, marketing controls, testing requirements, State aids, and retention of State commercial monopolies in contravention of Article 37 of the EEC Treaty. Even where the European Court has condemned some examples of discrimination, Member States have taken several years to comply with its ruling, or have ignored it. These distortions are a considerable hindrance on intra-Community trade and competition. Indeed, it is because of the existence of such measures that

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(1) Doc. CES 190/82.

in some cases firms have adopted marketing tactics which the Commission has then condemned.

The Committee also expresses reservations regarding the Commission's assertion that it will look favourably on certain measures "planned specifically to combat the crisis in certain sectors where, by means of some degree of reorganization, they are capable of helping to adapt existing industrial structures to the new requirements of the world economy". It fears that such a criterion could under certain circumstances lead to competition between State aids and the transfer of the economic difficulties of one Member State to another.

The Committee takes the view that the Commission should give priority to the harmonization of State aid and to ensuring application of the basic decision adopted by the Council in 1975 at the Commission's instigation and concerning compliance with certain criteria (transparency, ceilings, etc.).

Finally, the Committee welcomes the opportunity of using its Opinion on the Tenth Report on Competition Policy as a means of taking part in the work of publicizing the competition policy. It also supports the Commission's intention to make public opinion in the Community more aware of Community competition policy, particularly at the present time when it is appropriate and necessary to point out the role of competition in the Community in safeguarding prosperity, while at the same time making a realistic appraisal of the possibilities and limits of this policy.

*This Opinion was based on material prepared by the Section for Industry, Commerce, Crafts and Services under the chairmanship of Mr van Campen (Netherlands - Employers). The rapporteur was Mr Neumann (Germany - Various Interests).*

### **3. BELFAST HOUSING ACTION**

***"Proposal for a Council Regulation (EEC) instituting a specific action on behalf of housing in Northern Ireland within the framework of an integrated operation in Belfast"***

#### **Gist of the proposed Regulation**

Northern Ireland is a peripheral region experiencing exceptionally serious structural problems. For this reason it benefits from priority treatment from all the Community's financial instruments and has already been the subject of a specific measure, namely an integrated operation in the Belfast area.

The housing problem in Northern Ireland and particularly in Belfast is considerable and forms a major obstacle for the social and economic development of the region. However, none of the Community's financial instruments is legally empowered to resolve this problem. The Commission is therefore proposing a specific action involving a sum of 28 million ECU in 1982, which is intended to supplement the national effort to increase the availability of housing in Northern Ireland, and particularly Belfast, through new buildings.

Appropriations would be made under the specific budget heading "Integrated Operations".

The action would be pluriannual and last at least as long as the integrated operation is expected to last, namely three years. It should cover slightly more than one third of the number of new dwellings envisaged in the operational file for the integrated operation. The action would begin in 1982 and the financing would be adjusted each year in line with what has been achieved.

The Commission stresses that Community aid must not lead to any reduction in real terms, in the amount of national expenditure, and that the current effort of the British Government must thus be at least maintained.

Co-financing rates could be as high as 50%, and a system of advance payments of 80% would be introduced.

The aid would be paid to Northern Ireland through an agency. The British Government would be responsible for information and publicity concerning this specific action.

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

In its Opinion, unanimously adopted, the Committee approves the specific action for Belfast. In the course of its work on integrated operations, it has already noted that there is a major housing problem in the Belfast area. It is pleased that emphasis is placed on the "additionality" of the funds to be granted, which seems to be better guaranteed in this Regulation than in other regional policy measures.

The Committee merely suggests that the date for implementing the Regulation be brought forward slightly and points out that one should not forget the need for other investment, particularly in public-sector facilities aimed at improving the quality of life in the city.

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<sup>(1)</sup> Doc CES 186/82.

*This Opinion was based on material prepared by the Section for Regional Development under the chairmanship of Mr Blasig (Germany - Employers). The rapporteur was Mr Bornard (France - Workers).*

#### **4. ANNUAL BANK ACCOUNTS**

***“Proposal for a Council Directive on annual accounts of banks and other financial establishments”***

##### **Gist of the proposed Directive**

The proposed Directive follows up Directive 78/660/EEC of 25 July 1978 on the annual accounts of certain types of company. The earlier Directive governs the drawing up, auditing and publication of accounts of all share capital companies. However, the task of coordinating procedures for credit establishments was left until a later date, which meant that the Member States did not have to enforce the Directive of 1978 (Fourth Directive on Company Law) until coordination had actually been completed.

The importance of this new draft text lies in the fact that, even today, credit establishments are not obliged in all Member States to publish their profit and loss accounts at the same time as they publish their balance sheets. In some countries, for instance, it is usually the balance sheet that is published and profit and loss accounts are reduced to very simple terms rather than being published in detail. In others, banks are obliged to publish a very detailed profit and loss account, though balance sheets are published in a much abbreviated form.

The aim is therefore to make publication of all annual accounts binding on all banks and other financial establishments operating in the Community.

The proposed Directive will also ensure that annual accounts are comparable.

The Directive will apply to credit establishments other than those listed in the Fourth Directive (which applies solely to companies with a share capital). The only real exceptions will be establishments owned by physical persons.

##### **Standardizing presentation of annual accounts**

The Commission has opted for a compromise midway between the very stringent rules enforced in some Member States and the more flexible ones applied in others. Under the new Directive, establishments will be required to publish balance sheets listing 25 items on both the

credit and debit side. For profit and loss accounts, twenty items must be listed vertically and about twelve listed horizontally.

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

In an Opinion, adopted by 67 votes to 65, with 3 abstentions, the Economic and Social Committee said that although it agreed with the object of the Commission's proposal for the drawing up of the annual accounts of banks and financial institutions, it could not endorse the proposal in its present form.

It particularly objected to the fact that the proposal took the form of referential legislation which was, as a general rule undesirable in its view. Such an arrangement would introduce additional complexity for those who were affected through having to keep in mind two documents, and would create confusion when provisions in the two directives conflicted or were unclear.

The Committee felt that the particular characteristics of credit institutions, which were recognized by the Commission and which led to their position not being discussed at the time when the Fourth Directive on company law was being processed, continue to be valid. In the matter of annual accounts, banks or other financial institutions there should be regulatory legislation which applied only to them, even though this might mean that certain provisions of the Fourth Directive would have to be repeated.

While rejecting the basic approach of the Commission, the Committee nevertheless made specific comments on certain articles in the proposal, notably those dealing with prudential reserves and the information to be disclosed in the notes to the accounts. Greater flexibility should be permitted with regard to the layout of the balance sheet, the sequence of items shown therein and the layout of the profit and loss account.

*This Opinion was based on material prepared by the Section for Industry, Commerce, Crafts and Services under the chairmanship of Mr van Campen (Netherlands - Employers). The rapporteur was Mr Miller (United Kingdom - Workers).*

## **5. COORDINATION OF NATIONAL STOCK EXCHANGE RULES**

***“Proposal for a Council Directive amending Directive 79/279/EEC coordinating the conditions for the admission of securities to official stock***

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<sup>(1)</sup> Doc. CES 189/82.

*exchange listing and Directive 80/390/EEC coordinating the requirements for the drawing up, scrutiny and distribution of the listing particulars to be published for the admission of securities to official stock exchange listing”*

### **Background to the Opinion**

The Committee has been consulted by the Council and has given its Opinions (doc. CES 789/74; Official Journal C 204 of 30.8.1976, p. 5; Official Journal C 53 of 3.3.1980, p. 54) on three draft Directives whose overall purpose is to co-ordinate certain national stock exchange rules, and in particular to establish a Community-level co-ordinated information policy on securities which have been admitted to official stock exchange listing or whose admission to such official listing is requested.

The Council has already enacted the first two Directives which deal respectively with the conditions governing stock exchange listing (Official Journal L 66 of 16.3.1979) and with the listing particulars to be published (Official Journal L 100 of 17.4.1980). It still has to enact the third, dealing with information to be published on a regular basis by companies whose shares are admitted to official stock exchange listing.

The proposed date for implementation of this third Directive by the Member States is 30 June 1983.

The purpose of the latest Draft Directive on which the Committee is asked to give its Opinion, is to enable Member States to implement all three Directives simultaneously — which means in effect putting back the deadline for implementing the first two to 30 June 1983.

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

In its Opinion, adopted with no dissenting votes and one abstention, the Committee recommends that the three Directives be implemented simultaneously in all the Member States before 30 June 1983.

*The Rapporteur-General for this Opinion was Mr Miller (United Kingdom - Employers).*

## **6. NOISE EMISSIONS FROM HELICOPTERS**

*“Draft Council Directive on the limitation of noise emissions from helicopters”*

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<sup>(1)</sup> Doc. CES 188/82.



## **Gist of the draft Directive**

The Draft Directive is a follow-up to the Directive on the limitation of noise emissions from subsonic jet aircraft, and sets out to establish a uniform system of Community rules to limit noise emissions from helicopters.

The Draft Directive takes into account the work on noise emissions carried out by international organizations.

Any amendments required in order to keep this Directive abreast of technical progress will be examined by an "ad hoc" committee composed of representatives from Member States and chaired by a Commission representative.

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

In a unanimous Opinion, the Economic and Social Committee approves the proposal for a Directive applying within the Community the noise emission standards drawn up by the International Civil Aviation Organization.

The Committee nevertheless draws the Commission's attention to the need to bear in mind, in international negotiations, the "reciprocity" aspect as regards the mandatory nature of these standards, in order to avoid serious risks of distortion in international competition.

In view of the fact that there is not yet enough information available for a full assessment of the economic consequences of adopting these standards, the Committee considers that the proposed deadlines for the application of these standards should be put back sufficiently far to ensure that the Directive is compatible with the technological know-how and the economic possibilities of the Community industry, having regard to the position of the helicopter industry in third countries.

*This Opinion was based on material prepared by the Section for the Environment, Public Health and Consumer Affairs under the chairmanship of Miss Roberts (United Kingdom - Various Interests). The rapporteur was Mr Bernaert (Belgium - Employers).*

## **7. DANGEROUS SUBSTANCES**

***"Proposal for a Council Directive amending for the Seventh Time Directive 76/769/EEC on the Approximation of the Laws, Regulations and Administrative Provisions of the Member States relating to Re-***

<sup>(1)</sup> Doc. CES 179/82.

***strictions on the Marketing and Use of Certain Dangerous Substances and Preparations”***

**Gist of the proposed Directive**

The main aim of the proposed directive is to limit the use of five dangerous substances which are used either in toys or in textile articles which come into contact with the skin.

The Scientific Advisory Committee on the Toxicity and Ecotoxicity of Chemical Compounds (CSTE) was clearly in favour of the measures recommended in the proposal for a directive when consulted by the Commission.

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

Although the Committee approves the Commission's attempt to limit the use of dangerous substances in toys and objects designed for children, it does draw the Commission's attention to the need to continue the scrutiny of other substances which, while not covered by the present proposal, have caused serious problems in some Member States: such as samponins ("Panama powder" and its derivatives) powder from the roots of *Helleboris viridis* and powders containing benzidines.

The Committee would therefore recommend, in its Opinion, adopted with no dissenting votes and 1 abstention, that the Commission consider strengthening Community legislation by introducing provisions allowing prompt application of the safeguard clause throughout the Community, once it is invoked: such a move would protect public health by preventing industry from selling products containing dangerous substances on other markets. Steps should also be taken to include such products within the Directive on toxic waste, and to warn Member States quickly of the dangers to which the public is exposed.

*This Opinion was based on material prepared by the Section for the Environment, Public Health and Consumer Affairs under the chairmanship of Miss Roberts (United Kingdom - Various Interests). The rapporteur was Mr Zoli (Italy - Various Interests).*

**8. 1983 FARM STRUCTURE SURVEY**

***“Proposal for a Council Regulation (EEC) on the organization of a survey on the structure of agricultural holdings for 1983”***

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<sup>(1)</sup> Doc. CES 195/82.

## **Gist of the Commission proposal**

In 1979/80 farm structures in the Community were surveyed as part of a programme of Community surveys undertaken to meet the requirements of the common agricultural policy.

The present proposal is intended to provide the framework for updating the 1979/80 survey in 1983, since changes in the structure of agricultural holdings are an important element in the development of the common agricultural policy.

The proposal also contains some specific provisions for Italy which was unable to carry out the 1979/80 survey.

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

In this Opinion, which was adopted unanimously, the Economic and Social Committee endorses the Commission proposal which seeks to remedy a disturbing ignorance of the true state of the industry and of its production and employment trends in the ten Member States, and, more specifically, of the requirements of the Common Agricultural Policy.

It urges the Commission to consider the case for extending the field of the 1985 survey in order to draw on a wider range of research.

*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 Rainero (Italy - Various Interests).*

## **9. MEDITERRANEAN PRODUCTS (CITRUS FRUIT)**

***“Proposal for a Council Regulation (EEC) amending Regulation (EEC) No. 2511/69 laying down special measures for improving the production and marketing of Community citrus fruit”***

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

Spain's accession to the Community will drastically alter the citrus fruit sector, and current legislation will no longer be applicable once the Community has become enlarged.

The proposed amendments to Regulation No. 2511/69 mainly concern:

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<sup>(1)</sup> Doc. CES 180/82.

- the extension of the scope of medium-term measures to include lemons so as to brace Community producers for stiffer competition following enlargement, especially with regard to quality;
- the geographical limitation of the medium-term measures to those Member States which are experiencing major problems as regards crop variety;
- the relaxation of eligibility requirements for complementary aid for small farms who undertake to grow different products;
- raising complementary aid to a level corresponding to the actual loss incurred during the replanting period, so as to provide a genuine incentive;
- the introduction of structural improvement measures designed to enable citrus fruit producers to adapt production conditions to the new requirements of the market;
- limiting the marketing premium to sellers from Member States who adopt a medium-term action programme.

The marketing premium will run until 1985/1986 for lemons and clementines and until 1992/1993 at the latest for other citrus fruit. It will taper off during the last three years.

All these measures will apply to Greece.

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

The Committee sympathizes with the reasons behind the new proposals, and has taken particular interest in how to proposed measures tie in with the objectives. The ESC supports the Commission's decision to list lemons amongst the products qualifying for conversion aid.

The information contained in the Draft Regulation as to which Member States should qualify for grants is to be considered a useful adjunct to the current rules.

Furthermore, all measures likely to make aid more accessible and to eliminate discrimination between growers are an improvement on the earlier arrangements.

The increase in funds for aid should be sufficient to surmount the obstacles which prevented the original conversion proposals from being implemented effectively.

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<sup>(1)</sup> Doc. CES 191/82.

The Committee questions the wisdom of abolishing the "market promotion premiums", but hopes that, before any definite move is made to scrap these premiums, the whole citrus fruit sector will be reviewed in the light of the results of the conversion measures.

*This Opinion, adopted by 81 votes in favour, none against and 2 abstentions, was based on material prepared by the Section for Agriculture under the chairmanship of Mr Emo Capodilista (Italy - Various Interests). The rapporteur was Mr Paggi (Italy - Employers).*

## 10. MEDITERRANEAN PRODUCTS (WINE)

*"Proposal for a Council Regulation (EEC) amending Regulation No. 337/79 on the common organization of the market in wine"*

### Gist of the Commission proposal

The principal measures proposed concern:

#### A) Market intervention system: introduction of compulsory preventive distillation

In order to maintain balance on the table-wine market in the event of large surpluses, the Commission proposes the introduction of compulsory preventive distillation at the beginning of the marketing year to be decided in accordance with the ratio between foreseeable availability and use.

The volume of wine to be distilled will be fixed at the beginning of December, when the forward programme is adopted, so as to allow stocks at the end of the marketing year to be brought to a level which is compatible with market balance. The levy applied to each producer will be decided according to yields, types of wine produced and degree of alcohol. This system will mean that steps to decongest the market will first and foremost affect those producers who were mainly responsible for the surpluses in the first place.

To ensure proper application, economic sanctions are proposed and producers who do not cooperate are to be excluded from other intervention measures.

The Commission is also proposing that compulsory distillation be extended to wines made from grape that would normally not go on to the market for table wines.

There is to be no change in other distillation measures provided for under the present regulation, such as the distillation of wines covered by long-term contracts (marketing premium), special

distillation measures and minimum prices imposed on distilled wines.

Finally, there are proposals for a 0.5% increase in the minimum content of natural alcohol in all winegrowing regions. In the Commission's view, the present minimum levels are too low and steer winegrowing towards yields which do not always make for good quality wines, and which contribute to surplus market supply.

## **B) Tightening up the rules**

The Commission is proposing the introduction of tougher rules on wine enrichment and plantings in order to facilitate better control and influence production. In particular, there will be tighter rules on the addition of sugar.

Adding sugar to wine not only increases the volume of wine produced but leads to abusive enrichment of mediocre wines and thus keeps in business vineyards which are not really suited to winegrowing. Furthermore, it causes economic distortions between winegrowers in regions where the addition of sugar has always been banned (Italy, the South of France, except for the Bordelais, Greece and Spain) and others where it has been permitted. In the southern regions of the EEC, authorized enrichment processes require the use of grape products, such as concentrated grape must, which is twice as expensive as sugar per degree of alcohol.

As part of the 1980-1986 wine action programme, the Council approved a series of preliminary measures, including subsidies for rectified concentrated must used for enrichment. In order to increase the production and use of rectified concentrated must (grape sugar), the Commission is proposing the introduction of a levy on sugar intended for enrichment (this should enable the subsidies paid out for must concentrate to be abolished). This levy would be equivalent to the difference between the price of concentrated grape must and that of the amount of sugar needed for the same degree of enrichment. The levy will therefore vary, depending on whether the wine in question is a table wine or a quality wine (VQPRD).

These measures, however, will only be successful if monitoring is tightened up. Therefore, the Commission proposes that Member States increase their staff responsible for checking all wine operations, particularly enrichment. Commission inspectors should also carry out spot checks. Efforts to stamp out fraud will have to be stepped up.

**C) Boosting consumption (in the “continental” EEC countries) and reducing expenditure**

Production regulation is not enough. An effort will have to be made to boost consumption in the Member States where wine consumption is particularly low. The Commission has reiterated that excise duty is too high in some countries.

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

This Opinion was adopted by 81 votes in favour with 16 abstentions. The Committee approves the Commission proposal, although it feels that not all avenues have been explored with a view to boosting demand adequately and increasing outlets. It also has doubts as to the effectiveness of the measure designed to ensure Community wine-growers the same standard of income as that found in other productive sectors. These objectives can only be achieved by harmonizing taxation in the sector, putting greater emphasis on the export policy and introducing rules which are as far as possible consistent and calculated to fulfil the expectations of both consumers and producers.

On the subject of plantings, the reduction in the area devoted to vine cultivation should be confined to areas in category 3, although it feels that a better and more accurate definition of areas in categories 2 and 3 and “irrigation systems” would be desirable.

The Committee rejects the proposal that a duty be levied on the sucrose used for enrichment, on the grounds that this would be at variance with previous Committee Opinions on the subject. It considers that it is more beneficial to continue to provide aid for users of concentrated musts.

The Committee approves the obligatory distillation measures, although it stipulates that these should be geared to the maintenance of quality and implemented at prices which will ensure that wine growers' incomes are not too hard hit.

It is against an increase in the alcohol content, since it feels that the alcohol content is not the only aspect of quality to be taken into account.

In conclusion, it stresses that the regulations governing the wine market can only be tightened up effectively, if stringent monitoring procedures are enforced.

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<sup>(1)</sup> Doc. CES 192/82.

*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 Paggi (Italy - Employers).*

## 11. MEDITERRANEAN FRUIT AND VEGETABLES

***“Proposal for a Council Regulation (EEC) amending Regulation No. 1035/72 on the Common Organization of the Market in Fruit and Vegetables as regards Producers’ Organizations”, and the***

***“Proposal for a Council Regulation (EEC) amending Regulation No. 1035/72 on the Common Organization of the Market in Fruit and Vegetables”***

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

The Commission believes that before Spain and Portugal join the EEC some modification of the existing market organizations for fruit and vegetables will be necessary so as to allow for the present importance and future potential of Spain as a producer of fruit and vegetables — a factor which could fundamentally change the balance of the markets concerned.

- A) For the medium-term it would be possible to match production to consumer demand and avoid marketing crises by steadily extending the scope and powers of producers’ organizations. The Commission proposal therefore seeks to:
- 1) extend launching aids for producers’ organizations from 3 to 5 years, and relax conditions governing qualification for aid;
  - 2) allow Member States, at the request of a producers’ organization, to extend the organization’s rules (e.g. on quality control and marketing) to other producers in the same production area. Member States will not however be obliged to do so.
- B) The Commission is convinced of the need to prevent a market price collapse, and to re-establish normal marketing conditions as soon as possible in the event of a price collapse taking place. It therefore proposes that:
- 1) the conditions for the withdrawal of produce from the market at the point of first sale should come into effect as soon as there is evidence of a price collapse in the wholesale markets;
  - 2) this facility should apply to particularly price-sensitive products such as peaches, pears and tomatoes, as well as aubergines and apricots which must be added to the list of products covered by the price and intervention systems.



C) The Commission considers that the reference price system has proved capable of ensuring the orderly marketing of fruit and vegetables. It now proposes:

- 1) that the quantity limits on imports be discarded and that reference prices be introduced for products which do not already have them (such as apricots, artichokes, melons, green peas and lettuce). It also proposes that the validity of the existing reference prices for tomatoes and table grapes be extended.
- 2) that Article 24(4) of Regulation (EEC) No. 1035/72 be replaced by provisions allowing the prices of Community products to be automatically taken into account in the calculation of the entry prices of imported tomatoes. These measures would however only apply to peaches, tomatoes and table grapes.

The Commission also indicates that, in the context of the Council's study of its proposals on fruit and vegetables it has decided to draft additional measures to reinforce quality control and to amend the proposal on the common organization of potatoes, particularly early potatoes.

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

In its Opinion, adopted by 70 votes in favour, 27 against and 10 abstentions, the Economic and Social Committee supports the general thrust of the Commission proposals, which is just one facet of the reform of Community rules and regulations in preparation for the further enlargement of the EEC.

With regard to producers' organizations, the Committee — accepting that there is a need to strengthen such organizations — makes a number of comments designed to ensure that they function more effectively.

With regard to the common organization of the market in the fruit and vegetables sector, there is a need to reinforce quality controls right up to the consumer stage and to stress the importance of producers' organizations vis-à-vis non-associated producers. The operation of producers' organizations should be improved even though this might pose constitutional problems in some Member States.

The Commission proposals do not specify what criteria are to be used in determining the "representativeness" of an association in an "economic area" and Member States are given ample opportunity to adopt their own measures to ensure that the rules are extended. The latter possibility means that the "minimum common denominator",

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(1) Doc. CES 193/82.

which guarantees observance of the rules on competition in the Community, is likely to be broken up.

The Committee endorses the Commission's proposal that the intervention system should be strengthened in the event of a "serious crisis" so as to actually trigger an earlier declaration of a crisis, the only proviso being that such an intervention system should be accompanied by improvements in the safeguard mechanism to protect domestic production from imports from non-member countries.

It also endorses the proposed changes in the mechanism for calculating the entry prices of imported tomatoes, peaches and table grapes (a mechanism which, according to the Section, should be extended to cover all products subject to reference prices). The Section is likewise favourably disposed to the proposal that the market organization be extended to cover aubergine and apricot growers, and considers that cherries should also enjoy certain guarantees already given to other products.

*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 Paggi (Italy - Employers).*

## 12. HEALTH INSPECTIONS — MEAT

- 1) ***"Proposal for a Council Directive amending Directive 71/118/EEC on health problems affecting trade in fresh poultrymeat in respect of personnel responsible for carrying out health inspections, supervision and control tasks"***
- 2) ***"Proposal for a Council Directive concerning the qualifications of the personnel responsible for carrying out health inspection, supervision and control tasks foreseen by Directive 77/99/EEC on health problems affecting intra-Community trade in meat products"***

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

- 1) The Commission proposes that the intervention of an official veterinarian as provided for in Directive 71/118/EEC be obligatory from 15 August 1982 as regards the supervision of cutting premises and storage.

However, for cutting and storage premises separated from abattoirs, supervision of the hygiene requirements may be carried out by other officials of the competent authority, these officials being designated by the competent central authority. The competent central authority of Member States may only designate for this purpose appropriately trained personnel with the necessary qualifications.

- 2) The Commission proposes that the Member States ensure that the supervision and inspections required to be carried out by the competent authority to ensure compliance with Directive 77/99/EEC are carried out by an official designated by the competent central authority of the Member State. The official designated must be an appropriately trained officer who, for the supervision of hygiene, inspection and certification of meat products, must be a veterinarian.

However, supervision of the hygiene requirements of Annex I, Chapter II may be carried out by officials of the competent authority, such officials being designated by the competent central authority. The competent central authority of Member States may only designate for this purpose appropriately trained personnel with the necessary qualifications.

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

In an Opinion, adopted by 55 votes in favour, 15 against and 4 abstentions, the Committee approves the Commission proposals on fresh poultrymeat and the qualifications of personnel responsible for carrying out health inspection. It would, however, take the opportunity offered by the proposed derogation for the UK to express its deep regret that individual Member States continue to receive special treatment. The Committee also draws attention in its Opinion to the different qualifications of supervisory staff and considers that only a training as a veterinarian is appropriate for persons carrying out inspections, and issuing certificates for these products and checking on general health requirements.

*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 Wick (Germany - Employers).*

## **13. ANIMAL DISEASES**

***“Proposal for a Council Directive on the notification of animal disease within the Community”***

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

The Commission proposes laying down the frequency and content, as well as the notification procedure, for the disease reports referred to in the various Directives governing intra-Community trade in live cattle

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<sup>(1)</sup> Doc. CES 194/82.

and pigs, fresh meat from cattle, pigs, goats and solipeds, fresh poultrymeat and meat products.

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

In its unanimously adopted Opinion the Committee welcomes the proposal on the notification of animal diseases, and is in favour of any information concerning the appearance and disappearance of animal diseases in a Community Member State being communicated swiftly and accurately to the Member States and the Commission.

It feels that the proposal will both liberalize trade and improve the health situation in the Community.

*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 Wick (Germany - Employers).*

## **14. FRESH POULTRYMEAT**

***“Proposal for a Council Directive amending Directive 71/118/EEC on health problems affecting trade in fresh poultrymeat”***

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

The aim of the Commission's proposal is to supplement Directive 71/118/EEC by provisions concerning the execution of microbiological checks on the standard of hygiene in establishments producing fresh poultrymeat. It also amends — by specifying a uniform criterion of assessment — the present rules governing checks on the proper operation of the equipment for chilling poultry carcasses by immersion in a counter flow of water.

### **Gist of the Opinion<sup>(2)</sup>**

In its Opinion, adopted unanimously, the Committee notes that consumer protection is likely to be enhanced by the introduction of microbiological checks in all the Member States. However, the aim should be for the Community to have compulsory standard methods of checking, in which a minimum sampling rate is laid down. This rule should ensure that distortions of competition which may occur as a result of differences in sampling requirements will be eliminated in

<sup>(1)</sup> Doc. CES 181/82.

<sup>(2)</sup> Doc. CES 183/82.

future. Furthermore, there should be a standard procedure for the charging of costs.

*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 Jaschick (Germany - Various Interests).*

## **15. RESIDUES OF ANTIBIOTICS IN FRESH MEAT**

***“Proposal for a Council Directive on health problems relating to residues of antibiotics in fresh meat of Community origin”***

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

The aim of the Commission's proposal is to lay down criteria for monitoring the absence of detectable residues of antibiotics in meat, the cost of these checks to be borne by the product, and to introduce on-the-spot Community inspection arrangements to ensure that the Directive is applied uniformly throughout the Community.

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

The Economic and Social Committee adopted this Opinion by 78 votes in favour, none against and 2 abstentions.

Although it considers that it would be more advisable to tackle all issues relating to residues in a single Directive the Committee nonetheless approves the draft Directive in view of the urgency of the matter.

In its view binding, uniform methods of analysis for detecting the presence of antimicrobial substances should be laid down. Only when such methods of analysis have been made known will it be possible to comment on the effectiveness of the prescribed rules and the costs of the checks to be carried out.

From a general point of view, the Committee would express its concern over the fact that the implementation of the proposed Directive will bring about an increase in the tendency for preference to be given to the use of substances for which no totally reliable methods of analysis are yet available.

*This Opinion was based on material prepared by the Section for Agriculture under the chairmanship of Mr Emo Capodilista (Italy -*

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(<sup>1</sup>) Doc. CES 182/82.

*Various Interests). The rapporteur was Mr Jaschick (Germany - Various Interests).*

## **16. ERADICATION OF BRUCELLOSIS**

***“Proposal for a Council Directive amending Directive 77/391/EEC and Introducing a Supplementary Community Measure for the Eradication of Brucellosis, Tuberculosis and Leukosis in Cattle”***

### **Gist of the Draft Directive**

The Commission proposes that the Community measures to combat brucellosis, tuberculosis and leukosis in cattle be extended into 1982 and 1983.

The extension of the measures for a further two years is necessary in order to fully eradicate the diseases. The Commission draws attention to the fact that the proposed extension will not affect the initial overall assessment of expenditure.

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

Although the Committee endorses the Commission's proposals in its Opinion, adopted unanimously, it nevertheless wonders whether the proposed two-year extension and the amount of funds available will be sufficient to enable the campaign to be successfully concluded in all the Member States.

In this connection, the Committee points out that the owners should be paid compensation equal to the full value of the stock which has to be destroyed. Furthermore, steps should be taken to ensure that compensation is paid without delay. Finally, effective measures should be provided for the transport of infected animals, their transfer to other herds, and standards of hygiene for both personnel and herds, if plans for the eradication of the disease are to meet with success.

*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 Wick (Germany - Employers).*

## **17. PEAS AND FIELD BEANS**

***“Proposal for a Council Regulation (EEC) amending Regulation (EEC) No. 1119/78 laying down special measures for peas and field beans used in the feeding of animals”***

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<sup>(1)</sup> Doc. CES 184/82.

## **Gist of the draft Regulation**

Regulation (EEC) No. 1119/78 establishes a system of aid for peas and field beans for use in animal feed, whereby aid is granted to feedingstuff manufacturers who have undertaken to pay producers a price not lower than the minimum price.

On account of the currency situation and in the absence of monetary compensatory amounts in this sector, producers in some Member States have an advantage over those in other Member States (the United Kingdom in particular), as feedingstuff manufacturers have an interest in obtaining supplies in Member States where the minimum price, converted into national currency, is lowest.

The object of this proposed Regulation is to allow the Council to establish a system of monetary adjustment to overcome the distortions in the Community market which result from this currency situation.

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

The Economic and Social Committee adopted its Opinion unanimously. It asks the Commission to consider a system of monthly increments to the minimum price paid to the farmer, and consequently to the aid, in order to make it worthwhile for the farmer to stock his peas and beans and not put them all on the market at harvest time.

*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 Zinkin (United Kingdom -Employers).*

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<sup>(1)</sup> Doc. CES 185/82.





## II

# EXTERNAL RELATIONS

### CHAIRMAN'S VISIT TO THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY

The Chairman of the Economic and Social Committee, Tomás Roseingrave, made an official visit to the Federal Republic of Germany on 11 and 12 February 1982.

The main subjects of the talks that he had with members of the federal government and representatives of major socio-economic organizations were the further development of the Community in the eighties, its external relations and topical issues such as the farm price decisions and the reform of the Common Agricultural Policy.

During his visit he met the following government representatives: Count Lambsdorff and State Secretary Schlecht at the Federal Ministry of Economic Affairs, State Secretary Rohr at the Federal Ministry of Agriculture and State Secretary Fingerhut at the Federal Ministry of Labour.

With Count Lambsdorff he discussed the Community's trade relations with the USA, Japan, the newly industrializing countries and the developing countries. Both were concerned about the growing protectionism which is evident not only vis-à-vis third countries but also within the Community. It was essential not to repeat the mistakes of the thirties. An important outcome of the talks at the Federal Ministry of Agriculture was the assurance by the federal government that it would endeavour to prevent the fixing of farm prices from being linked in a package deal with the settlement of the Community's general budget problems, since otherwise agriculture in the Community would be faced with a severe crisis. The principal topics at the Ministry of Labour were labour market problems and possible contributions by the Community towards combating unemployment, as well as the employment situation in the Community. Special attention was paid to youth unemployment and it was agreed that suitable vocational training for young people was a matter of prime importance.

Besides the talks in Bonn, discussions were held with top-level representatives of the Deutscher Gewerkschaftsbund (German Trade

Union Federation), the Bundesvereinigung der Arbeitgeberverbände (Federal Union of Employers' Associations), the Arbeitsgemeinschaft der Verbraucher (Consumers' Association) and the Deutscher Industrie- und Handelstag (German Association of Industry and Commerce).

Mr Roseingrave was accompanied by Vice-Chairman Miller (United Kingdom) and Secretary-General Louet.

## **MEETING BETWEEN THE ESC CHAIRMAN AND THE PRESIDENT OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT**

The Chairman of the Economic and Social Committee, Mr Tomás Roseingrave, met the President of the European Parliament, Mr Piet Dankert, on 24 February, for talks. The discussion centred on ways to improve the flow of information between the two institutions and better coordinate their respective work. The foundations for this had already been laid by a resolution adopted by the European Parliament last year.

Mr Roseingrave and Mr Dankert agreed that, in view of the critical situation currently facing the Community, it was vital that the work of its institutions be organized as efficiently as possible.

## **OTHER ACTIVITIES OF THE CHAIRMAN**

In addition, Mr Roseingrave

- had talks with the new Irish **Permanent Representative** to the European Communities, **Ambassador O'Rourke**, on 13 January;
- met leaders of "**Co-operation North**" (an organization for the promotion of goodwill in Ireland) on 14 January;
- had talks with **Mr Pisani, Member of the Commission of the European Communities** on 19 January;
- met **Mr Crossick, President of the European Secretariat of the Liberal, Independent and Social Professions (SEPLIS)** on 19 February;
- attended a meeting with the **Irish Export Board** on 3 February;
- had talks with **Mr Siew, representative of the Israeli Trade Union Federation, Histadrut**, in Brussels on 5 February;
- met a delegation from the **Italian National Economic and Labour Council (CNEL)** made up of Mr Coppa, Mr Coppini, Mr Beretta and Mrs Volpato on 10 February;

- had talks with **Ambassador Noterdaeme, Chairman of COREPER**, on the strengthening of links between the Committee and the Council on 10 February;
- gave a lecture to the **Irish Medical Association** on 18 February.

### III

## NEW CONSULTATIONS

During the month of February the Council consulted the Committee on the following subjects:

***“Amending of the Proposal for a Council Regulation amending for the third time Regulation (EEC) No. 222/77 on Community Transit” (COM(82) 2 final)***

***“Proposal for a Council Decision on the Collection of Information concerning the Activities of Road Hauliers participating in the Carriage of Goods to and from certain Non-Member Countries” (COM(81) 716 final)***

***“Commission Proposal to the Council on the Fixing of Prices for Certain Agricultural Products and on Certain Related Measures (1982/83)” (COM(82) 10 final)***

***“Commission Communication to the Council on Investment in the Rational Use of Energy” (COM(82) 24 final)***

# IV

## PROVISIONAL FUTURE WORK PROGRAMME

### MARCH 1982 PLENARY SESSION

#### Referrals

- Community retirement age policy
- Part-time work
- Microbiological criteria for foodstuffs
- Preservatives
- Amendment European Regional Development Fund regulation
- Inward processing
- Third Amendment — Community transit
- Agricultural prices
- Medicated animal feed

#### Study

- Integrated operations

### APRIL 1982 PLENARY SESSION

#### Opinions

- Social expenditure and its financing
- Equal opportunities for women
- Environmental action programme
- Airborne noise — household appliances
- Supervision of credit institutions
- Textile origin
- 5th amendment, cosmetics Directive
- ASOR agreement
- Collection of information on road haulage
- Investment in rational use of energy

**Own-initiative Opinion**

- Role of small-and-medium-sized enterprises

**MAY AND JUNE 1982 PLENARY SESSIONS****Opinions**

- Economic situation
- Development of the social situation in 1981
- Merger control

**Own-initiative Opinion**

- Energy strategy and policy for the Community

**Information Report**

- Environment and employment

**JULY 1982 PLENARY SESSION****Opinions**

- Regional Policy Memorandum (additional Opinion)
- Air Transport Competition
- Maritime Transport Competition
- Air Transport Tariffs

**Own-initiative Opinion**

- Common Transport Policy

**SUBSEQUENT PLENARY SESSIONS****Opinions**

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- XIth Report on competition

**Own-initiative Opinion**

- Report on the administration of financial and technical cooperation in 1980

**Study**

- Turkey

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ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMITTEE  
Press, Information and Publications Division

Rue Ravenstein 2  
1000 Brussels

Tel 512 39 20  
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