

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMITTEE
OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES

BULLETIN



Brussels - No. 1/1982

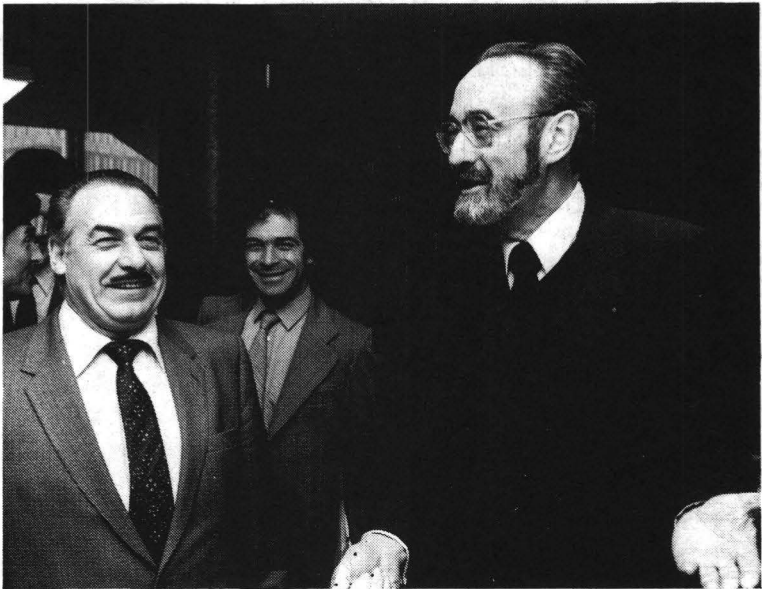
**When notifying us of
CHANGES OF ADDRESS,
you are asked to send back the envelope with your old address as printed by
our addressograph machine. This helps us to trace you.**

CONTENTS

	<i>Page</i>
CHAIRMAN'S ADDRESS — POLAND	3
I. 194th PLENARY SESSION	5
Adoption of Opinions	5
1. INFORMING AND CONSULTING EMPLOYEES	5
Extracts from speech by Mr Ivor Richard, member of the Commission	9
2. EXTERNAL RELATIONS — STOCKTAKING AND CONSISTENCY OF ACTION (Study)	10
Extracts from speech by Mr Edgard Pisani, member of the Commission	13
3. R & D — OBJECTIVES AND PRIORITIES (Study)	14
4. R & D PROGRAMME 1982-1985	14
5. TEXTILE AND CLOTHING (own-initiative Opinion)	15
6. COSMETIC PRODUCTS	17
7. WHEELED AGRICULTURAL OR FORESTRY TRACTORS	18
II. NEW CONSULTATIONS	19
III. PROVISIONAL FUTURE WORK PRO- GRAMME	21



Mr Ivor Richard, member of the Commission, attending the Plenary Session in company with the ESC Chairman, Mr Tomás Roseingrave.



Mr Edgard Pisani, member of the Commission (right) is welcomed by Mr Louet, Secretary-General of the ESC.

CHAIRMAN'S ADDRESS

POLAND

“Because of time constraints in our programme for today, I will make reference to only one matter in my statement, namely, the situation in Poland.

It is now over a month since the tanks came into the streets of Warsaw and other Polish cities to crush the limited efforts towards democratic reforms, which had been achieved by the Trade Union, Solidarity. The tanks are still on the streets and the stranglehold on Solidarity is almost complete.

This Committee has condemned violations of human and civic rights on many occasions. I did so at our Plenary Session last month in regard to the events which were then only beginning in Poland. Since then, we have seen the full implementation of Martial Law. Thousands of Solidarity members have been imprisoned without trial, many more have been tried by military courts because they took part in strikes; workers have been obliged to either sign so-called loyalty oaths or to give up their jobs and Martial Law is still in force.

Only yesterday the illegality of Martial Law was implicitly recognized and admitted by the Polish Government when it had to seek retrospective legislation in the Parliament to legalize it and to give a veneer of validity to its accompanying decrees — decrees which have resulted in trials and imprisonment. By such methods have human and civic rights been trampled on. This could not have been done without the agreement and influence of the Soviet Union, as the President of the Council of Ministers stated. The repression brought with it, as the European Council of Foreign Ministers stated in its communique of January 4th, the violations of the most elementary, human and citizens' rights, contrary to the Helsinki Final Act, the United Nations Charter and the Universal Declarations of Human Rights.

Tragically it must be said that the reactions of the European countries to the events in Poland have been characterized by hesitations and expediency, by carefully rehearsed alibis — why nothing should be done; by references to the events at Yalta 37 years ago as some kind of apologia for what has happened and by general time-wasting and tactical indecision.

It has been said that all that is needed for the triumph of evil is that good men do nothing. As long as we continue on such a course it is inevitable that human rights will continue to be suppressed, not only in Poland but in other parts of the world.

International Trade Union Organizations, and other organizations, have made several specific demands to end the present military rule in Poland. I wish to endorse these demands now:

- Abolish Martial Law;
- Free those who are imprisoned under the illegal Martial Law decrees;
- National Governments to set up procedures so as to guarantee that aid sent to Poland goes directly to those who really need it;
- Recognize that any economic or financial help to Poland by Governments' or Bankers' sources must be contingent on respecting these demands.

It is surely an affront to human reason and to all our sentiments of human dignity that those events should be taking place in Poland today — a country with a thousand years' tradition of Christian civilization. Basic human and civic rights are being trampled on — rights of ordinary people — employers, trade unionists, farmers, academics and professional men and women.

As a Committee of social partners, we must never fail to voice our opposition to any violation of human freedom and to any effort that would violate the respect due to liberty of conscience."

I

194th PLENARY SESSION

The European Communities' Economic and Social Committee held its 194th Plenary Session at its headquarters in Brussels on 27 and 28 January 1982. Its Chairman, Mr Tomás Roseingrave, presided.

The Session was attended by EC Commissioners Pisani and Richard, who spoke in the debates on consistency in the EEC's external relations and consulting the employees of complex companies, notably multi-nationals.

ADOPTION OF OPINIONS

1. INFORMING AND CONSULTING EMPLOYEES

“Proposal for a Directive on procedures for informing and consulting the employees of undertakings with complex structures, in particular transnational undertakings”

Gist of the Commission proposal

The proposal is based on Article 100 of the EEC Treaty since the complexity of undertakings and the lack of consistency between the information and consultation procedures may directly affect the operation of the common market. This shortcoming should be remedied by aligning legislation while maintaining progress within the meaning of Article 117 of the Treaty.

The proposal should be seen in the context of the Council Directives of 17 February 1975 and 14 February 1977, which lay down compulsory procedures for informing and consulting the representatives of employees in the event of collective redundancies or transfers of undertakings, businesses or parts of businesses.

The proposed Community rules fall into two distinct parts:

One is intended to apply to transnational undertakings and the other will cover undertakings which have several establishments and/or

subsidiaries within a single Member State. The two parts are parallel in substance, distinguishing between the decision-making centre/dominating undertaking on the one hand and the establishments/subsidiaries subject to the former's authority in strategic matters on the other.

As regards the disclosure of information, the management of the dominant undertaking will be required to forward to the management of its subsidiaries in the Community, at least once every six months, relevant information giving a clear picture of the activities of the concern as a whole and relating in particular to:

- structure and manning;
- the economic and financial situation;
- the situation and probable development of the business and of production and sales;
- the employment situation and probable trends;
- production and investment programmes;
- rationalization plans;
- manufacturing and working methods, in particular the introduction of new working methods;
- all procedures and plans liable to have a substantial effect on the employees' interests.

This list, which is similar to one contained in the Commission proposal for a Regulation establishing a Statute for European companies, corresponds to the national legislation in those Member States which are most advanced in this field.

The management of each subsidiary employing at least 100 people will be obliged to communicate the information received without delay to the representatives of their employees. Should the management of a subsidiary be unable to supply the information required, the employees' representatives will be able to request this information directly from the management of the dominant undertaking.

Employees' representatives will be under a duty to take account of the interests of the undertaking in communicating information to third parties and to refrain from divulging secrets regarding the undertaking or its business.

The consultation procedures provided for in the proposed Directive will apply in respect of certain decisions concerning the whole or a major part of the dominant undertaking or of one of its subsidiaries which are liable to have a substantial effect on the interests of its workers. In such cases, the management of the dominant undertaking will be required to forward precise information to the management of

each of its subsidiaries within the Community 40 days before implementing the decision.

This information must contain details in particular of the grounds for the proposed decision and the legal, economic and social consequences for the employees concerned.

The decisions referred to above will be those relating to:

- the closure or transfer of the whole or major parts of an establishment;
- restrictions, extensions or substantial modifications to the activities of the undertaking;
- major modifications with regard to organization;
- the introduction of long-term cooperation with other undertakings or the cessation of such cooperation.

The management of each subsidiary employing at least 100 people will be required to communicate this information without delay to the representatives of its employees and to ask for their opinion within a period of not less than 30 days. Where, in the opinion of the employees' representatives, the proposed decision is likely to have a direct effect on terms of employment or working conditions, the management of the subsidiary will be required to hold consultations with them with a view to reaching agreement on the measures planned in their regard.

In the event of the management of a subsidiary failing to arrange such consultations, the employees' representatives will be authorized to open consultations with central management through mandated delegates.

Where the management of a transnational undertaking is located outside the Community the management of the subsidiary employing the largest number of workers within the Community will be responsible for fulfilling these requirements.

The draft Directive also allows for the disclosure of information to and consultation with a body representing all the employees of the dominant undertaking and its subsidiaries within the Community established by means of agreements concluded between central management and the employees' representatives.

It will be up to the Member States to decide how employees' representatives are to be appointed. The nature of the body responsible for representing employees will also be left to their discretion (central or group works council, works council at plant level, shop stewards' committee, etc.).

The proposal does, however, stipulate that where in a Member State a body representing employees exists at a level higher than that of the

individual subsidiary or establishment (at the level of the group or firm as a whole), the employees concerned must be informed and consulted at this level.

The Member States will also be obliged to recognize the establishment of a body representing all the employees of the dominant undertaking and its subsidiaries in the Community by means of agreements to be concluded between management at the level of the decision-making centre and the employees' representatives.

Gist of the Opinion⁽¹⁾

In its Opinion, adopted by 80 votes to 60 with 11 abstentions, the Economic and Social Committee stresses that it is axiomatic, in any socially just and democratic society, that workers should be informed and consulted about measures which directly concern them, for example, closures, transfers of production, mergers or streamlining.

The Committee points out that it has always supported proper information and consultation of employees. Employees should be consulted about decisions which may directly affect them and the information which is passed on to them should be relevant and up-to-date.

The principles on which information and consultation are based do not change as the structure becomes more complex; but the procedures become more complicated, and determining which information is relevant and which decisions affect which employees becomes more difficult as the number of establishments grows. In the past, the Committee has always stated that there should be no discrimination between undertakings according to whether they are national or transnational, or transnationals based within or outside the Community.

National legislation on information and consultation obligations varies widely at the moment. There are several arguments for harmonization, including the need to ensure the operation of the Common Market, given the risk of competition distortions due to differences in consultation and information requirements.

It is also in the management's interest to discuss matters of concern to workers with their representatives before the final decisions are taken, particularly in view of the fact that management's final powers of decision are in no way diminished by the Draft Directive.

⁽¹⁾ Doc. CES 82/82.

The Draft Directive ties in with the standard practices and the existing provisions in many Member States. The broad objective of the provisions is, however, to improve living and working conditions.

Finally, it is noted with satisfaction that the proposal does not call for a plethora of information or an exhaustive analysis of every detail. All that is required is pertinent information that will provide a clear picture. The proposal refers only to decisions "with a substantial effect" on employees' interests.

In the light of all these factors, the Committee endorses the Commission proposal.

Mr Staratzke, speaking on behalf of the Employers, said that Group I did not support the Section Opinion.

Group I's main objection to the Draft Directive is that the differences between Member States would make it difficult and inappropriate to regulate industrial relations in the Community within a single framework.

Group I considers that the Council should ask the Commission to withdraw the present Directive and to consult afresh with the social partners and with Member States to see whether there are any particular points on which a Community Directive is desirable and, if so, what form it should take.

This Opinion was prepared on the basis of work prepared by the Section for Social Questions under the chairmanship of Mr Houthuys (Belgium - Workers). The rapporteur was Mr Muhr (Germany - Workers).

Extracts from speech by Mr Ivor Richard, member of the Commission

Mr Ivor Richard, the EEC Commissioner responsible for social affairs, spoke in the debate on this matter. He declared, among other things, that in view of the developments which had taken place throughout the Community, there was an essential need for action in this area. The directive, however, should not impose such a bureaucratic structure on companies that it would hinder them in their operations. He therefore welcomed the Committee's Opinion because it followed this line.

He had been surprised at the degree of hostility generated among multinational companies at the idea of this directive because there was not the slightest intention, on the part of the Commission, either to destroy or damage them. It should on no account be considered as a witch-hunt directed against the multinationals. Mr Richard explained

that he was not wedded to the Commission text and was prepared to review it once the Committee and the European Parliament had reported on it.

The matter of informing and consulting employees in companies with complex structures, in particular, transnational companies, was a problem which would not go away and which had to be considered sensibly and rationally in a calm frame of mind. Nevertheless, there were three principles which he considered essential:

- there was a need for a directive,
- there had to be a legal framework for the Community, and
- it had to be enforceable.

As far as the text of the directive was concerned, he considered it to be negotiable.

2. EXTERNAL RELATIONS — STOCKTAKING AND CONSISTENCY OF ACTION (Study)⁽¹⁾

Evaluation of Community's external relations

The Economic and Social Committee has just examined the Community's external relations in their historical and geographical context. A Study prepared by the Section for External Relations, traces the development of the Community's relations with the EFTA countries, the USA, Japan and the other industrialized countries; it also surveys Community activity in the sphere of development, from the association of the African countries with the Community up to the second Lomé Convention, relations with the Mediterranean countries, the countries of Asia, Latin America, etc. and, finally, the Community's relations with the State-trading countries.

This Study goes on to analyse the Community's external activities with reference to its internal policies. It considers to what extent these external activities take account of the aims of the common agricultural policy, industrial policy, energy policy, regional policy and social policy, and vice-versa.

On the basis of these analyses the following main conclusions have been drawn:

Over the period of more than twenty years since the Treaty of Rome came into force the Community has become an acknowledged world

⁽¹⁾ Doc.CES 92/82.

leader. It is the major international trading bloc and it enjoys growing prestige in the eyes of third countries, particularly the developing countries.

The Community has not, however, always been very consistent in the aims it has attempted to pursue in the field of external relations, and moreover it has been far from uniformly wholehearted in its efforts.

There are areas where the Community has achieved positive and noteworthy results (for example, the multilateral negotiations on new GATT arrangements, the creation of a generalized tariff preferences scheme (GSP) to help developing countries, relations with EFTA and the setting-up of instruments for cooperation with ACP countries).

But there are also areas where the Community has been somewhat passive or indifferent or has taken virtually no action at all.

Major examples are the equivocations over Japan (which has been able to exploit the divisions between European countries), the lack of Community initiatives vis-à-vis the oil-producing countries, and the Community's hesitations and uncertainty in contacts with the COMECON countries.

The Community has also played second fiddle with respect to certain more general questions regarding the present crisis in international economic relations, for instance monetary relations.

The concrete measures implemented by the Community (e.g. under cooperation agreements with the less-developed countries) have followed their separate courses and have rarely been coordinated, an overall conception being lacking in some cases. The resultant imbalances and lack of cohesion are hard to justify.

A periodic review should be made of the factors which have up to now prompted the Community to focus attention on certain regions, which are given preferential treatment, to the virtual neglect of relations with other areas (e.g. South East Asia and Latin America) which are of very great importance for international economic equilibrium.

In the case of the newly industrializing countries, Community industries are in difficulties as a result of competition problems, such as marked differences in labour costs due to inadequate social measures, overt forms of protectionism and lack of reciprocity in trade relations. An adequate Community response is called for here.

Mention should also be made of the continuing difficulties in relations with major commodity suppliers such as Australia, New Zealand, Canada and Argentina. Greater attention should be given to

exploiting the scope for complementarity between these countries and the Community.

The uncertain state of the Community's relations with the Mediterranean countries on account of the prospect of Spanish and Portuguese accession is a further sign of its inadequacy in forecasting the implications of new developments and the need for adjustment to them.

The sections on relations with the Mediterranean countries and with the developing countries in general give a picture of inadequacy due largely to the Community's inability to mobilize funds commensurate with the tasks of the magnitude of the problems involved.

Mention should also be made of the GSP tariff concessions to the countries of the Third World, Asia and Latin America. These have been criticized by the ACP and Mediterranean countries as eroding the preferential treatment granted to them by the Community. The first group of countries in turn complain that they are being discriminated against by the EEC, i.e. that they are not given the same advantages as the ACP and Mediterranean countries.

The complications produced by the internal and external components of the Common Agricultural Policy speak for themselves (the difficulty in reconciling the smooth operation of the CAP with commitments to import products which only serve to increase existing Community surpluses; friction created by the sale of farm surpluses; on the world market disputes with countries that are traditional exporters of farm products and so on).

There is a conflict between the aims of protecting free trade (as opposed to resorting to destructive protectionism) and of safeguarding employment in the Community at a time when entire sectors of production, already grappling with structural problems, are gravely threatened by increasing imports from industrialized and developing non-member countries.

The prolonged acute recession and the Member States' failure to coordinate their (sometimes conflicting) national economic policies effectively have had a direct adverse effect on the cohesiveness of the external action taken by the Community.

The contradictions and inconsistencies of Community policies and actions also 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.

For all these reasons, the Committee calls for an exhaustive, realistic political debate on the Community's fundamental objectives.

By a very large majority (1 vote against and 2 abstentions) it was decided to forward the Study to the Commission and the Council.

This Study was based on material prepared by the Section for External Relations under the chairmanship of Mr de Précigout (France - Employers). The rapporteur was Mr Romoli (Italy - Employers).

Extracts from speech by Mr Edgard Pisani, member of the Commission

In his address Mr Edgard Pisani, the Commissioner responsible for development matters, began by paying tribute to the analysis carried out in the Study. Moving on to specific aspects of the EEC's development policy, he told how the Community's approach varied depending on what group of developing countries was involved.

One basic question he posed was whether the Community was able to have privileged relations with the whole world at the risk of diluting its resources or whether it should not instead concentrate aid as such geographically while at the same time maintaining other cooperative relations with other regions. He gave some examples to show the benefits of the latter approach.

In his view it had become both possible and necessary to clarify the foundations of our relations with the developing countries. One had to distinguish between cases where mutual interests — and therefore those of the Community — were at stake and those where the interests of the developing countries were involved. It would then be possible to negotiate knowing clearly where one stood, to identify everyone's interests and responsibilities and to be more effective.

Mr Pisani then put the question of whether to choose rigid agreements with the developing countries, with a fixed duration, or whether to go for permanent general instruments embracing agreements which were varied in scope and duration. The latter could take account of problems peculiar to certain regions both in the short and the long term.

Finally, he stressed the extent to which the Community was far from achieving consistency between its external and internal policies, in both industry and agriculture (e.g. sugar). To an objective observer there was a need to change the common agricultural policy. In the field of industry one had to anticipate the consequences on our markets of economic trends, in particular by preparing redeployment strategies in the light of development efforts.

3. R & D — OBJECTIVES AND PRIORITIES (Study)

“Objectives and priorities for a common research and development policy”

Gist of the Study⁽¹⁾

Since the 1976 ESC Study on “Objectives and Priorities for a Common Research and Development Policy” the Community’s role in the European science and technology policy has evolved considerably. The Study therefore commences by a review of policies over recent years, and then goes on to examine the kind of objectives that could be set for Community R & D, as well as the constraints to which they are subjected. The Study continues with a review of different levels of research and the way in which Community research can be linked with that in the Member States. The role of the Joint Research Centre is also considered. After an examination of the way in which R & D can be combined with other Community policies, the Study concludes with a number of recommendations and general conclusions. The appendices to the Study contain supplementary information regarding R & D expenditure at Community and Member State level and similar expenditure in the US and Japan. The appendices also take stock of progress towards achieving the objectives outlined in the 1976 Study.

This Study, which the Committee decided to forward to the Commission and the Council, was based on material prepared by the Section for Energy and Nuclear Questions under the chairmanship of Mr Hatry (Belgium - Employers). The rapporteur was Mr Couture (France - Employers).

4. R & D PROGRAMME 1982-1985

“Proposal for a Council Decision adopting a programme of research and development in the field of science and technology for development (1982-1985)”

Gist of the proposal

The proposal concerns a four-year Community programme (indirect action) to support the scientific activities of the Member States for Science and Technology for Development. As such it is a new departure for Community R & D in the direction of horizontal policies which are to be strengthened, inter alia that of cooperation with the developing countries.

⁽¹⁾ Doc.CES 91/82.

The proposal covers 2 main projects:

- **Tropical agriculture.** This will cover improvement of agricultural production, utilization of the environment, post-harvest techniques and training.
- **Medicine, Health and Nutrition in the Tropics.** This will cover research in parasitology, bacteriology, virology, mother and child care, and certain genetical studies. Other projects will cover environmental hygiene, nutrition and training.

The budget of 40 M ECU will be allocated as to 30 M ECU for the first project and 10 M ECU for the second.

Gist of the Opinion⁽¹⁾

This Opinion, adopted unanimously, welcomed the proposal as part of the development of a Community policy to link both scientific and technical development and aid to the developing countries. In both these areas, the question of priorities was predominant, and the Committee, while welcoming the choice of priorities shown in the proposal, felt that the question of energy cooperation with these countries merited further close consideration by the Commission.

The areas of research now proposed were those where there was already a great deal of activity by other international organizations and agencies. The Committee therefore stressed the need to avoid duplication of effort in the programmes. As regards the programmes themselves, it wanted the funds available to be allocated to those institutes which offered the best possibilities of research success rather than distributed on a general basis. The Committee also expressed views about the need to relate programme proposals directly to precise objectives, close management and the desirability of continuing a programme of this kind beyond the 4-year span at present proposed.

This Opinion was based on material prepared by the Section for Energy and Nuclear Questions under the chairmanship of Mr Hatry (Belgium - Employers). The rapporteur was Mr Bornard (France - Workers).

5. TEXTILE AND CLOTHING (own-initiative Opinion)

“Commission Communication to the Council on the situation and prospects of the textile and clothing industries in the Community”

⁽¹⁾ Doc.CES 81/82.

Gist of the Opinion⁽¹⁾

The future of the textile and clothing industries looks far from promising and the overall picture forecast by the Commission is disastrous.

This is the conclusion reached by the Economic and Social Committee in an own-initiative Opinion adopted by 70 votes to 9 with 41 absentions.

If the present trend continues, the 1980s will see:

- stagnating demand and production;
- imports probably rising faster than the annual growth in consumption;
- a loss of about 110,000-120,000 jobs per year, which would mean about one million jobs being lost over the whole decade, i.e. 45 % of the 2.4 million people currently employed in the Community's textile and clothing sector; it should be stressed, however, that these figures do not take account of employment in the small firms sector and in craft enterprises (employing up to 20 people). This fall in employment will be due to the combined effects of imports (predominantly from low-cost countries) prohibitive barriers to the exports of Community textiles to other countries, technological innovation, increased productivity and stagnating demand.

The solution to net job losses in the textile and clothing sector cannot reside solely in the creation of new jobs in other industries because almost all industries are losing jobs through rationalization schemes. In fact it is reasonable to expect employment levels in industry as a whole to fall in the 1980s rather than rise.

For this reason it is considered necessary not so much to tackle redundancies through social provisions as to limit job losses through technical measures that have a more direct bearing on the development of the textile and clothing sector. Such measures would include:

- A gradual reduction of working hours in the 1980s, particularly in firms where plant is operated to fuller capacity; this is because strong foreign competition and high utilization of capacity in foreign firms is forcing the European textile industry to make optimum use of plant and equipment in order to ensure, in particular, international competitiveness. When structural changes are made, the agreement of the two sides of industry should be sought, in order to contrive the best possible use of plant and

⁽¹⁾ Doc.CES 83/82.

equipment. This may also be facilitated by the reorganization of work negotiated with the workers.

- Foreseeable trends in Community consumption must be a basic consideration in the Multifibres Agreement (MFA) (which is still needed as a back-up measure) and in bilateral negotiations on the fixing of import quotas. Consideration must also be given to the need to encourage exports from the poorest developing countries. The new MFA will, however, be ineffectual unless the new quotas are monitored rapidly and meticulously.
- Non-EEC industrialized countries generally enjoy a higher level of customs protection for textile products than the Member States, so steps must be taken to ensure that the highest protective tariffs and other trade barriers are removed as soon as possible within the framework of GATT.
- Immediate action needs to be taken to prevent non-member countries from engaging in dumping.
- Common rules on OPT should prescribe that re-imports are to be kept within the overall Community ceilings fixed in trade agreements with individual countries.

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 Masucci (Italy - Workers).

6. COSMETIC PRODUCTS

“Proposal for a Council Directive amending Directive 76/768/EEC on the approximation of the laws of the Member States relating to cosmetic products”

Gist of the Commission proposal

The present proposal amends for the fourth time parent Directive No. 76/768/EEC on cosmetic products. Its purpose is to add two substances (nicomethanol fluorohydrate and 6-methyl coumarin) to Annex III. Annex III lists substances that can be used in cosmetic products subject to certain restrictions and conditions.

Gist of the Opinion⁽¹⁾

In its Opinion which was adopted by 50 votes to nil with 23 abstentions, the Committee approved the proposal subject to certain

⁽¹⁾ Doc. CES 84/82.

reservations. It felt that when new substances were added to an approved list, it would be a good idea to reconsider the authorization of other substances used for the same purpose, so that some of them might, in the long run, be replaced by others which were safer and more effective.

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 Masprone (Italy - Employers).

7. WHEELED AGRICULTURAL OR FORESTRY TRACTORS

“Proposal for a Council Directive amending 17 Directives on the approximation of the laws of the Member States relating to wheeled agricultural or forestry tractors”

Gist of the Commission proposal

The aim of the Proposal is to amend the parent Directive and sixteen specific Directives on wheeled agricultural or forestry tractors by raising the maximum speed for these tractors from 25 to 30 km/h and thus allowing a larger number of tractors to benefit from EEC type approval.

Gist of the Opinion⁽¹⁾

The Committee unanimously approved the proposal.

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 Masprone (Italy - Employers).

⁽¹⁾ Doc. CES 80/82.

II

NEW CONSULTATIONS

Since the last Plenary Session, the Council has asked the Committee to deliver Opinions on the following points:

“New Community Action Programme on the Promotion of Equal Opportunities for Women 1982-1985” (COM(81) 758 final)

“Draft Council Recommendation on the Principles of a Community Policy with regard to Retirement Age” (COM(81) 779 final)

“Amended Proposal for a Council Regulation on the Control of Concentrations between Undertakings (Merger Control Regulation)” (COM(81) 773 final)

“Proposal for a Council Regulation (EEC) relating to Inward Processing Arrangements” (COM(80) 916 final)

“Proposal for a Council Regulation (EEC) concerning the Indication of the Origin of Certain Textile Products Imported from Third Countries” (COM(81) 766 final)

“Proposal for a Council Directive amending Directive 79/279/EEC coordinating the Requirements for the Admission of Securities to Official Stock Exchange Quotation and Directive 80/390/EEC coordinating the Requirements for the Drawing-up, Scrutiny and Distribution of the Prospectus to be published when Securities are admitted to Official Stock Exchange Quotation” (COM(82) 4 final)

III

PROVISIONAL FUTURE WORK PROGRAMME

FEBRUARY 1982 PLENARY SESSION

Referrals

- Noise emissions from helicopters
- Dangerous substances (7th amendment)
- Housing aid for Northern Ireland
- Annual accounts of banks
- 10th competition policy report
- Survey on the structure of agricultural holdings
- Citrus fruit
- Wine market
- Fruit and Vegetables
- Health inspectors
- Notification of animal diseases
- Antibiotic residues in meat
- Fresh poultrymeat
- Eradication of Brucellosis
- Peas and field beans
- Stock exchange prospectus

Own-initiative Opinion

- Coordination of employment policy instruments

MARCH 1982 PLENARY SESSION

Referrals

- Part-time work
- Inward processing arrangements
- Indication of origin (textiles)
- Cosmetics

- Medicated feed
- Microbiological criteria for foodstuffs
- Supervision of credit institutions
- 1982/83 farm prices
- Preservatives

APRIL 1982 PLENARY SESSION

Referrals

- Social expenditure and its financing
- Amendment European Regional Development Fund Regulation
- Promotion of equal opportunities for women
- Environmental action programme
- International bus and coach transport (non-scheduled)
- Community retirement age policy

Own-initiative Opinion

- Role of small and medium-sized enterprises

SUBSEQUENT SESSIONS

Referrals

- Development of the social situation in 1981
- New regional policy guidelines (additional Opinion)
- Air transport (competition)
- Maritime transport (competition)
- Air transport tariffs
- Oils and fats
- Merger controls
- Airborne noise emitted by domestic appliances
- 11th report on competition
- Economic situation

Own-initiative Opinions

- Common transport policy
- Community energy strategy and policy
- Report on management of Lomé financial and technical cooperation 1980

Information Report

- Environment and employment

Studies

- Regional policy integrated operations
- Turkey

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 (April 1981) (A descriptive brochure) 16 p.
- Annual Report (1981) ... (Ex-30-80)
- Directory — List of Members (January 1981) (ESC-81-001)
- The Right of initiative of the Economic and Social Committee (October 1977) 124 p.

Opinions and Studies

- Genetic Engineering (Colloquy) (October 1981) 120 p. (ESC 81-014)
- Prospects for the '80s (Opinion) (Dec. 1981) (ESC 81-018)
- Economic Pointers for 1982 (Opinion) (August 1981) 32 p. (ESC 81-010)
- Problems of the Handicapped (Opinion) (September 1981) ± 46 p. (ESC 81-013)
- Present situation in the Community's Building Sector (Opinion) (September 1981) ± 24 p. (ESC 81-011)
- Community Competition Policy (Opinion) (ESC 81-008)
- Prevention of Marine Pollution (2 Opinions) (ESC-81-004)
- Working Conditions (September 1980) (Opinion) 61 p. (ESC-80-012)
- Conference on the Enlargement of the European Community — 26 and 27 June 1980 (September 1980) (Extracts) ± 150 p. (ESC-80-009)
- The Organisation and Management of Community R & D (February 1980) (Study) 168 p. (ESC-80-001)
- Agricultural Structures Policy (November 1979) (Opinion) 90 p. (ESC-79-003)
- Enlargement of the European Community Greece-Spain-Portugal (September 1979) (Study) 75 p. (ESC-79-002)
- The Community's Relations with Spain (June 1979) (Study) 112 p. (ESC-79-001)
- Community Shipping Policy Flags of Convenience (April 1979) (Opinion) 170 p.
- Youth Unemployment — Education and Training (November 1978) (5 Opinions) 97 p.
- The Stage reached in aligning labour legislation in the European Community (June 1978) (Documentation) 60 p.
- Employment in Agriculture (June 1978) (Study) 135 p.
- Monetary Disorder (June 1978) (Opinion) 98 p.
- Small and Medium-sized Enterprises in the Community Context (April 1978) (Opinion) 29 p.
- Industrial Change and Employment (November 1977) (Opinion) 98 p.
- EEC's Transport Problems with East European Countries (December 1977) (Opinion) 164 p.
- Community Nuclear Safety Code (July 1977) (Study) 50 p.
- Research and Development (November 1976) (Study) 35 p.
- Systems of Education and Vocational training (August 1976) (Study) 114 p.
- Regional Policy (March 1976) (Opinion) 11 p.
- European Union (July 1975) (Opinion) 33 p.
- Progress Report on the Common Agricultural Policy (February 1975) (Study) 52 p.
- The Situation of Small and Medium-sized Undertakings in the European Community (March 1975) (Study) 69 p.



Obtainable from GOWER Publishing Company Limited, 1 Westmead, Farnborough, Hampshire, GU 147RU)

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

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMITTEE
Press, Information and Publications Division

Rue Ravenstein 2
1000 Brussels

Tel. 512 3920
513 9595

Telegrams: ECOSEUR
Telex 25 983 CESEUR

Catalogue Number ESC-82-002-EN