

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL CONSULTATIVE ASSEMBLY

# BULLETIN

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## 251st Plenary Session

The Economic and Social Committee of the European Communities held its 251st Plenary Session in the Committee building, Brussels on 16 and 17 December 1987. The Committee Chairman, Mr Fons Margot presided. Mr Knud Erik Tygesen, Secretary of State at the Danish Ministry of Foreign Affairs and President-in-Office of the Council, reported on the European Council meeting held on 4 and 5 December 1987 in Copenhagen.

### Summary of Mr Tygesen's speech

Mr Tygesen evoked the chief problems that had faced the European Council at Copenhagen and the compromise package solution proposed by the Danish Presidency of the Council.

He then went on to say that the proposed package solution paved the way for comprehensive, wide-ranging decisions at this meeting on:

- (i) a solution to the current budget problem;
- (ii) a financial framework for expansion of the Community, with a view to:
- (iii) reform of the substance and structure of cooperation (economic and social solidarity; new policies).

The Presidency had hoped that there would be sufficient political goodwill to tackle and solve the problems that had been churned over for almost a year.

To its deep regret, it did not succeed.

This failure could not be laid at the door of any individual Member State or be ascribed to any specific cause. The reason was that the Member States were reluctant to break through and reach the necessary political decisions now. Apparently they needed more time for reflection to weigh up the implications of unity and calculate the economic and financial consequences. This process could not be achieved within the time available for a single European Council meeting. Consequently these talks must continue at a further European Council meeting, under the German Presidency.

Mr Tygesen then listed the tangible results achieved during the Danish Presidency of the Council. He concluded with the following words:

'We are currently in a difficult phase of European integration. Major financial problems; the urgent need to revise the common agricultural policy; justified demands by the new Member States for changes in the cooperation structure.

In short, there is no shortage of difficult issues, with clashes of interests and viewpoints. This has happened before in the Community's history. A cynic could say that a distinctive feature of European cooperation is just that: progress through crisis.

I believe that we can "pull it off" once again. That amid the chaos of all the many strongly-held individual viewpoints we can work out Community solutions which point the way ahead. That was the Presidency's intention with the Copenhagen meeting. Denmark has put forward its offer of a balanced package solution. And you — if you have not already done so — can accept it without anxiety. Because that *will be* the solution. Here I am not talking about minor adjustments but about key principles. And, lastly, remember the word "package". This whole matter can only be solved as a coherent whole'.

### **Statement on the Copenhagen Summit by the Chairman, Mr Margot**

Following the debate the Chairman, Mr Fons Margot, appealed to Heads of State or Government to make a success of the Single Act and achieve the new European frontier.

'The Economic and Social Committee regrets that the Copenhagen Summit did not lead to positive results on all the subjects on the agenda.

At a time when the stock market and monetary upheavals could fuel fears of a world recession, the Member States of the Community must as a matter of urgency unite to transcend the obstinate defence of short-term interests and confront the real issues.

In the face of the monetary and trade challenges posed by the new international environment, the Community must hammer out European positions based on solidarity so as to prevent these international upheavals from having harmful repercussions in the industrial, agricultural and social spheres.



*Attending the Plenary Session are Mr Margot, President of the Economic and Social Committee, on the left, and beside him Mr Tygesen, Secretary of State at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Denmark.*

The members of the Economic and Social Committee, who represent the Community's socio-economic interest groups, have always given priority to "communautaire" measures for stimulating the economy and combating unemployment. The Committee continues to work for completion of the single Community market by 1992 and urges that measures be taken swiftly with a view to guaranteeing the financing of the Community, continuing the reform of the CAP, reforming the structural Funds and implementing a social policy in line with the realistic proposals made by the Commission.

The Commission has proposed an overall strategy for achieving the objectives that the governments of the Member States set themselves in the Single Act. The Committee is convinced that the proposed strategy is the minimum needed, and that it is coherent and indivisible.

Without wishing to deny the difficulties of reaching agreement on this overall plan, the Committee takes the view that the Opinions it delivered on the Commission's documents provide a serious political basis.

The Heads of State or Government will once again be faced with their responsibilities in Brussels on 11 and 12 February 1988. They must make sure that they do not let this new opportunity slip by; they must affirm their political will to make a success of the Single Act and reach the new frontier on schedule as a Community that is based on progress, solidarity and freedom and open to the world.'

## *OPINIONS ADOPTED*

### 1. XVIth COMPETITION REPORT

[COM(87) 230 final]

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

In 1986 the Commission's competition policy consisted mainly of measures to round off the Community's new geographical dimension by completing the integration of the new Member States. Negotiations to adapt the State monopolies in Greece were continued and new discussions were started with the Spanish and Portuguese authorities, which must adapt their monopolies by 1992. The State monopolies, which can continue to exist within the common market, must not be a barrier to the discrimination-free distribution of products from other Member States.



The application of competition policy with a view to completing the internal market involved the banning of agreements which seek to wall off markets. The Commission has continued its practice of imposing fines of amounts high enough to be an effective deterrent.

It has also taken action against the refusal of some producers to apply their guarantee to products brought from parallel importers. Such practices prevent consumers and the other producers from enjoying their fair share of the benefits resulting from the unified Community market.

The Commission has also endeavoured to combine the adoption of individual decisions with a more general approach taking the form of Communications or Regulations for exemption by categories which provide firms with greater legal certainty. In particular, for small and medium-sized enterprises it reformulated its 1977 Communication on minor agreements which do not come under Article 85.

In the transport sector, the Commission persuaded the Council to adopt a number of Regulations on maritime transport. The text applying the principle of freedom to provide services in this sector is supplemented by a Regulation laying down the conditions for application of the rules of competition. The latter also lays down the conditions under which liner conferences benefit from an exemption by category.

On air transport, following the judgment of the Court of Justice in the *Nouvelles Frontières* case, the Commission has brought cases against 10 airlines in the Community for breaches of the rules of competition.

Another sector where competition policy makes an important contribution to establishing the internal market is that of free circulation of capital. The Commission continued its policy, begun in 1984, of applying the rules of competition to banks. In 1986 it took several favourable decisions on agreements reached within national banking associations in Belgium, Ireland and Italy, making possible more rational operation of financial institutions. The Commission has made sure that they do not contain provisions fixing the prices charged to consumers for the services provided.

On cooperation between enterprises, the Commission continued to prepare a Communication on joint ventures, which will specify the agreements not covered by Article 85 and those which may be exempted. It also continued work on a Regulation to exempt know-how agreements, which will supplement the Regulation on licensing of patent rights adopted in 1985.

Favourable decisions have also been taken on operations designed to make the most of the complementary nature of enterprises in different Member States, especially to enable technology transfers in high technology sectors, and on operations for restructuring in problem sectors such as petrochemicals or the steel industry.

In the field of distribution, which is of special importance for the integration of a unified market, the Commission adopted two decisions on franchise agreements for the first time in 1986. It seeks to develop a favourable general approach in the form of a regulation on exemption by category, on the basis of its experience in dealing with individual cases.

On the monitoring of State aid, the Commission has the power to prohibit measures which distort competition without sufficient justification. A study of the data for 1986 shows that the number of notified cases of State aid, which reached its zenith in 1982, has consistently declined since then. However, it must be noted that the mechanism for notifying cases of duplication of aid has yielded no results so far. The fall in notifications is particularly marked in some sectors in difficulty (especially steel, textiles and artificial fibres), where the Commission has adopted criteria for containment of aid with a view to restructuring. On the other hand, notifications have risen in other sectors. Finally, in 1986 the Commission strengthened its policy of obliging governments to demand the refund of aid which has been obtained illegally.

### **Gist of the Committee Opinion<sup>1</sup>**

EEC competition policy plays a key role in the process of unifying the market, the aim being to harness human, material and economic resources so as to guarantee healthy intra-Community and international competition. This is the salient point of the Opinion adopted by a large majority, with two votes against and eight abstentions. The linchpin of the Opinion is the concept of a 'Community dimension' to be achieved through completing the internal market.

Healthy and effective competition will, in turn, ensure that prices are competitive and that supply is transparent, thereby securing greater freedom of choice for the consumer without compromising the quality of products and services.

<sup>1</sup> CES 1163/87

Moreover, a barrier-free Community market should make it possible to unify the labour market. Effective competition between firms will stimulate employment and do much to prevent imbalances in the supply and demand for jobs.

On the subject of State 'aid', the Committee reiterates its belief that 'aid' should not lessen a firm's sense of responsibility. The Commission should be encouraged to act as a watchdog, with the task of checking whether a 'Community interest' to be safeguarded genuinely exists, especially in sensitive sectors where competition is tougher and the imbalance between supply and demand is more apparent, with related social consequences.

In view of worldwide protectionist tendencies, which show no sign of abating, the ESC believes that what is needed is a flexible but clear-cut and resolute competition policy covering trade inside and outside the Community.

The Community's competition policy — aimed specifically at unifying the internal market, but without losing sight of the international competition scenario — is also under an obligation to provide clear suggestions for prompt and fruitful negotiations under GATT, so as to preserve the economic and social validity of the Community as a whole.

Finally, the Committee hopes that the Commission will publish an analysis of unfair competition practices of non-EEC countries and their effects on trade with the Community.

*This Opinion was drawn up in the light of the paper produced by the Section for Industry, Commerce, Crafts and Services, chaired by Mr Kazazis (Greece — Employers). The rapporteur was Mr Bagliano (Italy — Employers).*

## 2. TRANSPORT INFRASTRUCTURE

### **'Proposal for a Council Regulation on the granting of financial support to transport infrastructure projects'**

[COM(87) 579 final]

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

The Council has not yet adopted the Regulation on the financing of a medium-term transport infrastructure programme. Nevertheless, at its meeting on 11 November 1986, it reached a number of conclusions concerning the goals, criteria and financing of a medium-term programme to improve infrastructure.

On the strength of these conclusions, the Member States submitted 92 projects to the Commission to be financed from Community funds set aside for this purpose in the 1986 and 1987 budgets (53 million ECU). The Commission examined these projects and selected those which, in its view, corresponded most closely to the objectives of the medium-term programme.

In this proposal, the Commission proposes financial support for these projects and outlines the terms for funding (upper limits, financing methods and procedures).

### **Gist of the Committee Opinion<sup>1</sup>**

In its Opinion, adopted unanimously, the Committee approves the Commission proposal.

The Committee regrets, however, that the Council was still unable to adopt a medium-term regulation which could have formed a much better instrument than *ad hoc* measures, which are very often the result of a compromise rather than an objective examination of the real economic priorities.

The Committee recognizes, however, that the funds available under the 1986/87 budget, i.e. 53 million ECU, made it necessary to confine the support to a certain number of projects listed.

*The rapporteur-general for this Opinion was Mr Rouzier (France — Workers).*

## **3. INSIDER TRADING**

**'Proposal for a Council Directive coordinating regulations on insider trading'**  
[COM(87) 111 final]

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

Insider trading, which enables persons with inside information to make gains at the expense of other investors, constitutes a threat to the proper operation of the securities markets, since it totally undermines equality of opportunity for investors and therefore also their confidence in those markets.

<sup>1</sup> CES 1161/87.

In most Member States there are no regulations prohibiting insider trading and there are clear differences between those regulations that do exist. It would therefore seem necessary for rules and regulations to be coordinated at Community level in order to make the safeguards offered to investors by the different securities markets more uniform and thus to contribute to greater interpenetration of those markets.

The proposal for a Directive adopts the broader definition of insiders and covers both primary insiders, i.e. persons who, by reason of their professional position, are likely to have direct access to inside information, and secondary insiders, who obtain their inside information from persons in the first category.

Information constitutes insider information if it is unpublished information of a specific nature relating to securities or issuers of securities that is likely to have a material effect on the price of the securities in question.

Primary insiders are to be prohibited from taking advantage of such information to buy or sell, either directly or through the medium of another person, securities admitted to trading on the stock exchange market. They are also to be prohibited from disclosing inside information at their disposal. Thirdly, a ban is to be imposed on what is commonly called tipping. Similarly, secondary insiders are to be prohibited from knowingly taking advantage of inside information disclosed to them by primary insiders to buy or sell, either directly or indirectly, securities admitted to trading on the stock exchange market. The existing requirement that companies whose securities are officially listed on a stock exchange must inform the public immediately of any circumstance or decision likely to influence the price of those securities is to be extended to cover companies whose securities are admitted to trading on a market other than the official one.

Supervisory authorities are to be designated to monitor the application of the rules. These authorities should have sufficient powers to enable them to ascertain from financial intermediaries their clients' true identities. The Contact Committee already set up for the coordination of the conditions for the admission of securities to official stock exchange listing should promote effective international co-operation between these authorities.

### **Gist of the Committee Opinion<sup>1</sup>**

The Economic and Social Committee adopted its Opinion on this matter unanimously.

<sup>1</sup> CES 1165/87.

Differences in national insider trading regulations, or the absence of such regulations, hamper the completion of a European capital market by 1992, jeopardize equality of opportunity for investors in general and make it more difficult to expose cross-border misuses of inside knowledge.

It may be easier to implement a ban on the misuse of inside information if all EEC countries punish violations of the proposed directive in a similar manner. It seems a good idea for the Community to use its influence here to bring about equivalent penalties (i.e. not have one country impose small fines and another hand out prison sentences). It would be wise to call in the European Court of Justice if necessary.

*This Opinion was drawn up in the light of the paper produced by the Section for Economic, Financial and Monetary Questions, chaired by Mr Goris (The Netherlands — Various Interests). The rapporteur was Mr Meyer-Horn (Germany — Employers).*

#### 4. THIRD PERIODIC REPORT ON THE REGIONS

**'Third Periodic Report from the Commission on the social and economic situation and development of the regions of the Community'**

[COM(87) 230 final]

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

Like its two predecessors, this third Report takes stock of the different levels of development in the regions of the Community. The current Report, however, takes account of the enlargement of the EC to 12 Member States and the movement towards a single market by the scheduled date of 1992.

The Commission notes that with each enlargement the disparities between Member States have increased, and one of the new States always takes the back-marker position in the income table.

The level of growth is still low and unemployment is increasing. This Report is the first one to make comparisons with the situation in the United States.

The EC average has undergone downward adjustment with the result that many regions previously defined as being 'below average' find themselves 'above average' after enlargement.

The Report endeavours to explain the reasons for the disparities by means, *inter alia*, of an analysis of the impact on the regions of other policies, such as the CAP. Finally, it suggests measures to be taken to meet the challenge of the Single European Act.

### **Gist of the Committee Opinion<sup>1</sup>**

The Economic and Social Committee adopted its Opinion unanimously.

The Committee notes that since the enlargement of the Community in 1986 and the adoption of the Single European Act, regional disparities have continued to increase. The inadequacy of the financing available, and the slight influence of Community regional policy compared with that of the Member States, are thus all the more to be regretted.

Reference is made to the goal of economic and social cohesion which must be respected when completing the internal market. All policies must be coordinated and carefully monitored to ensure that the completion of the internal market does not adversely affect the more outlying regions.

The regions themselves must be given greater powers of initiative and management in the battle to reduce regional disparities.

*This Opinion was drawn up in the light of the paper produced by the Section for Regional Development and Town and Country Planning, chaired by Mr Dassis (Greece — Workers). The rapporteur was Mr Della Croce (Italy — Workers).*

## **5. POSSESSION OF WEAPONS**

**'Proposal for a Council Directive on the control of the acquisition and possession of weapons'**  
[COM(87) 383 final]

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

The sole objective of the Commission's proposal is to create conditions enabling the abolition of controls at frontiers, which are a major obstacle to freedom of movement for persons.

<sup>1</sup> CES 1164/87.

The Member States take the view that in order to uphold their national arms laws, which are based on the principle of territoriality, it is necessary to carry out checks at the point of entry into and, in certain cases, departure from their territory or, in any event, they must have the right to carry out such controls in order to satisfy themselves that their laws, which pertain to the sensitive area of the maintenance of law and order and public safety, are observed.

The establishment of the internal market will result, as provided for in the White Paper, in the 'removal of physical barriers'. The guarantees currently afforded by the possibility of carrying out border checks will therefore have to be replaced on 31 December 1992 at the latest by guarantees based on procedures put into effect within the Member States, rather than at the internal borders. In order to link these procedures and make them effective, some measure of approximation of arms legislation is required, especially of the national provisions governing the acquisition and possession of weapons.

To this end, the Commission is proposing a set of rules. The proposal for a Directive prohibits the possession of weapons when passing from one Member State to another, except when the procedure for a definitive transfer of a firearm, or when the appropriate procedure for the possession of a firearm when travelling within the Community, is being applied. The procedures to be followed in these cases make it possible for the Member States to be informed of every arrival of weapons on their territory, and in certain cases even to make the arrival of such a weapon contingent on their prior consent. These procedures thus enable the Member States to apply their own laws to persons and to weapons they hold which originate from another Member State. Respect for these procedures is ensured by the ban on handing over firearms (e.g. when they are sold by an arms dealer) to a person who is not resident in that territory and who will therefore have to follow the transfer procedure in order to take possession of the weapon.

Firearms may be transferred by means of two procedures:

- (i) The procedure for a definitive transfer (Article 6) must be followed, for example, where a weapon is purchased abroad and in the case of a transfer of residence. The entire procedure is carried out by a dealer;
- (ii) the procedure for a temporary transfer (Article 7) must be followed for trips, i.e. in those cases where the person who is in possession of a weapon returns with his weapon to his country of residence. Authorization may be granted under this procedure, i.e. without the prior consent of the Member State, only



if the traveller plans to be present in its territory for less than 48 hours.

A more flexible procedure is laid down for hunters and sportsmen. Provided they are in possession of a declaration issued by the Member State in which they are resident, they may travel with a sporting or target weapon without having to inform the other Member States.

### **Gist of the Committee Opinion<sup>1</sup>**

The Committee adopted its Opinion on this matter by a large majority with 11 abstentions.

The Committee has always supported the aim of completing the internal market by 1992, including its social aspects. Subject to the comments below, it therefore endorses the principle of eliminating intra-Community frontier checks on possession of weapons.

The necessary completion of the 'people's Europe' must not be at the expense of personal safety. In particular, as part of the fight against terrorism and crime, there must be greater cooperation among Member States' police forces and security services.

It was because of the very considerable diversity of national laws on weapons and the need to respect the deadline of 1992 that the Commission decided not to propose effective harmonization of weapons legislation by stages, which, in the Committee's view, would be the most satisfactory solution. It should be noted here that the procedure planned by the Commission as regards the compulsory keeping of a register is a move towards a certain harmonization of laws.

The Committee stresses the urgent need for the Member States to intensify controls on possession of weapons at the external frontiers of the Community. Whichever solution is chosen for replacement of controls on weapons at the internal frontiers, it must undoubtedly be accompanied by simultaneous, adequate strengthening of controls at the external frontiers.

*This Opinion was drawn up in the light of the paper produced by the Section for Social, Family, Educational and Cultural Affairs, chaired by Mr Carroll (Ireland — Workers). The rapporteur was Mr Van Dam (The Netherlands — Employers).*

<sup>1</sup> CES 1166/87.

## 6. ACCESS TO LARGE-SCALE SCIENTIFIC FACILITIES

**'Draft Council Regulation adopting a Community plan to support large-scale scientific facilities of interest to Europe'**  
[COM(87) 319 final]

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

The building of a 'researchers' Europe' is vital for the development of the Community's competitiveness in the scientific and technical fields. The improvement of this competitiveness requires greater mobility amongst researchers as well as scientific and technical cooperation.

The plan to stimulate scientific and technical cooperation and interchange, which was drawn up in March 1985, is a first step in this direction, for it offers research workers from one Member State the chance to work in another Member State, i.e. scientists are given privileged access to facilities not available in their own Member States.

The building of this 'researchers' Europe' is one of the main objectives of the framework programme for Community research and technological development activities (1987-91).

In this connection, the Commission is proposing not only that a new plan be implemented for stimulating international cooperation and interchange amongst European researchers (1988-92) but also that European researchers be offered easier access to existing or future scientific and technical facilities in Community countries and that the Community be given the chance to improve and upgrade the large-scale facilities existing in Europe.

According to analyses carried out by the Commission, even though the Community is well equipped in high-quality scientific facilities, European researchers find it difficult to make better use of these facilities. It has also been shown that large-scale scientific facilities are partly underutilized and are, or might be, duplicated elsewhere in Europe, mainly as a result of the absence of a European users' community and the fact that facilities of the same type available in the Member States are insufficiently specialized and complementary.

The proposed plan contained in the draft Regulation should, according to the Commission:

- (i) improve the workload and economic efficiency of these facilities;
- (ii) provide training for a greater number of users;

- (iii) allow scientists from certain countries to benefit more from experimental facilities not existing in their own countries;
- (iv) increase the complementarity of existing installations;
- (v) encourage cross-fertilization between available technology.

It is estimated that appropriations totalling 30 million ECU will be required for this plan.

### **Gist of the Committee Opinion<sup>1</sup>**

In its Opinion, adopted unanimously with two abstentions, the Committee points out that the prime aim is to grant every research worker from every Member State access to scientific and technical facilities in other Member States when these facilities are not available in the research worker's own Member State.

The Committee proposes certain criteria which should serve as a basis for selection of projects which will be eligible for Community support, namely,

- (i) quality of the installation;
- (ii) interest shown by researchers as the installation's potential users;
- (iii) cost-benefit relationship of the Community financial support;
- (iv) importance for the Community.

The Committee thinks that the sum considered necessary for the plan's implementation is inadequate. The Commission is asked here and now to consider the possibility of extra funding.

Finally, the Committee approves the fact that provision has been made for non-Community European countries and international organizations to enter into agreements with the Community which will allow them to participate in the Community plan. However, these countries and organizations will naturally have to help to fund the Community plan and the agreements must also be reciprocal.

*This Opinion was drawn up in the light of the paper produced by the Section for Energy, Nuclear Questions and Research, chaired by Mr Romoli (Italy — Employers). The rapporteur was Mr Saïu (France — Workers).*

<sup>1</sup> CES 1155/87.

## 7. COMMUNITY BUREAU OF REFERENCES — APPLIED METROLOGY

**'Proposal for a Council Regulation on a research and development programme in the field of applied metrology and chemical analyses in the European Economic Community (1988-92) (Community Bureau of References — BCR)'**

[COM(87) 444 final]

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

The BCR programme was launched in 1973 with the objective of reducing discrepancies in the results of measurements and chemical analyses and providing technical support for the correct implementation of methods of measurement.

Hence it aims to eliminate technical barriers to trade between the Member States and thus to further harmonization in the Community.

The main feature of the BCR programme is that of bringing together laboratories of the Member States to improve measurements for which there are difficulties or disagreements.

The Commission has selected five priority areas of research for the proposed new programme:

- (i) analyses related to foodstuffs and agricultural produce;
- (ii) analyses related to the environment;
- (iii) analyses related to health;
- (iv) the analysis of metals;
- (v) physical measurements for trade and industry (i.e. applied metrology).

The implementation of the proposed programme will be based primarily on the following activities:

- (i) execution of measurement programmes on a collaborative basis (intercomparisons);
- (ii) improvement of methods of analysis and measurement;
- (iii) improvement of instruments necessary for high precision measurements;
- (iv) development of transfer standards;
- (v) preparation and certification of reference materials;
- (vi) scholarships for young scientists and exchanges of scientists in subjects covered by the programme.

The funds estimated as necessary for the execution of the programme (1988-92) amount to 59.2 million ECU, the major part of the work being carried out in the form of shared cost contracts.

### **Gist of the Committee Opinion<sup>1</sup>**

In an Opinion, adopted unanimously with two abstentions, the Committee endorses the Commission's proposal, in view of the positive results achieved since the programme began in 1973, and after examining the aims and content of the new programme.

Subject to certain general comments, mainly concerning analyses linked with protection at the workplace, which should be one of the chief priorities, those linked with environmental protection, and analyses of metals, the Section approves of the priority research fields selected, regarding them as particularly important, both in terms of the harmonization measures required for completion of the internal market, and in social terms.

The Committee also regards as justified the increase in appropriations thought necessary in order to carry out the new programme, as well as the Commission proposal to give EFTA Member States the opportunity to take part in the programme, subject to their financial participation.

It calls for greater collaboration between the BCR and the national and European bodies responsible for standardization, and regrets the obvious inadequacy of such collaboration at present. It takes the view that the BCR must be better known and recognized by all government bodies, to ensure that the results of its work can be disseminated as widely as possible among all the potential users.

*This Opinion was drawn up in the light of the paper produced by the Section for Energy, Nuclear Questions and Research, chaired by Mr Romoli (Italy — Employers). The rapporteur was Mr Proumens (Belgium — Employers).*

<sup>1</sup> CES 1156/87.

## 8. STIMULATION OF COOPERATION AND INTERCHANGE — RESEARCH SCIENTISTS

**'Proposal for a Council Regulation adopting a plan to stimulate the international cooperation and interchange needed by European Research Scientists (Science) Plan 1988-92'**

[COM(87) 443 final]

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

At the end of a two-year experimental phase the Council adopted in March 1985<sup>1</sup> a plan to stimulate scientific and technical cooperation and interchange, the principle of which had been approved by the Committee in its Opinion of 25 October 1984.<sup>2</sup>

The aim of the plan is to support, with financial and other means, the breaking-down of barriers in the European scientific community by promoting the cross-frontier mobility of researchers and the setting-up of intra-Community cooperation and interchange networks. The ultimate aim of this contribution to the building of a 'researchers' Europe' is to improve the cohesiveness of European science and technology and to create a scientific community worthy of the large internal market.

The plan has so far seen close on 3 000 researchers working together on more than 350 R&D projects, mainly as a result of laboratory twinnings, exchange schemes, study trips and bursaries.

The proposal for the new plan, which is to cover the period 1988-92, is centred on three main concerns, namely:

- (i) to understand better and analyse the needs of European science and technology;
- (ii) to build up a homogeneous range of aids for the training, specialization and employment of European scientists;
- (iii) to increase the intensity of cooperation and mobility of researchers within the Community.

The new plan, like its predecessor, covers the whole range of exact and natural sciences. Seven areas should, however, be regarded as priority areas in view of their transdisciplinary and multisectoral character: mathematics, physics, chemistry, life sciences, earth and

<sup>1</sup> Council Decision of 12 March 1985 — OJ L 83 of 25 March 1985.

<sup>2</sup> ESC Opinion 981/84 of 25 October 1984 — OJ C 343 of 24 December 1984.

ocean sciences, scientific instrumentation and engineering sciences (fluid and solid mechanics).

The Commission proposes three types of measures for the implementation of its plan:

- (i) bursaries, research grants and advanced training courses;
- (ii) laboratory twinnings and operations contracts;
- (iii) specific measures to encourage the mobility of research workers.

All of these measures will be funded by the Community budget, the total amount required being estimated at 167 million ECU (which includes the expenditure on a staff of 18).

The Commission estimates that under this new plan 1.5 to 2% of European researchers (i.e. 7 000 to 8 000 persons) will have taken part in scientific and technical cooperation and interchange networks by 1992, compared with 0.6% at the end of 1987.

The proposal also makes provision for the participation of non-member countries and international organizations.

### **Gist of the Committee Opinion<sup>1</sup>**

The Economic and Social Committee adopted its Opinion approving the Commission's proposal unanimously with two abstentions.

*This Opinion was drawn up in the light of the paper produced by the Section for Energy, Nuclear Questions and Research, chaired by Mr Romoli (Italy — Employers). The rapporteur was Mr Moreland (United Kingdom — Various Interests).*

## **9. AGRICULTURAL NOMENCLATURE**

**'Proposal for a Council Regulation (EEC) amending Regulation (EEC) No 804/68 on the common organization of the market in milk and milk products'**

**'Proposal for a Council Regulation (EEC) amending Regulation (EEC) No 805/68 on the common organization of the market in beef and veal'**

**'Proposal for a Council Regulation (EEC) amending Regulation (EEC) No 1035/72 on the common organization of the market in fruit and vegetables'**

<sup>1</sup> CES 1157/87.

**'Proposal for a Council Regulation (EEC) amending Regulation (EEC) No 2759/75 on the common organization of the market in pigmeat and No 2766/75 establishing the list of products for which sluice-gate prices are to be fixed and laying down the rules for fixing the sluice-gate price for pig carcasses'**

**'Proposal for a Council Regulation (EEC) amending Regulation (EEC) No 2777/75 on the common organization of the market in poultrymeat'**

**'Proposal for a Council Regulation (EEC) amending Regulation (EEC) No 1837/80 on the common organization of the market in sheepmeat and goatmeat'**

**'Proposal for a Council Regulation (EEC) amending Regulation (EEC) No 426/86 on the common organization of the market in products processed from fruit and vegetables'**

**'Proposal for a Council Regulation (EEC) amending Regulation (EEC) No 827/68 on the common organization of the market in certain products listed in Annex II to the Treaty'**

[COM(87) 513 final]

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

The proposals forming the subject of this communication concern eight basic common market organization Regulations requiring amendment as a consequence of the introduction of the Combined Nomenclature based on the Harmonized System. The amendments are of a minor nature and result purely from the need to establish clear and workable Regulations, and to avoid problems of classification in the nomenclature.

### **Gist of the Committee Opinion<sup>1</sup>**

The Economic and Social Committee unanimously adopted its Opinion approving the Commission proposal.

*This Opinion was drawn up in the light of the paper produced by the Section for Agriculture, chaired by the Vice-Chairman, Mr Schnieders (Germany — Employers). The rapporteur was Mr Hancock (United Kingdom — Employers).*

<sup>1</sup> CES 1158/87.



## 10. VETERINARY MATTERS/ ANIMALS FOR SLAUGHTER

### **'Proposal for a Council Decision on the Conclusion of the European Convention for the Protection of Animals for Slaughter'**

[COM(87) 488 final]

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

A European Convention for the Protection of Animals for Slaughter has been drawn up by the Council of Europe. This Convention may be signed by the Member States of the Council of Europe and hence by the EEC.

The Commission has also laid down certain rules concerning the slaughter of animals and in particular Council Directive 74/577/EEC on stunning of animals before slaughter.

The provisions of the Convention are in accordance with the Community rules but are wider in scope.

The aim of this proposal is to secure the Council's signature to the Convention on behalf of the Community.

#### **Gist of the Committee Opinion<sup>1</sup>**

The Economic and Social Committee adopted its Opinion by a large majority with one vote against and six abstentions.

*This Opinion was drawn up in the light of the paper produced by the Section for Agriculture, chaired by the Vice-Chairman, Mr Schnieders (Germany — Employers). The rapporteur was Mr Storie-Pugh (United Kingdom — Various Interests).*

<sup>1</sup> CES 1160/87.

## 11. FIXING OF ROAD HAULAGE RATES

### **'Proposal for a Council Regulation (EEC) amending Council Regulation (EEC) No 3568/83 on the fixing of rates for the carriage of goods by road between Member States'**

[COM(87) 584 final]

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

Council Regulation No 3568/83 on the fixing of rates for the carriage of goods by road between Member States expires on 31 December 1988. The Council must decide by 31 December 1987 at the latest on the arrangements which will apply after that date.

The Commission proposal under consideration, which arises from the above obligation, is simply to extend the current Community rules by one year — i.e. until 31 December 1989. The reasons for the Commission's view, that there is no point at the moment in establishing new tariff arrangements to apply for a number of years, are linked with current or imminent developments in the road transport sector. The Commission takes the view that, given the direct link between transport rates and capacity, proposing new measures to fix rates at the present time could hinder or slow down decisions which need to be taken on the organization of the market for the carriage of goods by road.

#### **Gist of the Committee Opinion<sup>1</sup>**

The Economic and Social Committee adopted its Opinion approving the Commission proposal by 67 votes to 7, with 17 abstentions. It accepts the reasons the Commission gives for a complete proposal not being submitted at present.

The Committee reserves the right to examine this important and complex subject in depth when the Commission submits its definitive proposal in 1988. It is therefore essential for the ESC's Opinion to be requested in good time.

*This Opinion was drawn up in the light of the paper produced by the Section for Transport and Communications, chaired by Mr L. J. Smith (United Kingdom — Workers). The rapporteur was Mr Eulen (Germany — Workers).*

<sup>1</sup> CES 1162/87



*15th joint meeting between delegations of the ESC and the EFTA Consultative Committee at the European Foundation for the Improvement of Living and Working Conditions in Dublin on 8 October 1987. From left to right: John Kenna, Chairman of the ESC Section for External Relations; Fons Margot, ESC President; John P. Wilson, Irish Minister for Tourism and Transport; Roland Spänti, Chairman of the Agenda Committee of the EFTA Consultative Committee; Roger Louet, former Secretary-General of the ESC, and Per Kleppe, Secretary-General of EFTA.*

## **External relations**

### **Chairman's activities**

The Chairman, Mr Margot, and the Secretary-General, Mr Moreau, held a dinner in Brussels on 26 November for a delegation from the Council of Europe which was attended by Mr Lichem, the Austrian Ambassador and Chairman of the organizing committee for the North/South campaign. The dinner was also attended by Mr Curlis, Mr Jenkins, Mr Masprone and Mr Neto da Silva, members of the Committee.

On 1 December the Chairman and the Secretary-General had a meeting in Brussels with Mr Ungerer, Permanent Representative of Germany at the EC.

On 3 December Mr Margot went to Berlin for the inauguration of a new meeting room at the European Centre for the Development of Vocational Training (Cedefop).

On 4 December Mr Margot went to Boulogne where he chaired the Community conference of small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs). He also gave a brief address.

### **Members' activities**

On 27 and 28 November 1987 Mr Storie-Pugh (United Kingdom) attended the annual meeting of the Euro-group for Animal Welfare in Brussels.

As part of the work of the Section for External Relations, Mr Kenna and Mr Roseingrave, members of the Committee, accompanied by Mr van de Graaf from the Secretariat, met the Chairman of the Advisory Council of Development Cooperation in Dublin on 10 December.

## Other activities

### Annual EEC/ACP Conference

'Private investment must follow objectives which benefit both the investor and the development of the host country, particularly in providing employment and vocational training. Investors must abide by the Tripartite Declaration of principles on Multinational Companies and Social Policy, defined by the ILO, and governments are invited to ratify and implement the Conventions on the right of free association and minimal social norms.'

This was one of the conclusions of the meeting of some 170 representatives of the economic and social interest groups of the European Communities and the African, Caribbean and Pacific States (ACP), organized by the Economic and Social Committee from 25 to 27 November in Brussels.

The main subject of this meeting, held within the framework of the ACP-EEC Joint Assembly, was 'The role of private investment in ACP countries'.

The meeting was opened by Mr Fons Margot, President of the Economic and Social Committee of the European Communities, who said that 'private investments must be approached in a pragmatic way without any ideological dogma'.

The background document was presented by the two rapporteurs, Mr Antonio Neto da Silva (Portugal) and Mr Tom Jenkins (United Kingdom), Members of the Economic and Social Committee. Mr Neto da Silva said that 'private investment, unlike public investment, is primarily motivated by the desire for financial gain ... it is therefore essential for ACP countries to enhance their image if they are to attract private investment'.

Mr Jenkins stressed the fact that 'private investment is part of a whole, not the cure-all prescribed by *laissez-faire* ideologists ... but we call again on the industrialized countries to increase aid, at least to reach the United Nations target of 0.7% of GNP'.

Mr G. Berhane (Ethiopia) and Mr G. Bersani (Italy) (Co-Presidents of the ACP-EEC Joint Assembly) co-chaired the meeting with Mr Margot. Mr I. Sylla (Guinea), President of the ACP Ambassadors' Committee, pointed out that the subject of the meeting highlighted one of the basic concerns of the ACP countries. Mr Bjorn Olsen (Denmark), Secretary of State for Development and President-in-Office of the Council, stressed the need for an efficient public sector as a favourable framework for a growing private sector in the

development process. The Council considered that a discouraging economic environment was the most serious obstacle for achieving this end.

Mr A. J. Fairclough, Deputy Director-General at the Commission, said that firstly, a broader interpretation should be given to the debate's title. The investment of money is not of itself enough. 'The investment of time and skills, and investment in training and the transfer of know-how may be just as important in creating a favourable environment for development. Secondly, I want to stress that we need to call on a wide range of non-official initiatives — individuals or by groups — to achieve the full potential of development cooperation; the business community — of course so important for private investment — groups of workers and farmers, but also NGOs and many other groups'.

#### **Press conference on social aspects of the internal market**

On 17 December 1987 the ESC held a press conference on social aspects of the internal market (Rapporteur: Mr Beretta, Italy — Workers) in Strasbourg.

Mr Campinos (Portugal), Chairman of the European Parliament's Committee on Social Affairs and Employment, chaired the meeting. In presenting his report Mr Beretta was assisted by Mr Arets (Belgium — Employers) and Mrs Rangoni-Machiavelli (Italy — Various Interests).

In conclusion, Mr Campinos said that the meeting had been a useful demonstration of the cooperation between the Economic and Social Committee and the European Parliament which had existed for several years.

## New consultations

Since the last Plenary Session the Economic and Social Committee has been consulted on the following questions:

**'Proposal for a Council Directive on the approximation of the laws of the Member States relating to electromagnetic compatibility'**  
[COM(87) 527 final]

**'Draft Council Directive amending Directive 78/546/EEC on statistical returns in respect of carriage of goods by road, as part of regional statistics'**  
[COM(87) 548 final]

**'Proposal for a Council Directive amending for the fifth time Directive 74/651/EEC on the tax relief to be allowed on the importation of goods in small consignments of a non-commercial character within the Community'**  
[COM(87) 583 final]

The Council has stated its intention of consulting the Committee on the

**'Proposal for a Council Directive amending Directive 64/432/EEC and revoking Directive 80/1102/EEC as regards the arrangements in relation to enzootic bovine leukosis'**  
[COM(87) 594 final]

# Provisional future work programme

## January 1988 Plenary Session

### *Opinions upon consultation*

Own resources [COM(87) 420 final]  
Lateral protection of motor vehicles [COM(87) 132 final]  
Tread depth of tyres [COM(87) 407 final]  
Conditions for the registration of ships [COM(86) 523 final]  
JRC programme [COM(87) 491 final]  
Thermonuclear fusion [COM(87) 302 final]  
Energy efficiency of buildings [COM(87) 401 final]  
Renewable energy sources [COM(87) 432 final]  
Biotechnology research [COM(87) 481 final]  
FAST programme [COM(87) 502 final]  
Chocolate/cocoa [COM(87) 581 final]  
Enzootic bovine leukosis [COM(87) 594 final]  
Stabilizers

## Subsequent Plenary Sessions

### *Opinions upon consultation*

Equal treatment of men and women in social security schemes  
[COM(87) 494 final]  
Electromagnetic compatibility [COM(87) 527 final]  
Tax harmonization [COM(87) 320 to 328 final]  
Recognition of medical qualifications [COM(87) 577 final]  
Marketing of dangerous substances [COM(83) 556 and (87) 32 final]  
12th ERDF Report  
Approximation of legislation for machines [COM(87) 564 final]



Excise duty on imports in international travel [COM(87) 570 final]

Driving licences [COM(87) 509 final]

*Own-initiative Opinions*

Cross-frontier labour market problems

Community transit

Franchising agreements

Know-how licensing agreements

Social aspects of sea fishing

Relations between the Community and State-trading countries

*Information reports*

Upland areas

Training and supply of researchers

Energy policy and completion of the internal market

GATT/Uruguay Round

The problem of ACP countries' indebtedness

Relations between the Community and Mediterranean countries

## Personal notices

### Appointment of new member

The Council of Ministers has appointed Mr Jean Matteoli a member of the Economic and Social Committee to replace Mr Ventejol. Mr Matteoli is Chairman of the French Economic and Social Council.

### Appointment of two new Directors at the ESC

The Council of Ministers of the European Communities has appointed Mr Konrad Schwaiger to the post of Director of Directorate C of the ESC which is responsible for the Section for External Relations, the Section for Agriculture and Fisheries and the Section for Energy, Nuclear Questions and Research.

Mr Konrad Schwaiger, a German national, was born in Bruchsal in 1935. After studying law and economics at the universities of Heidelberg, Freiburg/Breisgau and Montpellier, he joined the administration of the *Land* of Baden-Württemberg, where he specialized in town and country planning, the development of industry in the regions and questions concerning agricultural structures.

He has been with the Economic and Social Committee since 1963, holding the posts of *inter alia* Head of Personnel and Head of the Studies and Research Division.

The Council has appointed Mr Lode Vermeylen to the post of Director for Directorate E — Coordination, Translation, Document Production and Internal Affairs.

Mr Lode Vermeylen, aged 58, is of Belgian nationality, originally from Haacht (Brabant). A doctor of law, he did his military service in Germany as an officer of the reserve before working as a bilingual editor at the Belga press agency and subsequently at the Baloise-Accidents insurance company.

He joined the Committee in 1959, and after long experience as secretary of various sections, he became Head of the Transport, Energy and Regional Policy Division. From 1980 onwards he was Head of the Document Production, Coordination and Internal Affairs Division.

# PROVISIONAL FUTURE PROGRAMME FOR 1988

JANUARY	FEBRUARY	MARCH	APRIL	MAY	JUNE
1 <small>New Year's Day</small>	1 M	1 T	1 F	1 <small>Labour Day</small>	1 W
2 S	2 T	2 W	2 S	2 M	2 T
3 S	3 W	3 T	3 <small>Easter</small>	3 T	3 F
4 M	4 T	4 F	4 M	4 W	4 S
5 T	5 F	5 S	5 T	5 T	5 S
6 W	6 S	6 S	6 W	6 F	6 M
7 T	7 S	7 M	7 T	7 S	7 T
8 F	8 M	8 T	8 F	8 S	8 W
9 S	9 T	9 W	9 S	9 <small>Schuman Day</small>	9 T
10 S	10 W	10 T	10 S	10 T	10 F
11 M	11 T	11 F	11 M	11 W	11 S
12 T	12 F	12 S	12 T	12 <small>Ascension Day</small>	12 S
13 W	13 S	13 S	13 W	13 F	13 M
14 T	14 S	14 M	14 T	14 S	14 T
15 F	15 M	15 T	15 F	15 S	15 W
16 S	16 T	16 W	16 S	16 M	16 T
17 S	17 W	17 T	17 S	17 T	17 F
18 M	18 T	18 F	18 M	18 W	18 S
19 T	19 F	19 S	19 T	19 T	19 S
20 W	20 S	20 S	20 W	20 F	20 M
21 T	21 S	21 M	21 T	21 S	21 T
22 F	22 M	22 T	22 F	22 <small>Whitsun</small>	22 W
23 S	23 T	23 W	23 S	23 M	23 T
24 S	24 W	24 T	24 S	24 T	24 F
25 M	25 T	25 F	25 M	25 W	25 S
26 T	26 F	26 S	26 T	26 T	26 S
27 W	27 S	27 S	27 W	27 F	27 M
28 T	28 S	28 M	28 T	28 S	28 T
29 F	29 M	29 T	29 F	29 S	29 W
30 S		30 W	30 S	30 M	30 T
31 S		31 T		31 T	

Plenary Sessions

**JULY**

1	F
2	S
3	S
4	M
5	T
6	W
7	T
8	F
9	S
10	S
11	M
12	T
13	W
14	T
15	F
16	S
17	S
18	M
19	T
20	W
21	T
22	F
23	S
24	S
25	M
26	T
27	W
28	T
29	F
30	S
31	S

**AUGUST**

1	M
2	T
3	W
4	T
5	F
6	S
7	S
8	M
9	T
10	W
11	T
12	F
13	S
14	S
15	Assumption
16	T
17	W
18	T
19	F
20	S
21	S
22	M
23	T
24	W
25	T
26	F
27	S
28	S
29	M
30	T
31	W

**SEPTEMBER**

1	T
2	F
3	S
4	S
5	M
6	T
7	W
8	T
9	F
10	S
11	S
12	M
13	T
14	W
15	T
16	F
17	S
18	S
19	M
20	T
21	W
22	T
23	F
24	S
25	S
26	M
27	T
28	W
29	T
30	F

**OCTOBER**

1	S
2	S
3	M
4	T
5	W
6	T
7	F
8	S
9	S
10	M
11	T
12	W
13	T
14	F
15	S
16	S
17	M
18	T
19	W
20	T
21	F
22	S
23	S
24	M
25	T
26	W
27	T
28	F
29	S
30	S
31	M

**NOVEMBER**

1	All Saints' Day
2	All Souls' Day
3	T
4	F
5	S
6	S
7	M
8	T
9	W
10	T
11	F
12	S
13	S
14	M
15	T
16	W
17	T
18	F
19	S
20	S
21	M
22	T
23	W
24	T
25	F
26	S
27	S
28	M
29	T
30	W

**DECEMBER**

1	T
2	F
3	S
4	S
5	M
6	T
7	W
8	T
9	F
10	S
11	S
12	M
13	T
14	W
15	T
16	F
17	S
18	S
19	M
20	T
21	W
22	T
23	F
24	S
25	Christmas
26	M
27	T
28	W
29	T
30	F
31	S

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