

EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES

# BULLETIN

2

---

ECONOMIC AND  
S O C I A L  
C O M M I T T E E



## Chair

President: Carlos FERRER  
(Spain - Employers)

Vice-Presidents: Bent NIELSEN  
(Denmark - Workers)

André LAUR  
(France - Various Interests)

Secretary-General: Simon-Pierre NOTHOMB  
(Belgium)

## Origins

The Committee was established by the 1957 Rome Treaties in order to involve the various economic and social interest groups in the establishment of the common market and to provide the institutional machinery for briefing the Commission and the Council on all matters relating to the Community.

The Single European Act (1986) and the Maastricht Treaty (1992) reinforced the ESC's role.

## Membership

The Committee has 222 members (195 men, 27 women) representing economic and social interest groups in Europe. Members are nominated by national governments and appointed by the Council of the European Union for a renewable 4-year term of office. They belong to one of three Groups: Employers (Group I - President: Manuel Eugénio CAVALEIRO BRANDÃO - Portugal), Workers (Group II - President: Tom JENKINS - United Kingdom), Various Interests (Group III - President: Beatrice RANGONI MACHIAVELLI - Italy). Germany, France, Italy and the United Kingdom have 24 members each, Spain has 21, Belgium, Greece, the Netherlands, Portugal, Austria and Sweden 12, Denmark, Ireland and Finland 9 and Luxembourg 6.

## The Members' Mandate

The ESC members' main task is to issue Opinions on matters referred to the Committee by the Commission and the Council.

It should be noted that the ESC is the only body of its type which advises the EU Council of Ministers directly.

## Advisory Role

Consultation of the Committee by the Commission or the Council is mandatory in certain cases; in others it is optional. The Committee may, however, also adopt Opinions on its own initiative. Both the Single Act (17.2.86) and the Maastricht Treaty (7.2.92) extended the range of issues which must be referred to the Committee, in particular the new policies (regional and environmental policy). On average the ESC delivers 180 Opinions a year (of which 10% are Own-initiative Opinions). All Opinions are forwarded to the Community's decision-making bodies and then published in the EC's Official Journal.

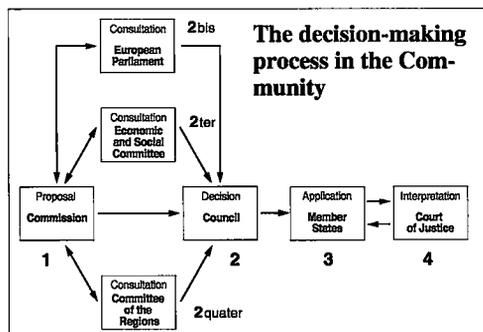
## Information and Integration Role

Over the last few years the ESC has stepped up its role in the European Union and has transcended the straightforward duties flowing from the Treaties. Providing a forum for the Single Market, the ESC has, in conjunction with other Community Institutions, organized a number of events designed to improve links between the general public in Europe and the European Institutions.

## Internal organization

### 1. Presidency and Bureau

Every two years the Committee elects a Bureau made up of 36 members (12 per Group), and a President and two Vice-Presidents chosen from each of the three Groups in rotation.



The President is responsible for the orderly conduct of the Committee's business. He is assisted in the discharge of his duties by the Vice-Presidents who deputize for him in the event of his absence.

The President represents the Committee in relations with outside bodies.

Joint briefs: relations with EFTA, CEEC, AMU, ACP countries, Latin America and other third countries fall within the remit of the Committee Bureau and President.

The Bureau's main task is to organize and coordinate the work of the Committee's various bodies and to lay down the political guidelines for this work.

## 2. Sections

The Committee has nine Sections:

- Economic, Financial and Monetary Questions - secretariat tel. 546.94.71 (President: Jean Pardon - Group I - Belgium)
- External Relations, Trade and Development Policy - secretariat tel. 546.93.16 (President: Roger Briesch - Group II - France)
- Social, Family, Educational and Cultural Affairs - secretariat tel. 546.93.02 (President: John F. Carroll - Group II - Ireland)
- Protection of the Environment, Public Health and Consumer Affairs - secretariat tel. 546.92.27 (President: Manuel Ataíde Ferreira - Group III - Portugal)
- Agriculture and Fisheries - secretariat tel. 546.93.96 (President: Pere Margalef Masià - Group III - Spain)
- Regional Development and Town and Country Planning - secretariat tel. 546.92.57 (President: Robert Moreland - Group III - United Kingdom)
- Industry, Commerce, Crafts and Services - secretariat tel. 546.93.85 (President: Liam Connellan - Group I - Ireland)
- Transport and Communications - secretariat tel. 546.93.53 (President: René Bleser - Group II - Luxembourg)
- Energy, Nuclear Questions and Research - secretariat tel. 546.97.94 (President: José Ignacio Gafo Fernández - Group I - Spain)

## 3. Study Groups

Section Opinions are drafted by Study Groups comprising an average of 12 members, including a Rapporteur, who may be assisted by experts (usually four with a maximum of six).

## 4. Sub-Committees

Where appropriate, the Committee can set up a temporary sub-committee, which operates on the same lines as Sections.

## 5. Plenary Session

The Committee meets in Plenary Session as a rule ten times a year. At the Plenary Sessions, Opinions are adopted on the basis of Section Opinions by a simple

majority. They are forwarded to the institutions and published in the Official Journal of the European Communities.

## 6. Relations with economic and social councils

The ESC maintains regular links with regional and national economic and social councils throughout the European Union. These links mainly involve exchanges of information and joint discussions every year on specific issues.

Moreover, the ESC maintains similar contacts worldwide with other economic and social councils in the "International Meetings" held every two years.

## 7. Relations with economic and social interest groups in third countries

The Committee has links with economic and social interest groups in a number of non-member countries and groups of countries, including Mediterranean countries, the ACP countries, Central and Eastern Europe, Latin America and EFTA. For this purpose the Committee sets up 15-30 man delegations headed by the President. For links with the countries of Central and Eastern Europe, some meetings will be institutionalized under the European Agreements.

## Meetings

The average number of meetings held each year is as follows:

Plenary Sessions	10
Sections	70
Study Groups	350
Group meetings	85
Meetings of sub-groups recognized by the three Groups	160
Miscellaneous	370
Visitors' groups (approx. 8,000 visitors)	200
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1,245</b>

## Publications

The ESC regularly distributes a number of publications free of charge (Order in writing by mail or fax - 546.98.22) inter alia its main Opinions in brochure format and a monthly newsletter.

## Secretariat-General

The Committee is serviced by a Secretariat-General, headed by a Secretary-General, reporting to the Chairman representing the Bureau.

The number of officials (including temporary and auxiliary staff) is as follows:

Category A (Administrators)	59 (48 men, 11 women)
Category B (administrative assistants)	65 (25 men, 40 women)
Category C (secretarial and clerical staff)	237 (59 men, 178 women)
Category D (skilled employees)	48 (36 men, 12 women)
Language Service	121 (67 men, 54 women)

Total: 530 (235 men, 295 women), more than a third of whom are involved in language work, given the need to operate in the Community's 11 official languages. However, as of 1 January 1995, the Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions will share a common core of services, drawing the bulk of their manpower from the ESC's secretariat.

## 1995 Budget

The 1995 Budget appropriations total ECU 83,900,000, of which ECU 57,800,000 have been earmarked for the joint services which the ESC shares with the Committee of the Regions.

EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES

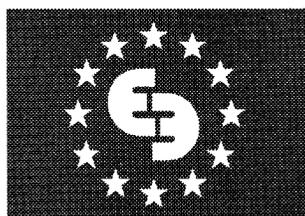
BULLETIN

95

2

---

ECONOMIC AND  
S O C I A L  
C O M M I T T E E



This Bulletin reports on the activities of the Economic and Social Committee, a consultative body of the European Communities. It is published by the ESC's General Secretariat (2, rue Ravenstein, B-1000 Brussels) in the official Community languages (10 editions per annum)

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMITTEE

Directorate for Communications  
Public Relations Division

2, rue Ravenstein, B-1000 Brussels

Tel.: 546 90 11  
Fax: 546 98 22

Telegram: ECOSEUR  
Telex: 25 983 CESEUR

Catalogue number: ESC-95-003-EN

Brussels: General Secretariat of the Economic and Social Committee, 1995

Reproduction is authorized, except for commercial purposes, provided the source is acknowledged.

*Printed in Belgium*

## CONTENTS

<b>I.</b>	<b>323TH PLENARY SESSION OF 22 AND 23 FEBRUARY 1995</b> .....	<b>1</b>
1.	Protection of the Alps (Alpine Convention) .....	1
	<i>(adopted by a majority and 3 abstentions)</i>	
2.	Exchange of information air pollution .....	2
	<i>(adopted by a majority and 2 abstentions)</i>	
3.	Ambient air quality .....	3
	<i>(adopted by a majority and 2 abstentions)</i>	
4.	Prevention of drug addiction .....	4
	<i>(adopted by a majority and 7 abstentions)</i>	
5.	The Community Design (additional Opinion) .....	6
	<i>(adopted by a majority and 3 abstentions)</i>	
6.	Textile Industry (Portugal) .....	8
	<i>(adopted by a majority and 4 abstentions)</i>	
7.	Recording equipment in road transport .....	8
	<i>(adopted by a majority, with 1 vote against and 1 abstention)</i>	
8.	Civil aviation in Europe .....	9
	<i>(adopted by a majority, with 7 votes against and 9 abstentions)</i>	
9.	Reforme of the wine market .....	11
	<i>(adopted by 126 votes in favour, 8 votes against and 13 abstentions)</i>	
10.	COM/Sugar .....	17
	<i>(adopted by a majority, with 19 votes against and 7 abstentions)</i>	
11.	Information Society .....	18
	<i>(adopted by a majority, with 2 votes against and 2 abstentions)</i>	
12.	World Summit on Social Development (Own-initiative Opinion) .....	21
	<i>(adopted by a majority, with 20 votes against and 7 abstentions)</i>	
13.	Pluralism and Media Concentration .....	23
	<i>(adopted by a majority and 3 abstentions)</i>	
14.	Exploitation of mineral waters .....	24
	<i>(adopted by a majority, with 3 votes against and 4 abstentions)</i>	
<b>II.</b>	<b>FUTURE WORK</b> .....	<b>24</b>
<b>III.</b>	<b>APPOINTMENTS</b> .....	<b>26</b>
<b>IV.</b>	<b>REPRESENTATION AND IMPACT OF THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMITTEE</b> .....	<b>26</b>
<b>V.</b>	<b>FACT-FINDING VISITS</b> .....	<b>27</b>

*The complete texts of the Opinions summarized in this brochure can be obtained either in the Official Journal of the European Communities, Office for Official Publications, 2, rue Mercier, L-2985 Luxembourg, or directly from the ESC Public Relations Division (Fax: +32.2.519.98.22)*

## I. 323rd PLENARY SESSION OF 22 AND 23 FEBRUARY 1995

The 323rd Plenary Session of the Economic and Social Committee of the European Union was held on 22/23 February 1995 in Brussels, chaired by Mr Carlos Ferrer.

The Session was attended on 23 February by Commission President, Mr Jacques Santer, accompanied by Commissioner Pádraig Flynn, responsible for relations with the Economic and Social Committee.

One month after taking up office, Mr Santer presented the Commission's programme to ESC members whom he called the "genuine representatives of the economic and social interest groups".

The new Commission hopes for an economic upturn which will create more jobs. To this end, the results of the Uruguay Round must be put into practice; vocational training courses must be improved. The Commission seeks to combine a general policy for bringing down wage costs with specific measures to help young people, women and the long-term unemployed. President Santer recalled that there were 17 million SMEs in Europe ... symbolically the same figure as the number of unemployed! Steps should be taken to help SMEs which are a job-creating force at the dawn of the information society.

Mr Santer stressed that each item on his programme contained a measure to boost employment. He asked the Committee to support the Commission's projects and to contribute to their drafting. In concrete terms, Mr Santer invited the ESC to prepare a surveillance mechanism for the labour markets and to cooperate in the Commission's Green Paper project on the conditions for transition to the third stage of monetary union.

By his presence and in presenting his programme Mr Santer showed that he intended to involve the ESC in his work in its capacity as an assembly which always succeeded in striking a balance between interests and traditions which were often poles apart.

Mr Pádraig Flynn assured the ESC members and President that he would be their loyal spokesman at Commission meetings.

During this Plenary Session, the Economic and Social Committee adopted the following Opinions:

### 1. PROTECTION OF THE ALPS (Alpine Convention)

**Opinion of the Economic and Social Committee** on the *Proposal for a Council Decision on the Conclusion of the Convention on the Protection of the Alps (Alpine Convention)*  
(COM(94) 336 final)

(CES 183/95)

Rapporteur: Mr Guiseppe Pricolo (Italy - Employers); Co-Rapporteurs: Mr Klaus Boisseree (Germany - Various interests) and Mr Jacques Tixier (France - Workers)

#### Gist of the Commission Proposal

The Alpine Convention was signed in Salzburg in 1991. It defines a body of general obligations which aim to address problems linked with the protection of the Alpine ecosystem, in order to ensure the sustainable development of alpine regions.

It provides a general framework which must be supplemented as quickly as possible by the development and adoption of the relevant protocols covering:

- conservation of nature and the countryside
- mountain farming
- mountain forests
- transport
- energy
- tourism and recreation

- regional planning
- protection of the soil.

The proposal is designed to secure Community ratification of the Convention.

### **Gist of the Opinion**

The Commission proposal gives rise to no objections, neither as regards its declared legal basis nor as regards its content, albeit limited to the straightforward approval of the November 1991 Convention.

The Committee cannot but share the hope that the Member States which are signatories to the Convention and the European Union will ratify quickly, so that the Convention can come into force at once.

The Committee takes the view that a range of problems, relating particularly to farming, protection of nature and the landscape, tourism and transport, must be tackled and solved when the Convention's implementing protocols are being drawn up, taking account of the fact that ecology is a dynamic relationship between man and the environment; hence certain constraints cannot be imposed without taking account of the needs of the population which lives and works in the upland areas concerned.

## **2. EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION AIR POLLUTION**

**Opinion of the Economic and Social Committee** on the *Proposal for a Council Decision establishing a reciprocal exchange of information and data from networks and individual stations measuring ambient air pollution within the Member States*  
(COM(94) 345 final)

(CES 184/95)

Rapporteur: Mr José Ignacio Gafo Fernández (Spain - Employeurs): Co-Rapporteurs: Mr Klaus Boisseree (Germany - Various interests) and Mr Henri Dunkel (Luxembourg - Workers)

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

The purpose of this proposal is to establish an exchange of information and data from networks and individual stations measuring ambient air pollution within the Member States.

The new procedure will make it possible:

- to obtain an overview of air pollution at local, regional, national and Community level;
- to identify problems and provide a basis for preparing preventive measures;
- to estimate the impact of the Commission's environmental policy with regard to air quality;
- to initiate and stimulate scientific work and research;
- to circulate information both within and outside the Community;
- to provide international organizations which cover a wider geographical area with a set of homogeneous data validated for the Community.

### **Gist of the Opinion**

The Committee endorses this proposal in that it represents an important step both in establishing effective and comparable checks on ambient air quality and in making more information available to the EU citizen.

The Committee would, however, like to make a number of observations intended to improve the drafting of the proposed Decision.

Firstly, the list of 34 pollutants in Annex 1 is far longer than that in the proposed Directive on air quality which covers only 14 of these 34 pollutants.

Furthermore, the sheer quantity of exchangeable data, especially in those Member States with a dense network of air quality measurement stations, could be enormous and make this exchange unworkable. Consequently, the second observation is that the Member States should operate a "pyramidal" selection of measuring stations so that the exchange and assessment will be carried out first at local and regional level prior to the Community dimension. On this basis the Member States should facilitate the exchange of data between a sufficient number of stations which are representative of the different geographical situations and regions in that Member State; this would be the most cost-effective way to achieve the objective.

By the same token the Committee considers it more advisable to draw up separate Annexes. The first would set out those substances which had to be measured under Community Directives, the second the rest of the pollutants not covered by Community Directives on air quality.

The ESC considers that the technical committee set up under the Directive on ambient air quality assessment and management should be responsible for approving, jointly with the Commission, the adaptation of the present Decision to scientific and technical progress.

The European Environment Agency, as part of its remit, will have to assist the Commission in formulating the proposals to be submitted to the technical committee.

Finally, the ESC considers that, in the sectoral programmes for 1993-1997 of the Joint Research Centre in Ispra, in the section "measuring and testing" (with a budget of ECU 105 million) and in the actual sectoral programme "standardization, measurement and testing", a specific budget line should be established for improving and standardizing the measuring and testing methods for some of those pollutants contained in Annex 1, the measurement of which at the moment is very expensive and in some cases not sufficiently reliable.

### 3. AMBIENT AIR QUALITY

**Opinion of the Economic and Social Committee on the *Proposal for a Council Directive on Ambient Air Quality Assessment and Management***  
(COM(94) 109 final - 94/0106 (SYN))

(CES 185/95)

Rapporteur: Mr Klaus Boisseree (Germany - Various interests)

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

This proposal aims at defining a strategy which limits or prevents harmful effects of air pollution on human health and the environment.

It sets out the principles to be used to:

- fix objectives for ambient air quality in the European Union;
- assess the air quality in a uniform manner;
- make information on air pollution available to the public;
- maintain or improve ambient air quality.

#### **Gist of the Opinion**

##### ***General comments***

The Committee endorses the thrust of the draft Directive and the proposed rules, subject to the following proposed changes. It feels that the dangers and potential damage of atmospheric pollution make the issue and implementation of this Directive a matter of urgency.

The Committee is pleased to note that the draft Directive provides for a programme for the adoption of air quality objectives at European level. The Committee has called for a programme of this kind, most recently in its Opinion on the Integrated Pollution Prevention and Control Directive<sup>1</sup>.

### ***Cross-border atmospheric pollution***

The Committee fails to find any reference in the draft Directive to the treatment of the problems of cross-border atmospheric pollution. This applies particularly to cross-border atmospheric pollution within the European Union; where bilateral or multilateral agreements exist on arbitration procedures, they should be applied in relation to the implementation of the draft Directive too. The Union's bodies should also work for the conclusion of such agreements.

### ***Article 3***

It might be appropriate for the information referred to in Article 3 to be exchanged between Member States as well as communicated to the Commission. It would also be right to require the Member States to make such communications public, subject to the relevant European and national laws.

### ***Article 4***

The extent to which the programme for the establishment of quality objectives provided for in the framework Directive is compatible with the existing European ground-level concentration limits and the progress achieved in reducing concentrations of individual pollutants needs particular study.

### ***Article 5***

Article 5(2) of the draft is illogical: establishing which areas have poor or improving air quality requires measurement. Initial measurements should therefore also be required outside the areas listed in Article 5(2). Subsequent measurements could then be restricted.

### ***Article 7***

The Member States should be empowered and required to work for an improvement in air quality even where no Community limit values as yet exist. Such measures could be based on WHO values.

In Article 7(3)(b) the draft restricts itself to requiring that plans and programmes for the implementation of quality objectives be made available to the public. Participation in the drawing up of these programmes and in the implementation of the air quality objectives in the Member States should be of particular interest to the public.

### ***Article 12***

The Committee proposes that, in addition to the advisory committee of official representatives of the Member States, a "committee of experts" be set up.

### ***Annex 1***

The Committee suggests that carbon monoxide and benzene be included in the list for action in the short-term (31.12.96) (i.e. moved from Annex 1(2) to 1(1)).

## **4. PREVENTION OF DRUG ADDICTION**

**Opinion of the Economic and Social Committee** on the *Proposal for a European Parliament and Council Decision adopting a programme of Community action on the Prevention of drug dependence within the framework for action in the field of public health (1995-2000)*  
(COM(94) 223 final)

(CES 186/95)

Rapporteur: Mrs Angela Guillaume (United Kingdom - Various interest)

---

<sup>1</sup> See Opinion CES 572/94 of 27.4.1994, point 4.9.

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

This proposal is one of a series arising from Art. 129 of the Maastricht Treaty concerning EU action in the field of Public Health.

It proposes the adoption of a 5-year action programme on the prevention of drug dependence under three major headings:

- improving public awareness of the problem;
- using existing EU-policies and programmes to combat drug dependency;
- initiatives directed at school children.

### **Gist of the Opinion**

The Committee welcomes the Commission proposal for a Community strategy for action in the field of drug dependency: an increasing and complex phenomenon with huge social and economic costs to society. Competency for this lies within Article 129 of the Treaty. There is need for coordinating action and rationalization of existing instruments.

As drug dependency is a complex phenomenon, the Committee accepts that its prevention needs effort on local, national and global level involving multi-disciplinary and multi-dimensional responses:

- activities to target high-risk groups and critical age groups;
- education and training for all involved;
- the setting-up of an advisory body on drug dependency with representation from each Member State with national committees as the central point of reference for all the many agencies involved, including non-governmental organizations.

The Committee recommends that the broader approach is taken to encourage the promotion of healthier life styles rather than the narrow, negative approach epitomized by the "say no to drugs" campaign in the USA.

The Committee is broadly in favour of the Commission's recommendation in all three areas of activity:

- 1) improving public awareness in particular by means of coordinated transnational activities;
- 2) maximizing on the opportunities in other Community policies, programmes and instruments to prevent and combat drug dependency;
- 3) initiatives and actions relating to young people of school-going age in relevant environments and promote best practices in this regard.

The Committee recommends that extra funding should be given to those border towns where the prevalence of drug addiction is particularly high.

In conclusion, the Committee endorses the Commission's initiative in this area recognizing the urgent need to support:

- 1) the evaluation of current research and practices;
- 2) the promotion and evaluation of innovative programmes, particularly in education;
- 3) the exchange of information and experience.

## 5. THE COMMUNITY DESIGN (Additional Opinion)

**Opinion of the Economic and Social Committee** on the *Proposal for a Council Regulation (EEC) on the Community Design* (COM(93) 342 final - SYN 463) and on the *Proposal for a Council Directive on the Approximation of the Legislations of the Member States on the Legal Protection of Design* (COM(93) 344 final - SYN 464)

(CES 187/95)

Rapporteur: Mr Jean Pardon (Belgium - Employers)

### Aims of the Additional Opinion

The Committee adopted on 6 July 1994, an initial Opinion<sup>2</sup>, confined to the following issues:

- Article 5 : novelty of the design
- Article 6 : individual character of the design
- Article 23: the "repair clause"

This Additional Opinion covers all the other questions raised by the Commission's proposals.

### Gist of the Commission proposals

- *Proposal for a Regulation on the Community Design*

In respect of industrial designs and the goods incorporating industrial designs, the proposed Regulation aims to secure free movement of design products, undistorted competition and due protection of this form of industrial and commercial property.

Designs are deemed to be features of appearance which can be perceived by the human senses. No aesthetic criteria are applied.

Product design has gained in importance over the past decade. Many goods are sought after by consumers not only on the basis of their function but also, increasingly, because of their design.

This Regulation aims to establish one single design law valid throughout the Community parallel to the various national protection systems which impose on users the burden of multiple registrations, payment of different fees in different Member States and monitoring the laws in different Member States.

Superior design is one of the main assets of Community-based industries in competing with industries in third countries, which often have lower labour costs.

Designs are often easily reproduced; in many cases no special know-how is needed to reproduce design products. The proposed Regulation therefore aims to comply with economic operators' demands and set up legislation which provides at least a degree of protection against misappropriation of designs.

The Commission's view is that these aims can only be achieved via a Regulation.

The Community design protection system is a two-tier system comprising 1) protection based on registration and 2) automatic protection which operates by making the design available to the public.

The basic requirements for protection are that the design is a new one and has an individual character, which means that, in the eyes of an informed user, the design is different from other designs on the market.

---

<sup>2</sup> CES 849/94

The Unregistered Community Design entitles the holder to protection against reproduction, whereas the Registered Community Design gives the legal holder a genuinely exclusive right to use the design.

The protection is scheduled to last for three years for the Unregistered Community Design and five years for the Registered Community Design, renewable for a maximum period of twenty-five years.

In the case of costly, durable, complex products such as motor vehicles, where protection for the design of individual parts which go to make up a complex product could create a concomitant market in spare parts, a "repair clause" has been introduced allowing designs to be reproduced for the purpose of producing spare parts, three years after the product was first placed on the market. The manufacturer will have an exclusive right for three years, enabling him to recover the costs of developing the designs without the user being bound to a single manufacturer for an indefinite period.

- ***Proposal for a Directive on the Legal Protection of Design***

The proposed Directive aims to ensure effective legal protection for industrial designs. It seeks to reduce legal obstacles to freedom of movement for design goods and to the establishment of a system of undistorted competition in the Internal Market.

This proposal is therefore an essential accompaniment to the proposed Regulation on the Community Design<sup>3</sup>.

In accordance with the principle of subsidiarity, the alignment does not extend to all aspects of the specific national protection laws to be brought into line are those features necessary for the co-existence of specific national and Community design protection. These concern the definition of "design", the requirement for obtaining protection including the grounds for exclusion, non-prejudicial disclosures as to the requirements on individual character and novelty, the scope and term of protection, the grounds for refusal or invalidity, the definition of the rights conferred by the design including their limitations and exhaustion of rights.

**Gist of the Opinion**

- ***Examination of the draft Regulation***

The wording of a number of Articles should be improved in order to avoid future interpretation problems. This concerns i.e. Article 1, Article 4 para. 2, Article 8, Article 9 para. 1 and para. 2, Article 10, Article 14, Article 16 para. 1, Articles 20 and 27 para. 2.

***Article 4***

A check should be made on whether the general requirements under this article are compatible with Article 25 of the Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights, including trade in counterfeit goods.

***Article 7***

The "date" on which a design was made available to the public should be more definite. Identification of this date is of practical significance.

Another question is if the date, thus identified, is applicable throughout the world or only for the European Union?

***Article 12***

Since it is difficult for a third party to determine the reference date indicating the duration of protection for an Unregistered Community Design, it is suggested that the holder of an Unregistered Community Design should be required to communicate the date.

***Article 20***

This article empowers the holder of an Unregistered Community Design to prevent any third party from using an identical design "resulting from ... copying". This provision is only acceptable if the burden of proof is reversed.

---

<sup>3</sup> COM(93) 342 final

### **Article 52**

Registration of designs with deferred publication is of interest. Consideration should, however, be given to granting all the rights conferred by registered designs even in the case of registration of a design with deferred publication.

### **Article 89(2)**

Article 89(2) establishes presumption of validity in that a Community design is to be considered new within the meaning of Article 5 provided the holder submits evidence of its individual character.

The requirement set out in it is practically impossible to fulfil. This constitutes in effect a reversal of the burden of proof in favour of the defendant (i.e. the possible counterfeiter) rather than the right holder.

### **Article 93**

Paragraph 2 provides that a Community Design Court may enjoin a counterfeiter to provide information on the origin of counterfeit products.

A supplementary provision should be inserted, allowing the holder of a Registered or Unregistered Design to initiate an action to seek information, independently of any action concerning the counterfeit, as is possible under German law. This would enable the holder to secure information of value in identifying the source of the copy: in other words, the element of intent.

## **6. TEXTILE INDUSTRY PORTUGAL**

**Opinion of the Economic and Social Committee** on the *Proposal for a Council Regulation (EC) on the grant of financial assistance to Portugal for a specific programme for the modernization of the Portuguese textile and clothing industry*  
(COM(94) 562 final - 94/028 CNS)

(CES 188/95)

Rapporteur working alone: Mr Vasco Cal (Portugal - Workers)

### **Gist of the Opinion**

The Committee welcomes the draft Council Regulation and notes that it refers back to Commission Communication 94/C/80/04 of 5 June 1994. The comments in the Committee Opinion on this proposal<sup>4</sup> still hold true, notwithstanding the amended legal basis for the proposal whose objective is still to promote economic and social cohesion.

The Committee notes how important it is for businesses to comply with national legislation on labour conditions and deems it essential to secure effective involvement of regional and local authorities and the economic and social partners in preparing, implementing and assessing the measures, in accordance with Article 4 of the Framework Regulation on the Structural Funds, also referred to in the present proposal.

## **7. RECORDING EQUIPMENT IN ROAD TRANSPORT**

**Opinion of the Economic and Social Committee** on the *Proposal for a Council Regulation (EC) amending Council Regulation (EEC) 3821/85 and Council Directive 88/599/EEC on recording equipment in road transport*  
(COM (94) 323 final)

(CES 189/95)

Rapporteur: Mr Bo Green (Denmark - Employers)

---

<sup>4</sup> CES 761/94 (OJ N° C 295 of 22.10.1994)

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

The purpose of the proposed Regulation is to revise existing Community legislation on tachographs, which dates from 1985.

Firstly, it is felt that the present Regulation (3821/85) does not provide sufficient protection against manipulation of the system and, secondly, the existing system's output is time-consuming to read and collate.

Under the proposed Regulation, the existing tachograph may be retained subject to the addition of an electronic "black box" which records relevant data on a driver's smart card. This electronic smart card must be able to register data from a minimum of 28 days' driving time and immediate verification should be possible, e.g. in connection with police road checks. The Member States' authorities are responsible for preparing, personalizing and issuing these cards. At a later stage the Commission can approve alternative, fully electronic tachographs (viz. without the current paper discs) if such systems comply with certain requirements.

The estimated increased expense involved in refitting existing tachographs is 80% or approx. ECU 200. The individual driver's smart card will cost around ECU 25. All together six million lorries and buses will be affected by the proposal.

All relevant vehicles registered after January 1990 must be fitted with the above equipment by January 2000; from January 1998 all new vehicles must be so equipped.

### **Gist of the Opinion**

It is essential to step up checks on road transport if infringements are to be detected and if existing rules are to be more effectively enforced. On this point the Committee would highlight the unfortunate fact that, even with tighter checks in individual Member States, there will still be disparities because the existing rules are interpreted in widely differing ways. If tighter checks are to have the desired effect, the Committee feels that the Commission should also address these problems. It would therefore recommend that the rules on driving and rest periods be streamlined when this proposal is being implemented, so as to facilitate greater practicability and effectiveness.

The Committee endorses the Commission's view that changes should be made as soon as possible to the existing control apparatus (tachographs) in lorries by making greater use of information technology. The use of a driver's card (smart card) seems a vital component in tightening up checks.

However, the proposed equipment to be connected to existing tachographs in practice still needs to prove its technological validity and has so far only been subjected to factory testing. The Committee therefore recommends the speedy introduction of a broader field trial involving a proportion (%) of the total number of vehicles affected by the tachograph requirement in each Member State. That would give both national authorities and haulage firms and drivers a chance to assess the scale of the practical administrative burden and ascertain whether control and safety requirements are met.

The Commission should also work for a change in the AETR Convention (to be scheduled to coincide with the deadlines laid down in the proposal) to ensure that non-EU vehicles meet the same control equipment requirements as EU vehicles.

## **8. CIVIL AVIATION IN EUROPE**

**Opinion of the Economic and Social Committee** on the *Communication from the Commission on The Way Forward for Civil Aviation in Europe*  
(COM(94) 218 final)

(CES 190/95)

Rapporteur: Mr Robert J. Moreland (United Kingdom - Various interests)

### **Gist of the Commission Communication**

The Commission Communication on The Way Forward for Civil Aviation in Europe analyzes the situation and suggests a number of solutions.

The reasons for current difficulties are:

- overcapacity
- lack of productivity and efficiency, and
- too high costs.

The Commission therefore intends to:

- regard efficiency improvements and cost-saving measures in the civil aviation system of Europe as political priority for the sector during the years to come;
- seek efficiency improvements primarily by eliminating fragmentation of the European civil aviation systems, so as to generate the full economic benefit of a genuine Single Aviation Market;
- assume its responsibilities in this area in close cooperation with Member States, interested parties and specialized international organizations.

In more practical terms, the following measures will be taken.

Fulfilment of Single Market requirements will be ensured by implementing **Third Aviation Package** rules. The Commission's decisions on the use of safeguard clauses will take account of the economic situation at the time.

On **competition rules** informal contacts are to be established prior to formal notification of cooperation agreements between air carriers. Block exemptions would encourage cooperation designed to expand activity besides benefiting consumers. The Commission wishes to maintain the existing block exemption on tariff consultations and continue to monitor closely the impact of such consultations on the market. It will also take into consideration the general economic environment and market situation when use is made of block exemptions.

As regards **allocation of slots**, the Commission wishes to monitor the effectiveness of Regulation No. 95/93 and possibly review this Regulation.

On **State support** the Commission feels that State financial support for restructuring air carriers can be accepted only if it does not distort competition.

On the **external relations** front, the Commission wishes to frame a common European policy in appropriate areas.

In addition, the Commission will work towards a Single Regulatory Authority on Air Safety, conduct a study to analyze the most efficient way to conduct airworthiness certification and attach a cost-benefit analysis to future proposals for harmonization measures.

In connection with air transport **infrastructure** the Commission will continue and accelerate the work on Trans-European Networks programmes for Air Traffic Management to provide a basis for the use of infrastructure funds, contribute actively to the preparatory work for the creation of the political and institutional framework required for the implementation of a Single Air Traffic Management System in Europe, and see that a significant contribution is made from Community funds for the preparation of a satellite based air navigation system.

**Airport capacity** is to be enhanced and developed; regional policy instruments could be used for the improvement of airports located in peripheral regions.

On **use of airport services**, transparency is to be improved and customers involved; an initiative aimed at opening up ground-handling markets at Community airports is to be taken.

As regards **financial issues**, the Commission is to undertake economic studies and carefully consider economic implications for the aviation industry when it prepares initiatives on taxation.

The Communication also lists a number of areas calling for action to curb the **environmental damage** caused by aviation, as well as a number of **social issues** to be considered in connection with the future restructuring of the sector.

Lastly, the Commission calls on the European Parliament, the ESC and the Council of Ministers to endorse the policy priorities outlined in the Communication and urges these Institutions to cooperate with a view to implementing the proposed measures as speedily as possible.

### **Gist of the Opinion**

While the Committee agrees with the Commission when it states that it *"is firmly convinced that the European aviation industry will re-achieve sustainable growth and profitability only if, in addition to the management task of restructuring carriers which need to be supported by enforcing the Third-Package provisions, public authorities work towards a quick solution to the extra burden caused by inadequate diversity of standards, allocation of responsibilities and other rigidities"*, it does believe that the Commission's overall response is inadequate to meet the challenge of working in a *"consumer driven market"*. It believes that, in particular, the Commission and the Member States must work to ensure existing legislation operates to meet their objectives and that the problems of both inadequate airport capacity and air-traffic management systems are addressed vigorously.

The Committee also feels that:

- the Commission must ensure State aid is limited to reconstruction and to where a public service obligation is established, and does not prejudice the workings of the Internal Market (see Section 3.7);
- the Commission must work with the Council on a common external policy on the basis of Article 84 (see Section 3.8.). With air transport evolving against a background of worldwide competition, the failure to give priority to the framing of an external EU policy would have a harmful effect not only in terms of obtaining and maintaining routes but also in the context of the social sector (emergence of social dumping);
- more detailed attention needs to be given to the issue of safety (see Section 3.9);
- urgent attention needs to be given to the high charges on airport and en route charges. As the Wise Men's report stated *"the European region suffers from extraordinary high user charges"* (see Section 3.10.). The charges airports make direct to scheduled European airlines represent 4 to 6% of the operating costs, compared with less than 2% in the United States. This relative difference has even more impact on ATC-charges where no en-route charge exists for domestic US traffic;
- the Commission is equivocal on taxation and financing issues. There should be a clear statement that no extra tax burdens on the industry will be proposed (see Section 3.14.);
- the recommendations relating to social issues are too vague: detailed proposals are needed on, inter alia, the need to ensure workers can adapt to changing market conditions and also the need to safeguard and harmonize the quality of employment and working conditions in accordance with the principle of social progress enshrined in Treaty Articles 2 and 117. In any event, the issue is treated as almost an afterthought (see Section 3.16.). The Economic and Social Committee feels that the liberalization process has been underway long enough to allow a first report to be drawn up on its social impact, particularly as it affects employment and working conditions. This will make it possible to pinpoint any adverse effects and to examine how these can be corrected;
- the Commission should take into account that a *"consumer driven market"* is more than one in which fares are related to costs. It must also be one in which customers individually are enabled to make properly informed choices based on information at the point of sale including quality of service and performance statistics.

## **9. REFORM OF THE WINE MARKET**

**Economic and Social Committee Opinion** on the *Proposal for a Council Regulation (EC) on reform of the common organization of the market in wine*  
(COM(94) 117 final)

(CES 191/95)

Rapporteur: Mr Adalbert Kienle (Germany - Employers)

### Gist of the Commission document

The Commission proposes to establish a reference figure for EU wine production from the 1995/96 marketing year, set at the level of non-subsidized consumption in the Community (154 million hl). The figure includes both wine and potable spirits, and will be divided between the Member States as follows:

Italy	49.661 million hl
France	51.837 million hl
Spain	29.248 million hl
Portugal	8.371 million hl
Greece	3.584 million hl
Germany	11.125 million hl
Luxembourg	0.174 million hl

The intention is to reduce production by 35.584 million hl. This will mean a 12.6m reduction in Italy, 11.6m in France, 7.4m in Spain, 1.3m in Portugal, 0.6m in Greece, 1.7m in Germany, and 0.044m in Luxembourg, based on their average production in the three best wine years between 1990 and 1993. In the case of regions which submit a programme for the permanent abandonment of wine-growing areas, Member States are to make a regional distribution of their national reference production.

The Commission proposes to set an annual financial appropriation per Member State on the basis of an assessment of the income losses sustained as a result of changing from average historic production to the national reference production. This appropriation will be used to make up the income losses of growers who agree to reduce their production. It will be adjusted each year by reference to the drop in production resulting from the abandonment programme.

### *Regional programmes*

These are designed to secure an orderly adjustment of wine-growing potential, in order to ensure that each Member State brings its production into line with the national reference production. The programmes are to be drawn up using a simplified vineyard register and are designed to comply with rural development and planning objectives. They are to be drawn up and implemented by the Commission and the relevant national and regional authorities, in accordance with the partnership principle. For the purposes of the programmes, the Commission defines a region as "*a geographical area with homogeneous characteristics as regards climate, production structures, traditions and viticultural practices*".

Each regional programme may comprise the following components:

- a) Measures to reduce regional production by: cutting annual production by green cropping; setting yield ceilings, restricting or prohibiting practices that boost yields, such as irrigation and application of fertilizer and cultivational practices that restrict yields such as certain types of pruning.
- b) Abandonment of areas under vines in order to achieve precise targets for reducing production potential. This will entail grubbing up and removal of stocks, and will be accompanied by environmentally friendly measures (reparcelling, soil protection by maintenance of suitable plant cover and/or afforestation).
- c) Measures to tackle serious structural problems: maintenance of viticulture on hills, steep slopes and other ground particularly susceptible to erosion or natural deterioration; problems related to production adjustment, such as replanting using varieties in demand and the establishment of areas under vines giving limited yields and meeting specific quality requirements.
- d) Technical training, dissemination of agricultural research findings and commercial exploitation of the region's viticultural products.

The sums granted for implementation of components A, C and D are to be co-financed by the EAGGF and the Member State on a fifty-fifty basis, while the premiums paid under B are to be fully financed by the EAGGF.

Each programme is to last a maximum of six years and must quantify the reduction in production that the region undertakes to achieve.

The sum granted for implementation of component A will be the amount needed to offset the income loss caused by the reduction in production, calculated on the basis of ECU 11.33 per hectolitre of production lost.

The sum granted to finance component A of each programme is to be adjusted to take account of the reduction in production achieved through implementation of component B.

The overall sum granted for implementation of component C will depend on the area abandoned under component B, and is to be calculated on the basis of ECU 3,000 per hectare abandoned.

The overall sum granted for implementation of component D is to be a maximum of 5% of the total amount granted for the programme.

The premium for abandonment of areas under vines in implementation of component B is to be calculated using as basis a reference rate of ECU 7,000 per hectare for an average Community yield of 50 hl per hectare. This will then be adjusted for each regional programme in line with the average yield of the region concerned, using scales to be determined.

The premium is to be paid to the farmer. It disqualifies him from the replanting right, and he must undertake not to carry out any new planting on the holding for 25 years.

Abandonment premiums may not be granted on:

- areas under vines that are smaller than a minimum area to be determined; this limit will not apply where a smaller area constitutes all of the parcel or parcels cultivated by the farmer;
- areas under vines in respect of which infringements of Community or national provisions on planting have occurred since 1976;
- areas under vines that are no longer exploited or maintained or have not been so for two wine years;
- areas under vines that have been the object of a financially aided restructuring operation.

#### ***Non-regional abandonment programme for areas under vines***

Farmers in regions which do not submit a regional programme may, in the wine years 1994/95 to 1999/2000, receive a permanent abandonment premium. The premium will be calculated on the basis of a reference rate of ECU 3,500 per hectare for a Community average yield of 50 hl per hectare. It will be adjusted in line with the average yield for the region concerned, according to scales to be determined. The payments will be financed from the EAGGF-Guarantee Section.

#### ***Measures to improve market conditions***

For each wine year and each Member State, the quantity of wine for compulsory distillation is to be the difference between production for the wine year in question and the national reference quantity for that year. The buying-in price of wine delivered for compulsory distillation is to be ECU 1.10 per % vol per hl for the 1995/96 wine year, 0.80 for 1996/97 and 0.50 for 1997/98 and subsequent wine years. The distribution of compulsory distillation is to be effected "*in accordance with a scale designed to contribute to the objective of restricting production*".

This scale will use one or more of the following criteria:

- yield per hectare (application of this criterion may be used to differentiate the distillation obligation by production region and/or wine category, and may involve exemption from the obligation for quality wines psr or other categories of wine);
- the quantities of wine stocks;
- the areas grubbed up by the producer.

Account is also to be taken of the absence, or limited implementation, of regional programmes. Winemaking by-products are also to remain subject to compulsory distillation. The buying-in price for these is to be: ECU 0.82 per % vol per hl for the 1995/96 wine year, 0.80 for 1996/97 and 0.50 for subsequent wine years.

The Commission also proposes to create a mechanism for assessing wine production and use. This may involve specialized bodies and undertakings and independent experts.

### ***Special distillation***

From the 1998/99 wine year, if contingent surpluses occur in regions properly implementing a regional programme, a special distillation operation may be initiated for producers in those regions. The quantity of wine covered by this measure may not exceed 6 million hl for the whole of the EU. The buying-in price of wine delivered for special distillation will be fixed on the basis of the market situation in the regions concerned.

### ***Costs of disposal of alcohol taken over***

75 % of the costs resulting from storage and disposal of alcohol taken over for compulsory distillation will be borne by the EAGGF Guarantee Section and 25 % by the Member State in which the alcohol was taken over.

### ***Rules applicable where yields for quality wines psr are overshot***

Overshoot of the basic yield laid down for quality wines psr will entail a prohibition, covering the entire yield, on use of the claimed designation. However its use may be permitted for a quantity not exceeding the basic yield if: the weather has been specially favourable to grape production, particularly in terms of quality; the overshoot is no more than 20% of the basic yield; a quantity corresponding to the overshoot is distilled without public aid. Furthermore, Member States may specify that half the overshoot be stocked with no possibility of marketing during the wine year of production. This quantity may be recognized under the following harvest, possibly after blending with the quality wine psr therefrom.

### ***Oenological practices and processes***

For the purposes of application of the rules governing increases in natural alcoholic strength of wine products, the Community is to be divided into three zones, denominated N, M and S. The alcoholic strength of grape must, grape must in fermentation, new wine still in fermentation and wine may be increased only where they are obtained from grapes with a natural alcoholic strength of at least 6% vol in zone N, 8% vol in zone M and 9% vol in zone S. Derogations may be authorized for up to 1.5% vol in zones M and S (i) in the case of wine with a traditionally low alcoholic strength, obtained from vineyards with a low yield per hectare, and (ii) with a view to the production of products in which a low alcoholic strength is a technical necessity.

Subject to the above limits, Member States may determine the minimum natural alcoholic strength for each wine-growing region on the basis of the climatic conditions obtaining and the viticultural techniques used, and the need to avoid yields incompatible with production for direct consumption without systematic application of corrective oenological practices.

Transitional measures are provided for 1995/96 to 1997/98 on the basis of the existing zones. The minimum natural alcoholic strength required of grapes for a possible increase is to be as follows: 1995/96: 5.2% vol in zone A, 7.6 in zone CI(a) and 8.6 in zone CII; 1996/97: 5.4 in zone A, 7.7 in zone CI(a) and 8.7 in zone CII; 1997/98: 5.7 in zone A, 7.8 in zone CI(a) and 8.8 in zone CII.

### ***Enrichment***

The addition of sucrose is authorized in products upstream of wine, up to a limit of 2% vol in zone N, 1.5% in zone M and 1% in zone S. By way of derogation, in regions where the use of sucrose was authorized on 1 September 1994, the increase may be up to 3.2, 2.4, 1.9 and 1.8% vol in zones A, B, CI(a) and CII respectively in 1995/96; 2.8, 2.3, 1.8 and 1.6 in 1996/97; and 2.4, 2.2, 1.7 and 1.3 in 1997/98.

### ***Aid for musts***

An aid scheme for concentrated grape musts and rectified concentrated grape musts used to increase alcoholic strength is to operate until 1997/98. Aid will respectively be (ECU per % vol per hl) 1 and 1.3 in 1995/96; 0.67 and 0.87 in 1996/97; 0.33 and 0.43 in 1997/98.

## **WINE-GROWING ZONES**

### **1) Wine-growing zone N comprises:**

- a) in Germany: the German wine-growing areas;
- b) in Belgium: the Belgian wine-growing area;

- c) in Luxembourg: the Luxembourg wine-growing area;
  - d) in the Netherlands: the Netherlands wine-growing area;
  - e) in the United Kingdom: the United Kingdom wine-growing area;
  - f) in France: the areas under vines not listed in points 2(a) and 3(a).
- 2) ***Wine-growing zone M comprises:***
- a) In France, the areas under vines:
    - in the following departments: Allier, Alpes-de-Haute-Provence, Hautes-Alpes, Alpes-Maritimes, Ariège, Aveyron, Cantal, Charente, Charente Maritime, Corrèze, Côte-d'Or, Dordogne, Haute-Garonne, Gers, Gironde, Isère, Landes, Loire, Haute-Loire, Lot, Lot-et-Garonne, Lozère, Nièvre (except for the arrondissement of Cosne-sur-Loire), Puy-de-Dôme, Pyrénées-Atlantiques, Hautes-Pyrénées, Rhône, Saône-et-Loire, Tarn-et-Garonne, Haute-Vienne, Yonne;
    - in the arrondissements of Valence and Die in the department of Drôme (except for the cantons of Dieulefit, Loriol, Marsanne and Montélimar);
    - in the arrondissement of Tournon and the cantons of Antraigues, Buzet, Coucouron, Montpezat-sous-Bauzon, Privas, Saint-Etienne de Lugdarès, Saint-Pierreville, Valgorge and la Voulte-sur-Rhône in the department of Ardèche.
  - b) In Spain, the areas under vines in the provinces of Asturias, Cantabria, Guipúzcoa, La Coruña and Vizcaya;
  - c) In Italy, the areas under vines in the Valle d'Aosta region and in the provinces of Sondrio, Bolzano, Trento and Belluno.
- 3) ***Wine-growing zone S comprises:***
- a) In France, the areas under vines:
    - in the following departments: Aude, Bouches-du-Rhône, Corse, Gard, Hérault, Pyrénées-Orientales, Var and Vaucluse.
    - in the arrondissement of Nyons and the cantons of Dieulefit, Loriol, Marsanne and Montélimar in the department of Drôme.
    - in those parts of the department of Ardèche not listed in point 2(a).
  - b) In Spain, the areas under vines not listed in point 2 b).
  - c) In Italy, the areas under vines not listed in point 2 c).
  - d) In Greece: the Greek wine-growing area.
  - e) In Portugal: the Portuguese wine-growing area.

#### **Gist of the Opinion**

The Committee is pleased that the EU Commission has produced a Proposal for a Council Regulation on Reform of the Common Organization of the Market in Wine but deplores the fact that it has taken no account of some vital suggestions of the ESC or of the strong objections of the trade associations to its Communication to the Council of 22 July 1993. The Committee calls upon the new EU Commission to amend radically its proposal for a regulation.

The Committee thinks that market guidance must be made a central plank of the reform process. This means turning away from a centrally-run market. Instead, the European wine industry must be encouraged to become more competitive with other countries and drinks. Moreover, trade barriers such as the high excise duties in some Member States must be dismantled and better conditions created for producers and traders. Reform must give the EU's regions more responsibility

for quality and market policy, in accordance with subsidiarity. This means, at the same time, deregulation and cutting red tape to encourage economic self-reliance and initiative. According to the Committee this re-directing of European wine policy should be started at once and completed over a 10-year transitional period.

To bring about a clear separation between market and social policy, the Committee suggests that the Commission's proposed regional programmes be split up into market structural and socio-structural programmes. Adequate EU funds need to be made available for this purpose. The Committee considers that additional co-financing should be provided from national or regional coffers: on the other hand, market intervention should be funded exclusively by the EAGGF.

The Committee calls for a specific wine-growing promotion programme to help environmentally friendly economic measures and recommends that EU funds be made available to support the development of better marketing structures in producer areas. The Committee also suggests that social programmes for agriculture be tailored to the special needs of wine-growing and that a voluntary grubbing programme be introduced during the transitional period so that vineyard capacity can be adjusted to market conditions.

The Committee particularly emphasizes that when production conditions are laid down and oenological practices are authorized, account must be taken of the varying geographical, climatic and weather conditions within Europe's wine-growing regions.

The Committee therefore does not agree with the European Commission that the number of wine-growing zones can be reduced from seven to three or that there can be a levelling-out of natural minimum alcoholic strengths and oenological practices.

Instead it advocates that consideration be given to the classification of wine-growing zones on the basis of objective criteria.

As regards the problem of chaptalization, the Committee points out that this oenological practice is banned in the EU. It could be permitted as an exceptional measure for a limited period, but only in certain EU wine-producing regions and under conditions to be laid down by the Council. In order to avoid distortion between the various EU producer countries, the Committee recommends that as long as enrichment with sucrose is permitted, the current aid for the use of concentrated must and rectified concentrate should be maintained. Appropriate labelling should inform consumers clearly about the enrichment processes used.

There should be two types of distillation: "preventive", or voluntary distillation, to be carried out at the beginning of the marketing year and at an attractive price, and "compulsory" distillation, where the price paid would be lower and based on the surplus quantities to be disposed of.

Aid for private storage should be maintained at any event, as a linking measure between years where production was in surplus and those where yields were low.

The Committee suggests preparing a comprehensive overall programme to promote the sale of wine products. This should cover the removal of legal, economic and tax barriers to sales. To this end the Committee calls for an ambitious research and market research programme.

The Committee also advocates an information and educational programme about the advantages of a moderate level of wine consumption as part of a balanced diet, and about the dangers of misuse.

The Committee welcomes the EU Commission's proposal to extend the ban on new plantings. However, in its view the right to replanting and the transfer of replanting rights should be used without restriction so that the best land in wine-growing areas is planted out in accordance with a policy on quality. The classification of vine varieties should be standardized at EU level.

## 10. COM/SUGAR

**Opinion of the Economic and Social Committee** on the *Proposal for a Council Regulation (EC) amending Regulation (EEC) No. 1785/81 on the common organization of the markets in the sugar sector and the Second Regulation (EEC) No. 1010/86 laying down general rules for the production refund on certain sugar products used in the chemical industry*  
(COM(94) 439 final)

(CES 192/95)

Rapporteur-General: Mr Charles Pelletier (France - Various interests)

### Gist of the Commission proposal

The Commission is proposing a package of measures which aim to reform the common organization of the market in sugar. These apply to the production of sugar, isoglucose and inulin syrup, but do not substantially alter regimes which in the view of the Commission are working quite well. The current structure, based mainly on production quotas, guaranteed prices and a system of self-financing should, it believes, continue until 2001, subject to some - mainly quite specific - adjustments which will allow the Union to meet its new commitments, in particular those made under GATT. The reform, to come into effect from 1 July 1995, is designed to provide a flexible and highly effective system for the entire period of application of the Uruguay Round agreements.

There are other reasons for this move, in particular:

- the expiry on 30 June 1995 of existing agreements concerning the quota system;
- the planned review of authorized national aids in Italy;
- the undertaking to make a comprehensive study of arrangements for supplies to the Community refining industry, in connection with Portugal's Act of Accession;
- the commitment, made in the course of Finnish accession negotiations, to allow preferential sugar imports into Finland;
- the Community's undertaking, in the Fourth Lomé Convention, to examine the requests for increased preferential access to the Portuguese market made by the African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) States.

For three years in a row, in the European Union - which is the world's biggest producer and exporter, and the second biggest importer and consumer of sugar - consumption has overtaken production. As this may only be a temporary trend, the Commission recommends a "prudent" reform based on the following measures:

- 1) **Maintenance of the current production quotas** (including the 60,000 tonnes allocated for Portugal) and self-financing agreements (production levies paid by growers and processors) for six marketing years, i.e. until the end of the GATT transitional period in 2000/01. However, in order to respect GATT commitments, new arrangements are being proposed to allow the guarantees linked to quotas to be reduced for one or several marketing years. The aim is to maintain the current balance both between A and B quotas and between regions.
- 2) **Abolition of the refund of storage costs for C sugar** carried over from one marketing year to another, to begin in 1996/97. As a transitional measure, a reduced refund of six months (instead of twelve) will continue to apply in 1995/96 for C sugar carried over to 1996/97.
- 3) **Harmonization throughout the Community of the conditions regulating the supply of raw sugar to the refining industry.** This takes as its basis the transitional arrangements for preferential imports which apply in Portugal, and introduces new arrangements to guarantee the access of raw sugar from ACP and/or other countries, under the terms agreed following the Uruguay Round. For this reason, the main thrust of the Commission proposal is to:
  - fix, for six marketing years, the estimated maximum needs of the refineries concerned: 40,000 tonnes for those in Finland, 297,000 tonnes for France, 292,000 tonnes for Portugal and 1,130,000 tonnes for the United Kingdom;

- determine a priori the Community mechanisms required for the application of an agreement to be negotiated for six marketing years with the relevant ACP and/or other countries in order to determine the level of preference and the minimum purchase price to be paid by refiners.
- 4) **Progressive abolition of national aids in Italy:** For northern and central Italy, they will be phased out in three stages between now and 1998/99. In the regions of southern Italy which come under Objective 1 of EU Regional Policy, however, they will be reduced progressively to 50% over two marketing years and will then remain at their 1997/98 level until 2001/02.
- 5) Amendment of rules covering **the use of sugar products in the chemical industry** to eliminate any obstacles to the development of this market. The entire amount produced for non-food purposes should be included in the self-financing arrangements.

### **Gist of the Opinion**

The Committee approves the Commission proposal subject to a number of comments.

It accepts the quota adjustment mechanism proposed by the Commission. However, it asks the Council to apply it with the proviso that the Commission firstly starts to manage stocks and internal marketing vigorously.

The Committee supports the new rules for refining proposed by the Commission, which give the refining industry supply guarantees that it did not previously enjoy and offer the ACP countries new scope for preferential access. However, the quotas for refining should not be set at a higher level than those proposed by the Commission since these new guarantees are being introduced at a time when the guarantees given to beet and sugar producers are to be lowered under GATT.

The Committee also firmly believes that the special preferential imports should be provided exclusively by the ACP countries.

It also reiterates its call for Community preference to be maintained throughout the EU with regard to white sugar and raw sugar produced within the EU. Quota transfers between different sweeteners should be strictly prohibited and carryover financing should be continued.

Since 1968 Italy has been authorized to grant national adjustment aid to its beet and sugar sector. The Commission is proposing that the Council should reduce or abolish this aid, according to the region.

The Committee wonders about the reliability of the statistics provided by the Commission in support of its proposal. It calls on the Council, before taking a decision, to bear in mind that to cut or abolish such aid would mean, in the case of Italy, that beet crop areas would decrease and the sugar industry would suffer.

## **11. INFORMATION SOCIETY**

**Opinion of the Economic and Social Committee** on *Europe's Way to the Information Society. An Action Plan* (Communication from the Commission to the Council and the European Parliament and to the Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions)  
(COM(94) 347 final)

(CES 193/95)

Rapporteur: Mr Roger Ramaekers (Belgium - Various interests)

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

The information society is on its way. A "digital revolution" is triggering structural changes comparable to last century's industrial revolution with the corresponding high economic stakes. The process cannot be stopped and will lead eventually to a knowledge-based economy.

The Commission's White Paper on "Growth, Competitiveness, Employment - The challenges and ways forward into the 21st century" acknowledges the importance of this process, critical to the future of European society.

The White Paper was examined by the European Council at its December 1993 meeting. The Council gave its full political support and requested that a report be prepared on the information society by a group of prominent persons, providing concrete recommendations for action.

The report "Europe and the global information society - Recommendations to the European Council", illustrates the search for a consensus on this issue and builds on the White Paper's analysis. It highlights the need for an acceleration of the liberalization process and the achievement and the preservation of universal service and the Internal Market principles of free movement. Public authorities will have to set new "rules of the game", control their implementation and launch public interest initiatives. The deployment and financing of an information infrastructure will be primarily the responsibility of the private sector. At a Community level, in addition to legislative initiative, it will be necessary to target available resources more closely to the new objectives. Finally, the report emphasizes the urgency of adopting its recommendations.

The report was submitted to the European Council for its meeting in Corfu on 24-25 June 1994. The European Council's conclusions recognize the importance of the opportunity and the scale of the challenge facing Europe.

The Commission fully supports these conclusions. It welcomes the European Council's invitations (a) to the Council and the European Parliament to adopt before the end of this year measures already proposed by the Commission and (b) to itself to establish a work programme for the remaining measures needed at the Community level. This Communication is a response to that invitation.

The Commission Communication covers four areas:

- **the regulatory and legal framework**, for which new proposals will be made, in particular regarding telecommunications infrastructure and services, on the protection of intellectual property rights and of privacy, on media concentration, as well as the updating of the "rules of the game" for the free movement of TV broadcast in the Community;
- **networks, basic services, applications, and content**, where there is a need to bring the parties concerned together in order to stimulate the development of applications in the areas proposed by the High Level Group and endorsed by the European Council;
- **social, societal and cultural aspects**, including the linguistic and cultural dimensions of the information society stressed by the European Council; and
- **promotion of the information society** in order to increase public awareness and support.

### Gist of the Opinion

Given the convergence of the telecommunications, audiovisual and publishing sectors, the question of media concentration should be regulated before there is any further move in the direction of liberalization.

Adoption of the Commission's proposal for a programme to liberalize services and infrastructure must depend on certain preconditions first being fulfilled in such fields as:

\* The establishment of a stable and legal regulatory framework, particularly with regard to:

- media concentration and ownership;
- the definition and preservation of the concept of universal service;
- privacy;
- intellectual property rights;
- legal protection and security;
- the audiovisual sector:
  - . ethical considerations;
  - . information;
  - . culture;

- standardization, interoperability;
- tariffs (equalization, cross-subsidization).

\* The harmonization and development of EURO-ISDN, an integrated broadband network, and IDA, so as not to compromise the development of public-interest and other applications.

The Committee thinks that an immediate start must be made on analyses of the social and economic risks and challenges of the information society's launch (analyses which are considered by the Commission to be necessary) and on measures to obviate and limit such risks. In particular, it calls for:

- the immediate establishment of a Group of Experts, which will include all social and economic interests;
- studies to evaluate the investment needed to set up and operate information highways and new services, and the effect on employment;
- studies of the structural impact and effect on employment of new information and communication services, with particular regard to new possible applications in banks, commercial enterprises, mail-order firms, travel agents, transport firms and enterprises in the media industry;
- the development and testing of rules governing layout and security in connection with the regional pilot projects.

The findings of the studies and the lessons learnt from the projects must be made public and applied when further measures are drawn up to ease the transition to the information society. The findings and lessons learnt must also be submitted to the European institutions and to all social and economic interests, for their opinions, before final decisions are taken on appropriate measures.

At the same time as getting to grips with the social consequences of the new technologies, there is also a case for **studying needs** so that the information society can meet the real demands of European society and not merely supply services that offer immediate financial gain.

A detailed timetable should be fixed for debating these crucial questions in advance of the proposed deadlines for the liberalization of all services, whilst the deadlines in question should be adjusted in the light of the studies that need to be carried out into the social implications.

In view of the uncertainties surrounding current changes, governments and civil society should be allowed a reasonable length of time for reflection and the possible endorsement of a democratic regulatory body at Community level. The Committee would emphasize that it might itself have a democratic role to play in such a body.

The Committee would nevertheless underline that Member States need to ensure that the decisions taken collectively at Union level are implemented at national level.

The way in which the information society's launch is organized is of great importance to the further economic and social modernization of Europe and will play a decisive role in helping to a) safeguard and strengthen European firms' ability to innovate, b) determine future production and employment, and c) further develop working and living conditions. In the view of the Committee it is necessary:

- 1) To use industrial, research, technological, and training policy measures to further corporate restructuring and satisfy new skill requirements. Measures adopted under the current Fourth Framework Programme, as well as Structural Fund support programmes (particularly Objective 4), must be problem-oriented.
- 2) To make sure that, when setting up and operating new communication and information networks (information highways), attention is focused not only on technical and economic aspects but also on:
  - ensuring that the public has access to basic information and that there is no discrimination regarding access to new systems and services,
  - ensuring a sufficient diversity of information,
  - making allowance for the special protection which cultural and democratic values should enjoy,

- guaranteeing the confidentiality of personal data and information security and preventing the misuse of economic power for political ends.

(For these reasons there is a case for adopting "traffic rules" for information "highways". The prerequisite for this is the existence of a basic information and communications service to which all citizens have access.)

- 3) To ease the transition to the information society of the future by creating new areas of potential demand. This will involve the development and operation of new information and communication systems and services that tap the interests of society at large and serve labour-, employment-, social- and environment-policy objectives.
- 4) To use the development of communication and information infrastructure within the framework of local pilot projects as an opportunity to initiate responsible economic and social developments. Through social dialogue, social and economic interests must be involved in shaping the future information society for the purpose of drawing up and testing the social acceptability of traffic rules for new networks and services, and promoting basic and advanced vocational training with the application of new information and communication equipment, systems and services, in mind.
- 5) To take account of the globalization of information. This is why the Committee emphasizes the need to draw up clear, stable rules that will pave the way for the worldwide exchange of information with due regard to the requirements governing fair competition, the protection of privacy, security, and intellectual property.

The Committee reserves the right to discuss problems relating to the information society in greater depth since the whole topic is in a state of flux.

## 12. WORLD SUMMIT ON SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT (Own-initiative Opinion)

**Own-initiative Opinion of the Economic and Social Committee on the *World Summit on Social Development***

(doc. CES 194/95)

Rapporteur: Mr Thomas Etty (The Netherlands - Workers)

### **Background to the proposed Opinion**

On the basis of Resolution No. 47/92 of the UN General Assembly, a **Summit on Social Development will be held in Copenhagen from 6 to 12 March 1995**. This Summit is one of a series of UN initiatives, including the second Conference on less developed countries (1990), the World Conference on human rights (1993) and the International conference on population and development (1994). These initiatives also triggered off a political dynamic and a certain mobilization of States, as shown by last year's Employment Summit and the greater attention given to social and development problems in G7 meetings, particularly in Naples last June.

The Copenhagen Summit will thus be a very important event; a preparatory committee has been set up, comprising representatives of the UN Member States which will take part in the Summit. This committee has the task of drawing up a **draft declaration and a draft action programme**, a first version of which is already available, after preliminary discussions. In each country participating in preparations for the Summit, national delegations are drawing up draft amendments with a view to producing the final text to be adopted at the Summit.

The aim of the Summit is to establish a **strong bond of political will between the UN Member States**, creating the framework for decisions designed to solve the most acute problems facing the contemporary world: combating poverty and marginalization, promoting jobs, rebuilding society, furthering social rights, opposing all kinds of discrimination, etc.

**The Economic and Social Committee should contribute to the current debate through an Own-initiative Opinion.** On the basis of its accumulated Opinions and experience, the ESC can make a double contribution: (a) by supporting the commitment at national level of the socio-economic organizations represented in it, so that they open or strengthen the dialogue with their respective governments involved in the preparatory work; (b) by contributing ideas and suggestions to the EU authorities and by urging them to play an active role and thus contribute to the success of the UN initiative.

### **Gist of the Opinion**

The Committee welcomes the United Nations' initiative to organize a World Summit for Social Development next month in Copenhagen.

The Committee considers that it is indeed necessary that the United Nations (UN) focuses attention on social problems at a time when the UN is getting more and more involved in peace-keeping.

The gap between the nine commitments proposed in the Draft Declaration and actual trends in social development is still widening and considerable political will is going to be required to narrow and to bridge it. The Committee supports the priorities proposed in the Commission's Communication.

The Committee, in particular, welcomes the general thrust of the European Union's approach, i.e. that in the future international policies in the fields of economic relations, monetary relations and development must be more intimately linked to social policy objectives.

The Committee urges the European Union to support the claims of the ILO to have a central role in the follow-up process.

The role of the Economic and Social Council of the UN (ECOSOC) should also be reinforced and cooperation between ECOSOC and relevant specialized agencies of the UN (in the first place the ILO) strengthened.

The Economic and Social Committee hopes to be represented on the EU delegation.

The Committee is particularly pleased with the first principle set out in the Commission Communication: that respect for human rights and democracy - including dialogue between employers and workers and the participation of civil society - cannot be divorced from social developments.

The Committee wants to highlight and support activities of the European Union aimed at encouraging, through multilateral action, international trade to contribute to social development.

The EU must make a serious effort to make this a priority issue in the WTO. The Committee considers that encouraging countries to ratify the basic ILO human rights Conventions should be given priority.

One effective way to encourage Governments to ratify and comply with important ILO Conventions is to give priority in granting aid and trade preferences to countries which undertake genuine and effective social development strategies. This could be a worthwhile contribution by the European Union to the increase of resources assigned to social development which will be necessary, even if the Summit will succeed in using existing resources more efficiently.

If the European Union really wishes to include social developments in the policies developed by the IMF and the World Bank, it must actively use its influence in these institutions to convince them that they must cooperate with the ILO.

The Committee hopes that the EU will commit itself to strengthening coherence between its external, security, trade and development policies.

The Committee wishes to stress the importance of the Commission's intention to help developing countries (and in particular the poorest among them) by measures which can stimulate gradual integration in the economy of the informal sector.

The Committee is pleased with the determination, expressed in its Conclusions, of the European Union to step up its contribution to international action in multilateral negotiations on standards and Conventions.

The Committee strongly recommends that the European Union makes a clearly defined contribution to the follow-up process of the Social Summit by selecting a limited number of initiatives in the field of employment creation, the fight against poverty, and of social integration for coordinated, Union-wide action.

### 13. PLURALISM AND MEDIA CONCENTRATION

**Opinion of the Economic and Social Committee** on the *Communication from the Commission to the Council and the European Parliament on the follow-up to the consultation process relating to the Green Paper on "Pluralism and Media Concentration in the Internal Market - an assessment of the need for Community Action"* (COM(94) 353 final)

(CES 195/95)

Rapporteur: Mr Joël Decaillon (France - Workers)

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

In this document the Commission analyzes the results of the first round of consultation. Overall, the consultations confirmed the analysis, which identified the obstacles to an Internal Market and the three possible options. It is not the purpose of this Communication, therefore, to pinpoint again the potential obstacles set out in the Green Paper. A potential need for action has been identified, but a final decision as to that need, i.e. concerning in this case one or other of the options, has to be assessed for its appropriateness. In this particular case, given the specific characteristics of the question involved, the Commission has assessed the various possible options on the basis of four criteria: which option best lends itself to the achievement of the Community's objectives (teleological criterion)? Which option is best suited to the prospect of change (diachronic criterion)? What is the impact of the options (impact criterion)? And which option is most consistent with the other Community initiatives (consistency criterion)?

The consultations confirmed the analysis in the Green Paper concerning the obstacles to the Internal Market created by the disparities between the national rules on media ownership. To achieve in the media field the objectives of the Internal Market set out in Article 7a of the Treaty, it is necessary to adopt Community rules on media ownership, as advocated by the ESC. Such common rules would put an end to the disparities between national rules concerning the media and would make it possible in particular to do away with the two obstacles most often cited during the consultations: (i) the lack of legal certainty, which restricts the exercise of the freedom of establishment and the free movement of media services and consequently discourages direct investment in the media; (ii) the distortions of competition created by the differences in the levels of restriction.

The Community objective justifying action at Community level is to guarantee the functioning of the Internal Market while safeguarding the requirement to preserve pluralism by fixing certain limits on media ownership.

Having analyzed the results of the consultation process for the Green Paper, which lasted more than a year, the Commission has reached the conclusion that it should, in view of the challenges posed by safeguarding media pluralism, launch a second round of consultation with all the parties concerned and in close contact with the Member States.

This second stage of the consultation process will be useful to confirm or reject the need for a Community initiative, especially taking into consideration the development of new technologies; in the event of an initiative being proposed, it will give the Commission the opportunity to **deepen the questions concerning its potential content in order to assure its quality**.

Throughout its Communication the Commission refers to the views expressed by the ESC in its Opinion on the Commission Green Paper on pluralism and media concentration in the internal market - an assessment of the need for Community action; Rapporteur: Mr FLUM (OJ No. C 304/17 of 10.11.1993).

It should be pointed out that the Commission has appended the Opinions of the Committee and the European Parliament to its Communication, thus giving prominence to the ESC's work.

#### **Gist of the Opinion**

The Committee, recalling the basic comments made in the Economic and Social Committee's Opinion of 22 September 1993, calls for the new consultation procedure to be cut short, as the need for EU media legislation can no longer be disputed. It calls on the Commission to draw up a specific timetable for the swift drafting of such legislation so that the Commission's regulatory powers and opportunities for intervention are adequate to requirements.

## 14. EXPLOITATION OF MINERAL WATERS

**Opinion of the Economic and Social Committee** on the *Proposal for a European Parliament and Council Directive amending Council Directive 80/777/EEC on the approximation of the laws of the Member States relating to the exploitation and marketing of natural mineral waters*  
(COM(94) 423 final 94/0235 (COD))

(CES 195/95)

Rapporteur: Mr Etienne de Paul de Barchifontaine (Belgium ( Various interests)); Co-Rapporteurs: Mr Joël Decaillon (France - Workers) and Mr Bo Green (Denmark - Employers)

### Gist of the Commission proposal

The object of this proposal is to revise the original Directive 80/777 on mineral waters in accordance with the decision of the Edinburgh Summit of December 1992 that certain EU legislation was unnecessarily detailed and needed to be rationalized.

Specifically the new proposal updates certain articles to take account of 1) technical progress and 2) the general provisions of the EU food law.

### Gist of the Opinion

The Committee endorses the amended Proposal for a Directive, subject to a number of specific comments:

- the proposed new Article 4(1a) refers to the separation of unstable constituents; the Committee considers that reference should also be made to the separation of "undesirable constituents", in order to take account of advances in the field of toxicology, subject to the proviso that these constituents are removed using methods authorized under the Directive being considered;
- the Committee considers that it should be mandatory in all cases for the labelling of natural mineral waters to list any treatment that the water has undergone, in order to avoid any grounds for misapprehension and to guarantee fair trade; the proposed amendment to Article 7(3) does not make such mandatory provision but leaves it up to the Member States to take such action; there should, however, never be any question of making specific reference to the processes of decantation and filtration since these processes have always been used to treat both mineral water and tap water;
- under the proposed new Article 11 the Scientific Committee for Food is to be consulted on "the limits for the levels of constituents of natural mineral waters". In the Committee's view, it would be perfectly appropriate for the Scientific Committee for Food also to be consulted in respect of the definition of the abovementioned "undesirable constituents".

## II. FUTURE WORK

### Environment Section

- Restrictions on the marketing and use of certain dangerous substances  
COM(94) 570 final - 94/0287 COD  
Deadline: May
- Foodstuffs intended for particular nutritional uses  
COM(94) 600 final - 94/0327 COD  
Deadline: May

### Industry Section

- Supplementary protection certificate for plant protection products  
COM(94) 579 final - 94/0285 COD  
Deadline: April

- Emission of gaseous pollutants from diesel engines  
COM(94) 559 final - 94/0312 COD  
Deadline: April
- Air pollution from motor vehicle emissions  
COM(94) 558 final - 94/0286 COD  
Deadline: April
- Television without frontiers  
COM(94) 524 final  
Deadline: May
- Media II  
COM(94) 523 final - 95/0026 SYN - 95/0027 SYN  
Deadline: May
- Second annual report on the operation of the Internal Market  
Deadline: May

#### **Energy Section**

- Green Paper "For a European Union energy policy"  
COM(94) 659 final  
Deadline: July
- Energy efficiency of household refrigerators and freezers  
COM(94) 521 final - 94/0272 COD  
Deadline: April/May

#### **Transport Section**

- Vehicles hired without drivers - carriage of goods by road  
COM(95) 2 final  
Deadline: July
- Ro-Ro passenger vessels  
COM(95) 28 final  
Deadline: July
- Green Paper on the liberalization of telecommunications infrastructure and cable television networks  
COM(94) 682 final  
Deadline: September

#### **Regional Development Section**

- Specific Community initiative in Northern Ireland  
COM(95) 37 final  
Deadline: May

#### **OWN-INITIATIVE WORK PROGRAMME 1995**

##### **Economic Section**

- Derivatives  
Deadline: July

##### **Agriculture Section**

- Implications for the CAP of trade with the countries of central and eastern Europe  
Deadline: July

#### **External Relations Section**

- 4th World Conference on Women  
Deadline: July

#### **WORK OF THE COMMITTEE ON EMPLOYMENT (Employment Plenary)**

##### **Regional Development Section**

- Local development in Community regional policy (Employment Plenary)  
Deadline: July

##### **Social Section**

- Working time (Employment Plenary)  
Deadline: November
- Youth unemployment (Employment Plenary)  
Deadline: November

##### **Energy Section**

- Coordination of R&TD policies (Employment Plenary)  
Deadline: July
- Employment impact of new technologies (Employment Plenary)  
Deadline: July/September

##### **Agriculture Section**

- Impact of the CAP on the employment and social situation of farmers and farm workers in the EU (Employment Plenary)  
Deadline: September

### **III. APPOINTMENTS**

Following Austrian, Finnish and Swedish accession to the EU on 1 January 1995, Bureau membership was increased from 30 to 36 until the next two-year renewal. The six new members are: Austria, Mr Johann Farnleitner (Employers' Group) and Heinz Vogler (Workers' Group); Finland, Mrs Tuulikki Kannisto (Workers' Group) and Mr Seppo Kallio (Various Interests' Group); Sweden Mr Lars Kritz (Employers' Group) and Mrs Turid Ström (Various Interests' Group).

### **IV. REPRESENTATION AND IMPACT OF THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMITTEE**

#### **Activities of the Presidency**

7 February 1995, Madrid: Meeting between Mr Ferrer, ESC President, and the Spanish Association of European Journalists

14 February 1995, Brussels: Meeting between Mr Ferrer and Mr José Gregório Faria, Ambassador, Permanent Representative of Portugal to the European Union

13 February 1995, Brussels: Meeting between Mr Simon-Pierre Nothomb, ESC Secretary-General, and Mr Faber, Secretary of the ECSC Consultative Committee

21 February 1995, Brussels: Meeting between Mr Ferrer and Mr Pádraig MacKernan, Permanent Representative of Ireland to the European Union

22 February 1995, Brussels: Meeting between Mr Ferrer and Mr Pierre de Boissieu, Permanent Representative of France to the European Union

22 February 1995, Brussels: Mr Ferrer received a delegation of Austrian social partners

28 February 1995, Brussels: Meeting with Mr Bernard Rudolf Bot, Permanent Representative of the Netherlands to the European Union

28 February 1995, Brussels: Meeting with Mr Enzo Perlot, Permanent Representative of Italy to the European Union

28 February 1995, Brussels: Meeting with Mr Francisco Elorza Cavengt, Permanent Representative of Spain to the European Union

28 February 1995, Brussels: Meeting with Mr Detaille, Chairman of the ECSC Consultative Committee

#### **Other activities**

29 January to 3 February 1995, Dakar (Senegal): a delegation from the Economic and Social Committee attended the 20th meeting of the Joint EU/ACP Assembly and the 19th Annual Meeting of ACP/EU delegates from economic and social interest groups.

7 February 1995, Brussels: at its 164th meeting, the Energy Section was addressed by two guest speakers: the first was Mr Gordon Adam, MEP and first Vice-Chairman of the EP Committee on Research, Technology and Energy; the second was Mr Clive Jones, Secretary-General of the European Energy Charter at the European Commission.

9 February 1995, Brussels: Mr Juan Prat, Commission Director-General for North/South relations, Mediterranean policy and relations with Latin America and Asia spoke to the Section for External Relations, Trade and Development Policy on Euro-Mediterranean partnership and boosting relations with Mecosur.

14 February 1995, Brussels: Mr Jean-François Verstryngne, Commission Director of the Cohesion Fund, introduced to the members of the Section of Regional Development and Town and Country Planning the First Report on the implementation of the Cohesion Fund.

25 and 26 February 1995, Brussels: a delegation from the ESC attended the G-7 Ministerial Conference on the information society, organized by the European Commission.

#### **V. FACT-FINDING VISITS**

During the month of February, the following groups visited the Economic and Social Committee:

2 February 1995	Thurrock College, Aveley (UK)
3 February 1995	University of Central Lancashire (UK)
3 February 1995	Greifswald University (Germany)
7 February 1995	Senatsverwaltung für Schule, Berufsbildung und Sport, Berlin (Germany)
7 February 1995	Coopérative UNICOPA (Western France)
7 February 1995	Coleg Normal Bangor (UK)
8 February 1995	Association LEA JUNIOR, Nantes (France)
8 February 1995	Staffordshire University, Stoke-on-Trent (UK)
9 February 1995	Office Workers' Union in Denmark HK
9 February 1995	Telecom Experts (UK)

13 February 1995	Building Professionals (UK)
13 February 1995	York College of Further and Higher Education (UK)
13 February 1995	Helsinki-instituutti (The Helsinki Institute), Helsinki (Finland)
15 February 1995	Université de Picardie Jules Verne, Amiens (France)
16 February 1995	Reséaux Services Publics Association française, Paris
20 February 1995	John Moores University, Liverpool (UK)
22 February 1995	Delegation of Austrian social partners
22 February 1995	Aabenraa College (Denmark)
23 February 1995	KEY TO EUROPE - HKLT business school, Tilburg (Netherlands)
23 February 1995	The National Board of Health and Welfare, Stockholm (Sweden)
24 February 1995	Université de Paris I Panthéon Sorbonne, Paris (France)
27 February 1995	Hiram College of Ohio (US)
28 February 1995	Group of civil service trainees from the Swedish Central Government.

