

EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES

# BULLETIN

4

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



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President: Carlos FERRER  
(Spain - Employers)

Vice-Presidents: Bent NIELSEN  
(Denmark - Workers)

André LAUR  
(France - Various Interests)

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(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.

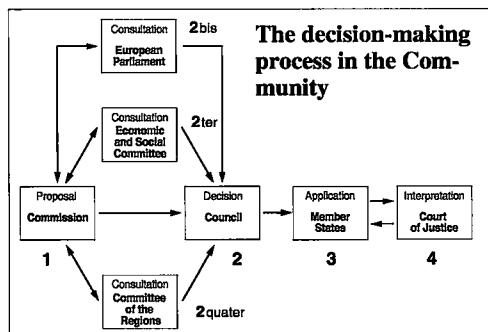
## Information and Integration Role

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.

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ECONOMIC AND  
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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)

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Catalogue number: ESC-95-006-EN

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

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*Printed in Belgium*

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*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: +32.2.546.98.22)*

## 1. 325th PLENARY SESSION OF 27 APRIL 1995

The 325th Plenary Session of the Economic and Social Committee was held on 27 April 1995 in Brussels, chaired by Mr Carlos Ferrer.

The Session was attended by Mr Pierre Talleux, President of the Economic and Social Council of the Nord-Pas-de Calais region, and a delegation from its European Affairs Committee, chaired by Mr Claude Bloch.

The Economic and Social Committee adopted the following Opinions at this Plenary Session.

### 1. ECONOMIC GROWTH AND THE ENVIRONMENT

**Opinion of the Economic and Social Committee on *Economic growth and the environment: Some implications for economic policymaking***

(COM(94) 465 final)

(CES 405/95)

Rapporteur: Mr Sergio Colombo (Italy - Workers); Co-Rapporteur: Mr Klaus Boisseree (Germany - Various interests)

#### Gist of the Commission Communication

The Commission has tentatively analyzed the consequences of the principle of environmentally sustainable development for economic and fiscal policymaking and presents some first conclusions for discussion in this Communication. These points should be seen in the context of the Fifth Environmental Action Programme<sup>1</sup> and the White Paper on Growth, Competitiveness and Employment<sup>2</sup> which contain some building blocks for a strategy aimed at sustainable development in Europe. The Commission thinks that consideration should be given to the following points:

1. The stylized empirical facts of history show that there is no simple linear relationship between economic growth and pressure on the environment. While it is true that the emissions of some pollutants broadly grow in line with economic activity, there are many types of pressure on the environment that actually decrease as economies prosper. Clearly, this suggests that economic growth and environmentally sustainable development are not mutually exclusive. On the contrary, a case can even be made for arguing that, in the longer run, one is unlikely to be achievable without the other.
2. However, it is essential to point out that there is nothing automatic about such a move towards environmentally sustainable development. Although it is true that economic growth by itself generates additional resources that can be devoted to pollution abatement and environmental protection, much of this will only materialize if an appropriate policy framework is put in place.
3. Environmental policymaking is presently changing course, **aiming at sustainability by integrating environmental considerations in production and consumption processes** in various sectors as of the early design stages of products. **A stronger reliance on market based instruments** is key to the success of this policy as both environmental effectiveness and cost-effectiveness require that economic agents are given the right signals.
4. Furthermore, an important advantage of this market-based approach is that it leaves it to individual economic agents to find the most promising solutions to environmental problems. Such a strategy could also **contribute to deregulation and reducing bureaucratic interference that sometimes impedes the functioning of the market mechanism while preserving, or even improving, environmental quality.**
5. There is substantial evidence to suggest that, amongst the market-based policy instruments, **corrective environmental taxes and charges will prove to be one of the more effective policy responses** in a relatively large number of cases.

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<sup>1</sup> OJ No. C 138 of 17 May 1993

<sup>2</sup> COM(93) 700 final

6. The need to integrate environmental protection requirements into other policies suggests, in the case of economic and fiscal policies that possible **undesirable environmental implications of existing tax and incentive schemes** should be identified, and where appropriate, corrected.
7. At the same time, it seems that a review of existing tax and social security schemes is needed for broader economic and employment reasons (e.g. in view of the contribution these systems might make to existing inflexibilities on goods and labour markets). **The coincidence between this situation and the need to introduce corrective taxes for environmental reasons should be exploited with a view to realizing possible synergies.**
8. It is of major importance to give economic agents time to adjust to the new sustainable growth requirements. **Hence, policy changes should be phased in gradually and predictably to limit adjustment costs.**
9. Although specific groups of consumers and producers might have difficulties in making the transition to sustainable development, it seems that account can be taken of most potential problems in the **design of sound instruments for sustainable growth.**
10. Arriving at a **broad agreement** between public authorities, employers and employees on policies for environmentally sustainable economic growth would allow to **maximize the economic and environmental benefits of this strategy.**

### **Gist of the Opinion**

The Committee welcomes the Commission Communication, which is intended to prompt a wide-ranging debate on the implications for European economic policy of the inclusion of the principle of sustainable growth respecting the environment, as enshrined in Article 2 of the Maastricht Treaty, and the principle that all Community policies should take account of environmental protection requirements.

On the strength of a number of previous Opinions in this field, reviewed in point 3, the Committee can but share the belief that economic growth and ecologically sustainable development are not mutually exclusive, and that, in the long term, environmentally sustainable development is an essential precondition for growing economic prosperity.

### ***Internalization of environmental costs***

The Committee feels that there is substantial evidence to suggest that, of the wide range of market-based instruments available, **environmental taxes and charges**, and, more generally, an ecologically-oriented taxation system, will prove to be effective, in a large number of cases, in achieving significant pollution-abatement levels and reduced consumption of resources.

However, when the wide range of environmental problems is considered, and the different effects of eco-taxes on Member States' direct and indirect taxation, there is also good reason to believe that **other market-based instruments (deposit-refund systems, tradable permit systems, tax and financial incentives, voluntary agreements, civil liability for environmental damage)** will be particularly effective in attaining certain specific objectives of environmental policy.

### ***The impact of environmental taxes on growth and employment***

As regards the impact of environmental taxes on growth and employment, the Committee believes that, given the **fiscal neutrality of environmental taxes**, their introduction would lead to a reform of existing tax systems in Member States.

The Committee feels, in fact, that the introduction of new environmental taxes **should be accompanied by a thorough analysis of existing tax systems and the environmental distortions they create.** It should also provide the opportunity to review tax policy in general, making it more ecologically-oriented, whilst paying due attention to the need to safeguard international competitiveness.

The Committee endorses the need for new taxes on the use of energy and resources to be matched by a commensurate reduction in the tax burden on labour, in order to produce direct benefits for the labour market.

It feels, however, that environment measures in general, and those based on taxes in particular, will **not automatically boost employment.** If they are not bolstered by additional measures, they might merely become part of corporate strategy to streamline production processes, thus reducing energy consumption and pollution and increasing competitiveness, but with negligible or non-existent benefits on the jobs front.

The Committee therefore believes there is a need **for close ties between environmental policy and employment policy**. This could be brought about by encouraging ecological redeployment in manufacturing and services, and funding actions and programmes for cleaning up the environment.

### *Managing the transition towards sustainable development*

The Committee is aware that the transition towards sustainable development will not be automatic, and, in conclusion, would emphasize the need for a coherent, long-term policy strategy. This should be phased in gradually and predictably, so as to limit adjustment costs and give economic agents time to adjust (cf. point 4, page 15 of the Communication). This, moreover, was the stance adopted by the Committee in its Opinion on CO<sub>2</sub> emissions and energy, particularly in point 1.2.3.<sup>3</sup>

Despite the need to simplify regulations, the Committee would reiterate its reluctance to interpret the use of economic instruments in the environmental field as being part of the deregulation process, since the implementation of market-based instruments demands a framework of regulatory and monitoring provisions. Furthermore, legal limits and standards will always have to be imposed in some areas of environmental policy, such as reduced production and use of certain hazardous substances, and in health protection.

At this stage, both sustainable development and growth in employment are firmly-fixed objectives, requiring strong, political initiative and the responsible participation of all partners. In this context, the Committee would emphasize the positive role the new environmental technologies and industries could play in boosting economic growth and creating jobs.

## **2. INDICATION OF CONSUMER PRICES**

**Opinion of the Economic and Social Committee on the *Proposal for a European Parliament and Council Directive amending Council Directive 79/581/EEC on consumer protection in the indication of the prices of foodstuffs as amended by Council Directive 88/315/EEC and Council Directive 88/314/EEC on consumer protection in the indication of the prices of non-food products***  
(COM(94) 431 final - 94/0300 COD)

(CES 406/95)

Rapporteur: Mr Giacomo Regaldo (Italy - Employers)

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

Two Directives are due to start applying from 6 June 1995. They are: the Directive 79/381 EEC amended by Directive 88/315 EC on consumer protection in the indication of the prices of foodstuffs, and the Directive 314/88 EEC on consumer protection in the indication of the prices of non-food products. However many Member States of the EU have not yet fully implemented these Directives in their national legislation. If, indeed, the Directives were to be enacted on 6 June 1995, many Member States would be subject to sanctions.

Hence, the Commission considers it necessary to postpone the date of application of the price indication Directives by a further four years, because of the difficulties of actual implementation on the ground.

However, the Commission insists that it will put forward a new simplified Directive that will bridge the differences among Member States arising from their differing evaluations of the above mentioned Directives.

### **Gist of the Opinion**

The Economic and Social Committee accepts the proposal of the Commission to postpone the date of application of the Directives by a further four years from 6 June 1995, to 6 June 1999.

The ESC insists that this date must be the final and last one and the ESC herewith declares that it will not give its consent to any further postponement beyond this date.

The ESC therefore hopes that the Commission's difficulties are resolved rapidly and urges the Commission to propose very soon a new, generally acceptable text for the Committee's Opinion.

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<sup>3</sup> OJ No. C 108 of 19 April 1993



### 3. EMISSIONS FROM DIESEL ENGINES FOR USE IN VEHICLES

**Opinion of the Economic and Social Committee** on the *Proposal for a European Parliament and Council Directive amending Directive 88/77/EEC on the approximation of the laws of the Member States relating to the measures to be taken against the emission of gaseous and particulate pollutants from diesel engines for use in vehicles*

(COM(94) 559 final)

(CES 407/95)

Rapporteur: Mr Achim Denkhaus (Germany - Employers)

#### Gist of the Commission proposal

Directive 88/77/EEC<sup>4</sup>, as last amended by Directive 91/542/EEC<sup>5</sup>, laid down the limit values for the emissions of carbon monoxide, unburnt hydrocarbons and nitrogen oxides from diesel engines for use in motor vehicles on the basis of a test procedure representative of European driving conditions. Directive 91/542/EEC provided for two stages, the first stage (1992/3), known as the Euro 1 standard, coinciding with the implementation dates of the new European emissions standards for passenger vehicles. The second stage (1995/6) - the Euro 2 standard - established a longer-term guideline for the European motor industry by fixing much tougher limit values based on the expected performance of technologies still under development, whilst granting to industry a lead time for perfecting such technologies.

Article 5(2) of Directive 91/542/EEC instructed the Commission to report to the Council before the end of 1993 on progress made regarding the availability of technologies for controlling air-polluting emissions from diesel engines, particularly those of less than 85kW. This report should also cover new statistical methods to monitor the conformity of production arrangements for these vehicles. In the light of this report, the Commission was, if necessary, to submit a proposal to the Council for revising upwards the limit values for particulate emissions.

Consultations with experts have demonstrated the feasibility of introducing new provisions on the conformity of products.

On the other hand, the ambitious limit value for particulate emissions set in Directive 91/542/EEC for stage 2 cannot, at the present state of technology, be met by most small diesel engines of less than 85kW by 1995. A significant reduction in particulate emissions can nonetheless be achieved. If the deadline is extended to 1999, the industry should be able to make the necessary changes to achieve the deferred limit value.

In order to encourage the early introduction of the lower particulate emission standards for diesel engines of less than 85kW, Member States are to be allowed to grant tax incentives to promote vehicles which satisfy the requirements adopted at Community level. Such tax incentives must comply with the provisions of the Treaty and satisfy certain conditions so as to avoid distortions of the internal market.

#### Gist of the Opinion

In outlining its options for action, the Commission appears to be facing a dilemma between total compliance with all Euro 2 limits, with correspondingly adverse consequences for the design of smaller commercial vehicles, and temporary abandonment of the complete reduction of particulate emission values for smaller diesel engines. In the light of the present situation, it is difficult to decide whether the Commission has opted for the most appropriate line of action.

The Commission's proposed new method for monitoring production conformity is to be warmly welcomed. It is technically reliable and standardizes testing and engineering practices in this field.

Nevertheless, since the commercial vehicles in question operate principally in conurbations and urban areas and since particulate emissions constitute a particular health threat, the Committee expressly regrets that a transitional period of more than four years has had to be allowed for the attainment of the Euro 2 value. The Committee calls on the Commission to

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<sup>4</sup> OJ No. L 36, 9.2.1988, p. 33  
ESC Opinion OJ No. C 333, 29.12.1986, p. 17

<sup>5</sup> OJ No. L 295, 25.10.1991, p. 1  
ESC Opinion OJ No. C 41, 18.2.1991, p. 51

examine once again, in conjunction with the industry and the relevant economic and social interest groups, the possibility of ending the exceptional regime for small diesel engines before 30 September 2000.

Since these new provisions are to apply to the "type approval" of new engines from 1 October 1995 and bearing in mind the time required for completion of the relevant procedures, there is a need for rapid implementation of the Commission proposal.

#### **4. MOTOR VEHICLE EMISSIONS**

**Opinion of the Economic and Social Committee** on the *Proposal for a European Parliament and Council Directive amending Directive 70/220/EEC on the approximation of the laws of the Member States relating to measures to be taken against air pollution from emissions from motor vehicles*  
(COM(94) 558 final)

(CES 408/95)

Rapporteur: Mr Achim Denkhau (Germany - Employers)

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

The emission standards for the light commercial and assimilated vehicles covered by this draft Directive are to be raised to the strict level applicable to passenger vehicles under Directive 94/12/EEC<sup>6</sup>. A distinction is to be made in this connection between three classes of vehicles.

The limit values proposed for Class I correspond to the values laid down in Directive 94/12/EEC for passenger vehicles. The Class II and III values are just as strict as the Class I values with due regard to the distinctive technical characteristics of the vehicles in these two classes.

No special provisions are proposed with regard to the test conditions applicable to low-powered vehicles. Instead a two-year lead period is to be granted before existing vehicle types, approved before this Directive's entry into force, have to comply with the provisions of this Directive.

In order to encourage early compliance with new lower limit values, Member States are to be able to grant tax incentives - along the lines of those provided for in Directive 94/12/EEC - within fixed parameters, provided that these incentives are compatible with Community law and the Commission is informed early enough so that it can comment on the Member State's plans.

It is also proposed that the Commission be instructed to submit new proposals for a further reduction of the emissions from light commercial vehicles by June 1996.

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

Overall, the Commission proposal can be endorsed.

Like many provisions that have been adopted in the past and others that are likely to be adopted in the future, it has been shaped by the conflict between technical feasibility and environmental and health requirements. The limits are set by (a) state-of-the art technology and its economic acceptability and (b) the level to which we want to reduce the environmental and health burdens created by our living and working conditions in general and by industry and the transport sector in particular.

Industry requires about three years to develop and test new pollution-reducing technologies. The proposed Directive is therefore urgently required if the stated deadlines are to be met. In addition, the Commission should act quickly and resolutely in proposing further measures for the reduction of emission values pursuant to Article 4 of the proposal.

Although, in principle, the new test procedure for all category N1 vehicles also covers a durability test over a distance of 80,000 km, the Committee thinks that emission values should be regularly checked, in accordance with

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<sup>6</sup> Directive 94/12/EEC, OJ No. L 100 of 19.4.1994, page 42  
ESC Opinion, OJ No. C 201 of 26.7.1993, page 9

Directive 92/55/EEC, on vehicles in operation. It calls on the Commission to bring the test procedures up to a higher EU level in the interests of environmental and health protection. In particular, the frequency of the regular technical inspections and the operations involved should be standardized at a higher level.

The Committee is critical of the one-year extension of the validity of the special test procedure to be conducted on the initial entry into service of low-powered vehicles (power-to-weight ratio < 30 kW/t). It means that Class II and III vehicles, in particular, will continue to be subject to this procedure (Panda cycle) until 1 January 1999.

The creation of tax incentives to promote the early introduction of vehicles complying with the proposed limits is endorsed. These should, however, benefit only the users and not the manufacturers or retailers of such vehicles, to prevent the subsidy from being granted twice by different Member States.

## 5. SUPPLEMENTARY CERTIFICATE/PLANT PROTECTION PRODUCTS

**Opinion of the Economic and Social Committee on the Proposal for a European Parliament and Council Regulation (EC) concerning the creation of a supplementary protection certificate for plant protection products (COM(94) 579 final - 94/0285 (COD))**

(CES 409/95)

Rapporteur: Mr Kenneth J. Gardner (United Kingdom - Employers)

### Gist of the Commission document

On 18 June 1992 the Council meeting on the internal market adopted Regulation 1768/92 concerning the creation of a supplementary protection certificate for medicinal products, which entered into force on 2 January 1993. When the Council adopted the common position it also adopted a statement recorded in the minutes of the meeting:

*"The Council requests the Commission to submit to it as soon as possible after this Regulation enters into force a proposal concerning the creation of a supplementary protection certificate for plant health products."*

The supplementary protection certificate is a **sui generis** industrial property instrument which takes effect on the expiry of the basic patent protecting an invention in the plant protection field.

The plant protection industry wished the Community to intervene on the grounds that Community action was necessary to remedy barriers to the free movement of its products, distortions of competition and the erosion of the duration of effective patent protection.

The supplementary protection certificate applies to all patents existing at national level, whether granted under national law, the European Patent Convention (Munich) or, subsequently, the Community Patent Convention (Luxembourg). Only legislative action at Community level, in the form of a Regulation, can achieve the degree of harmonization needed at this triple level.

The proposed system prevents barriers to the free movement of plant protection products in the Union and the distortions of competition that would inevitably be caused by different national laws. This is the proposal's first objective. The second is to improve the legal framework for firms in the Union engaged in research and development work on new plant protection products by providing adequate protection for innovations, thereby improving their competitiveness on the world market.

### Gist of the Opinion

Plant protection products are generally very easy to copy. Therefore patent protection is very necessary. In the EU, patent protection (20 years) starts from the time that a patent application is filed. Effective protection (i.e. the period between authorization to market the product and patent expiry) has been subject to gradual "erosion" owing to time taken to comply with the (justified) increase in safety and environmental requirements. In the EU it is currently about nine years.

In the USA, the most important competitor, patent protection starts from the date of grant of the patent rather than its date of filing. As a result US patents generally expire after the expiry of the corresponding EU patent. In the '70s the EU matched the USA's ability to originate the most important new products but in the '80s this majority originated in the USA.

This proposal will help to restore the competitive position vis-à-vis the USA and Japan, and encourage highly skilled employment in the EU.

The Committee endorses the Commission proposal for a supplementary protection certificate for plant protection products subject to the comments below.

After the Regulation has been in force for five years the Commission should draw up an evaluation report for the European Parliament and the Economic and Social Committee on the following points:

- whether the proposed changes really have brought effective EU patent protection in line with that in the USA and Japan;
- the interests of producers of generics including the effect of the transitional provisions;
- the long term interests of farmers;
- increased development of safer, more environmentally friendly products.

## 6. RECOGNITION OF QUALIFICATIONS

**Opinion of the Economic and Social Committee** on the *Communication from the Commission on the Recognition of Qualifications for Academic and Professional Purposes*  
(COM(94) 596 final)

(CES 410/95)

Rapporteur: Miss Ada Maddocks (United Kingdom - Workers)

### Gist of the Commission document

The Commission's aim is to undertake an in-depth assessment of what needs to be done to encourage and develop synergies between the recognition of qualifications for academic and professional purposes.

The two areas of recognition have one fundamental objective in common: the elimination of obstacles to professional and student mobility arising from the existence of twelve national education systems. The mechanisms used to overcome these obstacles react to a common need: to give the person coming from one Member State and in possession of a qualification from another Member State similar possibilities of operating in the Community environment to those available to him or her in the Member State where the qualification was obtained.

In launching this debate, the Commission has identified four paths to follow in order to develop the synergies between the different types of recognition of qualifications.

- a) The development of **high quality information sources** would contribute to the knowledge of the various educational systems of the Community. The understanding of the teaching methodologies of other countries would help co-operation at the level of universities by helping to reinforce the principle of mutual trust leading to recognition of qualifications for professional purposes.
- b) **The establishment of academic and professional networks:** Such fora for academics and professionals, whose setting-up would be left to the initiative of the players concerned, would allow debate both on course development and development of the profession concerned in order to anticipate future needs.
- c) **Joint adaptation of courses**, already successfully operating under the ERASMUS, COMETT and LINGUA programmes, should be reinforced. The Commission will encourage initiatives to adapt teaching or the professions, especially those which relate to the regulated professions which come under the sphere of the general systems of professional recognition. These initiatives will help reduce existing differences in content of the various courses and increase the amount of automatic recognition in the overall process.
- d) **The assessment of quality** is another tool which allows the development of synergies. Training itself will be the principal beneficiary of this exercise, which will provide the opportunity for each establishment to identify its weaknesses and to show up its strong points. Strengthening of mutual trust is supported by the operation of quality

assessment systems in the Member States. Bringing assessment systems, current or future, into contact with each other, and including members of the professional and business world, will be one way of facilitating recognition.

### **Gist of the Opinion**

The Economic and Social Committee welcomes this Communication although it notes that the Communication does not make a sufficiently wide assessment of the current situation concerning mobility and mutual recognition of, for example, vocationally qualified and skilled workers. Confining the current exercise to the academic and higher professional areas is too restrictive an area of study for the benefit of professional and occupational groups at every level. What is missing is a coherent perspective which, for instance, takes into consideration current and perspective measures related to the comparability work on vocational qualifications for skilled workers undertaken by the European Centre for the Development of Vocational Training (CEDEFOP) as well as relating to the two General Directives on mutual recognition for professional and occupational purposes.

The Communication is also lacking a definition of the role of the social partners and other social and economic actors at national level in the implementation of current and proposed mutual recognition measures.

The Committee considers that in a dynamic labour market, it is very important for the motivation of young people that professional and vocational qualifications and related academic courses are up to date in terms of occupational requirements, so as to give them the best chances of employment and career prospects.

Finally, the Committee considers that the overall implementation and operation of the two General Directives of 1989 and 1992 should be reviewed in due course alongside its suggestion for further proposals covering all levels of occupational skills groups in the European workforce.

### **7. ENERGY EFFICIENCY - HOUSEHOLD ELECTRIC APPLIANCES (SAVE PROGRAMME)**

**Opinion of the Economic and Social Committee** on the *Proposal for a European Parliament and Council Directive on energy efficiency requirements for household electric refrigerators, freezers and their combinations* - (COM(94) 521 final - 94/0272(COD))

(CES 411/95)

Rapporteur: Mr D.H. Kielman (The Netherlands - Employers)

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

The **purpose** of the Commission proposal is to set "floor level" energy efficiency requirements for domestic refrigeration appliances for foodstuffs.

The draft Directive covers most refrigerators and sets out to ensure completion of the internal market. This concern to uphold internal market standards underlies the choice of Treaty Article 100 as legal basis. Moreover, Article 100a(3) stresses the need for a high level of environmental protection.

A further aim is to reduce energy consumption and, in full compliance with the principle of subsidiarity, to cut CO<sub>2</sub> emissions (Article 130r).

The **scope** of the proposed Directive extends to newly produced mains electrical domestic refrigeration appliances, except for those cooled by absorption.

The "Whereas" clauses refer to:

- the Council Resolution of 15 January 1985<sup>7</sup>
- the Council Resolution of 16 September 1986<sup>8</sup>

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<sup>7</sup> OJ No. C 20 of 22 January 1985, p. 1.

<sup>8</sup> OJ No. C 241 of 25 September 1986, p. 1.

- the readiness of several Member States to adopt individual provisions in this area
- the conformity of the proposal with Treaty Article 3b
- the Council Decision of 5 June 1989<sup>9</sup>
- the Council conclusions of 29 October 1990
- the Council Decision of 29 October 1991<sup>10</sup> (SAVE programme: Specific Actions for Vigorous Energy Efficiency)
- the Council Resolution of 7 May 1985<sup>11</sup>
- the Council Decision of 22 July 1993<sup>12</sup>.

The proposal is **justified** on the grounds that the decisions already adopted concerning information on domestic refrigerators and energy labelling are insufficient to ensure improved energy efficiency of appliances. To this end two measures on "floor level" standards are suggested which are complementary, essential and compatible with the earlier decisions. The present proposal introduces the first measure, based on the "statistical approach", to be introduced after three years. Four years later, and depending on the results of the first measure, a further proposal will be drawn up using a technical/economic approach (Article 8 of the draft Directive).

The proposed standards are **determined** on the basis of "adjusted volume", a theoretical variable, defined as a function of the refrigerator volume and its performance characteristics. In Annex I, eight categories are established in line with these characteristics.

Annex II proposes self-assessment of refrigeration type-conformity, via modules.

The Directive is proposed since attempts to reach agreement with manufacturers have failed. It is, however, still acknowledged that voluntary agreements are preferable. It is also recognized that the ideal would be a **combination of information, standards and incentives** for consumers and manufacturers. The Explanatory Memorandum maps out future lines of action concerning these incentives.

It is estimated that implementation of the first level of minimum efficiency standards (assuming annual sales of 14 million refrigerators) would have the following impact:

- a 13% reduction in annual electricity consumption for refrigeration appliances in the year 2002
- a 10% reduction in annual CO<sub>2</sub> emissions in the same year
- an average price increase of about 1%, with a 10% reduction in lifetime electricity cost
- a total purchase cost increase of around ECU 140 million per year. Energy savings are estimated at ECU 1,400 million per year.

In terms of **application**, Article 9 of the draft Directive provides that before 1 January 1996 the Member States shall adopt the necessary legal provisions and inform the Commission thereof; these provisions to apply from 1 January 2000.

The proposal is included among the measures covered by the SAVE programme.

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<sup>9</sup> OJ No. L 157 of 9 June 1989, p. 32.

<sup>10</sup> OJ No. L 307 of 8 November 1991, p. 34.

<sup>11</sup> OJ No. C 136 of 4 June 1985, p. 1.

<sup>12</sup> OJ No. L 220 of 30 August 1993, p. 23.

In its Opinions on the SAVE programme and the implementing Directives, the Committee:

- approved the inclusion of measures to enhance energy efficiency within the framework of the SAVE programme;
- also argued for maximum compliance with the principle of subsidiarity;
- urged the Commission to adopt measures in the event of shortcomings in the Member States' implementation of the Directives and to apply the highest current technical standards.

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

The Committee approves the proposal, although it considers that:

- the best way to achieve positive results is to aim for complete cooperation with manufacturers and consumers;
- Commission policy must focus on surveillance of the CE marking as a key task;
- alerting the consumer to the benefits of buying energy-efficient appliances should be encouraged in addition to laying down minimum standards;
- more stringent standards could harm SMEs in particular;
- measures should be taken for other household appliances;
- the proposal should not affect the competitiveness of European manufacturers;
- the price increases for refrigerators and freezers and the reduction in electricity costs could have a different financial impact on different groups of consumers in some Member States;
- industry and consumers must be involved in the implementation of the first level of efficiency standards as described in the proposal;
- Article 6 could be extended in such a way that not only the Member States but also manufacturers can provide information on the failure of products on the market to conform to the CE marking.

The Committee also urges the Commission to involve industry and consumers actively in the process of assessing the results and if necessary establishing a second set of efficiency standards as referred to in Article 8 of the proposal.

#### **8. FARM PRICES 1995/1996**

**Opinion of the Economic and Social Committee** on the *Commission proposals on the prices for agricultural products and on related measures (1995/1996)*  
(COM(95) 34 final)

(CES 412/95)

Rapporteur: Mr Jean-Paul Bastian (France - Various interests)

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

The Commission has adopted the following proposals for farm prices and related measures covering the marketing year 1995/1996:

##### ***Milk:***

The immediate need for the 2% reduction in quota decided, in principle, in the reform would appear to have receded, in particular because the policy of gradually reducing the butter price has helped to reduce the decline in butter consumption. Given the success of this policy, and the fact that dairy farming remains economically very attractive compared with other sectors, the Commission suggests a further 2% reduction in the butter intervention price. In practice, prices generally are at present above the buying-in price, so this reduction would not have an immediate impact, either on producers or on

consumers, but it is important to signal to producers that the upward trend in butterfat offers few prospects for the future. Given the relative increase in the value of the protein component of milk it is proposed to fix the intervention buying-in price for skimmed milk powder according to its protein content.

***Cereals:***

The Commission proposes to reduce the level of the monthly increments by 10% to ECU 1.30 tonne per month to reflect the reduction in financing costs arising from the final reduction in cereals prices and the reductions in the level of short-term interest rates. It also proposes to delay the opening of intervention by two months. This proposal is prompted by the observation that, with a better balanced market, the risk of excessive sales at the beginning of the season appears to have disappeared and furthermore a delay in opening of intervention will contribute to greater fluidity in the market. Indeed this season the market has been short of supplies, as farmers have held onto their cereals in the hope of higher prices later in the season.

***Rice:***

The opening of intervention for rice will also be delayed by two months.

***Sugar:***

While it is proposed that prices remain unchanged, a reduction is proposed in the storage refunds (from ECU 0.48/100 kg to ECU 0.41/100 kg), again to take account of the development in interest rates.

A derived intervention price for Finland is to be fixed at ECU 64.65/100 kg.

***Fruit and vegetables:***

Apart from the proposal, as a precautionary measure, to maintain existing prices, an interim proposal is made relating to aid granted for processing of oranges into juice. Pending the application of the proposed reform of the sector as a whole, the Commission proposes to allow Member States to pay the aid directly to producers, hence easing the liquidity problems of processors who, at present, must pay producers the minimum price for their oranges before they themselves receive the processing aid.

***Pigmeat:***

A further reduction is proposed in the basic price, to take account of the reduction in cereals prices. This proposal forms part of a gradual policy which has been followed over the last few years of trying to move the basic price to a realistic level, i.e. ECU 1,509.39 tonne, so that it can serve its objective of signalling to producers where prices might be expected to settle in a balanced market. Currently market prices are significantly below the proposed level of the basic price. Recovery depends upon producers making an appropriate adjustment in their production level.

***Dried fodder:***

No proposal is submitted at this stage. The Commission, however, reserves the right to propose, at a later stage, a measure to ease the liquidity problems of producers arising from the application of the maximum guaranteed quantity system which it is envisaged will apply from the 1995/96 season onwards: i.e. the possibility of making an advance payment of more than 50% of the full amount of aid during the season, with the balance paid afterwards.

***Tobacco:***

No changes are proposed in premia or in the regime itself, but some adjustments are proposed in the allocation of the total Community quota between the different groups of varieties to bring production more in line with the qualities in demand.

**Gist of the Opinion**

In the two years following its reform the CAP has produced generally satisfactory results even if the Committee does not underestimate the social and other difficulties experienced in various Member States. The increase in Community farm incomes (even though the average rise conceals significant regional and sectoral variations), as well as a favourable budget context, explain why the Committee does not challenge the limited scope of the 1995/1996 price package.



The Committee nevertheless emphasizes that European Union producers must be able to avail themselves of all the rights conferred on them by the CAP reform. This is all the more important given the new challenges to be faced as a result of the application from 1 July 1995 of the Uruguay Round agreement on agriculture. Bearing in mind the planned accession of the countries of Central and Eastern Europe, and the stronger partnership sought with countries of the Mediterranean basin, the Committee considers it vital that European farmers should be geared up to the reform of the CAP during the 1995/1996 marketing year, when the reform will be implemented in full.

In this context the Committee is worried about the adverse affects the currency turmoil might have on the operation of the single market.

## 9. SPECIFIC COMMUNITY INITIATIVE FOR NORTHERN IRELAND

**Opinion of the Economic and Social Committee** on the *Draft Notice to Member States laying down guidelines for an initiative in the framework of the special support programme for peace and reconciliation in Northern Ireland and the border counties of Ireland*  
(SEC(95) 279 final)

(CES 413/95)

Rapporteur-General: Mr Göke Frerichs (Germany - Employers)

### Gist of the Opinion

#### *Background*

On 21 February 1995 the Commission decided to consult the Economic and Social Committee on the this subject.

In view of the importance of the subject, the Section for Regional Development and Town and Country Planning, which was responsible for preparing the Committee's work on the subject, sent a Study Group to Northern Ireland. The visit took place on 20-22 April 1995.

#### *The Committee's main recommendations*

The Economic and Social Committee in principle welcomes the Community initiative for Northern Ireland and the border counties of the Republic with initial funding of ECU 300m.

The Committee considers that this initiative will make a major contribution to the economic and social underpinning of the peace process, promote reconciliation and tolerance between the communities, and have a positive impact on the European Union as a whole.

It is important that the programme implementing the Community initiative be balanced. It should not consist exclusively of high-profile, short-term actions, but should also comprise measures aimed at longer-term structural improvements. Activities should not be spread too thinly.

It is very important that the right priorities be established. Productive investment and industrial development should be encouraged in order to generate employment and thus open up new opportunities for the population. Particular emphasis should be placed on social integration; the pressing need for this in Northern Ireland and the border counties is not adequately catered for.

In the field of social integration, measures enabling the long-term unemployed to readjust to work should be given priority; these should include local socially orientated job creation schemes aimed at reintegration of the unemployed, vocational retraining and further training programmes, and measures aimed at young people, who in many areas make up more than half the population. It is important to give the younger generation a better start in life and to boost their confidence in the future. This should begin with schemes for pre-school-age children and their parents.

The Committee feels that the economic and social interest groups should be fully consulted on and involved, on the basis of partnership and cooperation, in the establishment and implementation of the programme. In implementing the Community initiative, absolute impartiality should be maintained between the various population groups.

The Committee considers flexibility in the allocation of funds to be important with regard to: the various priority areas, the choice of the most suitable level of implementation for measures and the various scenarios for cross-border measures. The laying down of excessively detailed rules for specific measures should in particular be avoided; rules should, rather, be indicative.

Measures for urban and rural renewal should be dealt with under separate action programmes, as these are quite distinct problems.

Particularly after having interviewed the project leaders concerned, the Committee considers it highly important that during the implementation of this initiative the Commission ensure that the principle of additionality (matching funds) is being strictly applied by both governments and that the full amounts intended are thus actually being spent.

## II. CORRIGENDUM TO ESC BULLETIN No. 2/1995

The seventh paragraph of page 16 (English version), of Bulletin No. 2/1995 (Point 9: "Reforme of the wine market") covering the February Plenary Session should have read as follows:

*"Given the varying traditional practices and climatic and geographical conditions, the ESC does not advocate extending the use of chaptalization to the whole of the Community. The existing ban on chaptalization should remain in force as hitherto. The use of sucrose can continue to be permitted only as a strictly exceptional measure in wine-growing areas which traditionally practised chaptalization before the establishment of the European wine market organization."*

## III. FUTURE WORK

### ECOFIN Section

- Common system of Value Added Tax (taxation of agricultural outputs)  
COM(94) 584 final - 94/0324 CNS  
Deadline: May
- Structural statistics on companies  
COM(95) 99 final - 95/0076 CNS  
Deadline: July

### Industry Section

- Media II  
COM(94) 523 final - 95/0026-95/0027  
Deadline: July
- Community customs action programme (Customs 2000)  
COM(95) 119 final - 95/0087 COD  
Deadline: July
- Multi-annual programme to stimulate development of a European multi-media industry (INFO 2000)\*  
Deadline: July

### Transport Section

- Transport of dangerous goods by rail  
COM(94) 573 final - 94/0284 SYN  
Deadline: May
- Application of open network provision (ONP) to voice telephony  
COM(94) 689 final - 95/0020 COD  
Deadline: May

### **Agriculture Section**

- Criteria and arrangements regarding Community structural assistance in the fisheries and aquaculture sector  
COM(95) 55 final - 95/0058 CNS  
Deadline: May
- Fisheries/aquaculture tonnage GT  
COM(94) 568 final - 94/0281 CNS  
Deadline: May
- Quota system for the production of potato starch  
COM(95) 24 final - 94/0024 CNS  
Deadline: May
- Intervention threshold mechanism in the fresh fruit and vegetables sector  
COM(95) 83 final - 95/0072 CNS  
Deadline: May
- Technical measures for the conservation of fishery resources in the Baltic Sea  
COM(95) 70 final - 95/0068 CNS  
Deadline: May
- Common organization of the market in dried fodder  
COM(95) 96 final - 95/0073 CNS  
Deadline: May
- Bananas, fruit and vegetables and the CCT\*  
COM(95) 114 final - 95/0084 CNS  
Deadline: July
- Annual tariff quota for banana imports (subsequent to the accession of Austria, Finland, Sweden)  
COM(95) 115 final - 95/0086 CNS  
Deadline: July
- Community rules to protect plant production\*  
COM(95) 144 final  
Deadline: July

### **Environment Section**

- Medical equipment for in vitro diagnosis\*  
COM(95) 130 final  
Deadline: July/September
- Financial instrument for the environment (LIFE)  
COM(95) 135 final  
Deadline: July/September
- Ban on use of certain additives in food production\*\*  
COM(95) 126 final  
Deadline: October
- Monitoring and control of transfer of waste entering, leaving and circulating within the EC\*  
COM(95) 143 final  
Deadline: to be decided

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\* Unofficial translation

\*\* Unofficial translation

### **Regional Development Section**

- Role of the Union in tourism sector (Green Paper)  
COM(95) 97 final  
Deadline: September

### **Energy Section**

- Fourth RTD programme subsequent to enlargement  
COM(95) 145 final  
Deadline: May/July

### **External Relations Section**

- EU partnership with Belarus, Kazakhstan, Kirghizstan, Moldavia and Ukraine  
COM(95) 137 final  
Deadline: to be decided

### **OWN-INITIATIVE WORK**

#### **Agriculture Section**

- Conservation of fishery resources and fishing rights  
Deadline: September

### **OTHER WORK**

#### **Regional Development Section**

- Collection of statistical information in the field of tourism (Anticipated referral changed to Additional Opinion)  
Deadline: May
- Specific Community initiative for Northern Ireland (Additional Opinion)  
SEC(95) 279 final  
Deadline: May/July

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

### **Activities of the Presidency**

6 April 1995, Brussels: Meeting with Mr Józef Oleksy, Prime Minister of Poland.

6 April 1995, Brussels: Meeting with Mr Sbih, Ambassador of Algeria.

7 April 1995, Paris: Mr Simon-Pierre Nothomb, ESC Secretary-General, took part in a study seminar on enlargement organized by the French Economic and Social Council.

12 April 1995, Brussels: Hearing of Mr Ferrer at the European Parliament's Committee on Institutional Affairs.

24 April 1995, Brussels: Meeting between Mr Ferrer and Mr Jean-Louis Bourlanges, MEP.

25 April 1995, Brussels: Meeting between Mr Ferrer and Mr David Martin, MEP.

27 April 1995, Brussels: Meeting between Mr Ferrer and Mr Daniel Guéguen, Secretary-General of the COPA (Committee of Agricultural Organizations in the European Community).

### **Other activities**

3 April 1995, Brussels: Participation in the public presentation of the Charter for European Agricultural Scientists at a press conference organized by the European Committee for Agricultural Scientists, under the auspices of the ESC and its Section for Agriculture and Fisheries.

4 April 1995, Brussels: Statement by Mrs Fernández Cano, Councillor for public health from Castilla-La Mancha regional authority (Spain) on regional health and consumer policy, at a meeting of the Section for Protection of the Environment, Public Health and Consumer Affairs.

4-6 April 1995: Fact-finding visit by a six-man ESC delegation to Washington in connection with an information report on EU-USA relations (including meetings at various US Ministries and with socio-occupational groups).

6 April 1995, Brussels: Official visit to the ESC by Mr Józef Oleksy, Prime Minister of Poland, together with four junior Secretaries of State and the two Polish Ambassadors in Brussels. Prime Minister Oleksy met President Ferrer and a dozen ESC members.

10 April 1995, Brussels: Statement by Mr Pádraig Flynn, Commissioner responsible for employment and social affairs and relations with the Economic and Social Committee. Commissioner Flynn outlined his action programme at a meeting of the Section for Social, Family, Educational and Cultural Affairs.

11 April 1995, Brussels: Discussion between Mr Augusto Bette, European Council Director responsible for research and energy policies, and the members of the Section for Energy, Nuclear Questions and Research.

26-27 April 1995 in Bath (United Kingdom): An ESC delegation attended the seminar on social planning, organized by the Council of Europe.

27 April 1995, Brussels: Visit of a delegation of the Economic and Social Council of the Nord-Pas-de Calais region to the ESC.

### **V. IN MEMORIAM**

Mr Clément de Bièvre, a former member of the Committee, died in Kraainem, Belgium, on 16 April 1995.

### **VI. FACT-FINDING VISITS**

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

- 4 April 1995 Quaker Council for European Affairs, Brussels
- 4 April 1995 Konrad Adenauer Foundation (group of Jordanian Members of Parliament and researchers)
- 4 April 1995 KEY TO EUROPE, Brussels
- 4 April 1995 Queen's University (Department of Politics and Economics), Belfast, N. Ireland
- 4 April 1995 University of Lund, Sweden
- 5 April 1995 European Federation of Employees in Public Services, Brussels
- 5 April 1995 Escola Superior de Tecnologia de Tomar, Portugal
- 6 April 1995 St. Philip Howard High School, Bognor Regis, West Sussex, England
- 6 April 1995 Institut supérieur européen de Gestion, Lille, France
- 7 April 1995 Deutschland- und Europapolitisches Bildungswerk Nordrhein-Westfalen, Tecklenburg, Germany
- 19 April 1995 Chester and York College of Law, Chester, England

- 19 April 1995 European Projects Foundation, Valencia, Spain
- 20 April 1995 Association des BTS - Lycée Sainte Marie, Marignane, France
- 25 April 1995 EPP Group from the European Parliament (Spanish MEPs)
- 26 April 1995 Ecole de Gestion Frandres (Lille-Roubaix-Tourcoing Chamber of Commerce and Industry School - France)
- 26 April 1995 Bayerischer Jugendring (Bavarian Youth Association)
- 27 April 1995 Delegation from the Economic and Social Council of the Nord-Pas-de Calais region
- 27 April 1995 The Scottish Office - Personnel Group, Edinburgh, Scotland
- 27 April 1995 Institut Européen des Hautes Etudes Internationales, Nice, France
- 28 April 1995 University of Caen, France

