



# *Economic and Social Committee*

*European Communities*

# BULLETIN

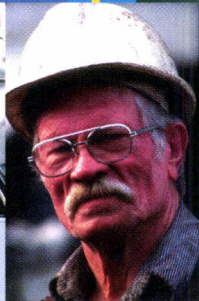
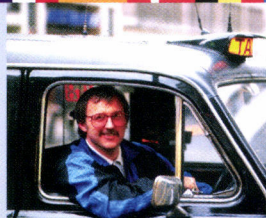
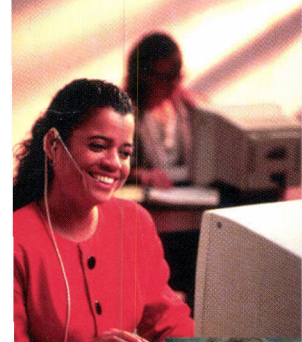
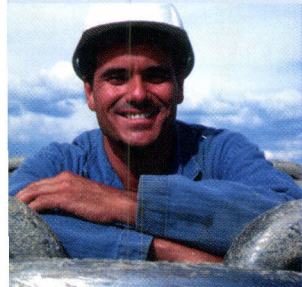
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## Facts and figures - November 1997

### Presidency

**President:** Tom Jenkins  
(United Kingdom - Workers)

**Vice-presidents:** Giacomo Regaldo  
(Italy - Employers)

Johannes Jaschick  
(Germany - Various Interests)

**Secretary-General:** Adriano Graziosi

### Origins

The ESC was set up by the 1957 Rome Treaties in order to involve economic and social interest groups in the establishment of the common market and to provide institutional machinery for briefing the European Commission and the Council of Ministers on European Union issues.

The Single European Act (1986), the Maastricht Treaty (1992) and the Amsterdam Treaty (1997) have reinforced the ESC's role.

### Membership

The 222 members of the ESC are drawn from 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: Roger Briesch - France), 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 task of members is to issue opinions on matters referred to the ESC by the Commission and the Council, as well as the European Parliament pursuant to the Amsterdam Treaty.

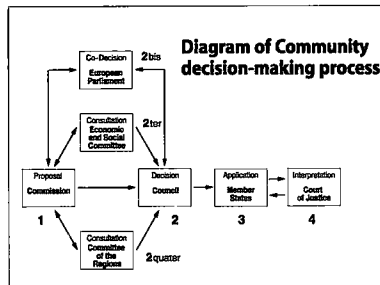
The ESC is the only socio-occupational advisory body that can be consulted by the EU Council of Ministers.

### Advisory role

Consultation of the ESC by the Commission or the Council is mandatory in certain cases; in others it is optional. The ESC may, however, also adopt opinions on its own initiative. The Single European Act (17.2.86), the Maastricht Treaty (7.2.92) and the Treaty of Amsterdam (signed on 2.10.97) extended the range of issues which must be referred to the Committee: regional policy, environmental policy, employment policy, broad guidelines for economic policies, combating social exclusion, etc. The ESC produces 170 advisory documents and opinions a year (of which 15% are issued on its own initiative). All opinions are forwarded to the Community's decision-making bodies and then published in the Official Journal of the European Communities.

### 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. It acts as a forum for the single market and has hosted, with the support of other EU bodies, a series of events aimed at bringing the EU closer to the people.



### Internal organization

#### 1. Presidency and Bureau

Every two years the ESC 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 by the vice-presidents, who deputize for him in the event of his absence.

The president represents the ESC in relations with outside bodies.

Joint briefs (relations with EFTA, CEEC, AMU, ACP countries, Latin American and other third countries, and the Citizens' Europe) fall within the remit of the ESC Bureau and the president.

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

#### 2. Sections

The Committee has nine sections:

- Economic, Financial and Monetary Questions  
secretariat tel. 546.92.86  
(president: Göke Frerichs  
Group I - Germany)
- External Relations, Trade and Development Policy - secretariat tel. 546.93.27  
(president: Thomas Ety  
Group II - Netherlands)
- Social, Family, Educational and Cultural Affairs  
secretariat tel. 546.95.12  
(president: John F. Carroll  
Group II - Ireland)
- Protection of the Environment, Public Health and Consumer Affairs  
secretariat tel. 546.94.06  
(president: Manuel Ataíde Ferreira  
Group III - Portugal)
- Agriculture and Fisheries  
secretariat tel. 546.96.87  
(president: Pere Margalef i Masià  
Group III - Spain)
- Regional Development and Town and Country Planning  
secretariat tel. 546.96.11  
(president: Robert Moreland  
Group III - United Kingdom)
- Industry, Commerce, Crafts and Services  
secretariat tel. 546.95.98  
(president: John Little  
Group I - United Kingdom)
- Transport and Communications  
secretariat tel. 546.93.60  
(president: Elke Eulen  
Group II - Germany)
- Energy, Nuclear Questions and Research  
secretariat tel. 546.98.19  
(president: José Ignacio Gafo-Fernandez  
Group I - Spain)

### 3. Study groups

Section opinions are drafted by study groups. These usually have 12 members, including a rapporteur who may be assisted by experts (normally four).

### 4. Sub-committees

The ESC has the right to set up temporary sub-committees, for specific issues. These sub-committees operate on the same lines as the sections.

### 5. Plenary session

As a rule, the full Committee meets in plenary session 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.

### External Relations

#### 1. 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.

The ESC also liaises worldwide with other economic and social councils at the "International Meetings" held every two years.

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

The ESC 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 ESC sets up 15-30 member delegations headed by the president or a vice-president. It is expected that some meetings involving the countries of central and eastern Europe will be institutionalized under the Europe Agreements, as is currently the case with Hungary and Turkey.

### Publications

The ESC regularly distributes a number of publications, including its main opinions in brochure format, a monthly newsletter entitled ESC INFO and its Annual Report.

### Secretariat-General

The Committee is serviced by a secretariat-general, headed by a secretary-general who reports to the president, representing the Bureau.

135 staff work exclusively for the Economic and Social Committee. Since 1 January 1995, the Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions have shared a common core of departments whose staff, numbering 519, are mostly members of the ESC secretariat.



# BULLETIN

## *Economic and Social Committee*

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*European Communities*

98

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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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## CONTENTS

<b>I.</b>	<b>353<sup>rd</sup> PLENARY SESSION ON 25 and 26 MARCH 1998</b>	
<b>1.</b>	<b>ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATION</b> .....	<b>2</b>
	<i>(adopted by 101 votes to 1 with 1 abstention)</i>	
<b>2.</b>	<b>CIVIL LIABILITY/MOTOR VEHICLES</b> .....	<b>3</b>
	<i>(adopted by 94 votes to 0 with 2 abstentions)</i>	
<b>3.</b>	<b>ACCESS TO THE ACTIVITY OF CREDIT INSTITUTIONS (Codified version)</b> .....	<b>4</b>
	<i>(adopted by 96 votes to 1 with 4 abstentions)</i>	
<b>4.</b>	<b>PREVENTING NEW BARRIERS FROM ARISING IN THE SINGLE MARKET (SMO) (Own- initiative opinion)</b> .....	<b>5</b>
	<i>(adopted by 76 votes to 7 with 6 abstentions)</i>	
<b>5.</b>	<b>ACTION PLAN FOR THE SINGLE MARKET (SMO) (Additional Opinion)</b> .....	<b>6</b>
	<i>(adopted by 76 votes to 5 with 2 abstentions)</i>	
<b>6.</b>	<b>FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FOR SMES</b> .....	<b>7</b>
	<i>(adopted unanimously)</i>	
<b>7.</b>	<b>TRANSPORT OF DANGEROUS GOODS - INLAND WATERWAYS</b> .....	<b>8</b>
	<i>(adopted by 105 votes to 0 with 1 abstention)</i>	
<b>8.</b>	<b>TECHNICAL REQUIREMENTS/INLAND WATERWAYS</b> .....	<b>9</b>
	<i>(adopted by 101 votes to 1 with 2 abstentions)</i>	
<b>9.</b>	<b>PROMOTION OF COMBINED HEAT AND POWER</b> .....	<b>10</b>
	<i>(adopted by 104 votes to 2 with 4 abstentions)</i>	
<b>10.</b>	<b>SAFEGUARDING SUPPLEMENTARY PENSION RIGHTS</b> .....	<b>13</b>
	<i>(adopted by 98 votes to 4 with 5 abstentions)</i>	
<b>11.</b>	<b>EXTENSION OF SOCIAL SECURITY TO NON-EU NATIONALS</b> .....	<b>14</b>
	<i>(adopted by 109 votes to 1 with 4 abstentions)</i>	
<b>12.</b>	<b>FRAMEWORK AGREEMENT ON PART-TIME WORKING AND DIRECTIVE ON BURDEN OF PROOF - EXTENSION TO THE UK</b> .....	<b>15</b>
	<i>(adopted by 52 votes to 1 with 1 abstention)</i>	
<b>13.</b>	<b>WHITE PAPER ON SECTORS AND ACTIVITIES EXCLUDED FROM THE WORKING TIME DIRECTIVE</b> .....	<b>15</b>
	<i>(adopted by 101 votes to 6 with 7 abstentions)</i>	
<b>14.</b>	<b>TOWARDS A EUROPE OF KNOWLEDGE</b> .....	<b>17</b>
	<i>(adopted by 65 votes to 0 with 1 abstention)</i>	
<b>15.</b>	<b>VETERINARY CHECKS IN INTRA-COMMUNITY TRADE</b> .....	<b>19</b>
	<i>(adopted by 106 votes to 2 with 2 abstentions)</i>	
<b>16.</b>	<b>PROPAGATING MATERIAL OF ORNAMENTAL PLANTS</b> .....	<b>20</b>
	<i>(adopted by 111 votes to 1 with 2 abstentions)</i>	
<b>17.</b>	<b>REINFORCING THE PRE-ACCESSION STRATEGY (Own-initiative)</b> .....	<b>21</b>
	<i>(adopted by 98 votes to 1 with 1 abstention)</i>	
<b>18.</b>	<b>EXTERNAL ASPECTS OF EMU</b> .....	<b>22</b>
	<i>(adopted by 63 votes to 19 with 19 abstentions)</i>	

II.	FUTURE WORK.....	23
III.	PRESENCE AND INFLUENCE OF THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMITTEE.....	25
IV.	INFORMATION VISITS.....	27

## I. 353<sup>rd</sup> PLENARY SESSION ON 25 and 26 MARCH 1998

The Economic and Social Committee of the European Communities held its 253<sup>rd</sup> plenary session in Brussels on 25 and 26 March 1998. Its president, **Mr Tom Jenkins**, was in the chair.

In conjunction with the ESC's work on the single market, the plenary session was addressed by **Lord Simon** of Highbury, UK Minister for Trade and Competitiveness in Europe. His speech highlighted the need to find a balanced and dynamic third way, between the opposing poles of government intervention and unbridled individualism, which gave priority to partnership and social dialogue. Hence implementation of the Single Market Action Plan presented in Amsterdam was essential and Member States were urged to respect and adhere to the time schedule and to undertake the requisite transposition into their national legislation.

The single market's main weaknesses were still in the areas of mutual recognition of existing standards and the drafting of new European standards. The Council was doing its best to improve the situation and promote examples of best practice. It supported the Commission's SLIM programme which aimed to simplify all legislation relating to the single market.

Lord Simon expressed his keen appreciation of the opinions already delivered by the Committee and its ongoing contribution in the capacity of Single Market Observatory.

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In the course of the session, the Committee adopted the following opinions:

**Section for Industry, Commerce, Crafts and Services**  
Joao Pereira dos Santos, Head of Division - ☎ (32-2) 546 9245

## 1. ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATION

**Opinion of the Economic and Social Committee** on the *Communication from the Commission to the Council, the European Parliament, the Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions: Ensuring security and trust in electronic communication: towards a European framework for digital signatures and encryption* (COM(97) 503 final)

(CES 443/98)

Rapporteur: Umberto BURANI (Italy - Employers)

### Gist of the Commission document

In order to make good use of the commercial opportunities offered by electronic communication via open networks, a more secure environment needs to be established. Cryptographic technologies are widely recognized as essential tools for security and trust on open networks. Two important applications of cryptography are digital signatures and encryption.

The main objectives of this communication are to develop a European policy with a view to ensuring the functioning of the Internal Market for cryptographic services and products, and stimulating and enabling users in all economic sectors to benefit from the opportunities of the global information society. As far as timing is concerned, the Commission considers that appropriate measures ought to be in place throughout the Union by the year 2000 at the latest. As a consequence, the Commission intends to come forward with detailed proposals in 1998 after the assessment of comments on this communication.

### Gist of the Opinion

The Commission's programme is somewhat complex, but well designed. The Committee broadly endorses the programme, and asks the Commis-

sion to consult it on subsequent initiatives. The Committee notes that other initiatives being prepared or already adopted by third countries and international organizations should also be borne in mind.

The Committee would alert the Commission and the Member States to the urgent need to achieve European-level harmonization of the basic concepts. The operational demands of the single market would soon reveal the serious disadvantages of having different legal and regulatory infrastructures in different countries; it would be extremely difficult to carry out harmonization *a posteriori*.

One issue implicit to the communication, but not covered explicitly in it, is that of consumer protection and, more generally, the protection of all electronic communication players. The Committee believes that the rules on the validity of contracts concluded electronically should be provided with a European legal framework. Consumers and all other users must be informed that "European protection" or "national protection" may not be valid in contracts negotiated with suppliers in third countries. Similar observations could also be made regarding provisions on civil liberties, freedom of opinion and morality (pornography, etc.).

Moreover, as a first step, the scope of any EU or Member State legislative or regulatory action needs to be established. The Committee believes that, apart from the regulations needed to ensure legal certainty for contracts and to remove any national regulations which are an obstacle to interoperability, the accent should be on self-regulation (codes of conduct). Public authority intervention should be confined to monitoring operation of the systems and their compliance with the general principles of the single market.



## 2. CIVIL LIABILITY/MOTOR VEHICLES

**Opinion of the Economic and Social Committee on the Proposal for a European Parliament and Council Directive on the approximation of the laws of the Member States relating to insurance against civil liability in respect of the use of motor vehicles and amending Directives 73/239/EEC and 92/49/EEC**

(COM(97) 510 final - 97/0264 COD)

(CES 444/98 - 97/0264 COD)

Rapporteur: Robert PELLETIER (France - Employers)

### Gist of the Commission document

The Motor Insurance Directives deal with traffic accidents occurring in the victim's state of residence and caused by vehicles either registered and insured in that state or registered and insured in another Member State. The 1990 Motor Insurance Services Directive deems equivalent to such cases, those accidents occurring in the victim's state of residence where the vehicle, while registered in that country, was insured (by way of provision of services) by an insurer in another Member State.

None of those directives, however, took particular account of victims who, while temporarily in another Member State, suffer loss or injury there through a vehicle registered in a Member State other than that where the victim resides. As traffic increased between Member States, it became evident that those victims ("visitors") needed special protection.

For these reasons, and reflecting the approach outlined by the Parliament, the Commission presents the following proposals:

- to provide improved protection for victims of an accident occurring in a Member State other than their state of residence;
- to introduce throughout the European Union a direct right of action for that category of victims;
- to secure the appointment by all insurance undertakings of a representative responsible for settling accident claims in each Member State of the European Union;

- to establish information centres.

The Commission also presents the following proposals:

- to make information centres responsible for identifying the representative empowered to settle accident claims, the insurer providing cover and the vehicle involved in the accident;
- to establish in the state of origin of visitors, a body responsible for settling claims arising out of accidents suffered by such visitors; on effecting payment in the state of residence of the victim, this compensating agency would acquire an automatic right of action against its counterpart in the state of the dilatory insurer;
- to lay down expressly that, if the vehicle responsible for the accident is not insured or the insurer cannot be identified, the guarantee funds must compensate the victim on the conditions laid down in Directive 84/5/EEC.

The Commission is to consider consolidating in a single instrument Motor Insurance Directives 72/166/EEC, 84/5/EEC, 90/232/EEC and the present proposed directive once it is adopted.

### Gist of the opinion

The Committee is in favour of the proposed directive as an essential stage in building a single market for the benefit of consumers. It wants this text to be adopted as soon as possible and to be the subject of some degree of publicity from the EU Commission and from all those in the Member States who have a stake in promoting such a measure.

The ESC notes that the proposed right to direct action would only apply to victims of accidents occurring in a Member State other than their state of residence and caused by a vehicle registered and insured in a Member State other than their state of residence. The Committee wonders about the reasons behind this restriction and feels that the present proposal should have provided a good opportunity for making this facility a universal right for the use of all victims of accidents on EU territory.

The directive will only cover the territory of the European Union. The ESC wonders whether it

would not be feasible and advisable to extend the directive's scope to cover other countries.

The Committee cannot but support the setting-up of a register to help accident victims, which in addition should provide additional resources for combating non-insurance; however, it wonders whether it is feasible for such arrangements to be in place within the time limits set by the proposal. The Committee urges that, whatever happens, an additional time limit of, for example, 30 months instead of 24 should be granted. Such a time limit would also make it possible for all concerned to make the most of national experiences in the field of registration.

It also seems obvious to the Committee that other stages will have to be traversed once the proposal has been adopted. Even if the issue is a more general one, the Commission ought to consider how to speed up and facilitate the access of victims to the rules of evidence, especially as regards the delivery and communicating of local or national police reports.

### **3. ACCESS TO THE ACTIVITY OF CREDIT INSTITUTIONS (codified version)**

**Opinion of the Economic and Social Committee on the Proposal for a European Parliament and Council Directive relating to the taking up and pursuit of the business of credit**  
(COM(97) 706 final - 97/0357 COD)

(CES 445/98 - 97/0357 COD)

Rapporteur: Robert PELLETIER (France - Employers)

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

The Commission attaches great importance to simplifying and clarifying Community law so as to make it clearer and more accessible to the ordinary citizen.

Given that no changes of substance may be made to the instruments affected by legislative codification, Parliament, the Council and the Commission have agreed that an accelerated procedure may be used for the fast-track adoption of codification instruments.

The purpose of this proposal is the legislative codification of the following Council Directives:

- 73/183/EEC of 28 June 1973, abolition of restrictions on freedom of establishment and freedom to provide services in respect of self-employed activities of banks and other financial institutions;
- 77/780/EEC of 12 December 1977, coordination of laws, regulations and administrative provisions relating to the taking up and pursuit of the business of credit institutions;
- 89/299/EEC of 17 April 1989, own funds of credit institutions;
- 89/646/EEC of 15 December 1989, coordination of laws, regulations and administrative provisions relating to the taking up and pursuit of business of credit institutions and amending Directive 77/780/EEC;
- 89/647/EEC of 18 December 1989, solvency ratio for credit institutions;
- 92/30/EEC of 6 April 1992, supervision of credit institutions on a consolidated basis;
- 92/121/EEC of 21 December 1992, monitoring and control of large exposures of credit institutions.

The new directive will supersede the various directives incorporated in it, preserving their content fully, and bringing them together with only such formal amendments as are required by the codification exercise itself.

#### **Gist of the opinion**

The Economic and Social Committee can only welcome the effort to achieve transparency and accessibility through codification.

It is desirable that the following directives adopted on credit institutions, listed by order of priority, be added to the scope of application of the codification procedure in the near future:

- 93/6/EEC on the capital adequacy of investment firms and credit institutions;
- 94/19/EC on deposit-guarantee schemes;
- 91/308/EEC on prevention of the use of the financial system for the purpose of money laundering;
- 86/635/EEC on the annual accounts and consolidated accounts of banks and other financial institutions;

- 89/117/EEC on the obligations of branches established in a Member State of credit institutions and financial institutions having their head offices outside that Member State regarding the publication of annual accounting documents.

Nevertheless, bearing in mind the legal limitations of the codification procedure (no amendment of substance and incorporation of the law as it stands), it would without doubt be desirable to urge the Commission to consider a recasting of the texts in force in the future. This would be a more flexible and more effective method.

As the codified texts would be of use to countries seeking EU membership, it is essential that this codification project be adopted as rapidly as possible.

#### 4. PREVENTING NEW BARRIERS FROM ARISING IN THE SINGLE MARKET (SMO) (*Own-initiative opinion*)

**Opinion of the Economic and Social Committee on Preventing new barriers from arising in the single market (Single Market Observatory)**

(CES 453/98)

Rapporteur: Bruno VEVER (France - Employers)

##### Reasons for drawing up the Opinion

On 23 April 1997, the Committee adopted its Opinion on the Communication from the Commission on the "Impact and Effectiveness of the Single Market". An important element in the drawing up of this Opinion was a hearing held on 5 March 1997 with the objective of updating the situation on obstacles to the Single Market and to contribute to the Commission's 1999 action plan with a view to making decisive progress towards the completion of the Single Market.

Two of the major conclusions of this hearing were that:

- the last few years had seen a fall-off in new EU legal instruments but the number of national regulations (by 1 to 2 per day) had increased and this could create new barriers to trade;

- there was also a major mismatch between EU provisions and national provisions: the common rules, generally directives, remained incomplete, were sometimes applied unsatisfactorily and left too much leeway for waivers and national-level additional provisions.

The Single Market Observatory will now undertake an analysis of how new obstacles are created, mainly in Member States' legislation; the areas wherein the problems exist, the seriousness of the problem and the negative effects, as well as indicating possible solutions.

An additional reason for dealing with this topic as an own-initiative opinion is that it is not dealt with in a satisfactory manner in the Commission's Action Plan as adopted at the Amsterdam summit.

##### Gist of the opinion

The Member States continue to adopt many rules at national level in fields which are meant to be subject to Community harmonization. This situation is worrying because it shows that the Member States hardly apply to themselves the objective of alleviating rules which they advocate at European level, and because it perpetuates a process of creating new barriers to trade.

The Committee stresses the need for rapid adoption of new initiatives at both national and Community level to remedy the situation:

At national level:

In particular, the Member States should:

- apply the same discipline which they require of the European Union to alleviating and clarifying rules, and should present each year a report summarizing their contribution in this field;
- be careful, in transposing directives, not to create excessive administrative requirements which go beyond the objectives set by these directives;
- include, in draft national regulations which can affect the single market, a standard clause specifying that the rule in question does not constitute a barrier to the import of products freely produced and marketed in another Member State;

- take measures to raise the awareness of elected representatives, officials and jurists in the Member States and train them in the requirements of the single market.

At Community level:

To facilitate the implementation of these recommendations, the Council should express a commitment on the part of Member States which could lead to a recommendation including a code of conduct to prevent the creation of undesirable new barriers at source.

Open or optional directives should be used only in limited, strictly justified cases.

Prior notification for proposed rules should be extended to cover not only products but also services, starting with information society services.

The Commission's "scoreboards" on implementation of directives should include a test for "real lifting of barriers".

The resources of the European standardization committees should be strengthened to make available the largest possible number of common references.

On the free movement of workers, follow-up action should be taken on the Flynn Action Plan.

## 5. ACTION PLAN FOR THE SINGLE MARKET (SMO) *(Additional opinion)*

**Opinion of the Economic and Social Committee on the Action Plan for the Single Market (Single Market Observatory)**

(CES 454/98)

Rapporteur: Flavio PASOTTI (Italy - Various Interests)

### **Reasons for drawing up an Additional Opinion on the Action Plan for the Single Market**

On 29 May 1997, the ESC adopted a favourable opinion on the Commission's Draft Action Plan (AP) for the Single Market (CSE 97/1), rapporteur-general Mr Pezzini.

The Committee endorsed the strategic targets identified in the AP:

- making the single market rules more effective;
- eliminating market distortions;
- removing sectoral obstacles to market integration; and
- ensuring that the single market provides real benefits for ordinary people.

Another important element in the AP, which was adopted by the European summit in Amsterdam in June 97, was the publishing of a half-yearly "scoreboard" for each State concerned. This scoreboard will provide a regular update on the progress of implementation of the single market until the new deadline set for the realization of the single market: January 1999.

The Committee's additional opinion has a two-tier approach:

Firstly, it will comment on the Commission's half-yearly reports to the European summit. The first report was presented on 19 November. According to this scoreboard, the outstanding single market directives will be implemented across the EU by 1 April 1998 if Member States respect the timetables they have now set themselves. The vast majority of Member States have put in place structures to allow citizens and business to seek rapid redress when they encounter problems exercising their single market rights. However, the Scoreboard also reveals disturbing delays in Member States' responses to formal infringement proceedings and that some Member States fail to reply at all.

Secondly, the Committee can establish its own criteria concerning the functioning of the single market as a supplement to the Commission's scoreboard.

### **Gist of the Opinion**

The Committee greets the publication by the Commission of the first half-yearly single market scoreboard with great interest.

However, the Committee would point out that an assessment of such a complex and demanding programme as this one cannot be restricted to purely quantitative aspects.

Although quantitative data are indeed necessary, they cannot be considered enough to judge the efficacy of the planned actions. A more detailed analysis of single market users, whether companies, workers or consumers, is the only way of obtaining an accurate picture of the degree of commitment of those involved, in their different capacities, in completing the single market: the Council, the Commission and the Member States.

In the future, the Committee intends to undertake its own independent, direct monitoring in order to assess such qualitative aspects as the consistency of Member State, Council and Commission actions in the areas covered, progress in terms of simplification of rules and transparency, and the impact on opportunities for economic growth and employment.

Amongst the improvements which could usefully be made to the Commission's assessment reports, the Committee urges that:

- the scoreboard indicators be backed up by the following information: data showing comparative changes, at EU and national level, to technical rules, standards and patents; and data showing the trend in the percentage of public contracts open to competition which have actually been awarded to non-nationals;
- in tandem with the scoreboard, data be presented on economic and social developments in the single market; this data should cover inter alia, trends as regards: economic growth, employment, mobility of individuals, intra-EU and extra-EU trade and international investment.

## 6. FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FOR SMES

**Opinion of the Economic and Social Committee**  
on the *Proposal for a Council Decision on measures of financial assistance for innovative and job-creating small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) - The growth and employment initiative*  
(COM(98) 26 final - 98/0024 CNS)

(CES 459/98 - 98/0024 CNS)

Rapporteur-general: Antonello PEZZINI (Italy - Various Interests)

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

The objective of this initiative is to help unlock the job-creating potential of high-growth small businesses, and in particular those SMEs exploiting advances in technology. The proposal gives a particular emphasis to innovative SMEs, including technology-based companies, which may be unable to raise finance from banks or other commercial sources because of the risks associated with their particular stage of development, notably SMEs in their growth phase and SMEs establishing cross-border joint ventures in order to allow them to internationalize their strategies within Europe.

The proposal sets out a financial support programme for SMEs which are innovative and promote job creation as part of a European Parliament initiative for growth and employment. This initiative is made up of three complementary programmes: a risk capital scheme for companies in the early stages of their development, financial support for cross-border joint ventures between SMEs in different Member States and a loan guarantee scheme to improve the availability of loans for small or newly-established SMEs.

An estimated ECU 420 million should be available from the Community budget for these schemes over the period 1998 - 2000.

Given the differences between the financial markets in the Member States as well as the different characteristics of the three schemes, it is proposed to allocate funds flexibly to the three schemes.

The Commission will report yearly on the implementation of this programme to the budgetary authorities and will provide an overall evaluation of the functioning and impact of the scheme within 48 months from the date of its adoption.

### **Gist of the opinion**

***The ETF (European Technology Facility) Start-up Facility:***

A major barrier faced by venture capital funds when contemplating making relatively small investments is the cost of carrying out a "due diligence" examination of the company and providing long-term advice and support. Frequently, the level of such costs makes an investment in all but a handful of particularly promising schemes uneconomic. If the Commission wishes this programme

to have a major impact it should consider making an advance contribution to the initial evaluation costs of a fund, repayable on the basis of the overall success of a defined portfolio of investments made under this scheme. It is appreciated that this is not immediately possible for lack of budgetary resources, but the Committee hopes future possibilities will be investigated by the Commission. In addition, a possible role in assisting in the evaluation of projects by professional intermediaries should be examined.

***The Joint European Venture - JEV:***

The Committee has been calling for this action and welcomes its introduction. The Committee has identified the lack of ad hoc financial instruments as one of the reasons why there are so few joint ventures in the Union. However, the Committee suggests that the Commission consider the other

obstacles (legal, fiscal, etc.) in order to guarantee the success of this excellent initiative.

***The SME Guarantee facility:***

The Committee has advocated a facility of this type on previous occasions and fully approves of this valuable new financial instrument

**Conclusions:**

The Committee endorses these three initiatives as they promise to make a real contribution to the financing of SMEs in those areas where identifiable gaps do exist. It is hoped that these programmes will have a high public profile, be extremely successful and eventually become permanent. In this way they should make a major contribution to the creation of high quality new employment.

**Section for Transport and Communications**  
Luigi Del Bino, Head of Division - ☎ (32-2) 546 9353

**7. TRANSPORT OF DANGEROUS GOODS  
- INLAND WATERWAYS**

**Opinion of the Economic and Social Committee**  
*on the Proposal for a Council Directive on the approximation of the laws of the Member States with regard to the transport of dangerous goods by vessels on inland waterways*  
(COM(97) 367 final - 97/0193 SYN)

(CES 446/98 - 97/0193 SYN)

Rapporteur: Helmut GIESECKE (Germany - Employers)

**Gist of the Commission document**

The international transport of dangerous goods by inland waterways is currently governed by two sets of rules which have either limited legal effect or limited geographical scope of application, namely the recommendation concerning the international carriage of dangerous goods by inland waterway (ADN)<sup>1</sup> issued by the UN Economic Commission

for Europe (ECE) and the Regulation on the Transport of dangerous goods on the Rhine (ADNR) adopted by the Central Rhine Commission (CCNR).

After many years of discussions, the Inland Transport Committee (ITC) of the ECE finally agreed that the text of the ADN should be updated in line with the requirements of the ADNR. The responsible Working Group of the ECE has fulfilled this task in the meantime, so that the Annexes of the revised ADN recommendation could be annexed to this proposal.

The lack of legislation on this matter at EU level means that the safety level laid down at national level for this type of transport varies from Member State to Member State. The same level of protection and safety is thus not afforded throughout the EU.

The objective of the proposal under review, which follows on from measures taken by the Council with regard to the transport of dangerous goods by

<sup>1</sup> The contracting parties to the ADN are Belgium, France, Germany, the Netherlands and Switzerland.

road (Directive 94/55/EEC<sup>2</sup> and by rail (96/49/EC)<sup>3</sup>, is therefore to ensure:

- that the same level of safety is guaranteed for transport both within and between Member States by applying ADN in both cases and
- to align EC rules on internationally agreed standards.

The proposed direction will meet also the Council's request on training requirements for transporting dangerous goods for crews of inland waterways' vessels, raised during discussions of the Directive on the boatmasters' certificate. (Directive 96/50/EC)<sup>4</sup>.

#### Gist of the opinion

While welcoming the Commission's proposals, the Committee is concerned that if the ADN and ADNR do not tally, two different sets of rules could apply simultaneously to national transport operations: the ADN (in accordance with the directive) for inland waterway vessels whose route does not include the Rhine; the ADNR for inland waterway vessels carrying goods on national inland waterways via the Rhine.

The Committee therefore calls on the Commission to continue trying to persuade the Member States to expedite the negotiations on the ADN agreement in the joint ECE-UN/CCNR working party set up in 1995 so that the framework agreement can be finished in 1998 if possible.

In the interests of a rapid harmonization of the ADN provisions at a high level, the Committee supports the Commission's efforts to accede to the ADN. Its intention should not, however, be to replace the Member States.

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<sup>2</sup> Council Directive 94/55/EC of 21 November 1994 on the approximation of the laws of the Member States with regard to the transport of dangerous goods by road (OJ No. L 319, 12.12.1994, p.7). Directive amended by Commission Directive 96/86/EC (OJ No. L 335, 24.12.1996, p. 43).

<sup>3</sup> Council Directive 96/49/EC of 23 July 1996 on the approximation of the laws of the Member States with regard to the transport of dangerous goods by rail (OJ No. L 235, 17.9.1996, p.25). Directive amended by Commission Directive 96/87/EC (OJ No. L 335, 24.12.1996, p.45).

<sup>4</sup> OJ No. L 235 of 17.9.1996, p. 31.

In order to implement the provisions as quickly as possible in the CEEC, the Committee recommends that in the bilateral negotiations with the applicant countries the EU bodies urge ratification of the ADN before accession.

Finally, in this connection the Committee points out that the ADNR clashes with the EU's VOC directive<sup>5</sup>, the implementation of which is still causing considerable problems for inland shipping because it deviates from the ADNR.

#### 8. TECHNICAL REQUIREMENTS / INLAND WATERWAYS

**Opinion of the Economic and Social Committee on the Proposal for a Council Directive amending Directive 82/714/EEC of 4 October 1982 laying down technical requirements for inland waterway vessels**  
(COM(97) 644 final)

(CES 447/98)

Rapporteur working alone: Dethmer H. KIELMAN (Netherlands - Employers)

#### Gist of the Commission document

Inland navigation vessels in Europe are currently subject to different regimes as regards technical requirements. These are laid down by the following instruments:

- the revised Regulation on Inspection of shipping on the Rhine of 1 January 1995, as adopted by the Central Commission for Navigation on the Rhine (CCNR)
- Council Directive 82/714/EEC of 4 October 19826

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<sup>5</sup> European Parliament and Council Directive 94/63/EC of 20 December 1994 on the control of volatile organic compound (VOC) emissions resulting from the storage of petrol and its distribution from terminals to service stations (OJ No. L 365 of 31.12.1994, pp. 24-33).

<sup>6</sup> OJ C 182 of 21.7.1980, p. 16

- the UN Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) Recommendations on (uniform) Technical requirements for inland waterway vessels (Annex to Resolution No. 17, rev., 14 October 1981).

These provisions differ in their geographical scope, legal force, the technical level they require and their field of application. There is a core area formed by the Rhine where the most up-to-date safety and technical requirements are in force; there is a secondary area around this formed by the other waterways of the six EU Member States concerned where the requirements of Annex II of the 1982 Directive are in force; and there is a third area outside the EU where the ECE Recommendations may be adopted by non-EU European states. The result of this is that, whilst there is an international waterway network which includes six EU Member States and which, since the construction of the Rhine-Main-Danube Canal in 1992, links the Black Sea to the North Sea, there is no com-

mon standard for vessels operating on this network. Even within the EU itself, two different sets of technical requirements apply.

The central purpose of the proposal presented here is to update the now outmoded technical requirements of Directive 82/714/EEC in order to improve safety and promote inland navigation transport, which is a very environmentally-friendly mode of transport.

#### **Gist of the opinion**

The Committee welcomes the proposal to amend Directive 82/174/EEC of 4 October 1982. It acknowledges the importance of harmonizing inland waterway transport as a major subsector of the transport market.

The Committee urges the Commission to map out the consequences of harmonizing the inland waterways market in consultation with all the interested parties, including the economic and social partners.

**Section for Energy, Nuclear Questions and Research**  
Nemesio Martinez, Principal Administrator - ☎ (32-2) 546 9794

#### **9. PROMOTION OF COMBINED HEAT AND POWER**

**Opinion of the Economic and Social Committee on the Commission Communication on A Community strategy to promote combined heat and power (CHP)**  
(COM(97) 514 final)

(CES 448/98)

Rapporteur: Giannino BERNABEI (Italy - Employers)

#### **Gist of the Commission communication**

The communication asks for the Committee's views on the subject of Combined Heat and Power (CHP).

The Committee was consulted in 1995 on the Green Paper for a European Union Energy Policy but was not consulted on the white paper. How-

ever, it produced an own-initiative opinion in 1994 on Community energy policy.

#### **Why a strategy on Combined Heat and Power (CHP)?**

In the White Paper on an Energy Policy for the European Union<sup>7</sup> the Commission committed itself to present a strategy offering a coherent approach for the promotion of Combined Heat and Power (CHP) in the EU. CHP is one of the very few technologies which can offer a significant short or medium-term contribution to the energy efficiency issue in the European Union and can make a positive contribution to EU environmental policies. The Commission fully shares the Council's<sup>8</sup> opinion that CHP production should be promoted as a measure "protecting the environment and reducing energy dependence on satisfactory economic

7 COM(95) 682 final.

8 OJ C 327 of 7 December 1995.



terms". It also backs the Parliament's call "to publish as quickly (sic) its communication on CHP in the Member States and to eliminate existing hindrances...".

### *Legislative*

The Community has promoted the concept of CHP since 1974. A Council Recommendation (77/714/EEC) was adopted on 25 October 1977 and a second one (86/611/EEC) in November 1988 which dealt with the promotion of cooperation between public utilities and auto producers of electricity essentially using renewable waste fuels and CHP. The new directive concerning common rules for the internal market in natural gas", under discussion by the Council and the European Parliament, is expected to increase the availability of gas at more competitive prices and thus improve the economic viability of gas-fired CHP plants. A new proposal for a Council directive entitled "Restructuring the Community framework for the taxation of energy products"<sup>9</sup> was adopted by the Commission on 12 March 1997 and offers Member States the possibility of granting fiscal advantages to renewable energy sources and to cogenerated heat.

### *Technological*

Energy saving is among the most prominent fields in the R&D programmes which the Community has undertaken since 1974. The Fourth Framework programme has supported several activities concerning CHP.

### *The barriers to CHP and district heating and cooling*

Three broad classes of barriers have been defined: *economic, regulatory and institutional*. Current regulations, such as in France and Italy, act as a barrier to new market entrants by distorting the economics in such a way as to make CHP appear to be economically unattractive. On the other hand in the UK, where market liberalization is nearly complete, many artificial barriers have been overcome or reduced. In some cases, the structure of the tax itself is unfavourable. In Finland and Sweden, for example, heat from CHP is taxed but waste heat from conventional generators is not.

### *A European combined heat and power strategy*

CHP, as an energy saving concept, makes businesses more competitive, is environmentally friendly, and helps to safeguard energy supplies, thereby re-enforcing the Community energy policy outlined in the 1995 white paper.

Analyses have shown that a doubling of the current share of CHP from 9% to 18% of total gross EU electricity generation by the year 2010, is realistically achievable. The environmental benefits would be significant. A rough estimate indicates that a doubling of CHP share could reduce CO<sub>2</sub> emissions by 150 Mt. per year or around 4 % of total EU CO<sub>2</sub> emissions in 2010.

### *Phare, Tacis, Synergy and Meda*

Energy is one of the main priorities of Tacis, and CHP projects are frequently supported, especially in conjunction with existing CHP-based district heating networks. The Synergy programme responds to the need for international cooperation in the energy sector and finances actions promoting CHP in Latin America and Asia. The guidelines for the indicative programmes concerning financial and technical measures under the Euro-Mediterranean partnership (MEDA) note that energy and environment deserve particular attention.

### *Negotiated agreements*

The Commission proposal for the review of the Fifth Environmental Action programme states that special attention should be given to agreements with industry. Agreements containing specific efficiency targets could be negotiated with industrial sectors where CHP offers a high potential of energy saving.

### *Cooperation between Member States*

The 1996 Council Resolution<sup>10</sup> on the white paper asked the Commission to put in place a process of cooperation between the Community and the Member States in order to ensure the compatibility of EU and national policies.

<sup>9</sup>

COM(97) 30 final.

<sup>10</sup>

O.J. C 224 of 1 August 1996.

### **Liberalization**

One of the Commission's main energy policies is the liberalization of the energy market. Although the overall impact of liberalization on CHP is likely to be positive, it will have different impacts on the different CHP applications. The price reductions that liberalization is likely to bring about represent both an opportunity and a threat to CHP. Input fuels might be available at lower cost but CHP produced electricity will have to compete with lower electricity prices. One of the principal remaining barriers to CHP in the liberalized markets is the failure of energy prices to reflect the cost of environmental externalities.

### **Internalization of external costs**

In the context of the Fifth Environmental Action programme<sup>11</sup> the internalization of external costs and benefits in the energy sector through tax incentives is a key priority for integrating the environment into other EU policy areas. Energy taxes could act as a stimulus, reinforcing CHP's existing competitiveness in the field of electricity and heat production. The Commission proposals for restructuring the framework of taxation of energy products<sup>12</sup> gave consideration to the energy and environmental benefits of CHP, and proposed tax exemptions.

The communication concludes with an Annex containing a description of CHP including: *Industrial CHP, District heating and cooling (DH&C) CHP, Residential and commercial, The economics of CHP, and CHP in EU Member States*, (and a table presenting the situation of CHP development in the 15 Member States).

### **Gist of the opinion**

The Committee approves the Commission initiative and puts forward some suggestions.

The Committee stresses the importance of coordination between Member States' programmes and wider Community energy policy, on the basis of a specific action plan.

The Committee favours the building of new, highly efficient CHP plants and the decommissioning or modernization of the oldest plants. This would reduce air pollution and boost energy efficiency.

While appreciating the differing climatic and environmental situations of the Member States, the Committee recommends the promotion of district cooling and desalination systems.

The Committee thinks that studies on the development of CHP in industry and service sectors should be updated at an early opportunity, as their findings could help Member States when they draw up their own development plans.

In order to eliminate barriers to the development of CHP, the Committee supports the Commission's intention to monitor the application of the directives on the internal markets for electricity and natural gas and to encourage Member States to pool information and experience.

The Committee calls for the removal of institutional barriers to the development of CHP. Regulatory provisions should be adopted to commit grid operators to purchase electricity generated by CHP plants.

The Committee favours practical measures to internalize costs. It supports the Commission's proposal to use Community and national financial instruments to encourage and facilitate investment in new CHP plant.

The Committee also considers that the right balance must be struck between the liberalization of the single market, the principles of competition policy and the targets set at the Kyoto conference.

The Committee stresses the importance of Community programmes for central and eastern European countries, and highlights the use of the Community's international cooperation programmes (Synergy, Alure, Phare and Tacis) to promote CHP in a multiannual framework.

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11 OJ C 140 of 14 May 1996.

12 OJ C 139 of 6 May 1997.

**Section for Social, Family, Educational and Cultural Affairs**  
Alan Hick, Head of Division ad interim - ☎ (32-2) 546 9302

**10. SAFEGUARDING SUPPLEMENTARY PENSION RIGHTS**

**Opinion of the Economic and Social Committee** on the *Proposal for a Council Directive on safeguarding the supplementary pension rights of employed and self-employed persons moving within the European Union*

(COM(97) 486 final - 97/0265 CNS)

(CES 449/98 - 97/0265 CNS)

Rapporteur: Francis J. WHITWORTH (United Kingdom - Employers)

**Gist of the Commission document**

In its drive towards the completion of the Single Market, the European Commission has adopted a proposal for a Council Directive on safeguarding the supplementary pension rights of employed and self-employed people moving within the European Union (EU), aimed at removing one of the remaining obstacles to the free movement of workers across the EU. The proposal covers supplementary pension schemes and concerns the preservation of acquired rights, the guarantee of cross-border payments, the possibility for workers temporarily posted by their employer to another Member State to remain affiliated to the supplementary pension scheme in the state where they were previously working, and information rights. Statutory schemes (state pensions) are already covered by EU free movement legislation (Regulation 1408/71). However for many workers, supplementary pension schemes are already more significant, in financial terms, than state pensions and their importance is growing.

The proposed directive fills a significant gap in existing EU legislation. At the moment, people who move from one job to another across the European Union face losing all or part of their supplementary pension rights. This situation represents a significant obstacle to mobility. It penalizes individual workers, it affects in a negative way the EU economy as a whole and it goes against the fundamental principle of free movement of people within the EU.

The proposal is a first step to removing obstacles to free movement relative to supplementary pensions. It is based on the recommendations contained in the Report of the High Level Panel on Free Movement (chaired by Simone Veil, former president of the European Parliament) and concerns:

- *Preservation of acquired rights.* This means that a worker who ceases to pay contributions to a supplementary pension scheme on leaving an employment in order to work for another employer in another Member State, should not lose the rights already acquired in this scheme which he/she would have preserved had he/she changed employer while remaining in the same Member State.
- *The guarantee of cross-border payments,* which is confirmation of the application of a fundamental principle of the EU Treaty, i.e. free movement of capital.
- *Measures allowing workers temporarily posted by their employer to another Member State to continue to contribute to the supplementary pension scheme in the state where they were previously working.* The proposed directive guarantees that workers posted from one country to another can continue to make contributions to a supplementary pension scheme in the Member State of origin under similar terms to those which apply to statutory social security schemes for posted workers (dealt with in Regulation 1408/71). The host Member State should give these contributions the same tax treatment as it gives to contributions made to approved supplementary schemes established in its own territory.
- Supplementary pension scheme managers should provide information about pension rights and the alternatives available when moving abroad.

The proposal lays down a set of principles which would apply across the European Union. Once the directive is adopted, Member States will be free to

determine how to incorporate these principles into their different national systems.

#### **Gist of the opinion**

The Economic and Social Committee welcomes the proposed directive as a limited first step towards the objective of complete freedom of movement in the field of supplementary pensions.

The principle that persons moving to another Member State should be in no worse or no better situation than those remaining within the same Member State is a correct one and should be enshrined in EU legislation. The payment of benefits in other Member States is already the norm. Regulation 1408/71 already requires this for statutory benefits and it is right that Article 1 should apply the same principle to supplementary benefits.

The Committee considers that the provision in Article 6 that contributions can continue to be made to their home scheme by temporarily posted workers and/or their employers on their behalf is the most valuable feature of the draft directive. It will greatly benefit employees of multinational companies. However the Committee believes that the one year period applicable under Regulation 1408/71 is far too short and that the provision should be applicable for the full period of the posting. It believes that this recommendation should be given legal effect within both Regulation 1408/71 and the current draft directive.

The draft directive creates inequality of treatment between posted and seconded workers (Article 6) and in the field of taxation between members of occupational schemes and individuals with personal schemes (Article 7). These distinctions should be eradicated by further measures as soon as possible.

Article 7 is particularly significant as a first attempt to cut through the jungle of the differing tax treatment of supplementary pension contributions and benefits in the various Member States. However anomalies will still obtain. The Commission should encourage Member States to be flexible in establishing a satisfactory approach between each other to resolve such anomalies.

The Committee attaches particular importance to the requirement in Article 8 regarding the provi-

sion of information to members of supplementary pension schemes moving to another Member State.

The Committee repeats the observations and recommendations contained in its December 1997 opinion on the Role of Occupational Pension Schemes and their Implications for Freedom of Movement.

The Committee recalls that in its 1992 opinion it suggested the possibility of devising a model European Company Occupational Pension Scheme. Another possibility might be an arrangement whereby an occupational pension scheme established under the laws and regulations of one Member State could have a number of sections to which employees working in other Member States might belong on a tax-qualifying basis.

#### **11. EXTENSION OF SOCIAL SECURITY TO NON-EU NATIONALS**

**Opinion of the Economic and Social Committee on the Proposal for a Council Regulation (EC) amending Regulation (EEC) No. 1408/71 as regards its extension to nationals of third countries (COM(97) 561 final- 97/0320 CNS)**

(CES 450/98 - 97/0320 CNS)

Rapporteur: Giorgio LIVERANI (Italy - Workers)

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

This proposal seeks to extend Community coordination of social security schemes, as laid down by Regulation (EEC) No. 1408/71, to employed persons and self-employed persons who are insured in a Member State and who are not Community nationals. The proposal is being put forward by the Commission in the light of the considerations set out below.

The Commission has for many years been endeavouring to improve the legal status of nationals of third countries legally resident in the Community. The White Paper on European social policy underlined the importance of this objective, and the Commission's medium-term social action programme (1995-97) also highlights this issue.

Moreover, the Commission adopted, on 30 July 1997, a draft Convention on rules for the admission of third-country nationals to the Member

States. In line with its strategy of securing equal treatment for legally resident nationals of third countries, the Commission's proposal is aimed at introducing a mechanism whereby nationals of third countries resident over a long period are recognized as long-term residents. Under the terms of the Commission's proposal, such persons should enjoy specific rights, on an equal footing with Community citizens, both in the Member State where they are recognized as long-term residents and in the other Member States.

The stance taken by the European Parliament and the Economic and Social Committee is similar to that of the Commission.

The Council and the Member States have also recognized "the great importance of implementing, in the field of social policy, policies based on the principles of non-discrimination and equal opportunities at Community and Member State level, within the framework of their respective powers, as a contribution to the common fight against racism and xenophobia.

Anchoring the principle of equal treatment for nationals of third countries in both national and Community law forms part of an overall strategy to combat racism and xenophobia within the Community. Mindful of the workings of the internal market and the pressing need to combat racism and xenophobia, the Advisory Committee on Racism and Xenophobia, set up by the Corfu European Council in July 1994, is another keen advocate of equal rights being granted to nationals of third countries whose situation is regularized.

These calls for nationals of third countries to be given equal rights take on special significance in 1997, the European Year against Racism. European social legislation, and in particular Regulation (EEC) No. 1408/71 on the coordination of social security schemes, which does not at present cover nationals of third countries, is at the heart of the matter. The lack of social protection afforded by the Regulation could put the persons concerned at a disadvantage.

#### **Gist of the opinion**

The Committee endorses the proposal.

## **12. FRAMEWORK AGREEMENT ON PART-TIME WORKING AND DIRECTIVE ON BURDEN OF PROOF - EXTENSION TO THE UK**

**Opinion of the Economic and Social Committee on the Proposal for a Council Directive on the extension of Council Directive 97/81/EC of 15 December 1997, on the Framework Agreement on part-time work concluded by UNICE, CEEP and the ETUC, to the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the Proposal for a Council Directive on the extension of Council Directive 97/80/EC of 15 December 1997, on the burden of proof in cases of discrimination based on sex to the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland**

(COM(98) 84 final - 98/0065 CNS - 98/0066 CNS)

(CES 457/98 fin - 98/0065 CNS - 98/0066 CNS)

Rapporteur-general: Ada MADDOCKS (United Kingdom - Workers)

#### **The full text of the opinion is as follows:**

In keeping with the approach adopted in its previous Opinion<sup>13</sup> on the extension to the United Kingdom of the European Works Council and Parental Leave Directives, the Economic and Social Committee welcomes the UK accession to the social provisions of the new Treaty and consequently endorses the two Commission proposals.

## **13. WHITE PAPER ON SECTORS AND ACTIVITIES EXCLUDED FROM THE WORKING TIME DIRECTIVE**

**Opinion of the Economic and Social Committee on the White paper on sectors and activities excluded from the working time directive**

(COM(97) 334 final)

(CES 460/98)

Rapporteur: Joseph KONZ (Luxembourg - Workers)

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

The aim of this white paper is to find the best ways of ensuring the protection of health and safety, with regard to working time, of workers currently excluded from the Working Time Directive (93/104/EC). In the light of sectoral analysis and evaluation, and following a request from the European Parliament, the Commission has concluded that there is a problem to be solved, i.e. that in all the excluded sectors and activities there are some workers who have no protection against working long hours or no guarantee of adequate rest. Moreover, lack of action could lead to distortions of competition within the single market and between competing modes of transport. Four broad policy approaches to the problem can be considered.

1. a non-binding approach;
2. a purely sectoral approach;
3. a differentiated approach;
4. a purely horizontal approach.

Subject to consideration of the views expressed on this white paper, the Commission proposes to proceed on the basis of Option 3. Under this option a distinction would be made between those activities which can be accommodated under the Working Time Directive and those which require specific measures. This would entail:

- extending the full provisions of the Working Time Directive to all non-mobile workers. Appropriate adjustment of the existing derogations would be made to take account inter alia of the need for continuity of service and other operational requirements;
- extending to all "mobile" workers and those engaged in "other work at sea" the provisions of the Working Time Directive on 4 weeks' paid annual leave, health assessments for night workers, a guarantee of adequate rest, and a maximum number of hours to be worked annually;
- introducing or modifying specific legislation for each sector or activity concerning the working time and rest periods of "mobile" workers and those engaged in "other work at sea".

With regard to such sectoral measures, the Commission hopes that it will be possible to proceed on the basis of agreement between the social partners.

### **Gist of the opinion**

On 18 December 1990, the Economic and Social Committee adopted an opinion on the proposal for the directive, which did not at that stage contain the exclusions which have prompted the white paper. The ESC agrees with the Commission white paper that:

- there is no objective justification for totally excluding any sector;
- there is no justification for treating "non mobile" workers differently from other workers already covered by the directive;
- in order to ensure minimum levels of protection of health and safety, the basic principles of the directive should apply to all workers;
- workers should be adequately protected from the harmful effects of disruptive working patterns and night work;
- agreements between the social partners would provide the best solution.

### **Sectoral comments**

#### *Transport*

With regard to "non mobile" workers in the transport sector, the ESC regrets that the white paper contains no ad hoc proposals.

The ESC is obliged to note that the absence of a directive for "mobile" workers in the surface transport sector has already led to major changes in the various modes of transport, and that, owing to the legislative delay which has arisen for a variety of reasons, an often conflictual situation has worsened considerably.

The ESC believes that outstanding problems in the road transport sector must be addressed rapidly, both in order to avoid an increase in distortions of competition and to avoid a rapid decline in working conditions. The European Community has to protect itself from the unfair competition resulting from the social dumping practised by road-transport firms from less socially advanced third countries.

The ESC welcomes the fact that, in the rail transport sector, the social partners in the Joint Committee on Railways reached an agreement on 18 September 1996.

The ESC is particularly pleased that, in the sea shipping sector, the social partners in the Joint Committee have also reached an agreement.

Conversely, the ESC is disappointed that, in the inland waterway and lake transport sector, the Joint Committee on Inland Waterways has been unable to reach an agreement.

The ESC is keen to see an agreement in the air-transport sector.

### *Sea fishing*

With regard to sea fishing, the ESC is the first to acknowledge that the conditions and the nature of the work are very specific and diverse, particularly as regards fishing methods and type of catch, ship tonnage and the large number of self employed workers in the sector. The ESC would, however, call on the social partners to return to the "Joint Committee" negotiating table and reach an agreement. Should no agreement be forthcoming, the partners should submit proposals to the Commission so that it can, on the basis of the general principles enshrined in Directive 93/104/EC, present the Council with a draft which reflects an industrial view of the sector.

### *Other work at sea*

The ESC suggests that the Commission set up a "joint ad hoc group" to decide what working time legislation is required in this area.

### *Doctors in training*

The ESC would hasten to point out that there is no valid reason to exclude doctors in training. Preventive measures should be implemented forthwith in the hospitals in question, in order to prevent any deterioration in the quality of patient care.

### **Conclusions**

The ESC endorses the Commission's pragmatic approach. The ESC also favours Option 3, which advocates a differentiated, three-pronged approach:

- 1) extension of the full provisions of the Working Time Directive (93/104/EC) to all "non-mobile" workers;
- 2) extension to all "mobile" workers (including sea-going fishermen) and to those engaged in "other work at sea" of the provisions of the Working Time Directive on:
  - four weeks' paid annual leave,
  - health assessments for night workers,
  - guarantee of adequate rest,
  - ceiling on the number of hours to be worked annually;
- 3) adoption, for each sector or activity, of specific legislation concerning the working time and rest periods of "mobile" workers and "mutatis mutandis" those engaged in sea fishing and "other work at sea".

The Committee joins the Commission in continuing to hope that it will be possible to proceed on the basis of agreement between the social partners in the transport and sea fishing sectors.

## **14. TOWARDS A EUROPE OF KNOWLEDGE**

**Opinion of the Economic and Social Committee on the Communication from the Commission to the Council, the European Parliament, the Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions entitled "Towards a Europe of knowledge" (COM(97) 563 final)**

(CES 455/98)

Rapporteur: Christoforos KORYFIDIS (Greece - Workers)

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

The purpose of this communication is to set out the guidelines for future Community action in the areas of education, training and youth for the period 2000-2006. It paves the way for the legal instruments to be proposed in the spring of 1998, with the relevant decisions to follow in 1999 and entry into force on 1 January 2000.

It responds to two major preoccupations:

***Knowledge policies***

- Noting that we are now entering the "knowledge society", the Commission in its Agenda 2000 proposes making the policies which drive that society (innovation, research, education and training) one of the four fundamental pillars of the Union's internal policies.

***Promoting employment***

- Policies to restore the employment situation - whether macroeconomic policies or specific labour market action - must be able to build on an in-depth medium-term strategy to enhance the knowledge and skills of all Europe's citizens.

The gradual construction of an open and dynamic European educational area is the guiding principle on which this communication is based. In a rapidly-changing world, our societies must offer all citizens greater opportunities for access to knowledge, irrespective of their age or social circumstances. This is why the notion of an educational area needs to be understood in the broadest possible sense, both geographically and temporally. It provides the framework for mobilising the effort to make a reality of the idea of *lifelong learning*, which was at the heart of the European Year devoted to this theme in 1996.

Three dimensions of the European educational area should be emphasized:

- to develop the knowledge on a continuous basis;
- reinforce European citizenship;
- to enhance the employability by acquiring new skills.

In the above context, the communication redefines the Commission's position with regard to:

- the number of objectives (reducing them);
- the type and number of measures (more focused activities);
- the role of the operators involved (sharing of responsibility between the Community, the Member States, and other parties involved);
- the framework of international cooperation (targeted international cooperation).

Finally, the Commission notes:

- its desire to develop a more integrated set of legal instruments;
- its intention to develop the debate on "priorities and resources" and the submission of "budgetary proposals corresponding to an ambitious policy which may imply an increase in budgetary resources higher than the increase in GNP";
- its position on greater visibility and transparency of Community measures and of the objectives of the Union to improve (politically and otherwise) the monitoring and evaluation of measures and to simplify resource management and make it more efficient.

**Summary of the opinion**

In principle, the ESC generally endorses the substance, content and legal basis of the Commission proposals. It also agrees with the course of action proposed for completing the procedures so that the new measures on education, training and youth come into force on 1 January 2000. The ESC's comments and suggestions are thus intended to clarify and supplement the Commission Communication.

The ESC stresses the importance for the EU's overall perspective of the Commission proposal for the "gradual construction of a ... European educational area".

It takes the view that the proposal:

- clearly covers an area which is not covered by the national educational systems;
- contributes - still in the context and under the terms of the Treaty - to coordinating the national educational systems, so as to make them more effective and competitive both in the production of knowledge and in the processes by which it is acquired by young people and citizens in general;
- can lead the European citizen, through the system of "lifelong learning and training", to levels of personal, productive and socio-political activity corresponding to the spirit and expectations of the times and in touch with the basic values which gave rise to European civilization (a humanist orientation, excluding none and enabling citizens to participate responsibly and practically in social life).



In the ESC's view, the main responsibility for building a Europe of knowledge lies with the EU bodies and particularly the Commission. This observation must not be interpreted as a centralizing logic or approach. On the contrary, it should be seen as an additional, continuing central effort to achieve:

- increasing transparency and publicity in decision-making procedures, greater clarity in presenting the reasons for choices and more precise definition of terms and scale;
- increasingly widespread and substantive participation by European citizens and their public representatives in the procedures for planning, drawing up and implementing the relevant programmes;
- closer linkage of the policy choices and specific actions on education, training and youth with the main contemporary problems, and particularly with that of employment;
- simplified management of programmes, with better utilization of resources to ensure unfettered, more widespread participation of European citizens in those programmes.

The ESC calls upon the Commission to make the most of all available ideas and take well-judged measures to overcome the ingrained habits which keep nearly all the national educational systems tied to outdated operational frameworks. To that end, an approach which is worth pursuing and implementing - among others - is the creation - backed up by specific measures - of a climate of competition within the community (schools, edu-

cation regions, national educational systems) and the cultivation of a competitive attitude towards the educational systems of non-member countries.

On the Commission's other proposals, the ESC:

- agrees with its views on the number of objectives and the concentration of efforts, stressing in particular the role of virtual mobility as a tool of the European educational area for building a Europe of knowledge;
- regards the views expressed by the Commission on the way of developing activities and the role of the socio-economic actors concerned as proposals of great importance for the future prospects of the social dialogue;
- feels that the integration of the new policy on education, training and youth in the perspective of enlargement, and the new approach to follow-up and coordination of efforts (legal instruments) are a step in the right direction. However, it emphasizes that the limits of each distinct sector and the need to record in the meantime the "common European cultural heritage" must be clearly defined.

Finally, as regards public funds and the management of the programmes, the ESC stresses the need to treat education, training and youth as policies of the highest priority. Endorsing the adoption of the third objective, it underlines that special attention must be devoted to the system for co-financing the programmes to ensure that it operates reliably and efficiently.

**Section for Agriculture and Fisheries**

Francisco Vallejo, Head of Division - ☎ (32-2) 546 9396

**15. VETERINARY CHECKS IN INTRA-COMMUNITY TRADE**

**Opinion of the Economic and Social Committee on the Proposal for a European Parliament and Council Directive amending Directive 89/662/EEC concerning veterinary checks in intra-Community trade with a view to the completion of the internal market, in order to reinforce checking**

(COM(97) 643 final - 97/0334 COD)

(CES 451/98 - 97/0334 COD)

Rapporteur: Sergio COLOMBO (Italy - Workers)

**Gist of the Commission proposal**

Council Directive 89/662/EEC concerning veterinary checks in intra-Community trade with a view to the completion of the internal market, as last amended by Directive 92/118/EEC, introduced arrangements for intra-Community trade in animal products within the internal market, namely more

stringent checking at origin, possible checking at destination and abolition of checks at internal borders.

The BSE crisis has shown the need to tighten up on checking and to this end it is necessary to improve information exchange between the competent authorities of the Member States.

Improvement must include the possibility of extending the ANIMO computerized system to intra-Community trade in animal products such as meat. So far its use has been reserved primarily for trade in live animals and transmission of information from border inspection posts.

It is therefore proposed that Directive 89/662/EEC be amended to allow the ANIMO system to be extended if necessary to the products covered by the Directive.

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

The Committee endorses the proposal to extend use of the computerized ANIMO system to products of animal origin intended for human consumption and considers that this exchange of information between competent authorities is consistent with the overriding need to protect public health.

However, the ESC would point out that this approach does not fully solve the problem of how to improve veterinary controls and so calls for genuine harmonization of foodstuff control systems in all Member States.

With regard to the legal basis, the ESC notes that while the choice of Article 100a is comprehensible, it is preferable to continue as in the past to opt for Article 43 (the legal basis for all agriculture-related questions) - partly because of the complex procedure entailed in applying Article 100A and partly because the Treaty of Amsterdam has still to be ratified.

## **16. PROPAGATING MATERIAL OF ORNAMENTAL PLANTS**

**Opinion of the Economic and Social Committee on the *Proposal for a Council directive on the marketing of propagating material of ornamental plants***

(COM(97) 708 final - 97/0367 CNS)

(CES 452/98 - 97/0367 CNS)

Rapporteur: Antoon STOKKERS (Netherlands - Various Interests)

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

The Commission's proposal is a major revision of Directive 91/682/EEC. In the interest of transparency, the proposal takes the form of a recasting of the directive. It addresses the recommendations of the SLIM (Simpler Legislation for the Internal Market) team on the matter of ornamental plants. Its purpose is thus to simplify legislation in this area which is required to (a) see to it that there is free movement of ornamental plant propagating material throughout the EU, (b) to set relevant minimum quality standards, and (c) promote competitiveness and the potential for job creation in businesses in this sector.

The proposal also simplifies the old directive by:

- clarifying the ambiguous wording in the provision relating to varietal authenticity and creating four clear categories by reference to which a variety may be marketed;
- providing a less cumbersome procedure for the import of material from third countries, without involving a decision at Community level; and
- eliminating the possible duplication of accreditation under Directive 91/682/EEC and registration under Directive 77/93/EEC (plant health), by deeming all producers registered under the latter to also be accredited as suppliers of propagating material.

### **Gist of the opinion**

The Committee feels that the changes proposed by the Commission bring about simplification and offer a sufficient quality guarantee to buyers of basic material, without however generating unnecessary bureaucracy. The section is also glad that the import of basic material is given balanced treatment in the proposal, allaying any fears of distortions of competition or the development of a parallel system which might undermine the quality guarantee system in the EU.

The ESC is however critical of the large number of cases in which, under the Commission proposal, the Article 22 procedure would apply; this provides for further detailed legislation.

The ECS also feels that the terms used in the proposal need to be more precisely defined. For example, attention is drawn to the lack of a definition of "ornamental plant" and to the definitions of "propagating material" and "supplier". Precision is needed to prevent the proposal being undermined by differing interpretations.

**Section for External Relations, Trade and Development Policy**

Georgina Willems, Head of Division - ☎ (32-2) 546 9471

### **17. REINFORCING THE PRE-ACCESSION STRATEGY (*Own-initiative*)**

**Opinion of the Economic and Social Committee**  
*on reinforcing the pre-accession strategy*

(CES 456/98)

Rapporteur: Filip HAMRO-DROTZ (Finland - Employers)

#### **Reasons for drawing up an opinion on the reinforcement of the pre-accession strategy**

In December 1997 the Luxembourg European Council took the decisions necessary to launch the overall enlargement process.

The Economic and Social Committee has in recent years been closely involved in EU action to forge closer ties with the CEEC, drawing up and adopting numerous opinions and reports on the subject. The ESC has also been involved in developing closer cooperation with the CEEC by holding a series of hearings with representatives of economic and social interest groups in the applicant countries. It has also forged and consolidated bilateral links with groups from these countries, for example by setting up joint consultative committees with representatives from certain countries.

The purpose of this opinion is to give advice and to suggest measures and priorities for the start in

March 1998 of the reinforced pre-accession strategy with the countries that have applied for EU membership.

### **Gist of the opinion**

The ESC endorses the key principles of the accession process as put forward by the European Council: the applicant countries take part in the accession process under the same conditions and criteria, with each country proceeding at its own pace according to its level of preparation. Before accession negotiations can begin, the applicant country must meet the criteria laid down by the Copenhagen European Council and must have transposed EU legislation into national law so that this is actually being applied at the time of accession.

The aim of all parties with regard to accession must be to limit the use of temporary transitional measures to exceptional cases.

The ESC recommends that, in the initial phase, the pre-accession strategy for Cyprus should seek, *inter alia*, to establish working relations between the two communities in Cyprus.

The ESC would encourage the EU and Turkey to step up cooperation in a purposeful and active manner, with the aim of promoting the conditions which will allow the pre-accession strategy with Turkey to be reinforced as soon as possible.

The ESC agrees with the European Council's observation that enlargement also depends on the Union's own willingness to accept new members and on improving the working of EU bodies in line with the provisions of the Amsterdam Treaty. The impact of enlargement on the ESC, its composition, operation and internal procedures will also have to be considered and the Committee is ready to give its own views on the subject.

The ESC can play a key role in the pre-accession strategy and in addressing the abovementioned issues. It proposes that the EU support its ongoing efforts as part of the preparatory process to forge closer and more effective relations, both bilateral and multilateral, with socio-economic groupings in the applicant countries.

With this in mind, the ESC intends on the basis of the experience and contacts it has acquired to give additional opinions on the subject and to enhance structured dialogue by organizing annual hearings

with the interest groups of the applicant countries and otherwise by forging closer and more regular bilateral ties with the relevant players in the individual applicant countries.

The purpose of this is to hear the views of economic and social operators from the applicant countries on the pre-accession strategy and partnerships, including how effective they are and where improvements are needed, to explain the objectives and conditions of different factors in the pre-accession process, to improve interaction, to support the creation of the necessary social structures in the applicant countries, and to channel the views expressed in this context to the relevant EU bodies. This is intended to serve as a back-up to the ongoing preparations for enlargement.

The ESC proposes that the EU approve this action, institutionalizing it as part of the pre-accession strategy.

**Section for Economic, Financial and Monetary Questions**

Arie Van de Graaf, Head of Division - ☎ (32-2) 546 9227

**18. EXTERNAL ASPECTS OF EMU**

**Opinion of the Economic and Social Committee**  
on *External aspects of economic and monetary union*  
(doc. SEC(97) 803 final)

(CES 458/98)

Rapporteur: Robert PELLETIER (France - Employers)

**Gist of the Commission document**

The Commission analyses the international consequences of the transition to the euro and the very complex relationship between EMU and the rest of the world. It looks in succession at the economic weight of the euro area in the world economy, transitional issues, economic policy and the exchange rate of the euro, and finally Europe's place as an international partner.

**Gist of the opinion**

The Economic and Social Committee would like to participate fully in the debate on the conditions and effects of introduction of a single currency in the economic union.

The opinion analyses the questions raised by the Commission, in particular with regard to the financial market of the future euro area and the future international role of the euro. The opinion comes to the conclusion that the Commission's analysis is an essential contribution to the debate on economic and monetary union, without however exhaustively exploring the problem.

The convergence of all economic, monetary and fiscal policies on a more rigorous approach, the weight of the Maastricht criteria and the adoption of a stability and growth pact are aimed at placing Europe on a growth path, but also give rise to concerns.

The Committee does not at present feel that it is in a position to judge how far these fears are justified. It would merely like to see the Commission's analyses addressing these concerns. This approach, far from calling economic and monetary union into

question, is intended to allay fears as to the ability of economic and monetary union to adapt to the resumption of growth which is needed to bring down unemployment, and in the longer term for the success of the single currency itself.

## **II. FUTURE WORK**

### ***FOR INFORMATION***

- Noise emission by equipment used outdoors (**ENV-SEPT**)  
COM(98) 46 final - 98/0029 COD
- Control of state aid (Article 93) (**IND-APR**)  
COM(98) 73 final - 98/0060 CNS
- Tax treatment of private motor vehicles moved permanently to another Member State (**IND-JUL**)  
COM(98) 30 final - 98/0025 CNS
- 8th annual report on the Structural Funds (**REG.DEV-MAY**)  
COM(97) 526 final
- Conditions for the operation of ferries (**TRA-JUL**)  
COM(98) 71 final - 98/0064 SYN
- Telecommunications networks owned by a single operator (**TRA-JUL**)  
SEC(97) 2390 final
- Quality wines produced in specified regions (**AGR-APR**)  
COM(98) 86 final - 98/0053 CNS
- Common organization of the market in raw tobacco (**AGR-MAY**)  
COM(98) 19 final - 98/0027 CNS
- Health problems affecting intra-Community trade in bovine animals and swine (**AGR-MAY**)  
COM(98) 81 final - 98/0052/COD
- Economic policy reflections in view of the 1998 broad guidelines (**ECOFIN-APR**)  
(Communication replacing the annual economic report)  
COM(98) 103 final

### ***IN ANTICIPATION***

- Registration of subsonic aircraft whose certificate has been renewed (**ENV-JUL**)  
COM(98) 98 final - 98/0070 SYN
- Measure to combat late payments - commercial transactions (**IND-SEP**)  
COM(98) 126 final

- Amendment of Regulation (EC) No. 1164/94 establishing the Cohesion Fund (**REG. DEV-SEP**)  
COM(98) 130 final
- Reform of the Structural Funds (**REG. DEV-SEP**)  
COM(98) 131 final
  - + General provisions of the Structural Funds (98/0090 AVC)
  - + European Regional Development Fund (98/0114 SYN)
  - + European Social Fund (98/0115 SYN)
  - + Structural measures in the fisheries sector (98/0116 CNS)
- Examinations for safety advisers - transport of dangerous goods by road, rail and inland waterway (**TRA-NOT YET DECIDED**)  
COM(98) 174 final
- Granting of EU financial aid - trans-European networks (**TRA-NOT YET DECIDED**)  
COM(98) 172 final
- Protection of workers - risks in respect of exposure to carcinogens at the workplace (**SOC-JUL/SEP**)  
COM(98) 170 final
- Protection of laying hens kept in various systems of rearing (**AGR-NOT YET DECIDED**)  
(COM(98) 135 final - 98/0092 CNS)
- Reform of the CAP (**AGR-NOT YET DECIDED**)  
COM(98) 158 final
- Support for rural development provided by the European Guidance and Guarantee Fund (EAGGF) (**AGR-SEP**)  
COM(98) 175 final
- EU aid for agriculture and rural development in the applicant states of central and eastern Europe (**EXT REL- SEP**)  
COM(98) 153 final
- Pre-accession structural instrument (**EXT REL-SEP**)  
COM(98) 138 final

***OWN-INITIATIVE***

- New trans-Atlantic market (additional opinion) (**EXT REL-NOT YET DECIDED**)

***OTHER WORK***

- Freedom to provide services and the general good in the insurance sector (additional opinion) (**IND-SEP**)

### **III. PRESENCE AND INFLUENCE OF THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMITTEE**

#### **Activities of the ESC president**

On 12-13 March Mr Tom Jenkins attended an informal meeting of Education and Social Affairs Ministers at the Queen Elizabeth II Conference Centre in London. He had been invited to take part in this event by the UK Minister for Education, Mr David Blunkett.

The ESC president was in Bulgaria from 14-16 March on an official visit, together with Committee vice-president, Mr Johannes Jaschick. They held discussions in Sofia with Mrs Nadejda Mihailova, Bulgarian Minister for Foreign Affairs, Mr Ivan Neikov, Minister of Labour and Social Policy, Mr Alexander Bojkov, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Industry, and Mrs Antoinette Primatarova, Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs. They also held meetings with representatives of a number of Bulgarian socio-occupational organizations including employers' groups, trade unions, consumer groups and women's associations.

The Bulgarian government intends to propose that the Association Council set up a joint consultative committee made up of members of the ESC and their opposite numbers in Bulgaria, as laid down in Article 110 of the Association Agreement. The ESC, for its part, welcomed this initiative. President Jenkins declared: "It is of crucial importance that the representatives of organized civil society are involved in the enlargement process. The path to joining the European Union will not be an easy one, and so people on both sides have to participate actively."

On 20 March, meanwhile, Mr Jenkins met representatives of the Icelandic Federation of Labour at the Committee building.

On 25 March Mr Jenkins met the Ambassador of Turkey, Mr Nihat Aykol, and the chairman of the European Parliament's Committee on Institutional Affairs, Mr Biagio de Giovanni. Later that day he held talks with Mr Paul Boateng, Parliamentary Under Secretary of State at the UK Department of Health.

#### **Activities of the ESC sections and members**

The March plenary session ratified the election of Mr Joseph Konz (Group II - Luxembourg) to the presidency of the Section for Transport and Communications.

A conference on trends in commerce in Europe was held at the Committee building on 3-4 March and attended by Mr Regaldo and Mr Lustenhouwer. The event was organized by Eurostat and the European Commission's DG XXIII.

Mr de Paul de Barchifontaine attended a conference on genetic engineering organized by the European Parliament in Brussels on 5 and 6 March.

ESC members took part in two conferences in Manchester, United Kingdom, this month: Mr Donovan, president of the study group on capital markets for SMEs, attended a conference on Creation and Retention of Wealth in the Regions on 4-6 March. Mr Vever, Mr Reuna and Mr Moreland, meanwhile, represented the Committee at a conference entitled "Better government: more effective regulation" on 9-10 March.

A conference on state aid - held in Brussels on 26 March - was attended by Mr Simpson on behalf of the Committee.

## **Other activities**

### **THE EURO, A CURRENCY FOR EUROPE - London, 2 March 1998**

As part of the Information Programme for the European Citizen (PRINCE), the ESC organized a seminar together with the European Commission, the European Parliament, the British Trades Union Congress and the European Trade Union Academy on the subject of "The Euro, a currency for Europe" on 2 March in London. The aim of the seminar was to train people to provide information and shape opinions in their respective organizations.

The seminar was opened by Mr Tom Jenkins, ESC President. On the agenda was a presentation of the impact of monetary union on economic and social activity, a statement by Mr Alan J. Donnelly, member of the European Parliament, and a workshop for trade union members responsible for training activities relating to incorporating the Euro into trade union training programmes.

### **CITIZENS' EUROPE CONFERENCE - Chamber of Trade of the Grand-Duchy of Luxembourg - Luxembourg, 19 March 1998**

The "Citizens' Europe" programme was launched by the Economic and Social Committee in 1993. The aim of the programme is to promote dialogue between the general public and the EU institutions with a view to making EU policies more transparent.

On 19 March 1998, the ESC held a conference at the headquarters of the Luxembourg Chamber of Trade entitled "A debate between the Economic and Social Committee and the Super-region". The conference was organized in collaboration with the Economic and Social Council of the Grand-Duchy of Luxembourg, the Economic and Social Committee of the Super-region and the Chamber of Trade of the Grand-Duchy of Luxembourg.

The debate was attended by 150 people representing various socio-economic interest groups. Three topics relating to the single market were debated, namely:

- Strengthening the cross-border labour market as a means of integration;
- Promoting vocational training and language-learning in the fight against youth unemployment; and
- Removing administrative barriers.

The opening session of the conference was attended by Mr Paul Reckinger, president of the Chamber of Trade of the Grand-Duchy of Luxembourg, Mr Jean Spantz, president of the Chamber of Deputies, Mr Alex Bodry, Minister for Land-Use Planning, the Environment and Youth Affairs, Mr Tom Jenkins, president of the ESC and Mr Robert Weber, president of the Economic and Social Council of the Grand-Duchy of Luxembourg.

The closing addresses were given by Mr Dieter Kretschmer, president of the Economic and Social Committee of the Super-region, and Mrs Lydie Wurth-Polfer, mayor of the city of Luxembourg.



#### **IV. INFORMATION VISITS**

During the period in question, the following groups visited the ESC:

- Instituto para o desenvolvimento agrário da região norte (IDARN) - Portugal
  - Parlamento vasco - Spain
  - Forbundet for Offentligt Ansatte, Aalborg - Denmark
  - Friedrich Ebert Stiftung - Germany
  - Landeszentrale für Politische Bildung - Germany
  - Lyngby Handelsskole - Denmark
  - Universidad de Valencia - Spain
  - Briefing for new trainees CES - Mixed
  - European Construction Professionnals - Mixed
  - South Downs College - United Kingdom
  - University of Luton - United Kingdom
  - Worthing Sixth Form College - United Kingdom
  - American University - United States
  - Senior Civil Servants from Bulgaria
  - Lycée Saint-Michel - France
  - Seminar CEPFAR - Mixed
  - Briefing for new EU officials - Mixed
  - Northern College - United Kingdom
  - Stockton Sixth Form College - United Kingdom
  - Bildungsdienst, Sozialwerk und Akademie des Deutschen Beambtenbundes (BISOWE des DBB) - Germany
  - Confederation of Finnish Industry and Employers (NIORD)
  - The London School of Economics and Political Science - United Kingdom
  - Icelandic Federation of Labour
  - The London School of Economics and Political Science - United Kingdom
  - Officials from the Romanian Ministry of Agriculture
  - Care for Europe - United Kingdom
  - Universidad de Alicante - Spain
  - Magistrats français - France
  - Hogeschool Haarlem en Erasmus Universiteit Rotterdam - Netherlands
  - Oaklands College Hertfordshire - United Kingdom
  - Université Aix-en-Provence - France
  - DGB Bildungswerk Nordrhein Westfalen - Germany
  - Université de Picardie Jules Verne - France
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