

EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES

# BULLETIN

5

---

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





EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES

BULLETIN

94

5

---

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



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

## ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMITTEE

Directorate for Communications  
Public Relations Division

2, rue Ravenstein, B-1000 Brussels

Tel.: 519 90 11  
Fax: 519 98 22

Telegram: ECOSEUR  
Telex: 25 983 CESEUR

Catalogue number: ESC-94-010-EN

Brussels: General Secretariat of the Economic and Social Committee, 1994

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

*Printed in Belgium*

C O N T E N T S

<b>I.</b>	<b>316th PLENARY SESSION OF 1 AND 2 JUNE 1994</b> . . . . .	<b>1</b>
1.	Acces to justice . . . . . <i>(adopted unanimously)</i>	3
2.	Guarantees and after-sales services . . . . . <i>(adopted by a majority, with 2 votes against)</i>	5
3.	European textile industry . . . . . <i>(adopted unanimously)</i>	6
4.	Licences/satellite network services . . . . . <i>(adopted unanimously)</i>	9
5.	Tonnage measurement of ballast spaces . . . . . <i>(adopted unanimously)</i>	11
6.	European vessel reporting system . . . . . <i>(adopted unanimously)</i>	12
7.	Admission to the occupation of road transport operator . . . . . <i>(adopted unanimously)</i>	13
8.	RTD programmes/participation rules . . . . . <i>(adopted unanimously)</i>	14
9.	Economic and financial aspects of the White Paper on Growth, competitiveness, employment (Own-Initiative Opinion) . . . . . <i>(adopted by a majority, with 4 votes against and 3 abstentions)</i>	18
10.	Industrial aspects of the White Paper on Growth, competitiveness, employment (Own-Initiative Opinion) . . . . . <i>(adopted by a majority with 5 abstentions)</i>	20
11.	Social aspects of the White Paper on Growth, competitiveness, employment (Own-Initiative Opinion) . . . . . <i>(adopted by a majority with 6 abstentions)</i>	25
12.	Mechanisms for informing and consulting employees . . . . . <i>(adopted by 93 votes for, 50 votes against and 12 abstentions)</i>	26
13.	3rd Report - Social Charter . . . . . <i>(adopted by a majority with 12 abstentions)</i>	29
14.	Weights and dimensions - road vehicles over 3.5t . . . . . <i>(adopted by a majority, with 2 votes against and 4 abstentions)</i>	30
15.	Non-nuclear energies . . . . . <i>(adopted by a majority, with 2 votes against and 1 abstention)</i>	31

.../...

16.	Communications technologies . . . . .	34
	<i>(adopted unanimously)</i>	
17.	Industrial and materials technologies . . . . .	36
	<i>(adopted by a majority with 33 abstentions)</i>	
18.	Dangerous substances/major accident hazards . . . . .	38
	<i>(adopted unanimously)</i>	
19.	Community initiatives . . . . .	40
	<i>(adopted unanimously)</i>	
<b>II.</b>	<b>FUTURE WORK . . . . .</b>	<b>42</b>
<b>III.</b>	<b>PRESENCE AND IMPACT OF THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMITTEE</b>	<b>43</b>
<b>IV.</b>	<b>APPOINTMENT OF NEW COMMITTEE MEMBERS . . . . .</b>	<b>44</b>
<b>V.</b>	<b>FACT-FINDING VISITS . . . . .</b>	<b>45</b>

## I. 316th PLENARY SESSION OF 1 AND 2 JUNE 1994

The June Plenary Session of the Economic and Social Committee was attended by Mr Abderrazak Kefi, President of the Economic and Social Council of the Tunisian Republic. It had a particularly packed agenda, with no less than 19 Opinions being adopted.

It is worth noting that several of these Opinions were on matters of great contemporary importance, in particular:

- the delicate and controversial issue of works committees and procedures for informing and consulting workers in businesses with a European dimension; despite difficulties, the Economic and Social Committee managed to approve the proposal by a significant majority (93 votes in favour, 50 against and 12 abstentions);
- regarding the White Paper on growth, competitiveness and employment: the challenges and ways forward into the 21st century, the ESC has been working on the issues concerned since the July 1993 European Council at Copenhagen<sup>1</sup>. It adopted three Own-initiative Opinions on economic aspects of the White Paper (Rapporteur : Mr Aldo Romoli, Italy - Employers), industrial aspects of the White Paper (Rapporteur: Mr Klaus Schmitz, Germany - Workers) and social aspects of the White Paper (Rapporteur: Mr Roger Burnel, France - Various Interests).

Subsequently to these three Opinions, the ESC has adopted by a large majority with nine abstentions, the following resolution addressed to the Corfu European Council of June 1994.

### RESOLUTION OF THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMITTEE

1. The Economic and Social Committee endorses the long-term strategy outlined in the White Paper on Growth, Competitiveness, Employment. It believes that the proposed guidelines should be translated into effective, coherent action without delay.

The Committee considers that the Council should formally put the problem of employment in the European Union at the top of the list of priorities and ensure that this is reflected in the broad economic policy guidelines provided for by Article 103 of the EC Treaty.

The aim should be to bring down unemployment and create jobs, especially for young people.

This priority should be reflected in all European Union and Member State policies.

2. A return to sustained economic growth, expansion of the productive base of the economy and increased competitiveness of European industry are all necessary if the European Union

---

<sup>1</sup> The ESC had established a sub-committee which prepared an Opinion on growth, competitiveness and employment: medium-term considerations (OJ 93/C 352/10 of 30 December 1993, page 32) and a Report on the same subject (CES 855/93 fin).

is to pull out of the structural and cyclical crisis which is threatening economic and social equilibrium in the Member States.

3. In order to achieve a non-inflationary expansion of aggregate demand in the European economy, advantage should be taken of the existing room for manoeuvre to adopt suitable macro-economic and monetary measures, in particular measures to promote the present downward trend in real interest rates. The guidance, monitoring and coordination role of the European Union with regard to the economic policies of the Member States will have to be reinforced by using all the available instruments. In several Member States, however, thought will need to be given to ensuring a better balance in the allotment of resources to production and investment on the one hand and to public expenditure on the other. The Committee endorses the White Paper objective of increasing the share of macro-economic investment in GDP from 19% to 23-24% and hopes that the measures needed to increase public and private investment will be taken under a medium-term programme. The Committee believes that the decisions taken by the various authorities of the European Union should be consistent with the stated objectives.

A Europe-wide "social pact" could set out the basic conditions for an equitable, job-creating upturn in growth. This cooperation could address the problems of adjustment of arrangements for funding social security, work organization and working conditions.

4. The European Union and its Member States will have to do their utmost to implement active job-creation policies and to eliminate the obstacles and rigidities that have recently prevented the European economy from playing a dynamic, competitive role in the global marketplace.

The Economic and Social Committee endorses most of the proposals set out in the chapters of the White Paper on the issues of work, adaptation of education systems and vocational training, and the need to adopt a new way of tackling the relationship between growth and unemployment.

5. The White Paper and the action programme approved by the Brussels European Council advocate adoption of measures to be implemented under the joint responsibility of the Union. The Committee calls for action to be taken on the declarations. This is true, in the first place, of measures in the field of trans-European networks (transport, telecommunications and energy). In particular, the Committee urges the Council to adopt definitively the master plans for the trans-European networks, draw up a precise timetable and take the requisite decisions on funding.

6. The efficiency of European industry is of vital importance for the future of the European economy. To ensure and improve the competitiveness of industry, direct and indirect Community measures should be taken to consolidate its innovative potential. In this connection it is essential to take coordinated action with regard to research and development and to involve the scientific community and socio-economic circles in this action.

7. The role of the European economy on the world stage now seems unclear and a long-term strategy is lacking. The Economic and Social Committee would stress the need for the European Union to implement a more active and longer-term external relations policy. The Committee believes in particular that the European Union should play a pioneering role in the promotion of a new model of economic and political relations between industrialized and Third World countries. The Committee

once again calls for World Trade Organization procedures to include a social clause referring to ILO standards.

8. The Committee firmly supports the European economic and social model described by the White Paper. This model is a part of the European identity and should be preserved and strengthened. It can only be maintained in an increasingly interdependent world by reconciling high productivity, a high level of social welfare cover, sustainable development and involvement of socio-economic interest groups.

9. The Committee considers that the White Paper target of creating 15 million jobs by the year 2000, thereby halving the unemployment rate, is ambitious. In order to come as close as possible to this goal, Member States and the Union should take all appropriate steps to protect and expand employment.

The White Paper states that seventeen million people are officially registered as being out of work in the European Union. This figure has since risen to nineteen million. Structural unemployment (e.g. long-term and youth unemployment) is the major cause of social exclusion. Over 52 million people (single persons and families) are marginalized in the European Union.

Structural unemployment poses an enormous problem for society; no-one can remain impervious to its human, social, economic and cultural implications. The European Institutions, the national governments and all the social partners, economic players and citizens must contribute to a solution.

The future of our societies and cultures is at stake. This is the underlying message of the present resolution addressed to the European Council.

10. Many European citizens seem to have lost confidence in the ability of European politicians to take action. The Committee urges the Corfu European Council to take the important decisions now required, thereby making it clear that building a Community Europe is an ongoing process.

The Committee adopted the following Opinions at its June Session.

## 1. ACCESS TO JUSTICE

**Opinion of the Economic and Social Committee on the *Green Paper on Access of Consumers to Justice and the settlement of consumer disputes in the Single Market***  
(COM(93) 576 final)

(CES 742/94)

Rapporteur: Mr Manuel Cabeçadas Ataíde Ferreira (Portugal - Various Interest)

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

The Commission's Green Paper on the access of consumers to justice and the settlement of consumer disputes summarized the position to-date at Member State- and EU-level, with particular reference to the protection of individual rights and of collective interests, and set out a number of themes for discussion as follows :

- the free movement of actions for an injunction;
- legal aid;
- simplified settlement of transfrontier disputes;
- self-regulation and the dialogue between consumers and professionals;
- transfrontier co-operation.

### **Gist of the Opinion**

The Committee welcomes the Commission's initiative in publishing the Green Paper but urges the Commission to consider adopting the following, non-exhaustive list of measures :

- (i) compilation of a list of the means available to the public for settling consumer disputes and dissemination of information thereon;
- (ii) a comparative, in-depth study of the qualitative results of the pilot projects mentioned in the green paper; the introduction - based on these results - of incentives for Member States to develop mediation and conciliation services;
- (iii) encouraging debate and dialogue between the various parties concerned with access to law and justice;
- (iv) establishment of a network of local offices in all Member States offering legal advice free or at reduced cost;
- (v) consideration of the possible creation of voluntary legal protection insurance, covering all consumer disputes;
- (vi) training programmes for those involved in the application of consumer law;
- (vii) a study of those areas where consumers experience particular difficulty in obtaining access to justice.

The Committee also urges the Commission to submit specific proposals on the following points :

- a) the right of consumer associations to represent collective interests before the courts, and to be awarded compensation;

.../...

- b) a system of legal aid for transfrontier disputes, covering court proceedings, and prior legal advice;
- c) definition of common principles and procedures for settling transfrontier consumer disputes and actions for an injunction;
- d) definition of basic rules for the standardization of collective actions at Community level.

## 2. GUARANTEES AND AFTER-SALES SERVICES

**Opinion of the Economic and Social Committee** on the *Green Paper on guarantees for consumer goods and after-sales services*  
(COM(93) 509 final)

(CES 743/94)

Rapporteur: Mr Georges Proumens (Belgium - Employeurs)

### Gist of the Commission document

The Commission's Green Paper on guarantees for consumer goods and after sales service dealt with the harmonization of EU-legislation under the following heads :

- the legal guarantee;
- the commercial guarantee;
- after-sales services.

The Commission invited comments from interested parties, including the Committee, with a view to the preparation of appropriate long term measures.

### Gist of the Opinion

The Committee agreed that the proposed harmonization would appear to be a suitable means of facilitating intra-Community trade, and made the following specific observations :

- ***the legal guarantee*** (traditional minimum protection)
  - i) the Committee favours phased harmonization, i.e. the drawing up of a set of basic rules common to all Member States, which could be discussed by economic operators. Once agreement was reached on a particular point, the Commission could propose legislation to give it legal force;
  - ii) the definition of "defect" should be re-examined;
  - iii) the parties who are liable for a "defect" should be more clearly defined.

- *the commercial guarantee* (additional benefits offered by the manufacturer or vendor)

Although harmonization might cause problems for manufacturers, particularly SME's, there is a good case for issuing guidelines in this field, which could be discussed in the Consumer Forum, and result in the introduction of a European consumer code.

- *after sales service*

The Committee considers that the underlying problem concerns the availability of spare parts. It considers it inadvisable to regulate such availability which depends on the specific nature of each product. However, in some cases, codes of practice might be appropriate.

### 3. EUROPEAN TEXTILE INDUSTRY

**Opinion of the Economic and Social Committee on the Report on the competitiveness of the European textile and clothing industry**  
(COM(93) 525 final)

(CES 744/94)

Rapporteur: Mr Luis Alberto Garcia Ferrero Morales (Portugal - Various Interests)

#### Gist of the Commission document

This report on the competitiveness of the European textile and clothing industry comprises :

- a foreword and conclusions summing up the competitive position of the industry and the measures taken by the Community to strengthen it;
- an addendum examining the impact of the opening-up of trade with the countries of Central and Eastern Europe on the Portuguese textile industry.

The first part contains:

- an introduction describing the background to the report;
- an account of the underlying developments in the industry from 1988 to 1992, i.e. falling production and (since 1991) consumption, an extremely marked decline in employment and investment at its lowest level since 1982. Imports rising almost twice as fast as exports (to the detriment of intra-Community production). Turnover increasing and then stabilizing and value added remaining stable (two trends reflecting the industrial strategies based on sub-contracting and relocation);
- an assessment of the international competitiveness of the textile and clothing industry, which is deteriorating, as confirmed by the loss of market share taken by exports from the

.../...

Community in the industrialized countries and the sharp increase in the trade deficit in clothing; on the other hand, the Community still has a trade surplus in textiles. One point to note is the severe imbalance with the leading Asian exporters, most of whose markets remain closed;

- an analysis of the factors determining international competitiveness. The adverse impact of the depreciation of the dollar has been partly offset by the devaluations since September 1992. Labour costs are a decisive factor, particularly in the downstream sectors. They are extremely high in most Member States and the gap with the Community's competitors, apart from the NICs, is widening. Capital productivity, labour productivity, job skills and the complex factors affecting competitiveness (particularly quality and flexibility) are some of the strengths of the Community industry. However, it still suffers from various distortions of international competition;
- a description of the industrial strategies adopted in response to these problems. Four main trends can be identified: modernization, relocation, specialization and flexibility. Some businesses have been restructured, others are lagging behind;
- a description of the measures taken by the Community, both internally and externally. These must be continued and stepped up.

### **Gist of the Opinion**

The Committee stresses the serious nature of the current situation and the Appendix to the Opinion contains corroborative data. The Committee identifies the causes of the decline in the European textile/clothing industry, describes the possible scenarios for the next 10 years and proposes a range of measures:

#### ***Reasons for the decline***

The impact of wage differences vis-à-vis developing countries is exacerbated by the imbalances in world trade; these imbalances arise from distortions of competition such as subsidies, dumping, pirating of intellectual property, illegal imports, closed markets in most of the exporting countries, use of forced and/or child labour, non-respect of trade union rights and minimum environmental regulations.

#### ***Possible scenarios for the next ten years***

Four factors will have a major influence on textile/clothing trade flows: the planned liberalization of trade (GATT agreements), China's accession to the WTO (World Trade Organization), cooperation agreements with the countries of eastern Europe, and growth in consumption in Asia and South America in the wake of economic development. Other, less predictable, developments will also come into play: the growth of textile industries in emerging nations such as Vietnam, Laos, etc., the probable extension of NAFTA (North American Free Trade Association) and the enlargement of the European Union.

### *Solutions*

Management and monitoring of textile agreements: the Commission must play a more effective role and Member States must provide it with the means to do this.

An effective Community trade policy, under which the Council of Ministers should also give the Commission more freedom to take anti-dumping and anti-subsidy measures and measures to protect intellectual property (designs and models, counterfeiting).

Moves must be made to stamp out fraud and counterfeiting, copying and/or illegal imports.

Market access: moves should be made to slash exorbitant duties, to ensure reciprocity and to dismantle non-tariff barriers.

The European Union should continue to press for action on environment-related problems, including approaches to the WTO.

Business environment: several areas are eligible for subsidized research into the competitiveness of firms in this sector.

Research and technological development and transfer of techniques: research coordination programmes carried out by several national and/or regional institutes; European telematics network for technical information, etc.

A committee (to be set up), comprising trade and scientific bodies and Commission representatives will, within one year (or less), finalize a proposal for a technological programme.

Training in new techniques, particularly computer-assisted design and production; programmes for improving know-how in design, quality control, marketing and environment; conversion programmes for staff threatened with unemployment.

Steps should be taken to promote exports.

Aid should be provided for conversion and modernization.

Action should be taken to promote SMEs.

All proposals and recommendations must be vetted for compatibility with the new rules and disciplines of the WTO.

### *Conditions needed for pro-active effective assistance*

Dialogue: it is vital that before decisions are taken, the European Commission and the social partners sit down and thrash out the issues involved. The European Commission must set up a multi-service task force which in turn could set up working groups (e.g. technical, training, regional aid, etc.).

Programmes: once they have been discussed, all the measures decided on must be submitted in the form of coherent, quantified projects which can be forwarded easily to the appropriate bodies for a decision.

These projects obviously must be assessed periodically.

#### 4. LICENCES/SATELLITE NETWORK SERVICES

**Opinion of the Economic and Social Committee** on the *Proposal for a European Parliament and Council Directive on a Policy for the mutual recognition of licences and other national authorizations for the provision of satellite network services and/or satellite communications services*

(COM(93) 652 final - COD 482)

(CES 745/94)

Rapporteur: Mr Michael Mobbs (United Kingdom - Employeurs)

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

The proposal aims at establishing a procedure for the mutual recognition of national authorizations issued by Member States for the establishment and operation of satellite earth station networks and/or the provision of satellite communications services.

Such a harmonization was a major goal in the Commission's Satellite Green Paper from 1990 and was supported in July 1993 by the Council's Resolution on the Telecommunications Review.

At present, service providers and network operators wanting to provide their services in more than one Member State have to apply for licences in each Member State in which they want to operate, not only for the service or network in general, but often for each individual satellite earth station concerned.

The proposal provides for an operational scheme with licensing procedures to facilitate the establishment of European satellite services. For that purpose two mechanisms will be established:

- one to cater for licensing under harmonized conditions already recognized throughout the Community, and
- another to cater, through the use of a transitional one-stop shopping regime, for those satellite services for which the mutual recognition has not been achieved.

The transitional regime could start on the basis of a single location for the application for licences. It could then proceed towards joint application forms and further harmonized procedural provisions, and from there onwards proceed to the mutual recognition regime.

The proposal foresees a regime whereby the total amount of licences will ultimately be reduced to a single licence provided by one of the Community's national regulatory authorities, and on the basis of which, mutual recognition can be granted throughout the Community.

The satellite services, which are expected to profit from the proposed framework are:

- Very Small Aperture Terminals (VSAT) stations, based on business premises. These networks would make it possible for the headquarters of various industries to communicate with their retail outlets by data-communication, corporate voice traffic, video conferencing etc.,
- fleet management systems,
- satellite news gathering units, and
- satellite-based personal communications networks and services which, in effect, would be a qualitative extension of the existing system as for mobile telephones.

The proposal is in line with the spirit of the proposal for a procedure for licensing telecommunications services in the Community in general, on which the Committee gave a favourable Opinion in February 1993.

The present satellite proposal will make use of the same committee - the Community Telecommunications Committee (CTC) - as the above-mentioned general proposal on the mutual recognition of licences.

### **Gist of the Opinion**

The Committee welcomes the Commission proposal and congratulates the Commission on its constructive efforts.

Nevertheless, the Committee does have some specific comments, mainly as regards the responsibilities that the proposal gives to the Commission. In the overall context of subsidiarity, the Committee is concerned at the scope and scale of the discretion given to the Commission.

Furthermore, the Committee feels that the Commission's proposal fails to address the impact on the licensing process of conditions for frequency allocation.

Finally, the Committee has a number of specific comments on the individual articles of the proposal.

## 5. TONNAGE MEASUREMENT OF BALLAST SPACES

**Opinion of the Economic and Social Committee** on the *Proposal for a Council Regulation (EC) on the implementation of IMO Resolution A.747(18), on the application of tonnage measurement of ballast spaces in segregated ballast oil tankers* (COM(93) 468 final - SYN 481)

(CES 746/94)

Rapporteur: Mr Emmanuel Saïtis (Greece - Various Interests)

### **Gist of Commission proposal**

About 35% of the world's oil tanker fleet are of the type known as SBTs. Because they have a separate system of tanks which is used exclusively for ballast water, ships of this type are less polluting than traditional tankers.

An SBT ship can carry less oil per tonne of gross tonnage (GT), and, partly because port dues and other charges are often based on the vessel's GT, the use of such non-polluting ships is penalized.

The International Maritime Organization (IMO), in its Resolution A.747(18) of 4 November 1993, recommended that ports, when assessing dues, should deduct the tonnage of the segregated ballast tanks from the vessel's GT.

The purpose of the proposal is to encourage the use of SBTs in the Community and to increase protection of the marine environment by making IMO Resolution A.747(18) mandatory in the Community.

### **Gist of the Opinion**

The Committee is in favour of the proposed Council Regulation because it will have beneficial effects for the protection of the marine environment, while at the same time maintaining necessary safety levels for shipping.

At the same time, the Regulation will ensure fairer competition both between ports and, more important, between SBT and non-SBT tankers.

## 6. EUROPEAN VESSEL REPORTING SYSTEM

**Opinion of the Economic and Social Committee on the Proposal for a Council Directive concerning the setting-up of a European vessel reporting system in the maritime zones of Community Member States**  
(COM(93) 647 final - SYN 491)

(CES 747/94)

Rapporteur: Mr Sergio Colombo (Italy - Workers)

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

The proposal is based on Council Directive 93/75/EEC of 13 December 1993, Article 13 of which obliges the Commission to produce as soon as possible "new proposals for the introduction of a fuller reporting system for the Community"; these proposals "may cover vessels transiting along the coasts of Member States and include electronic data interchange systems between vessels and short-based installations".

The Commission therefore now proposes that a European vessel reporting system be set up, to be known as "Eurorep". The system consists of a general reporting system for ships carrying dangerous or polluting goods, and a specific system of reporting to Vessel Traffic Services (VTSs) for certain ships.

The proposal should give the Community's coastal states a fuller picture of movements of ships off their coasts, whether they are leaving or bound for Community ports (already largely covered by Directive 93/75/EEC), or simply in transit.

The coastal states need this prior information so that they can swiftly and effectively carry out rescue, towing or emergency assistance operations and combat marine pollution.

### **Gist of the Opinion**

The purpose of the Directive is to set up a vessel reporting system to be known as Eurorep. The system is to inform coastal States, on a real-time basis, of the identity, position, route, cargo, and cargo distribution of vessels, with particular reference to those carrying dangerous or polluting goods.

The proposal is a welcome further step in Community legislation as it embraces vessels not intending to call at a Community port.

It should be stressed that the present proposal, particularly with regard to vessels in transit, has been made possible by favourable developments in international law. The Eurorep system for vessels in transit can only become mandatory after the amendments to the SOLAS Convention have been approved.

The Committee thinks that the Community should undertake to cover the costs of acquiring and/or modernizing the equipment necessitated by Eurorep. The Committee asks that these costs be included in the financing scheduled for the trans-European networks referred to in the White Paper on Growth, Competitiveness and Employment.

## 7. **ADMISSION TO THE OCCUPATION OF ROAD TRANSPORT OPERATOR**

**Opinion of the Economic and Social Committee** on the *amended proposal for a Council Directive on admission to the occupation of road haulage operator and road passenger transport operator and mutual recognition of diplomas, certificates and other evidence of formal qualifications intended to facilitate for these operators the right to freedom of establishment in national and international transport operations*  
(COM(93) 586 final - SYN 479)

(CES 748/94)

Rapporteurs : Mr René Bleser (Luxembourg - Workers) and Mr Joël Decaillon (France - Workers)

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

The Commission's proposal embraces Council Directives 74/561/EEC, 74/562/EEC, 77/796/EEC, and the modifications thereto since 1974, on the mutual recognition of diplomas, certificates and other evidence of formal qualifications for goods haulage operators and road passenger transport operators, including measures intended to encourage these operators effectively to exercise their right to freedom of establishment.

This is a legislative consolidation insofar as the new Directive will supersede the various Directives involved.

### **Gist of the Opinion**

The Committee approves the amended proposal which fully respects the substance of the consolidated instruments and therefore merely combines them and makes only the formal alterations required by the actual consolidation process.

## 8. RTD PROGRAMMES/PARTICIPATION RULES

**Opinion of the Economic and Social Committee** on the *Proposal for a Council Decision concerning the Rules for the participation of undertakings, research centres and universities in the specific programmes of research, technological development and demonstration of the European Community*

*Proposal for a Council Decision concerning the Rules for the participation of undertakings, research centres and universities in the specific programmes of research and training of the European Atomic Energy Community*

*Proposal for a Council Decision concerning the Rules for the dissemination of the research results from the specific programmes of research, technological development and demonstration of the European Community*

(COM(94) 12 final)

(CES 749/94)

Rapporteur working alone: Mr Giannino Bernabei (Italy - Employeurs)

### Gist of the Commission proposals

The Fourth Framework Programme for Community research, technological development and demonstration activities (1994-1998) was finally adopted by a joint decision of the European Parliament and the Council on 21 April 1994.

Under the third paragraph of Article 130I of the European Union Treaty, the Framework Programme is implemented through specific programmes developed within each of the specified activities.

In tandem, Article 130J of the Treaty also provides that the Council shall determine, for the implementation of the Framework Programme:

- the rules for the participation of undertakings, research centres and universities, and
- the rules governing the dissemination of research results.

That is the purpose of the proposals on which the Committee is currently consulted. The proposed rules are horizontal in nature and concern all specific research programmes. In view of the wide variety of Community RTD activities, they aim - according to the Commission - to ensure sufficient flexibility so that, if need be, they can be set out in greater detail or supplemented in the context of the various specific programmes, primarily in the light of the specific objectives they seek to attain.

### *Rules governing participation in research programmes*

Since some specific programmes are presented under the provisions of the EURATOM Treaty, two separate proposals, but containing largely similar rules, are submitted by the Commission. However, the EURATOM Treaty does not formally require the Council to adopt such

rules. As the Commission points out in its explanatory memorandum, the main purpose is to "enable interested participants to see that a common approach is adopted for RTD activities, irrespective of the legal basis of the activity" (**point 6, second paragraph**).

Compared with the previous rules, the Commission considers that the new rules have three key innovative features in that they are designed to:

- enable those legal entities which do not have their own research structures to participate in research activities;
- take account of the increased importance of international RTD cooperation and greater pooling of efforts with non-EU countries and international organizations, as well as the broader range of sectors open to such cooperation;
- keep down RTD activity management costs and rationalize and simplify procedures.

With this in mind, the two proposed Decisions specify:

- the RTD activities to which the participation rules apply (Art. 1);
- the geographical conditions governing eligibility to participate in a Community RTD activity (Art. 2);
- the procedures and selection criteria applicable to proposals for RTD activities (Arts. 3 and 4);
- arrangements for the Community financial contribution (Art. 6);
- exemptions from certain participation rules laid down in the Decision (Art. 7);
- the conditions under which these participation rules can be set out in more detail or supplemented in the context of the various specific programmes (Art. 8).

As mentioned above, the rules governing participation in research programmes covered by the EURATOM Treaty are, *mutatis mutandis*, the same as those applicable to the specific programmes based on European Treaty provisions.

The main difference is the procedures for selection of proposals for RTD activities in that provision is made for exemptions from these rules to take account of the special arrangements relating to the performance of controlled thermonuclear fusion activities, viz. under the agreements concluded between the various participants in these activities (in particular NET, ITER and JET).

#### ***Rules governing dissemination of the research results from the specific programmes***

On this point, Article 130K, introduced into the Treaty with the entry into force of the Single Act, already provided that the Council should determine the rules applicable to the dissemination of knowledge from the specific programmes.

The principles proposed by the Commission regarding ownership of intellectual property resulting from RTD carried out with Community financial support, and the dissemination of research results were already largely encompassed by the Council Decision of 29 April 1992 on the dissemination and exploitation of knowledge resulting from the specific programmes of research and technological development of the Community.<sup>2</sup>

For cost-shared RTD projects, the contractors carrying out the work remain the owners of the results. They must exploit or commercialize them in conformity with the interests of the Community, grant licences and user rights among themselves and grant access rights, against payment or other conditions, to other interested parties who may need to use the results.

Since the rules governing dissemination of the results of EURATOM Treaty programmes are laid down in Articles 12 to 29 of the actual Treaty, the Commission has not presented any draft Decision on that point.

### **Gist of the Opinion**

The Committee endorses the objectives and underlying principles of the present Commission proposals. Above all it welcomes the drive to simplify and streamline especially the general rules governing participation in specific programmes as part of an increased effort to coordinate Community research activities and ensure greater transparency in their implementation.

The Committee also notes with pleasure that these proposals aim to boost participation by SMEs in research programmes on the basis of three principles: transparency, openness and equal opportunity.

However, the Committee regrets that the Commission, in presenting these proposals, did not take advantage of the opportunity to undertake a substantial improvement in the general arrangements for participation in the specific programmes, especially the dissemination of research results obtained.

It also observes that the general nature and lack of detail of the proposed rules leaves the Commission considerable freedom of movement and appraisal, which can be questioned.

Accordingly, bearing in mind the many comments on both substance and form set out in the Opinion, the Committee is only reluctantly able to approve the Commission's proposals.

### ***Rules governing participation in the research programmes***

It is vital that the adoption and implementation of the proposed rules should go hand in hand with a drive to boost transparency and information, especially among the SMEs, universities and research centres, to ensure that all interested parties have equal chances of taking part in programmes.

---

<sup>2</sup> OJ L 141 of 23 May 1992, page 1.

Here the Committee regards certain recent Commission initiatives as a step in the right direction. It recommends further action, which it spells out in detail, not just to encourage information but also to promote organizational and financial management, so as to gear existing procedures to the capacities of the various categories of potential participants and to foster the desired economic and social cohesion.

Here the Committee stresses that facilitating access to research programmes serves no purpose unless steps are taken concurrently to:

- simplify and speed up the procedures for submitting, selecting and managing research projects, and
- reduce the administrative costs connected with the preparation and follow-up of research project proposals and speed up the Commission's lengthy payment deadlines which involve many contracting parties in expense and debt.

On budgetary matters, the Committee expresses concern that the Commission, regardless of the scientific and technical quality of the proposals submitted, in many cases makes (sometimes substantial) cuts in the budget requested to carry out a research project for the purpose of keeping financing requests within the limits of the available appropriations.

Here again it puts forward a number of proposals intended to ensure possible additional funding so that research projects which so warrant can be completed without being affected by Community budgetary constraints.

All these comments have prompted the Committee to propose a number of changes in the provisions of the two draft Decisions on the subject.

#### ***Rules on dissemination of research results***

The Committee regrets that the Commission, when presenting this proposal, did not seize the opportunity to detail the rights and obligations connected with the dissemination and exploitation of research results.

The Committee feels that it would have been particularly appropriate to spell out and give widespread publicity to all these rules because of the frequent lack of information, indeed ignorance, on the part of many research programme participants as regards the rights and obligations applicable to protection of knowledge and results from Community research activities. This is particularly true of a large number of SMEs.

In this connection, the Committee proposes action on two fronts to:

- provide the fullest possible information to research project participants on the rules applicable to protection of knowledge and results acquired from their research work, and
- provide participants, if they so wish, with help from experts specialized in patent matters, as part of the process to protect their results.

9. **ECONOMIC AND FINANCIAL ASPECTS OF THE WHITE PAPER ON GROWTH, COMPETITIVENESS, EMPLOYMENT** (Own-Initiative Opinion)

**Opinion of the Economic and Social Committee** on the *Economic and financial aspects of the Commission White Paper entitled Growth, competitiveness, employment: The challenges and way forward into the 21st century*  
(COM(93) 700 final)

(CES 750/94)

Rapporteur: Mr Aldo Romoli (Italie - Employeurs)

**The reasons for the White Paper and the objective of the Committee's work**

Since the adoption by the European Council in Edinburgh on 11/12 December 1992 of a **"Declaration on promoting economic recovery in Europe"** and a **"Plan of action by the Member States and the Community to promote growth and to combat unemployment"** ("Edinburgh Growth Initiative"), the debate on the themes of growth, competitiveness and employment, and above all on the interaction of these three factors, has been at the centre of the Community's preoccupations.

In June 1993 in Copenhagen, after having taken note of a European medium-term economic recovery plan entitled **"Entering the 21st century - Orientations for economic renewal in Europe"**, the European Council "pledged the determination of the Community and its Member States to restore confidence through the implementation of a clear strategy - covering both the short term and medium to long term - to restore sustainable growth, reinforce the competitiveness of European industry and reduce unemployment" and "invited the Commission to present a white paper on a medium-term strategy for growth, competitiveness and employment".

At the same time the Council stated that, as part of the preparatory work on the White Paper, the social partners would be consulted by the Commission.

The Economic and Social Committee considered that it was its institutional duty to participate actively in a debate of such crucial importance for the future of the Community. Therefore on 20 October 1993 it issued an Opinion (accompanied by a Report)<sup>3</sup>, sub-titled **"Priority for employment within the context of the European socio-economic system"**, which represented the contribution of the Community's economic and social interest groups to the preparation of the White Paper requested of the Commission by the Council.

At the beginning of December 1993 the Commission published its White Paper which had been presented to the European Council in Brussels on 11 and 12 December 1993. The Council "decided on this basis to implement an action plan based on specific measures at the levels of the Union and of the Member States directed at, in the short term, reversing the trend and then, by the end of the century, significantly reducing the number of unemployed, at present standing at the unacceptable level of 17 million".

---

<sup>3</sup>

Opinion CES 1010/93 (OJ C 352 of 30 December 1993) and Report CES 855/93 fin.

In the light of the European Council's conclusions, at its meeting on 13 December 1993 the ECOFIN Council adopted, for the first time since the entry into force of the Maastricht Treaty, the "**Broad guidelines of the economic policies of the Member States and of the Community**"<sup>4</sup>, in accordance with the provisions of Article 103(2) of the Treaty.

The Economic and Social Committee has now decided to examine in greater depth the various chapters of the action plan proposed in the White Paper<sup>5</sup>; in this way it can give further thought to ways of halting the steady rise in unemployment and enabling the Community to cope with the new international competitive environment while still preserving its own model of society.

### **Gist of the Opinion**

The Economic and Social Committee endorses the long-term, strategic content of the White Paper and supports the initiative of the Commission and the Council.

However, it points out that the White Paper is an analytical and strategic paper: its guidelines must be translated at once into effective, coherent actions.

Elimination of unemployment and the creation of new jobs for young people, must be the fundamental priority of macro-economic, monetary and other EU policies.

A return to sustained growth and commercial competitiveness must constitute the short- and medium-term objectives.

The European "economic and social model", based on the attempts to combine high growth with effective social protection and solidarity, must be defended and revitalized.

A better balance is needed between flows of resources to production and investment on the one hand and to the public sector, where too often distortions and waste are found, on the other.

The Member States are responsible for the economic and social structures of their economies. The Commission should compare the way that the individual Member States manage their public sectors and the most efficient solutions found. The Economic and Social Committee will be able to contribute to this analysis and the discussions.

The construction of important trans-European infrastructures is one of the main points of the White Paper programme. The Committee agrees with this proposal and affirms that the main task of the European Union must be that of creating conditions for the projects to be achieved rapidly and without distortions.

---

<sup>4</sup> These "Guidelines" were formally adopted at the Council meeting on 22 December 1993 (OJ L7 of 11 January 1994).

<sup>5</sup> Parallel to the work of the Ecofin Section, the Sections for Industry and Social Affairs have also begun a study of the Commission's White Paper in those areas which fall within their remits.

The non-wage element of labour costs is an obstacle to job creation and to the competitiveness of European industry. This burden could be mitigated by compensatory tax measures, but these will have to be studied carefully before final decisions are taken.

The Economic and Social Committee reiterates its view that the European Union must follow a much more active and long-term external relations policy. The industrialized countries need to set clear strategies and put forward coordinated proposals to accommodate the development needs of Central and Eastern Europe and of the Third World generally.

## **10. INDUSTRIAL ASPECTS OF THE WHITE PAPER ON GROWTH, COMPETITIVENESS AND EMPLOYMENT (Own-Initiative Opinion)**

*Opinion of the Economic and Social Committee on the Industrial Aspects of the White paper entitled Growth, Competitiveness, Employment -the Challenges and Ways Forward into the 21st Century*  
(COM(93) 700 final)

(CES 751/94)

Rapporteur: Mr Klaus Schmitz (Germany - Workers)

### **Background**

The seriousness of the crisis and the difficulties encountered by all the Member States in seeking to improve the employment situation demand that the efforts made hitherto be intensified and directed more towards the structural aspects.

The Commission President, Mr DELORS has forcefully underlined the urgent need for comprehensive consideration of the causes of the present crisis and possible responses to it. The results of this consideration are contained in the White Paper on the medium-term strategy for growth, competitiveness and employment, drawn up by the Commission. The European Council considers that this document contains a lucid analysis of the present economic and social situation of the European Union and constitutes a point of reference for future work.

The European Council decided on this basis to implement an action plan involving practical measures at the level of the Union and the Member States and aiming to reverse the trend in the short term, then, before the end of the century, to reduce substantially the current unacceptable level of unemployment (17 million).

This action plan comprises:

- a general framework for the employment-promoting policies to be followed at Member State level;
- specific accompanying measures to be taken at Community level;

.../...

- a follow-up procedure.

The Community's action must be concentrated on defining objectives leaving to the Member States the choice of the means most suited to their situation, within a jointly defined general framework. The Member States should give special attention to the following measures:

- improvement of education and training systems;
- increasing flexibility within enterprises and on the labour market;
- examination at enterprise level of economically healthy formulae for reorganization of work;
- targeted reductions of the indirect cost of labour (obligatory levies) and particularly of low-skilled labour;
- better use of public funds allocated to combating unemployment;
- specific measures for young people leaving the school system without adequate training;
- development of employment in terms of satisfying new needs linked with the quality of life and protection of the environment.

#### *Specific measures at Community level*

1. Full use of the single market
2. Trans-European networks in the transport and energy fields
3. Infrastructure in the information field
4. Financing of energy, transport and environment networks, as well as of information infrastructure
5. Research framework programme 1994-1998
6. Social dialogue.

#### *Follow-up procedure*

Every year, and for the first time in December 1994, the European Council will assess the results of the action plan and will, at the same time, take any measure it thinks necessary to achieve the objectives it has set itself.

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

The Committee welcomes the strategic remarks set out in the White Paper.

The Committee deplors the fact that the White Paper is vague over the matter of implementation. In many areas it is unclear who is to be responsible for implementing the proposed measures.

The Committee points out that the type of economic-development system we want to set up has a bearing on the appraisal of "industrial competitiveness". The Committee supports the strategic approach pursued by the White Paper, namely that the economic foundation for the European economic development model has to be constituted by highly productive industry with a high technology input.

The strengthening of overall competitiveness must go hand in hand with measures in the field of cooperation with non-EU states.

The Internal Market came into effect officially on 1 January 1993. But a large number of trade barriers remain. There are also many trade barriers which the European Union has yet to summon up the strength to resolve. Such barriers occur in particular in the fields of taxation and company law (the "European Company") and also as a consequence of the lack of a coherent legal system and of Europe-wide standards for major technical installations and equipment.

Measures have to be taken to promote growth and employment by developing the economic potential of the Internal Market. The following are required, in particular:

- a dynamic European industrial policy;
- specific measures to promote small and medium-sized firms;
- interlinking of infrastructures at European level;
- a European research and technology policy;
- further development of European regional policy.

The Committee supports the concept of a differentiated **industrial policy**, involving the relevant social and economic interest groups, which is geared to the creation and consolidation of employment in growth sectors. There is a need, in particular, to modernize and extend European infrastructure networks and communications networks. European policy must concentrate to a greater extent on pre-competition R&D.

In order to remedy the characteristic weaknesses of **SMEs**, efforts must be made to remove restrictions to market access in the EU internal market and to establish a favourable framework in this respect. The following measures are needed in particular:

- reciprocal recognition of technical diplomas;
- the improvement of financing conditions;
- measures to help enterprises extend their business links in international markets;

- better organization of the dissemination of research findings to SMEs;
- support for cooperation and alliances, whilst safeguarding competition;
- the provision of basic and further training opportunities for management and the rest of the workforce;
- the provision of decentralized publicly-guaranteed communication services which are appropriate to the needs of SMEs (information networks).

The Committee calls upon the Commission, the Member States and **infrastructure** enterprises to work together to:

- establish the necessary measures on the financing of infrastructure projects (only a small part of the finance can be provided in the form of EU grants) and to
- establish as soon as possible the legal and technical conditions required to ensure system interoperability.

A dynamic industrial development must necessarily be based on the strategic concept of "sustainable development". It follows that private and public **investment in the environmental field** helps to safeguard competitiveness, growth and employment.

Due regard for environmental-policy considerations must be seen as forming an integral part of the extension of trans-European networks proposed in the White Paper.

The strategic emphasis on **research and development** is a further cornerstone of the blueprint for industrial policy set out in the White Paper. The following tasks are, in the Committee's view, particularly pressing:

- improving the transfer of research to the corporate sector, in particular small and medium-sized firms;
- establishing closer links between R&D and the market stage of production;
- coordination of EU and national R&D programmes and projects;
- involvement of users (customers) and producers (workers) at an early stage in the dissemination of technology and assessment of its impact, in order to identify social and ecological consequences at an early stage.

The Committee points out that restructuring policy has failed to pay adequate attention to the **regional dimension** of industrial policy. The Commission must, therefore, above all give greater prominence in its industrial policy blueprint to the interests of the less-developed regions and involve them in the process in a more convincing way. The general reference to the Community's structural funds is not enough.

*Dialogue between social and economic interest groups on the reforms needed to implement the White Paper on Growth, Competitiveness and Employment*

The Committee welcomes the fact that the "dialogue between management and labour" is legally enshrined in the Social Policy Protocol to the new Treaty on European Union.

The "dialogue between management and labour" must however be complemented by dialogue at sectoral level. There is a need to develop industrial relations at sectoral level, particularly in those industries which are inter-meshed to a high degree at European level (electrical engineering, the chemical industry, motor-vehicle manufacture, maritime industries). In the case of a large number of problems, it is not sufficient to involve only the "traditional" social partners. Consideration should be given to consulting, for example, representatives of small and medium-sized firms, agriculture, consumer and environmental organizations and scientists.

The Council should take decisions on the following matters on the basis of proposals put forward by the Commission:

- establishment of infrastructure schemes which make a special contribution to closing gaps in networks on the basis of national sub-programmes;
- the quickest possible identification and fulfilment of legal and technical prerequisites for system interoperability;
- concentration on schemes which can be implemented quickly and which are particularly effective from the point of view of generating employment;
- development of a clear-cut time schedule.

The Committee recommends establishment of a "European innovation council" comprising leading figures from the scientific community, companies and trade unions.

This council of experts would issue opinions on the impact of innovation and technology measures, on the ability of industrial sectors to innovate and on their market positions in research-intensive technology fields. In addition, the council would help mobilize researchers' and scientists' capacity to innovate so that economic, social and environmental challenges can be tackled.

**11. SOCIAL ASPECTS OF THE WHITE PAPER ON GROWTH, COMPETITIVENESS AND EMPLOYMENT (Own-Initiative Opinion)**

**Opinion of the Economic and Social Committee on the *Social Aspects of the White paper entitled Growth, Competitiveness, Employment - the Challenges and Ways Forward into the 21st Century***  
(COM(93) 700 final)

(CES 752/94)

Rapporteur: Mr Roger Burnel (France - Various Interests)

**Gist the Opinion**

The right to work, education, training, culture, social welfare cover and health care, etc. are among the basic rights of all human beings, and are recognized as such because they are inseparable from individual human dignity.

The unemployment levels we have experienced now for several years throw into sharp focus the many very serious cases of inequality and injustice affecting both individuals and families, and leading to marginalization and exclusion. As a result, more than 50 million persons, i.e. more than one person in seven, are now living in severe poverty in the European Union.

Bearing in mind its duration and the vast numbers of affected persons (particularly young people), unemployment in all its forms has become society's major problem in the immediate and longer-term future. It impacts not only on the unemployed and their families, but on our societies and cultures as well.

In addition to taking new measures and amending existing legislation (both regulatory and technical) - which has proved to be limited and ineffectual - it is vital to combine all our efforts and the efforts of each one of us to combat unemployment, and to do so without unnecessary procrastination and without regard for personal interests.

Action by the social partners is therefore of paramount importance: close consultations and negotiations are the key to equitable, realistic and effective solutions.

It is essential for political decision-makers to display courage; this being often a direct reflection of the political courage which ordinary citizens are capable of displaying.

## 12. MECHANISMS FOR INFORMING AND CONSULTING EMPLOYEES

**Opinion of the Economic and Social Committee** on the *Proposal for a Council Directive on the establishing of European committees or procedures in Community-scale undertakings and Community-scale groups of undertakings for the purposes of informing and consulting employees*

(COM(94) 134 final)

(CES 753/94)

Rapporteur: Mrs Ursula Engelen-Kefer (Allemagne - Workers)

### Gist of the Commission proposal

On 5 December 1990, the Commission adopted a Proposal for a Council Directive on the establishment of a European Works Council in Community-scale undertakings or groups of undertakings for the purposes of informing and consulting employees<sup>6</sup>.

The Economic and Social Committee gave its Opinion on 18 March 1991<sup>7</sup>.

On 10 July 1991, the European Parliament adopted an opinion on the proposal to the Council<sup>8</sup>.

On 10 September 1991, the Commission adopted an amended proposal pursuant to Article 149(3) of the EEC Treaty<sup>9</sup>.

The Council of Ministers discussed the Commission's successive proposals at 14 meetings at the level of its Working Party on Social Questions (between 3 July 1991 and 6 September 1993) and at five meetings of the Council of Labour and Social Affairs Ministers (on 6 May 1991, 3 December 1991, April 1993, 1 June 1993 and 12 October 1993).

At none of these meetings did the Council reach unanimous agreement on the Commission's proposal, as required by the legal basis for the proposal (Article 100 of the EEC Treaty). The Council did, however, establish, at its meeting on 12 October 1993, a broad consensus among the great majority of delegations on a text submitted by the Belgian Presidency. The Commission informed the Council of its intention to initiate, on entry into force of the Treaty on European Union on November 1993, the procedures provided for in the Agreement on Social Policy annexed to the Protocol on Social Policy annexed in turn to the Treaty establishing the European

---

<sup>6</sup> OJ No. C 39, 15.2.1991

<sup>7</sup> OJ No. C 120, 6.5.1991

<sup>8</sup> OJ No. C 240, 16.9.1991

<sup>9</sup> OJ No. C 336, 31.12.1991

Community, on the basis of the text submitted by the Belgian Presidency and the views expressed in the course of the Council's discussions.

On 17 November 1993, the Commission decided to set these procedures in motion. 18 November 1993 saw the commencement of a six-week period of consultation of the social partners at European level, in accordance with Article 3(2) of the Agreement on Social Policy, with the dispatch of a first consultative document on the possible direction of Community-scale undertakings or groups of undertakings. The employers' associations, federations and confederations and the trade union submitted a general opinion to the Commission on the questions put to them.

On 8 February 1994, in accordance with Article 3(3) of the Agreement on Social Policy, the Commission decided to consult the social partners at Community level on the content of the proposal, including the possible legal basis for such a proposal.

By the deadline for this second phase of consultation (30 March 1994), the social partners sent the Commission their views on the consultation document. Despite all the efforts made, the social partners at Community level failed to reach agreement on setting in motion the procedure provided for in Article 4 of the Agreement on Social Policy.

On 13 April 1994, the Commission, taking the view that a Community initiative on the information and consultation of workers in Community-scale undertakings and groups of undertakings was still warranted, decided to adopt the present proposal, with a view to presenting it to the Council on the basis of Article 2(2) of the Agreement on Social Policy.

The Commission considers that:

- there is a Community need to provide for procedures for informing and consulting employees affected by corporate decisions taken by a head-office or controlling undertaking located outside the Member State in which they are employed (and therefore outside the scope of the national information and consultation rights which the employees concerned may have);
- the measures required to this end can only be taken at Community level, as the dimension and effects of such measures extend beyond national boundaries;
- at the request of one or other of the parties, and on the basis of a written agreement between them, a European committee or some other appropriate procedure must be responsible for informing and consulting employees on matters likely to be of particular concern to them;
- in the event of lack of agreement, it is important that certain subsidiary provisions be applied regarding the composition, functions and powers and the operating procedures and financial resources of European committees.

### **Gist of the Opinion**

The Committee welcomes the fact that the Commission has resubmitted the proposal for a Council Directive on the establishment of European committees or procedures. It regrets that, despite a number of discussions between ETUC, UNICE and CEEP, no agreement was reached on starting negotiations under Article 4 of the social policy protocol.

.../...

In view of the rapid increase in company mergers in the Community the adoption of this Directive is particularly urgent. Supportive of contractual rules, the Committee feels that, in the absence of agreements, the Directive must contain subsidiary minimum provisions for trans-national informing and consultation of employees.

It calls upon the Commission to draw up proposals to ensure the training of workers' representatives for activity in European committees, and highlights the rights and responsibilities anchored in national law, of workers' representatives in the branches or subsidiaries of an undertaking or a group of undertakings.

In its specific comments, the Committee endorses the concept of "European committees" and emphasizes that this is a step in the right direction, despite the fact that this only partially achieves the objective formulated in Article 17 of the Community Charter of workers' basic social rights, which refers expressly not only to information and consultation, but also participation of workers.

The Committee welcomes the thresholds set out and proposes that the suitability of the threshold for numbers of employees be reviewed after two years. The Committee thinks it necessary to define the term "employee" in the Directive.

The Committee also welcomes that in cases where the central management is not situated in a Member State, its representatives in the Community are responsible for creating the conditions for the establishment of a European committee or of a procedure for informing and consulting employees.

It further welcomes the obligation on Member States to make arrangements enabling employees themselves to appoint members for the special negotiating body in firms where, through no fault of the employees, there are no workers' representatives.

The Committee was surprised that the quorum for not opening negotiations has been lowered from 75% to 66%, with no adequate justification given. It suggests that it be considered whether a quorum of 75% might not be more appropriate. It also takes the view that it is entirely possible to complete the negotiations within a year.

The confidentiality clause appears to the Committee to be rather too broadly formulated. The Committee notes that any existing agreement shall take precedence over the Directive. In view of the fact that all existing agreements have a time-limit, and that when it has expired new negotiations in the spirit of the Directive will be needed, such treatment of firms which have already reached voluntary agreements appears to be acceptable.

### 13. 3RD REPORT - SOCIAL CHARTER

**Opinion of the Economic and Social Committee** on the *Third Report from the Commission on the application of the Community Charter of the Fundamental Social Rights of Workers* (COM(93) 668 final)

(CES 754/94)

Rapporteur: Miss Ada Maddocks (United Kingdom - Workers)

#### **Gist of the Report**

Point 29 of the Charter stipulates that the Commission shall establish each year a report on the application of the Charter by the Member States and by the European Community.

Point 30 states that the report shall be forwarded to the European Council, the European Parliament and the Economic and Social Committee.

This third report has been drawn up in the same spirit as the two previous reports and is in effect an update of the second report.

The first part is concerned with the implementation at Community level, and the second part covers the application of the Charter by the Member States.

As in previous years, the Member States themselves have drawn up the national reports by replying to the questionnaire annexed to this report.

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

The Committee welcomes the Third Report. Whilst commending the more uniform response by Member Governments, it once more regrets that the Commission appears unable in this report to produce a comprehensive, up-dated table of progress. It also regrets that its proposal to involve the social partners in the drawing-up of the report has not been taken up. The Commission should continue to prepare annual reports on the application of the Community Charter and refer a comprehensive "compliance" report.

The Committee is pleased to note that sufficient political will has been demonstrated by the Council of Ministers in adopting, albeit by qualified majorities, the Directive on working time and a common position on the protection of young people at work. It continues to regret that Directives on "core" subjects for which the Social Charter was launched - concerning atypical work, the posting of workers, the European Works Committees and workers with reduced mobility - have still not been adopted in Council.

The Committee highlights once again the backlog of European-wide basic social rights:

- the right of association and of collective bargaining;

- the right of job-seekers to public placement services free of charge;
- parental leave and leave for family reasons;
- modifying the burden of proof;
- information and consultation of workers;
- transferable occupational pension schemes.

It would again urge the promotion of a "social clause" within the World Trade Organization procedures with references to established ILO standards.

#### **14. WEIGHTS AND DIMENSIONS - ROAD VEHICLES OVER 3.5t**

**Opinion of the Economic and Social Committee** on the *Proposal for a Council Directive laying down maximum authorized weight and dimensions for road vehicles over 3.5 tonnes circulating within the Community*  
(COM(93) 679 final - SYN 486)

(CES 755/94)

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

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

The purpose of the proposal is to extend Directive 85/3/EEC on the maximum weights and dimensions of vehicles for international transport to encompass national transport whilst proposing amendments to meet, as far as possible, the majority of existing national standards, which may vary considerably throughout the Community.

In addition, it is intended to replace the oft-revised text of Directive 85/3/EEC by a single consolidated text.

Depending on the number of axles and type of suspension, a maximum authorized total weight of 44 tonnes is proposed.

That would mean an increase in the maximum authorized total weight for seven Member States, and a decrease for two Member States.

Under certain circumstances an exemption from this maximum limit can be authorized if equal competition is not distorted.

The proposal also provides for a transitional period up to 2001.

## Gist of the Opinion

The Committee believes that the proposal may weaken the economic advantages to some Member States and threaten perceived environmental interests in others. Consequently, it suggests the proposal should be restricted to consolidation of existing legislation and that further action - particularly the extension to national transport of maximum vehicle weights - should not proceed in the immediate future.

## 15. NON-NUCLEAR ENERGIES

**Opinion of the Economic and Social Committee on the *Proposal for a Council Decision adopting a specific research, technological development and demonstration programme in the field of non-nuclear energy: technologies for cleaner and more efficient energy production and use (1994-1998)***

(COM(94) 68 final - 94/0089 (CNS))

(CES 757/94)

Rapporteur: Mr Wilfred Aspinall (United Kingdom - Various Interests)

## Gist of the Commission document

The proposed programme comes under the first of the four activities scheduled in the fourth framework programme of the European Community concerning Community research, technological development and demonstration activities (1994-1998), adopted at the end of April 1994<sup>10</sup> under the co-decision procedure of the European Parliament and Council; it covers the bulk of Community activities in the field of research.

The proposed programme groups together research activities carried out within the framework of the specific research and technological development programme in the field of non-nuclear energy (1990-1994), adopted by the Council on 9 September 1991<sup>11</sup>, and most of the demonstration activities carried out under the Thermie programme relating to the promotion of energy technologies, adopted by the Council on 29 June 1990 for a period lasting until 31 December 1994<sup>12</sup>. The Committee issued Opinions on these two programmes on 18 October 1990<sup>13</sup> and 12 July 1989<sup>14</sup> respectively.

---

<sup>10</sup> Not yet appeared in the Official Journal of the European Communities

<sup>11</sup> OJ L 257 of 14 September 1991, page 37

<sup>12</sup> OJ L 185 of 17 July 1990, page 1

<sup>13</sup> OJ C 31 of 6 February 1991, page 20

<sup>14</sup> OJ C 221 of 28 August 1989, page 6

The Commission proposes to earmark ECU 967 million from the Community budget for the new programme for the period 1994-1998, allocating 50% to research and 50% to demonstration activities. The programme will be run jointly by two Commission Directorate-Generals, DG XII (Science, Research and Development) and DG XVII (Energy).

As is laid down in Annex II, the Commission proposes to allocate appropriations as follows: (in %):

**A. *Research and Development* (45-55)**

- ***Improved conversion and use of energy* (30-40)**

This will cover the following research activities:

- Clean coal technologies
- Combustion
- Fuel cells
- Energy storage
- Hydrocarbons and new fuels in transport
- Energy optimization in urban transport
- Energy saving in industry and buildings
- Exploration and production of hydrocarbons

- ***Renewable energies* (60-70)**

This will cover the following research activities:

- Development of technological integration of renewable energies
- Solar photovoltaic electricity
- Buildings
- Wind
- Biomass
- Geothermal energy
- Other options (wave and tidal energies, micro-hydro, solar thermodynamics, etc.)

**B. *Demonstration* (45-55)**

- ***Rational use of energy* (20-30)**

This will cover the following activities:

- Energy efficiency in buildings
- Energy efficiency in industry
- Energy industry, electricity and heat
- Transport and urban structure

- ***Renewable energies*** (40-50)

This will cover the following activities:

- Energy from biomass and waste
- Solar energy (photovoltaics, thermal applications)
- Wind energy
- Hydroelectric power
- Geothermal

- ***Fossil fuels*** (30-40)

This will cover the following activities:

- Solid fuels (electricity and heat production, "valorization" of by-products, production of raw materials)
- Hydrocarbons
- Fuel cells.

**Gist of the Opinion**

The Committee approves the high priority that has been assigned to the present programme in the Fourth Framework Programme, in line with its earlier requests. It generally supports the proposed programme.

The Committee nevertheless wonders about the proportion of the funding which the Commission proposes to allocate in the renewables sector and considers that, bearing in mind the time needed to introduce renewables on the market as well as the continuing preeminence of traditional energies, measures aimed at securing the effective utilization of energy are, in the medium term, the best way of ensuring the rational use of such energy.

Whilst recognizing the important benefits which may eventually result from the large-scale utilization of technologies in the field of renewables, the Committee considers therefore that immediate priority should be given to the rational utilization of traditional energy sources.

The Committee considers in this context that:

- High priority should be given to clean coal technologies
- The proportion of spending allocated to rational energy use should be increased in the medium term
- Greater emphasis should be placed on the promotion of cogeneration (combined heat and power).

The other comments of the Committee are concerned principally with the following topics:

- Coordination with national research programmes in the energy field;
- The need to remove regulatory and institutional obstacles to the development of technologies in the field of renewables and the rational use of energy
- The participation of SMEs in the programme
- The criteria for selecting research projects
- International cooperation
- Attention to be paid to the transport sector, and activities to be undertaken in this sector to reduce its contribution to increases in pollution
- The role of Offices for the Promotion of Energy Technologies (OPET)
- The running of the programme and the responsibilities of the two Commission Directorates-General concerned (DG XII and DG XVII)
- The integration of the programme in the Commission's energy strategy.

Bearing in mind the general comments, the Committee proposes in particular a redistribution of appropriations, with an increase in funds for demonstration activities and a lower proportion of funds going to renewables.

## 16. COMMUNICATIONS TECHNOLOGIES

**Opinion of the Economic and Social Committee** on the *Proposal for a Council Decision on a specific programme for research, technological development and demonstration in the area of advanced communications technologies and services*

(CES 758/94)

Rapporteur-General : Juan Tesoro Oliver (Spain - Employeurs)

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

The proposed programme comes under the first of the four activities scheduled in the fourth European Community framework programme for research, technological development and demonstration activities (1994-1998). The framework programme was adopted by the European

Parliament and the Council under the co-decision procedure at the end of April 1994<sup>15</sup>. This first activity covers the bulk of Community research initiatives.

Following a two-year definition stage, research activities in the field covered by the present programme began in 1987. Two programmes have previously been adopted, for 1987-1991 and 1990-1994 respectively. The latter was adopted on 7 June 1991<sup>16</sup>, and had a financial allocation of around MECU 485. The Committee issued its Opinion on this programme on 9 November 1990<sup>17</sup>.

The present programme, to which the Commission proposes to allocate MECU 630 from the Community budget, is designed to "develop advanced communication systems and services for economic development and social cohesion in Europe, taking account of the rapid evolution in technologies, the changing regulatory situation and opportunities for development of advanced trans-European networks and services".

To this end, research is to focus on six areas. The breakdown of funding for these is as follows (in MECU):

-	interactive digital multi-media services	150
-	photonic technologies (including 63 for basic research)	112
-	high-speed networking	75
-	mobility and personal communications networks	119
-	intelligence in networks and service engineering	100
-	quality, security and safety of communication services and systems	43

MECU 31 is also earmarked for horizontal actions designed to:

- develop consensus and coordination of national and regional activities to stimulate and promote broadband infrastructure and service development;
- promote international cooperation;
- disseminate and exploit results, and promote vocational training in advanced communication technologies and service management.

---

<sup>15</sup> Not yet published in the EC Official Journal

<sup>16</sup> OJ L 192 of 16 July 1991, page 8

<sup>17</sup> OJ C 41 of 18 February 1991, page 12

## **Gist of the Opinion**

The Committee broadly approves the Commission proposal and in particular the scientific and technological content of the proposed specific programme.

However, the Committee feels that the proposals need certain amendments, so that the programme adopted by the Council can effectively further the objectives pursued by the fourth framework programme, as reflected in the recitals which precede the proposed decision, while also taking better account of the EU's economic and social situation.

The Committee feels that in the present circumstances, it is vital to focus on practical activities that can be speedily applied and disseminated, in order to facilitate the earliest possible economic recovery in the Member States and to create jobs. This means a judicious cut in the number of fundamental research activities since these have a low return and are slow to take effect.

## **17. INDUSTRIAL AND MATERIALS TECHNOLOGIES**

**Opinion of the Economic and Social Committee** on the *proposal for a Council Decision adopting a specific research and technological development and demonstration programme in the field of industrial and materials technologies (1994-1998)*  
(COM(94) 68 final - 94/0082 (CNS))

(CES 759/94)

Rapporteur-General: Giovanni Barbagli (Italy - Various Interests)

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

The proposed programme comes under the first of the four activities scheduled in the fourth European Community framework programme for research, technological development and demonstration activities (1994-1998). The framework programme was adopted by the European Parliament and the Council under the co-decision procedure at the end of April 1994<sup>18</sup>. This first activity covers the bulk of Community research initiatives.

The programme, which the Commission proposes be allocated MECU 1,623 from the Community budget, follows on from the 1990-94 programme on the same subject adopted on 9 September 1991<sup>19</sup>. The Committee issued its Opinion on the earlier programme on 20 November 1990<sup>20</sup>.

---

<sup>18</sup> not yet published in the EC Official Journal

<sup>19</sup> OJ L 269 of 25 September 1991, page 30

<sup>20</sup> OJ C 41 of 18 February 1991, page 46

The Commission has established short, medium and long term objectives for the programme:

- in the short term, priority will be given to research for the adaptation of existing technologies or for the development of new technologies which provide competitive leverage for sectors where the level of technology is lower;
- in the medium term, research will focus on industries which are already developing innovative technologies and strategies allowing better use of human resources while endeavouring to reduce the adverse environmental impact of production;
- in the long term, research will focus on new technologies for the production and design of products which allow new industries or markets to be created in a context of sustainable growth.

As regards content, the Commission proposes to focus on three areas, with funding broken down as follows:

- ***Production technologies for future industries (35-39%).***

The following research activities will be covered:

- incorporation of new technologies into production systems;
- development of clean production technologies;
- rational management of raw materials;
- safety and reliability of production systems;
- human and organizational factors within production systems.

- ***Technologies for product innovation (31-35%).***

The following research activities will be covered:

- materials engineering;
- new methodologies for production design and manufacture;
- reliability and quality of materials and products;
- technologies for recovering products at the end of their lifecycle.

- ***Technologies for transport means (28-32%).***

The following research activities will be covered:

- vehicle design and systems integration;
- vehicle production;
- technologies to improve vehicle efficiency;
- environmental technologies;
- technologies for vehicle safety;
- technologies for vehicle operation.

The Commission's proposed budget includes MECU 15 for the dissemination and utilization of results. Between 5% and 6% will be used for coordination activities, and 10%-15% for activities in support of SMEs.

### **Gist of the Opinion**

The Committee approves the programme and considers that the proposed research priorities reflect the needs of industry and should support the restructuring currently under way, especially in traditional industries.

The proposal combines a concern for competitiveness with consideration of the environment, employment and European integration in general.

The fact that the programme sets industrial rather than technological objectives should encourage the participation of all sectors of industry and trigger valuable synergies between industries, thereby helping to ensure that the results are rapidly marketable.

Despite the Commission's endeavours to specify the precise contents of the industrial and materials technologies programme, the Committee feels that there is still a danger of overlapping with other programmes, notably those on environment, transport and information and telecommunications technologies. Programme coordination may attenuate this risk but does not appear sufficient for the moment.

The Committee also stresses the need to avoid any further splitting, into more specific activities, of the financial resources proposed for the three main areas. There must be a cast-iron guarantee that all industries can participate in the various research activities, in order to avoid the creation of artificial barriers to cooperation between industries and to promote the synergies needed to accelerate the transfer of knowhow.

The Committee asks that special attention be accorded to simplifying procedures and setting up a support service for SMEs.

## **18. DANGEROUS SUBSTANCES/MAJOR ACCIDENT HAZARDS**

**Opinion of the Economic and Social Committee on the *Proposal for a Council Directive on the control of major accident hazards involving dangerous substances***  
(COM(94) 4 final)

(CES 760/94)

Rapporteur: Mr Giampaolo Pellarini (Italy - Workers)

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

The central aim of the proposal is to improve the effectiveness of the current legislative framework regarding the prevention of major accidents. Therefore Directive 82/501/EEC

.../...

is to be replaced with a new Directive which will consolidate the existing principles of the present Directive, in view of the fact that there have still been 130 major accidents since its adoption, so that the present policy may be refined and the consistency of its implementation increased. Moreover, information on the present stage of implementation of the current Directive is weak as the Commission has not had sufficient powers to monitor its application. The present proposal aims to rectify this in Articles 19 and 20, where there is certain overlap with the phrasing used in Directive 90/313/EEC on freedom of access to information on the environment.

One problem with the original Directive is that it is of a framework nature leading to variable approaches, and in turn to unacceptable differences between Member States in the level of protection provided. Also, given the importance of the siting of installations and management error in the occurrence of accidents, the current Directive does not deal adequately with these points as it concentrates on the technical aspects of risk control. The proposal aims to resolve this (Article 12) by developing the necessary measures, such as an internal Major Accident Prevention Policy (MAPP) for all establishments within the remit of the new Directive, and also the production of a safety report for competent authorities, which should be made available to the public in the pursuit of better access to information (Article 13). The competent authorities are also to be given more powers of inspection. Moreover, the easier evolution of control measures is addressed in the proposal by providing for the adoption of Community criteria for the most essential parts of the control system. The present system of providing lists of the most dangerous substances is both outdated and inflexible, and is to be replaced by a system of provisions whenever dangerous substances are present in sufficient amounts to create a major accident.

Some of the installations covered by this proposal shall also be within the scope of EIA and IPPC, even though there are differences between these measures. Moreover, under Article 18, Member States shall be obliged to inform the Commission of the criteria they use for the establishment and management of inspection programmes and procedures.

The new Directive is to be brought into force on or before 1 January 1996, whereupon Directive 82/501/EEC (as amended by Directive 87/216/EEC) shall be revoked.

### **Gist of the Opinion**

The Committee welcomes the Commission's move in proposing a new Directive on major-accident hazards, which amends and updates the provisions and obligations set out in the previous Directive No. 82/501/EEC<sup>21</sup> and the subsequent partial amendments thereto (87/216/EEC, 88/610/EEC and 91/692/EEC).

The Committee observes that Directive 82/510/EEC has been implemented differently from one Member State to another, according to differing timescales. Such variations must not be repeated in the future as they distort terms of competition and generate discrepancies in health and environmental protection.

The Committee supports the proposed amendments which clarify the activities covered by the Directive.

---

<sup>21</sup> OJ No. L 230 of 5 August 1982, page 1

However, the Committee feels that the quantities of dangerous substances indicated in Parts 1 and 2 of Annex I necessitate further appraisal, since in some cases they could be too high.

The Committee welcomes the reference, in connection with land use planning (Art. 12.1.), to the need, in the long term, to separate establishments covered by the Directive from residential areas, areas of substantial public use and areas of particular natural sensitivity or interest. The public authorities will have to make responsible efforts to minimize risks when they take decisions concerning new industrial or residential installations.

The Committee endorses the provisions regarding a management system (Art.6.1.) but is concerned that the clause in Article 4 of Directive 82/501/EEC requiring the information, training and equipment of persons working on the site has been dropped in the proposed Directive.

The Committee advocates its re-introduction since, in its view, it does not duplicate the requirements contained in Directive 89/391/EEC on the safety and health of workers at work<sup>22</sup>.

The Committee naturally welcomes better information of the general public since it has always stressed the importance of active involvement of the persons exposed to risk, both inside establishments and in the surrounding area.

However, to harmonize the type of information to be supplied and avoid disputes regarding the quantity and quality of the data to be kept confidential, the Committee requests the Commission to assess whether provision could be made for a suitable "citizens' information sheet", to be adopted throughout the Community.

Generally, the Committee agrees with the criteria for determining threshold quantities.

However, it notes that only ten carcinogenic substances (other than dioxins) are subject to a 0.001 tonne threshold; for all others the thresholds are 5,000 times higher (where they are not only carcinogenic but also very toxic) or 50,000 times higher (where also toxic).

The Committee therefore recommends that an additional category be inserted at the end of Part I of Annex I for substances that are both carcinogenic and very toxic or toxic.

## 19. COMMUNITY INITIATIVES

**Opinion of the Economic and Social Committee on *Community initiatives 1994-1999***  
(COM(94) 46 final, COM(94) 61 final, COM (94) 82 final)

(CES 761/94)

Rapporteur: Mr Campbell Christie (United Kingdom - Workers)

---

<sup>22</sup> OJ No. L 183 of 29 June 1989, page 1

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

Following the submission of its Green Paper on the future of Community initiatives (COM(93) 282 final), the Commission has approved its overall approach to these initiatives for the period 1994-1999. An overall appropriation of ECU 13,450 million - 9% of the financial resources of the Structural Funds - is scheduled. The Commission has decided the total appropriation for each initiative while leaving ECU 1,600 million in reserve for allocation later. The initiatives are grouped around the following themes: interregional cooperation (INTERREG; REGEN) rural development (LEADER II), outermost regions (REGIS II), employment and development of human resources (NOW; HORIZON; YOUTHSTART), industrial change (ADAPT; RECHAR; RESIDER; KONVER; RETEX; Portuguese textile industry; SMEs), urban policy (URBAN) and fisheries (PESCA).

Many of these are the continuation of existing initiatives; in some cases, their field of application and budget allocation are being extended.

The proposed new initiatives are as follows:

- under the heading "industrial change": a specific initiative for the Portuguese textile industry; ADAPT, to help workers and enterprises confronted by industrial change; and a specific initiative to help small firms adapt to the single market and international competition;
- under the heading "human resources": YOUTHSTART, to help young people enter the labour market;
- in the urban policy field: URBAN, to fight social exclusion in large towns and cities;
- in the fisheries sector: PESCA, to bolster and diversify the economy in areas which are heavily dependent on fisheries.

The Committee is asked to issue an Opinion on the Commission's guidelines for these initiatives, which the Commission will formally adopt (projected date : June) after it has also received the views of the European Parliament, the Committee of the Regions and the Management Committee established under the new Structural Fund regulations.

### **Gist of the Opinion**

The Committee applauds the efforts of the Commission in devising initiatives which are innovative and which address complex and deep-seated problems of labour market and industrial flexibility. However, the Committee would stress that the application of Community Initiatives alone can only make a limited contribution to countering joblessness across the EU. Consequently, it is essential that those Community Initiatives which are demonstrably successful are adopted and incorporated within a systematic framework of measures and extended beyond the Community Initiative programme.

The Committee makes general comments regarding the financial provision for Community Initiatives. While considering that the reserve as proposed is inadequate, it considers that it is essential that whatever reserve is available is not allocated to specific programmes at present, but remains available to the Commission to respond to unforeseen events.

The Committee regrets that the Commission has, to date, been unable to provide the results of evaluation and appraisal exercises concerning the first phase of the Community Initiatives. The Committee considers it positive that the Commission has gone some way in rationalizing the programme of Community Initiatives by combining specific programmes under broader headings. Not only should this improve the effectiveness of the programmes, it will make the process of monitoring and appraisal easier.

The Committee is concerned that by extending the geographical eligibility of certain of the initiatives beyond the areas normally eligible for assistance under the Structural Funds, the Commission proposals are compromising the unique contribution the Community Initiatives are able to make to promoting cohesion.

The Committee urges the Commission to come forward with specific proposals that would ensure the involvement of the economic and social partners. Finally, the Committee wishes a modification of the procedures regarding the Community Initiatives within the framework of the Structural Funds, in order to make them simpler and more efficient.

The Opinion contains specific comments on INTERREG II, LEADER II, the REGIS programme, the YOUTHSTART initiatives, the NOW and HORIZON programmes, the employment and development of human-resources initiative, the ADAPT initiative, the extension of the RECHAR, RESIDER, RETEX and KONVER initiatives, the specific initiative for assisting the development of SMEs, the initiative addressing the problems of urban areas, the PESCA initiative and the initiative on the modernization of the textile and clothing industry of Portugal.

## **II. FUTURE WORK**

### **Environment Section**

- Foodstuffs for particular nutritional uses  
(COM(94) 97 final)  
July Session
- Public health/promotion of health, information, education \*\*\*\*\*  
(COM(94) 202 final)  
October Session
- Prevention of drug addiction\*  
(COM(94) 123 final)  
Session to be decided

---

\*\*\*\*\*

Unofficial title - Commission document not yet received.

.../...

### **Industry Section**

- Twenty-third Competition Policy Report  
(COM(94) 161 final)  
Second half 1994

### **Transport Section**

- Green Paper - mobile and personal communications  
(COM(94) 145 final)  
Second half 1994
- Satellite communications/space segment\*  
(COM(94) 210 final)  
Second half

### **Social Affairs Section**

- Action plan to combat drugs\* (to be confirmed)  
(COM(94) 234 final)  
Session to be decided

### **Agriculture Section**

- Beneficiaries of operations funded by the Guarantee Section of the EAGGF  
(COM(94) 122 final - 94/0015 CNS)  
September Session
- Particulars of fishing vessels\*  
(COM(94) 182 final)  
September Session (date to be confirmed)

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

### **The Chairman's schedule**

2 May 1994, attendance at a conference in Luxembourg organized by the German and Luxembourg Chambers of Commerce.

17 May 1994, meeting in Madrid with Mr Frederico Durán Lopez, Chairman of the Spanish Economic and Social Council, followed by attendance at the meeting of Chairmen and Vice-Chairmen of the Committees of the Spanish Economic and Social Council.

26 May 1994, attendance at a seminar in Brussels on the Green Paper on European Social Policy organized by UCL and the EC Commission.

26 May 1994, meeting in Brussels with Mr Alexi Lautenberg, Ambassador of the Swiss Mission to the EC.

31 May 1994, meeting in Brussels with Mr Sandovar, Secretary-General of the European Committee for Construction Equipment.

31 May 1994, meeting with Mr Dietrich von Kyaw, Permanent Representative of the German Federal Republic.

31 May 1994, meeting with Mr Abderrazak Kefi, President of the Tunisian Economic and Social Council.

#### **Other activities**

On 10 May 1994 Mrs Helga Steeg, Executive Director of the International Energy Agency (IEA) addressed the Section for Energy, Nuclear Questions and Research. This exchange of views was related to the initiative Opinion on Community Energy Policy and covered the international dimension of Community energy policy and the future and present role of the Community and its Member States in the IEA's activities.

On 16 May 1994 an Industry Section delegation attended the 20th international CIRIEC conference (International Centre for Research and Information on the Public, Social and Cooperative Economy) on the topic : "the public, social and cooperative economy" in Graz (Austria).

19 May 1994, meeting in Madrid of the Secretaries-General of the Economic and Social Councils of the European Union.

19 and 20 May 1994, fact-finding visit to Tirana (Albania) by a six-man delegation from the Study Group for EU/Albanian relations (Section for External Relations, Trade and Development Policy).

On 24 May 1994, symposium organized by the ECU Institute and the Economic and Social Committee on "Preparations for the Single Currency".

26 and 27 May, attendance at the EURO-FIET conference in Budapest (Hungary).

27-29 May 1994, attendance at the third meeting of the Study Group on the Economic Situation in France (Section for Social, Financial and Monetary Questions) in the Royal Abbey of Fontevraud; this meeting was attended by French economic operators (Government Representatives, officials responsible for the economy and the social partners).

#### **IV. APPOINTMENT OF NEW COMMITTEE MEMBERS**

The Council appointed Yiannis Papamichaïl (Greece - Workers) in place of Georgios Raftopoulos, who has resigned.

## V. FACT-FINDING VISITS

During the reference period, the following Groups visited the Economic and Social Committee:

- 3 May 1994 ANCIFAP - Inversiones e Iniciativas para el Desarrollo de los Recursos Humanos y la Formación Profesional, Barcelona (Spain)
- 4 May 1994 Karl-Arnold Stiftung - Institut zur politischen Bildung, Bonn (Germany)
- 4 May 1994 Hogeschool Drenthe, Emmen (Netherlands)
- 4 May 1994 Konrad-Adenauer Foundation (Group of Austrian journalists), Sankt Augustin, Germany
- 5 May 1994 Deutsche Beamtenbund Jugend, Bonn (Germany)
- 5 May 1994 Group from the Landeszentrale für Politische Bildung Schleswig-Holstein and Mecklenburg-Vorpommern (Germany)
- 5 May 1994 KEY TO EUROPE (Group from the HKLT Business School Tilburg) (Netherlands)
- 6 May 1994 Centre de Formation et de Promotion des Maisons Familiales Rurales, La Guyonnière (France)
- 11 May 1994 Bildungsdienst, Sozialwerk und Akademie des Deutschen Beamtenbundes, Bonn (Germany)
- 16 May 1994 Swedish Confederation of Professional Associations, Stockholm (Sweden)
- 16 May 1994 Kreissportbund Schaumburg (Germany)
- 17 May 1994 Bedford College of Higher Education, Bedford (United Kingdom)
- 17 May 1994 University of North Carolina (United States of America)
- 17 May 1994 Back-up mission for Community Programmes (training course on European Issues, organized in conjunction with the EC delegation in Marseille), Montpellier (France)
- 19 May 1994 Europa Zentrum Tübingen - Institut und Akademie für Europafragen in Baden-Württemberg (Germany)
- 24 May 1994 Bavarian Information Bureau, Brussels
- 25 May 1994 Jewel and Esk Valley College, Edinburgh (Scotland)
- 25 May 1994 University of Richmond, Virginia (United States of America)

.../...

- 25 May 1994 Gewerkschaftsschule Wien (Austria)
- 26 May 1994 The American University, Washington (United States of America)
- 26 May 1994 Friedrich-Ebert Foundation (Delegation from the Brazil Ministry for Labour)
- 27 May 1994 Ente Nazionale Democratico di Azione Sociale, Palermo (Italy)
- 27 May 1994 Confederation of Finnish Industry and Employers (RIF)
- 30 May 1994 Paris-Ile de France Delegation to the EC (group of senior staff from KOREA TELECOM)
- 30 May 1994 Europa-Union Karlsruhe (Germany)
- 31 May 1994 Landeszentrale für politische Bildung, Sachsen-Anhalt, Magdeburg (Germany)
- 31 May 1994 Danish Metal Workers Trade Union - Slangerup (Denmark).